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Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

Community Education Council District 20 October Special Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2020

Meeting ID: <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/89529083848?pwd=Q1VFtFcydUppekdszNVNcTjN2d6QT09>

Meeting Start Time: 6:07 PM

Present: Adele Doyle, Vito LaBella, Alan Aja, Robert Aguilar, Mauricia Cadillo, Yi Fang Chen, Simeon Stolzberg, Alice Licato, Inga Smolyar, Dina Guirguis

Excused: Robert Aguilar

Guests: Stephen Wieser, FACE Representative; Dr. Joseph O'Brien, Interim Acting Superintendent; NYS Senator Andrew Gounardes, Donald De Rosa, Staten Island Borough Director and Southwest Brooklyn Liaison Office of New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, Dianne Gounardes, District 20 Director of Early Childhood Education; Janine Faustner, President of Presidents' Council, Ellen Driesen, UFT Representative

I. Meeting called to Order: Dina Guirguis, First Vice-President
Roll Call: Alice Licato

II. Public Speaking

- a. Stephen Stowe shared his experience with I.S. 259 William McKinley (00:02:03)
- b. Alexander Protopapas asked about high school admissions (00:05:36)
- c. Sana Fakher spoke about getting books and middle and high school admissions (00:08:57)
- d. Diana Brogan spoke about Covid testing in schools (00:10:18)
- e. Paulette Healy spoke about Covid testing in schools (00:11:51)
- f. Augusto Yax asked about enrolling his child in school (00:15:46)
- g. Alejandra asked about work done in school being recorded as missing online (00:20:52)
- h. Susana Wong discussed the difficulties of changing schedules and having 30 or more people in one class (00:23:33)
- i. Emily Tan spoke about the DOE device not showing the Google Classroom icon and her child being marked absent (00:27:55)
- j. Kalliope Caceras is concerned that the school will not accommodate children with peanut allergies (00:31:56)

III. Statements by Public Officials

- a. NYS Senator Andrew Gounardes
 - i. Sent a letter to the Chancellor and Mayor discussing parental concern about Covid testing in schools
 - ii. His office will help navigate reopening and get answers to parents' concerns
- b. CSA Representative and Director of Early Childhood Education Diane Gounardes
 - i. Schedule changes are a result of parents changing their preference for remote and in-person learning
 - ii. If parents have any questions about Pre-K, they can email her at dgounar@schools.nyc.gov
- c. Southwest Brooklyn Liaison Office of NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer Donald De Rosa

- i. Comptroller's Office sent a letter to the Chancellor to get answers on the challenges of remote learning and get a plan for remote learning
- ii. Sent a second letter asking for the city to designate an interagency Director of Students in Temporary Housing to meet the educational needs of vulnerable students
- iii. Promoted having a Health Safety Director in each school to report to the DOE and monitor safety protocols
- iv. Tried to get data to formulate a plan as to what reopening should look like
 - 1. City Council subpoenaed the DOE to get attendance records for remote learning
- v. Tried to get federal stimulus money to counteract budget cuts
- vi. Back-to-School Guide: <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/2020-21-back-to-school-guide/>
- d. UFT Representative Ellen Driesen
 - i. UFT has had testing sites outside of schools
 - ii. Have been focusing on emotional support for the students
- e. President of Presidents' Council Janine Faustner
 - i. Elections will be virtual and must be held before October 31st
 - 1. PTA elections will be held first, followed by Presidents' Council, then the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Committee (CPAC)
 - ii. Guidelines for the elections were sent out from FACE and CPAC
 - iii. Can reach out to Janine at faustners@aol.com

IV. Remarks from the District Office

- a. Interim Acting Superintendent Joseph O'Brien responded to questions and concerns of parents
 - i. If a student is selected for testing but is uncomfortable, that student will not be tested and parental concerns will be addressed
 - 1. The health screening document is essential, along with face coverings
 - 2. Want to make sure that everyone in DOE buildings are following the Chancellor's regulations
 - ii. Currently there is no information on middle and high school admissions, but it will be shared when available
 - iii. Parents can contact their Parent Coordinators for help with resources and troubleshooting the DOE devices
- b. Dr. O'Brien discussed the first meeting of the Equity Committee Team meeting
 - i. Met with 19 families from diverse backgrounds and took a positive first step in thinking about ways to usher in a new beginning for district 20
- c. Dr. O'Brien, Principals Margaret Russo and Jayne Capetenakis, and UFT Representative Ellen Driesen answered questions and responded to comments from the council members
 - i. Parents not being allowed to take their children to their preferred pediatricians and transparent learning objectives (00:58:47)
 - ii. Spike in Covid in Sunset Park and whether it is possible to close schools based on the zip code (1:03:51)
 - iii. Children having to do remote learning if their parents did not sign the consent form for Covid testing (01:08:16, 01:41:56)
 - iv. Attendance for remote and in-person learning, how many students were not accounted for,
 - v. (01:10:51)
 - vi. Buses not picking up children once 25% capacity is reached (01:11:18)
 - vii. Trauma informed care training for teachers (01:12:20)
 - viii. Concerns about ventilation in schools and what is being done to ensure proper protocols, what is the protocol if schools go beyond the 3% threshold (01:15:15)
 - ix. Numbers of children who still have not received devices and if there was anything that parents could do to help (01:18:22)
 - x. Students doing remote learning while in school buildings (01:25:59)

- xi.** Is the district keeping track of how many minutes of live instruction students are getting for remote learning (01:27:55)
- xii.** How are schools making remote learning significant for students who are too young to operate the devices by themselves (01:31:14)
- xiii.** Will every parent receive an EBT card (01:43:55)

V. Questions from the Chatbox

- a.** Parents submitted questions through the chatbox
 - i.** Changing from remote to blended learning (01:21:05)
 - ii.** Will lunch be in the cafeteria or classroom (01:21:45)
 - iii.** How is gym handled (01:24:26)

VI. Adjournment:

- a.** Adjourned at 7:50 PM

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir
October 7, 2020