

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  
Li Ping Jiang  
Mei Yun Lin

Maya Rozenblat-ELL REP  
Kevin Zhao-BBP Appointee

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

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## Community Education Council District 20

### October Special Meeting – Candidate Interviews

**Date:** Thursday, October 7, 2021

**Meeting ID:** <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/85181804114?pwd=TUJWbm1lRkg2WVNqY3pKejVJMTdhdz09>

**Meeting Start Time:** 5:38 pm

**Present:** Steve Stowe, Elizabeth Chan, Vito LaBella, Kevin Zhao, Li Ping Jiang, Jennifer Hu, Mei Yun Lin

**Absent:** Maya Rozenblat, Ghada Amin, Marie Brugueras

**I. Meeting Called to Order:** Steve Stowe, President

- a. **Roll Call:** Natalia Mondesir, Administrative Assistant

**II. Opening Statements**

- a. Candidates were given time to make their opening statements

i. In alphabetical order:

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Yamina Kezadri, | 3. Yunqian Lin, |
| 2. Edward Lai,     | 4. Joyce Xie    |

**III. Questions**

- a. President Steve Stowe asked the first question:

- i. Besides overcrowding, what do you think is the most important education issue in District 20?

- b. First Vice President Jennifer Hu asked the second question:

- i. Please describe a time where you had to work with a team of people to set a goal and accomplish it

- c. Second Vice President Elizabeth Chan asked the third question:

- i. Parents are often ignored by the Department of Education on important issues. What should the CEC do in response?

**IV. Closing Statements**

- a. Candidates were given one minute to make closing statements

**V. Executive Session**

- a. The council members discussed the interviews

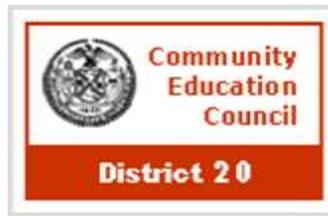
**VI. Adjourn**

- a. Motion to adjourn

- i.** All in favor
- b.** Meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir  
Date: October 13, 2021

President Steve Stowe  
First Vice President Jennifer Hu  
Second Vice President/IEP Rep Elizabeth Chan  
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Council Members  
Ghada Amin Maya Rozenblat-ELL REP  
Li Ping Jiang Kevin Zhao-BBP Appointee  
Mei Yun Lin

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

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## Community Education Council District 20

### October Special Meeting – Remote Learning Discussion

**Date:** Thursday, October 7, 2021

**Meeting ID:** <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/85181804114?pwd=TUJWbm1lRkg2WVNqY3pKejVJMTdhdz09>

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:30 pm

**Present:** Steve Stowe, Elizabeth Chan, Vito LaBella, Kevin Zhao, Mei Yun Lin, Li Ping Jiang, Jennifer Hu, Ghada Amin

**Absent:** Maya Rozenblat,

- I. **Meeting Called to Order:** Steve Stowe, President
  - a. **Roll Call:** Natalia Mondesir, Administrative Assistant
  
- II. **Remote Learning Resolution**
  - a. Comments from Council Members on Remote Learning
    - i. Kevin Zhao confirmed that the resolution is not calling for schools to be closed, but children who are at high-risk or living with adults at high-risk of getting COVID be granted the option to learn remotely
    - ii. Steve Stowe favors in-person learning, and believes the option should only be permitted for serious health cases
    - iii. Vito LaBella believes in parent choice and is disappointed that the DOE has not provided a high quality remote option
    - iv. Elizabeth Chan stated that some children are not mentally prepared for a return to normalcy, especially since many children lost caregivers to COVID; read about a school district giving children mental health days
  - b. Public Comments
    - i. Yamina Kezadri stated that the option should be available without needing to prove that there is a need to learn remotely; since parents are not allowed in the building without being vaccinated, what happens if something happens to a child whose parent is not vaccinated, we cannot impose or infringe on peoples' rights if they are uncomfortable with the vaccination
    - ii. Libby spoke to parents across the country, who stated that their children felt isolated, and having children separated is damaging to their mental health
    - iii. Devin Lin (translated by Kevin Zhao) stated that New York is very populated and schools are too crowded; government workers and companies are still working from home; children under 12 who are not vaccinated would be exposed to the risk
    - iv. Carrie (in the chat) stated that children with special needs are being ignored and the current home instruction provides little time for education

- c. President Steve Stowe read the Remote Learning Resolution out loud
- d. Comments from Council Members on the Remote Learning Resolution
  - i. Vito LaBella believes that remote learning be extended for the full 2021-2022 school year; the DOE is being let off the hook and would request full synchronous education for students who cannot be in class
    - 1. Steve Stowe commented that he believes COVID will be more under control by next semester with the vaccine
  - ii. Kevin Zhao stated that he understands the concern that remote learning is not at the same standard as in-person learning, but that is why the resolution is asking for a high quality remote option
  - iii. Ghada Amin suggested adding a remote option for 3-K students for areas that do not have 3-K programs until more programs are established
- e. Public Comments (37:29)
  - i. Yunqian Lin (translated by Kevin Zhao) his son gets special services, but with the current remote option, there is limited support for his son's education
  - ii. Esther (in the chat) stated that as of September 27, only the student diagnosed with COVID is isolated for 10 days while other students in the are not
- f. Motion to amend the resolution and present it at the Calendar Meeting: Steve Stowe, Second: Vito LaBella
  - i. Steve Stowe- Yes
  - ii. Jennifer Hu- Yes
  - iii. Elizabeth Chan- Yes
  - iv. Vito LaBella- Yes
  - v. Marie Brugueras- Absent
  - vi. Ghada Amin- Yes
  - vii. Li Ping Jiang- Yes
  - viii. Mei Yun Lin- Yes
  - ix. Maya Rozenblat Absent
  - x. Kevin Zhao- Yes
- g. Motion passes unanimously with 8 Yes votes

### III. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn: Jennifer Hu, Second: Elizabeth Chan
  - i. All in favor
- b. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir

Date: October 13, 2021