

Open Seat President
Dina Guirguis First Vice President
Robert Aguilar Second Vice President
Alice Licato Recording Secretary
Inga Smolyar Treasurer



Council Members

Alan Aja Vito LaBella
Mauricia Cadillo Simeon Stolzberg
Yi Fang Chen
Adele Doyle

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

Community Education Council District 20 October Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Meeting ID: <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/88605029159?pwd=a1BmWE40aXppMlhQOGx3enM2ajVPdz09>

Meeting Start Time: 6:02 PM

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

Guests: Stephen Wieser, FACE Representative; Dr. Joseph O'Brien, Interim Acting Superintendent; Donald De Rosa, Staten Island Borough Director and Southwest Brooklyn Liaison Office of New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer; Sergey Chuprik, Brooklyn Liaison from the Office of New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer; Janine Faustner, President of Presidents' Council

I. Meeting called to Order: Dina Guirguis, First Vice-President

Roll Call: Alice Licato

II. Executive Session

a. Council members discussed their preferred candidates for the open seat

III. Old Business (00:04:20)

- a. Approval of July Minutes
 - i. Minutes unanimously approved
- b. Approval of September Minutes
 - i. Minutes unanimously approved
- c. Approval of October Special meeting Minutes
 - i. Minutes unanimously approved

IV. Report of Council First Vice President (00:07:15)

a. Report will be postponed to the Calendar Meeting to conserve time

V. New Business (00:07:43)

- a. Possible move to Dropbox
 - i. Administrative Assistant will inquire as to whether the council will be permitted to use YouTube to store meeting recordings
 - ii. If YouTube is not permitted, Dropbox will be discussed again

VI. Adjourn

a. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Open Seat President
Dina Guirguis First Vice President
Robert Aguilar Second Vice President
Alice Licato Recording Secretary
Inga Smolyar Treasurer



Council Members

Alan Aja Vito LaBella
Mauricia Cadillo Simeon Stolzberg
Yi Fang Chen
Adele Doyle

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

Community Education Council District 20 October Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Meeting ID: <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/88605029159?pwd=a1BmWE40aXppMlhQOGx3enM2ajVPdz09>

Meeting Start Time: 7:05 PM

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

Guests: Stephen Wieser, FACE Representative; Dr. Joseph O'Brien, Interim Acting Superintendent; Donald De Rosa, Staten Island Borough Director and Southwest Brooklyn Liaison Office of New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer; Sergey Chuprik, Brooklyn Liaison from the Office of NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer; Janine Faustner, President of Presidents' Council

I. Meeting called to Order (00:14:00): Dina Guirguis, First Vice-President

Roll Call: Alice Licato

II. Old Business (00:15:20)

- a. Approval of July Minutes
 - i. Minutes unanimously approved
- b. Approval of September Minutes
 - i. Minutes unanimously approved
- c. Approval of October Special meeting Minutes
 - i. Minutes unanimously approved

III. New Business

- a. Officer Election- Council President (00:17:53, 01:24:20)
 - i. Simeon Stolzberg was nominated by Alan Aja and accepted the nomination
 - ii. Adele Doyle was nominated by Vito LaBella and rejected the nomination
 - iii. Roll call vote: Yes: 5; No: 1; Abstain: 4
 - iv. Simeon Stolzberg is not elected as president
- b. Candidate vote (01:26:17)
 - i. Roll call vote: Tamara Stern: 5; Heidi Chan-Sarantopoulos: 3; Stephen Stowe: 2
 - ii. No candidate has been elected (6 votes, or quorum, is needed)

IV. Report of Council First Vice President (00:28:30)

- a. Dina Guirguis asked Second Vice President Robert Aguilar to summarize the Chancellor's meeting on October 3rd
 - i. Tracking children's attendance (00:29:00)- There is no data on demographics yet, appropriate agencies are visiting homes
 - ii. Cleaning of busses (00:30:24)- Using an electrostatic cleaning system
 - iii. Randomized testing (00:30:37)- obligated if student is called, using a saliva test and a new test with samples taken from lower nostril
 - iv. Curriculum (00:31:48)- schools choose curriculum, Principals have full autonomy
 - v. iPads (00:32:18)- student forced to return iPad, concern over procedure
 - vi. D75 students (00:32:40)- not exempt from randomized testing

