



## **Community Education Council District 20**

### **September Calendar Meeting**

**Date:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:00 PM

**Present:** Steve Stowe, Joyce Xie, Elizabeth Chan, Kevin Zhao, Wenming Chen, Yanqing Chen, Meifang Chen, Tamara Stern, John Ricottone, Maya Rozenblat

**Excused:**

**Unexcused:**

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

**II. Roll Call:** Joyce Xie, Recording Secretary

### **III. New Business**

#### **a. Opening remarks by Senator Iwen Chu**

Welcomed everyone back to a new school year and expressed her willingness and ability to help anyone in the community who needs assistance.

#### **b. Public Speaking Session (General) - Members from the community made various comments including:**

- their dissatisfaction with the current arrival and dismissal situation at their child's school, P.S. 200. Long lines, doors open very late, and unhelpful staff.
- The current transportation issues some schools face such as still waiting for metrocards and the looming school bus strike.
- Advised schools with ventilation and HVAC issues to reach out to their CEC 20 liaison to elevate the issue
- The process to fulfill the D75 seat for CEC 20 is nearly complete

#### **c. Presentation from the Office of District Planning**

##### **Overview & CEC 20 Data Consultation**

- Every year, ODP shares district planning data with each CEC to identify planning needs and priorities. Data includes enrollment, demographics, and school capacity.
- ODP's planning process for each district includes: Needs and opportunity assessments, district data consultations, focused community engagement, and then based on the previous steps, decides which specific scenario to initiate.
- ODP can initiate various school/district changes including: Rezoning, un zoning, new schools, school mergers, new programs, and enrollment planning.
- ODP shared data about District 20, notable points include: Over the last 5 years, enrollment has decreased by 11%, 38 out of the 54 school buildings remain over-utilized, and there is a grade wide deficit for D75 seats.

- Questions and comments from council members include: plans to make entrances accessible, projected decline in enrollment, and defining “non-public schools”.

#### **Proposed Rezoning for K676 and K322**

- Across D20, there is a seat deficit of approximately 1,900 elementary school seats and ES buildings have an average building utilization rate of 114%. Middle schools have an average building utilization of 96%. There is a deficit of 130 D75 seats and travel distance for these students is among the highest in Brooklyn.
- The four new schools opening in 2024 - 2025 will add close to 1,500 new seats. K676 will add 547 ES seats including 96 D75 seats and K322 will add 475 MS seats including 72 D75 seats.
- K676 will impact P.S. 310, P.S. 176, and P.S. 112. K322 will impact P.S. 104 and P.S. 201.
- Questions and comments from council members and the public include: Students currently enrolled in schools will not be impacted, students with siblings that live in an impacted zone will retain their zone sibling priority, feedback during the meeting could change the rezoning proposals though it is not typical, highlighting the timeline for these proposals as applications for schools open in November, the lack of Specialized/ASD Nest programs in these new schools, grandfather clause for students going to middle school, and the potential of academic screened programs in K322.

#### **d. Report from Superintendent Dr. David Pretto**

- **District 20 Team Overview:** Reintroduced the District 20 staff and also introduced two new additions, Marie Janet Sierra, ELA Implementation Specialist and Brianna Spinelli, UFT Teacher Center District Literacy Coach.
  - **SY 2022 - 2023 EOY District Data:** All NYCPS students are screened for reading and math proficiency, three times a year. D20 uses the same virtual assessment for all schools; in grades K-2, Acadience is used and in grades 3-8/K-8 in math, iReady is used. Across the district, iReady reading and math data shows an improvement when comparing the beginning and end of the 2022 - 2023 school year.
  - **NYC Reads Recaps and SY 2023 - 2024 Launch:** The chancellors priority in ensuring all students read at grade level. This approach explores five important components of reading, including, understanding letter sounds, decoding words, building vocabulary, reading fluently, and comprehending what one reads. K-5 students will engage in HMH Into Reading and 6-8 students will engage in HMH Into Literature.
  - **Potential Bus Strike Contingency Plan:** District 20 has an alternative transportation plan in place which includes emergency MetroCards, pre-paid rideshare, and transportation reimbursement. If a bus strike does occur, parents who are impacted will receive a text message, phone call, and an email notifying them. Pre-paid rideshare should be the preferred option as parents do not have to wait for reimbursements.
  - Council members' comments and questions include: the criteria for students to be eligible for prepaid rideshare, teacher training to implement new reading programs, the number of students who may be impacted by a bus strike, and support for students who fall below their grade reading level.
- e. Council President Announcement:** The Class Size Working Group, which will recommend to the DOE how to implement the new Class Size. The new law will cap class sizes in ES, MS, and HS. 5 sub-committees submitted their final recommendations which will be reviewed by the main committee.

**f. Public Speaking Session 2 - Members from the community made various comments including:**

- Highlighting the upcoming vote by the Panel for Education which proposes a revision to Chancellor regulation A412. This regulation governs how a student interacts with law enforcement in a school setting and how SCA may interact with students when they are suspected of committing a crime.
- The reading initiative sounds promising but the potential lack of funding may inhibit the performance of these new programs such as HMH.
- A representative from the borough president's office noted that many schools in D20 that applied for the borough president capital funding were awarded various funding. The 2nd BP appointee is soon to be introduced to CEC 20.
- Transparency of learning objectives for students with the introduction of the new programs.
- Highlighting the limitations of rideshare and the need to brief parent coordinators, who oversee the implementation of the program in schools, to ensure that families understand the program.

**g. Introducing the amendments to the Bylaws:** CECs are now required to have 12 voting members and therefore require 7 members in person to constitute a quorum. Certain sections were changed to simplify the text.

**h. Election of CEC 20 Treasurer: Tamara Stern nominates herself. Joyce Xie nominates Meifang Chen**

- Both candidates give a short statement introducing themselves
- Meifang Chen elected as Council Treasurer (8 votes)

**IV. Old Business - Approval of the August 2023 Calendar**

Calendar Meeting Minutes unanimously approved

**V. Adjourn**

a. Motion to adjourn - Elizabeth Chan , Second: Joyce Xie

I. All in favor

b. Meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM

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

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

Submitted by Kevin Vizhnay, Administrative Assistant

Public Speaking Session (10 minutes)

- Report of Superintendent (45 minutes)

- Report of Council President (10 minutes)
- Introduce by-law amendments (5 minutes)
- Vote on CEC 20 Treasurer (10 minutes)
- Approval of August Calendar Meeting Minutes (5 minutes)