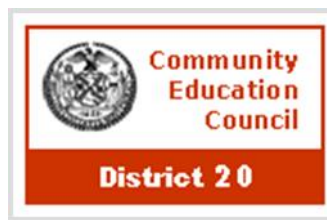


President Steve Stowe  
First Vice President Jennifer Hu  
Second Vice President/IEP Rep Elizabeth Chan  
Recording Secretary Vito LaBella  
Treasurer/BBP Appointee Marie Brugueras



Council Members

Ghada Amin  
Jona Isufi  
Li Ping Jiang

Maya Rozenblat-ELL REP  
Joyce Xie  
Kevin Zhao-BBP Appointee

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

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## Community Education Council District 20

### April Business Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, April 13, 2022

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:05 pm

**Present:** Vito LaBella, Marie Brugueras, Li Ping Jiang, Jennifer Hu, Kevin Zhao, Elizabeth Chan; Jona Isufi; Joyce Xie, Maya Rozenblat, Ghada Amin

**Excused:** Steve Stowe,

- I. **Meeting Called to Order:** Jennifer Hu, First Vice President
  - a. **Roll Call:** Vito LaBella, Recording Secretary
  - b. Jennifer Hu made a statement regarding the shooting on the N train that took place on April 12<sup>th</sup>
  
- II. **Old Business**
  - a. Approval of March Business Meeting Minutes
    - i. Minutes unanimously approved
  
- III. **Liaison School Trade**
  - a. Two council members exchanged schools P.S. 102 and P.S. 506
    - i. All in Favor, no opposed
  - b. Marie Brugueras is now the liaison for P.S. 102
  - c. Jona Isufi is now the liaison for P.S. 506
  
- IV. **Open Discussion**
  - a. Jennifer Hu discussed updating the Bylaws
    - i. Slow going, but still in progress
    - ii. Hopes to have a draft to present in the near future
  - b. She has been spearheading an effort for more liaison outreach
    - i. Some schools have still not responded
      1. Focus should be on those schools to build an introductory relationship
    - ii. Should result in school visits and in person meetings with principals to see what their needs are
  - c. Trying to push for more translation services from the Translation and Interpretation Unit
    - i. CECs are not on the priority list
    - ii. Told that there could be translation services at the school level
      1. Includes school visits
  - d. Marie Brugueras gave an update on the legislative event

- i. Will be held it at P.S. 127 McKinley Park (922 78<sup>th</sup> Street) on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am
- ii. For Legislators that fall into district 20
  - 1. Quite a few because the educational district overlaps at the edge of several legislative districts on the Senate, State Assembly, and City Council levels
- iii. Have already gotten responses from a few legislators
- iv. Hope to increase the ability for schools to receive grants that are sometimes difficult to disperse
- e. Maya Rozenblat discussed possibly getting services for the children from Ukraine
  - i. Some may be traumatized from being in an active war zone
  - ii. Maybe put together an informational page for principals
  - iii. A teacher has asked for resources

## **V. Adjourn**

- a. Motion to adjourn-Jennifer Hu, Second: Vito LaBella
  - i. All in favor
- b. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir  
Date: April 19, 2022

President Steve Stowe  
First Vice President Jennifer Hu  
Second Vice President/IEP Rep Elizabeth Chan  
Recording Secretary Vito LaBella  
Treasurer/ BBP Appointee Marie Brugueras



Council Members  
Ghada Amin Maya Rozenblat-ELL REP  
Jona Isufi Joyce Xie  
Li Ping Jiang Kevin Zhao-BBP Appointee

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

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## Community Education Council District 20

### April Calendar Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, April 13, 2022

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:05 pm

**Present:** Ghada Amin, Maya Rozenblat, Vito LaBella, Kevin Zhao, Li Ping Jiang, Elizabeth Chan, Jennifer Hu, Joyce Xie, Jona Isufi

**Excused:** Steve Stowe

**Guests:** David Pretto, D20 Superintendent; William Chin, D20 Family Leadership Coordinator; Sylwia Jasinski, D20 Family Support Coordinator; Donald DeRosa, Liaison from the Office of New York City Comptroller Brad Lander; Ellen McHugh, Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE) Co-President; Lisa Pineda, Associate Director for Student and Family Programs at the Division of Multilingual Learners (DML)

- I. **Meeting Called to Order:** Jennifer Hu, First Vice President
  - a. **Roll Call:** Vito LaBella, Recording Secretary
  - b. Jennifer Hu made a statement regarding the shooting on the N train that took place on April 12<sup>th</sup>
  
