



Community Education Council District 20

March Calendar Meeting

Date: 3/12/25

Meeting Start Time: 6:00 PM

Present: Steve Stowe, Yanqing Chen, Meifang Chen, John Ricottone, Wenming Chen, Elizabeth Chan, Tamara Stern, Sabrina Mcnamara, Alina Lewis

Excused: Kevin Zhao

Unexcused: Ryan Li, Maya Rozenblat, Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio

I. Meeting Called to Order: Stephen Stowe, President

II. Roll Call: Stephen Stowe, President

III. New Business

a. Public Speaking Session

A representative from the office of City Council Member Alexa Aviles made announcements regarding the budget season. Noting that their office is prioritizing expanding libraries to stay open 7 days a week, expanding childcare for working class families, and increasing access to City Universities of New York. Also, announced that their office is available to assist community members with filing their taxes. Lucia Morales, director of communications and external affairs for Mesa Charter High School, spoke on the newly opening Mesa school in the area. A representative from City Council Member Susan Zhuang announced upcoming budget deadlines regarding Capital Funding for schools and workshops for student safety regarding offenders in the community.

b. Report of Superintendent

Dr. Pretto presented awards to the winners of the annual Respect for All poster, essay, and multimedia contest. Respect for All is a DOE initiative aimed to prevent and raise awareness around bullying. Finalists include students from P.S. 180 The SEEALL Academy and P.S. 939 Sunset School of Cultural Learning. Winners include students from P.S. 180, P.S. 185, and P.S. 105. Dr. Pretto shared images of the posters and the winner of the essay contest read their paper to the community. Dr. Pretto also discussed Chancellor's Regulation A-418 Notification which addresses the procedure for sharing information about convicted offenders with schools and parents. This presentation comes as a response to the recent notifications sent out to parents about local sex offenders in their area. The NYPD informs schools, on a rolling basis, sex offenders that live in their zip code. Principals are required to provide parents a notification of the offender's presence within two weeks of receiving notice from the NYPD. The council engaged in conversation about this topic with the superintendent and discussed the lapse of

previous notifications, improving communication for future notices, best practices to maintain child safety, and increasing the presence of safety agents.

Council President Report

CEC 20 President Stephen Stowe updated the community regarding the loss of funding for afterschool programming. Council members have met with NYC Public Schools in District 20 and with two District 20 CBOS that lost funding, FIAO and NIA. The state granted funding to less program providers. Program providers noted that they were not notified of incomplete applications which impacted their approval status. Additional seat losses are a possibility as the temporary \$3 million funding is expiring soon.

IV. Old Business - Approval of the February 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 6:59 PM

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

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

Submitted by Kevin Vizhnay, Administrative Assistant