- vii. Going forward (00:32:50)- will eventually have real time monitoring of Covid-19 cases through an app, randomized testing will be confidential, but reported to CDC for tracking
- viii. Mayoral control (00:33:50)- did not disagree that mayoral issues are not the problem, the problem is with the current mayor
- ix. Adele Doyle sent a letter to Dr. O'Brien regarding the random Covid-19 testing and her concerns (00:34:43)
 - 1. The letter will be posted on the CEC website along with the minutes
 - 2. Adele attended the Deputy Chancellor's meeting where she felt parents' questions were not answered and information provided was not clear (00:39:05)
- x. Inga Smolyar discussed the closing of the school that did not have any Covid-19 cases, but is in the governor's yellow zone (00:46:40)

V. Report of Community Interim Acting Superintendent (00:51:15)

- a. Dr. O'Brien answered questions submitted during the week and responded to comments from the council members
 - i. District Enrollment (00:51:57)- 35,500 students currently enrolled compared to 36,600 last year
 - ii. School closures (00:52:25)- 18 out of 41 schools are closed, 5 out of 11 Pre-K centers are closed
 - iii. School attendance (00:52:46)- 94% attendance rate for fully remote students, 93% attendance rate for hybrid-in class students, 92% attendance rate for hybrid-remote students
 - iv. Devices (00:53:03)- more than 1,200 internet ready iPads have been requested but not received, approximately 500 laptops in schools without Wifi capabilities
 - v. Ways to move the district further (00:53:52)- Equity team, adding D75 seats, launching of Restorative Justice program for stand-alone middle schools
 - vi. Questions from council members
 - 1. Alice Licato asked about how discipline would be handled in light of the Restorative Justice Program (00:56:25)
 - 2. Adele Doyle asked about identifying what the students are learning as part of their curriculum (00:58:00)
 - 3. Simeon Stolzberg asked about a response for parents who are concerned about live instruction during remote learning (01:02:48)
 - 4. Dina Guirguis asked what needs to happen to reopen schools that have been closed with no positive cases of Covid-19 (01:03:50)
 - 5. Simeon Stolzberg asked about the district collecting information to see how much students have fallen behind and how many would need remedial classes (01:04:53)
 - 6. Alan Aja asked how will the equity committee fight for a more inclusive and culturally relevant curriculum (01:07:40)
 - 7. Inga Smolyar asked about when a decision would be made about middle and high school admissions (01:13:42)
 - 8. Simeon Stolzberg asked about schools not being able to maintain their Gifted and Talented programs because of scheduling changes and the teacher shortage (01:15:09)
 - 9. Vito LaBella asked, with regards to the admissions requirements, if the city does something that goes against the parents, is there a way to get a waiver (01:17:15)

VI. Comments from Invited Guests (01:20:15)

- a. Janine Faustner, the Presidents' Council President, also attended the Deputy Chancellor's meeting and was unsatisfied with the uncertainty and non-answers (01:20:36)
- b. Sergey Chuprik, the new Borough Liaison from Comptroller Scott Stringer's office, introduced himself (01:22:50)
 - i. He will be covering Bath Beach and Bensonhurst

VII. Public speaking (01:29:00)

- a. Stephen Stowe discussed the CEC going to schools and asking about issues that came up during the meeting, especially student assessment, and childcare needs (01:30:40)
- b. Melanie Liu is frustrated with the DOE lack of planning for middle and high school admissions (01:33:07)
- c. Diana Graham is not sure how worthwhile it would be to have someone from the DOE attend a meeting because they do not answer questions, DOE is disrespecting parents, wants CEC to take a stronger stand (01:36:30)
- d. Principal Margaret Russo explained that schools do not have information because the DOE is not providing information, children are being assessed, the DOE has guidelines for how many hours children should be online (01:40:12)
- e. Principal Jayne Capetenakis explained that assessments are always carried out, shortly after school began her school was closed, there have been a lot of changes (01:43:20)

V. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn: Alice Licato, Seconded: Inga Smolyar
- b. Adjourned at 8:38 PM

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir
October 19, 2020