- II. **Old Business**
  - a. Approval of March Business Meeting Minutes
    - i. Minutes unanimously approved
  
- III. **Presentation of a new MLL Information Source**
  - a. Lisa Pineda is part of the Multilingual Immigrants Student Support Team
  - b. Gave a presentation on the DML and their new Equip, Learn, launch Institute
    - i. a three-month virtual learning opportunity for school staff and families of English Language Learners
    - ii. The launching is 4 pm on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 677 5th Avenue, New York, NY
    - iii. Parents can register here: <https://learndoe.org/equiplearnlaunch/register/>
  - c. DML is offering three programs for Summer Rising
    - i. Intergenerational Programming: support for the older and younger generations
    - ii. Community Speak: for families who would like to learn English
    - iii. Cultural Explorations: partnering with four cultural community based organizations (CBOs) to support students in the arts or creating and designing programs based on the needs that they see
  - d. Questions from the Council

- i. Maya Rozanblat asked if it would be possible for Lisa to meet with PTOs or somehow advocate for bilingual students; She's not sure how many parents knew of the workshops and website. Would like to brainstorm how to advertise it
- ii. Elizabeth Chan stated that the presentation seems to exclude the East-Asian Population and it makes her uncomfortable
- e. Parents can contact her at [lpineda@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:lpineda@schools.nyc.gov) or 212-374-0787

#### **IV. Citywide Council on Special Education Update**

- a. Ellen McHugh, CCSE Co-President discussed the three obligations of the CCSE
  - i. Write an annual report on the state of special education in NYC
  - ii. Consult with the Department of Education
  - iii. Hold a monthly public meeting
    - 1. The business meetings are held on the first Thursdays
    - 2. The calendar meetings are held on the third Thursdays
- b. There are several D20 parents on the council
- c. The goal of the council is to be a source of information as well as a space for families to advocate
- d. Held a successful IEP Representation conference
  - i. Speakers included John Lewis and Senator John Liu, Chairperson of the NYC Education Subcommittee
  - ii. Panel on reading diversity focusing on Dyslexia and reading disabilities, and the use of assistive technology
  - iii. How to get an assessment and resources that parents can access, including a list of advocacy organizations
- e. Hopeful that children will get the services they need
  - i. There was difficulty in launching the Special Education Recovery Service
    - 1. Was supposed to begin in early fall, but started in December
    - 2. Still questions about how it will roll out in the summer
  - ii. Services were offered afterschool and, in some cases, on Saturday
    - 1. Busses were not provided for afterschool services
  - iii. Parents who may be utilizing SERS during the summer should reach out to the school's Parent Coordinator or the Administrator for Special Education through the borough citywide office
  - iv. Parents with children who have an extended school year on their IEP should find out if their child will stay at the school or travel to a D75 site
- f. CCSE contact information: 28-11 Queens Plaza North - Room 522, Long Island City, New York 11101; Phone No. (718) 391-8354; [ccse@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ccse@schools.nyc.gov)
- g. Asked Superintendent Pretto to address adding sites with D75 seats
  - i. Segregating the students does not help, but leads to a lessening of expectations and has created fear in the community

#### **V. Report of Superintendent**

- a. Dr. Pretto also made a statement on the train shooting and schools under shelter-in-orders as the shooter was not yet detained

