



Community Education Council District 20

February Calendar Meeting

Date: 2/12/25

Meeting Start Time: 6:00 PM

Present: Steve Stowe, Yanqing Chen, Meifang Chen, John Ricottone, Wenming Chen, Kevin Zhao, Elizabeth Chan, Maya Rozenblat

Excused: Tamara Stern, Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio, Sabrina Mcnamara

Unexcused: Ryan Li

I. Meeting Called to Order: Stephen Stowe, President

II. Roll Call: Stephen Stowe, President

III. New Business

a. Public Speaking Session

A student and parent spoke about their experience with the HMH Reading Curriculum.

b. Office of Safety and Prevention Partnerships

Chief of Safety Director Mark Rampersant and Support Coordinator for Respect for All David Barron presented on their office commitments and provided feedback on the CEC 20 Bullying Resolution. Physical and emotional safety equals complete safety, all communities deserve a safe and supportive learning environment free of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying. In SY19 - 20, there was an update in rules for collecting data and included new additional infraction codes and introduced an online bullying complaint tool. In SY23 - 24, the number of bullying complaints in District 20 increased from 6.4% and violations by 5.7%. In regards to CEC 20s Bullying Resolution, Director Rampersant spoke on the process of involuntary transfer, reviewing ineffective policies and making changes, and the recognition that there is no one-size-fits-all policy for different districts and schools. Council members engaged in conversation with the director and his office including the trend of increasing incident reports despite the decrease in enrollment, clarifying support services and resources available to schools and parents, the handling of Islamophobia and Antisemitism in NYCPS, examples of effective and ineffective means of addressing bullying, how to improve anti-bullying systems in school.

c. Report of Superintendent

Presenting the DOE's proposed Fair Student Funding budget allocation for SY 2025 - 2026

Review the DOEs' budget and allocation formula and review Fair Student Funding for 2025 - 2026.

Total budget for the 2024 - 2025 school year is \$40.8 billion (about \$32,284 per student). The city government contributes \$24 billion, the state government contributes \$15 billion, and the federal government contributes \$2 billion.

About \$17 billion (42%) is allocated to employee benefits and pension, debt services, state mandated payments to charter schools, and special education mandates. Of the remaining \$23.6 billion (58%) is allocated to K-12 schools and instruction, early childhood birth-to-five programs, school operations, central administrative offices, and superintendent and field offices.

Serving 43,749 students in District 20, \$862 million is budgeted for Pre-K - 12 schools (not including D75 as it is not funded by the Fair Student Funding)

Provided an overview on how to fund an individual's schools budget. Principals have great flexibility on how funding is spent in order to target student and community needs. Principals and School Leadership Teams (SLTs) create the schools budget and Comprehensive Educational Plan based on school specific instructional needs and priorities. District Superintendents supervise principals and approve school budgets.

Fair Student Funding is the largest funding stream that we provide to schools and it is based on the number of students enrolled at each school + the specific needs of those students. Students' needs are weighted based on the cost of meeting a student's educational needs, schools get more money for students with greater needs. FSF makes up about two-thirds of most K-12 NYCPS school budgets. Charter schools, 3k, PreK, and D75 programs are funded separately.

Council members engaged in conversation with Superintendent Pretto regarding FSF including, process for requesting funding for new programs, Title 1 spending, OMNY cards for students who are provided bussing, funding allocation for IEPs, and means of supervision by Superintendent over schools budget.

2nd Public Speaking Session

A member from the public made comments regarding freedom of speech and listening to others with an open mind. In relation to bullying, not liking someone's opinion should not induce bullying. A representative from City Council Susan Zhuang spoke on upcoming office budget deadlines and Reso A. Another community member spoke on the oversight in IEP parents are facing, possibly providing training for SLTs to provide clarification. A parent also voiced their opinion on CEC 20s Resolution to add geometry as an optional course in D20 middle schools.

d. Council President Report

A new office in the DOE, Office of Policy and Advocacy has been created to improve efforts to engage parents more effectively. In relation to CECs, providing more clarity with resolutions including the responses given by the DOE.

Announced key dates regarding CEC elections including the Candidate Forums, February 26 - April 24, Voting, April 25 - May 14, and results sometime in June.

e. Resolution 3 - Fix the Safety Transfer Process and Address Increase in Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination in NYC Public Schools - Motion to Approve Resolution 3 - John Ricottone, Second: Kevin Zhao

Steven Stowe - Yes

John Ricottone - Yes

Elizabeth Chan - Yes

Meifang Chen - Yes

Tamara Stern - Not Present

Wenming Chen - Yes

Yangqing Chen - Yes

Alina Lewis - Yes

Kevin Zhao - Yes

Maya Rozenblat - Yes

Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio - Not Present

Sabrina Mcnamara - Not Present

f. Resolution 4 - Requesting District 20 Create a Geometry Course for Middle Schools - Motion to Approve Resolution 4 - John Ricottone, Second: Kevin Zhao

Steven Stowe - Yes

John Ricottone - Yes

Elizabeth Chan - Yes

Meifang Chen - Yes

Tamara Stern - Not Present

Wenming Chen - Yes

Yangqing Chen - Yes

Alina Lewis - Yes

Kevin Zhao - Yes

Maya Rozenblat - Yes

Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio - Not Present

Sabrina Mcnamara - Not Present

IV. Old Business - Approval of the January 2025 Calendar Minutes

Calendar Meeting Minutes Approved

V. Adjourn

a. Motion to adjourn - Elizabeth Chan, Second: John Ricottone

I. All in favor

b. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM

The full meeting recording is available here: [YouTube](#)

The Complete written Transcript is available here: [Transcript](#)

Submitted by Kevin Vizhnay, Administrative Assistant