



Community Education Council District 20

June Calendar Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Meeting Start Time: 6:00 pm

Present: Steve Stowe, Li Ping Jiang, Joyce Xie, Jona Isufi, Elizabeth Chan, Vito Labella, Kevin Zhao, Marie Brugueras, Jennifer Hu, Ghada Amin

Excused: Maya Rozenblat

Unexcused:

I. Meeting Called to Order: Steve Stowe, President

II. Roll Call: Vito LaBella, Recording Secretary

III. New Business

a. Public Speaking Session (General)

- Members from the public voiced their opinions regarding recent district curriculum changes and class size laws. Parents, teachers, and public officials voiced their desire to allow our middle schools to choose their own literacy curriculum. The majority voiced their support for screened programs in middle schools and their disapproval of lottery programs. Notable speakers include State Assemblyman Lester Chang, Assemblyman William Colton, Administrators Field Director for Brooklyn South James Harrigan, and numerous political candidates.

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b. Report from Dr. David Pretto

- **Student presentation from District 20 Initiatives:** Students from District 20 who partook in programs such as STEAM, Civics for All, and the Science Olympiad, presented projects based on these programs.
- **Update on IReady:** The final end of year screeners were administered and results are to be shared in July.
- **Contracts for Excellence:** Shared the financial plans for fiscal year 2024 with a focus on federal stimulus, state foundation aid, state contract for excellence, and proposed class size reduction plan and working group. School year 2023 - 24, will be the last school year supported with federal education stimulus funding which equates to \$1.9 billion(ARPA). Major initiatives, such as Summer Rising and other summer programs, will receive financial support for the school year. Schools that faced pandemic-related enrollment decline will also receive support. Nearly \$600 million of stimulus will continue to fund early childhood education, SE and mental health supports. State foundation aid will target schools with students in temporary housing and students with needs, support growth in special ed costs and new schools. C4E, a 2007 - 2008 legislation, is meant to be allocated towards specific programs that achieve the achievement of the students with the greatest education needs including students in poverty, students with disabilities,

and limited English proficiency. This funding includes \$756 million. A requirement with this funding is implementing a plan to reduce actual class size over the next 5 years, beginning September 2023. Council members and the public shared comments and questions such as potential future cuts in funding, the impact of losing federal funding in District 20, and the possibility of using C4E funds to expand speciality and elective courses.

c. President Announcement

- Update on the plans for the new schools opening in Fall 2024. Collaboration with the Office of District Planning is ongoing and more information will be shared as we get closer to the voting date, Fall 2023.
- The Office of District Planning is planning a Special Meeting to share their proposal with the community.
- CEC 20 is aiming to reduce overcrowding and focus on middle school screened seats.
- The Class Size Working Group analyzed the potential impact of reducing students who attend zoned schools.

d. Public Speaking Session: Members from the public continued to voice their opinions regarding recent district curriculum changes and class size laws.

e. Superintendent Review: The council shared their review of the superintendent. Notable comments include great availability, implementation of IReady and utilizing data, bilingual education programs, strong proponents for special education, the need to engage with community and parents regarding important decisions, and communication with non-native speakers. The council voted to approve the superintendent review - Motion to approve Superintendent Pretto's Review: Vito LaBella, Second: Marie Brugueras -

i. Hu - Abstained

ii. Chan - Yes

iii. Brugueras - Yes

iv. Zhao - Yes

v. Jiang - Yes

vi. Xie - Yes

vii. Rozenblatt - Excused

viii. Amin - Yes

ix. Isufi - Excused

x. LaBella - Yes

xi. Stowe - Yes

xii. Zhao - Yes

IV. Old Business - Approval of the May 2023 Calendar Meeting Minutes

Minutes unanimously approved

V. Adjourn

a. Motion to adjourn - Vito LaBella, Second: Marie Brugueras

I. All in favor

b. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM

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

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

Submitted by Kevin Vizhnay, Administrative Assistant