- b.** Acknowledged celebrations happening this month: Ramadan and Arab American Heritage Month
- c.** Academic Screeners update: Acadience screener used for K-2; approved by the Division of Teaching and Learning to reach the Chancellor's goal of having all students reading at grade level by third grade
  - i.** 65% of second graders who are performing at or above the benchmark are on track for proficiency
- d.** Special education data regarding compliance: 89% of students with disabilities is being fully served as per their IEP, 93% students are fully linked, 97% students being first encountered
  - i.** Been able to offer services to 96% of eligible students and families, been able to fully serve 56% of those with recovery services,
  - ii.** Certain recovery services are ongoing
- e.** Summer Rising Program will be offered this year
  - i.** A similar structure to last year: a combination of academic programming and enrichment programming
  - ii.** Parent driven enrollment process which will open on April 25<sup>th</sup> and close in May
  - iii.** Students will not be restricted to the school they currently attend, can attend any site in the city as long as there are seats available
  - iv.** Students mandated for summer school will be able to attend at their home site
- f.** Math exams for grades 3 to 8<sup>th</sup> will be administered on April 26 & 27, with the makeup day on April 28<sup>th</sup>
- g.** Schools will distribute information on eligibility for the affordable Internet connectivity program provided to the federal government
  - i.** Includes Pandemic Recovery funds
  - ii.** supports subsidizing the monthly Internet bills for families
- h.** Deadlines for the NYC school survey are approaching
  - i.** Paper surveys can be submitted by mail or to the school until close of business on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>
  - ii.** Deadline for online submissions is Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>
- i.** Results from the specialized high school exam were released on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>
  - i.** Available in the myschools application and schools have begun to send out result letters
- j.** Questions from the Council
  - i.** Jona Isufi asked about how many times students have science classes and if it is the same in every school
  - ii.** Elizabeth Chan stated that there should be more effort to close the city when there is a dangerous situation
  - iii.** Vito LaBella asked about the protocol for a school lockdown and who has the authority to make that decision
  - iv.** Marie Brugueras stated that she does not agree that schools should be closed as there are many criminals who are not in police custody and parents should decide whether to send their child to school

- v. Jennifer Hu stated that it is a judgment call based on everyone's personal comfort level, and some people are going to be more comfortable than others in different situations
- vi. Jona Isufi stated that if she had not been working from home still, she would have been on the train that was attacked; was shocked that some parents were not notified about the shelter in place and asked if there is a notification system for times like this
- vii. Vito LaBella stated that during the attack in front of Stuyvesant High School, parents were notified in real time via a text messaging system paid for by the PTA; such a system should be paid for by the general budget
- viii. Principal Jaynemie Capetanakis stated that not only was there a school chain of command, there was also a district chain of command and a zoom call between school administrators to have a coordinated effort to maintain calmness
- ix. Ellen McHugh asked if there was a breakout of performance levels of students with IEPs on the statewide math and reading tests
- x. Poullette Healy thanked Superintendent Pretto for his responsiveness in terms of keeping schools safe and being such a wonderful partner with the Community; thanked Principal Capetanakis for being mindful and grounded in her empathy for what families went through, and acknowledging that principals and teachers are holding their own trauma that they have not been able to process because they had to show a happy face to keep the children calm; announced that Councilwoman Alexa Alviles is holding a day of unity event on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> to provide a safe space for the community to come together and to heal together
- xi. Jennifer Hu asked if there was an update on the data breach

## **VI. Report of Council President**

- a. Jennifer Hu gave the report in place of Steve Stowe
- b. Chancellor Banks met with CEC members throughout the city to discuss parental engagement and how they can make the city better
  - i. He seems sincere in trying to get parental feedback, especially on G&T programming
  - ii. There is debate on what age kids should be tested
  - iii. Steve was able to express that mixed classrooms are not optimal
- c. Discussion about FACE and the councils interaction with the DOE
- d. There is a request to create a log of all the CEC requests and creating an escalation process for parents should their requests be overdue
- e. CECs could cooperate on renewing mayoral control if the DOE helps with certain reforms, including a little bit more influence on the superintendent hiring and evaluation process, better communication to all CEC members, and not just Presidents, on official DOE announcements, and expanding the number of CEC representation on the PEP
- f. DOE has agreed to create a series of working groups to meet regularly on governance and school improvement, and to have rotating meetings with DOE departments
- g. Comments from the Council
  - i. Vito LaBella stated that the Chancellor mentioned five additional specialized high schools, one in each borough, that will be populated by the top students from each middle school
  - ii. Ellen McHugh asked about which departments would have the rotating meetings, stated that she took offense to the remark about middle schools sending their best students to the new specialized high schools

**VII. Public Speaking**

- a. Ellen Izzo asked who decides if a school has screened admissions or not, stated that the admissions process for MS 936 seems to be in conflict with a previous ODP presentation in which the middle school was set to have choice admissions and accept students from the entire district
- b. Paulette Ha stated that parent advocates fought to have a D 75 inclusion program at MS 936, there is no D 75 middle school setting in D20 until one is available in 2024, children find ways to learn curriculum above the challenges that they were born with and the challenges in terms of the design of the current curriculum, where it does not teach children true literacy, to say that our children are lesser than because they are not considered gifted is a disservice to all children all across the district

**VIII. Adjourn**

- a. Motion to adjourn: Jennifer Hu, Second: Joyce Xie
  - i. All in favor
- b. Meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir

Date: April 19, 2022