



Community Education Council District 20

October Calendar Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 11, 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

Excused: Maya Rozenblat

Unexcused:

I. Meeting Called to Order: Steve Stowe, President

II. Roll Call: Joyce Xie, Recording Secretary

III. New Business

a. Public Speaking Session 1

Numerous parents voiced their concerns regarding the incident at I.S. 201. Community members were unhappy with the handling of the situation and made comments about schools safety and bullying.

b. Presentation and Q&A from NYPD Sgt. Chen from the 68th Precinct

- Sgt. Chen spoke on the I.S. 201 incident and updated the community about the case. Since the case is still ongoing, details are limited but all parties, including the school and NYPD, are reviewing the incident. The precinct is also in talks with numerous schools in the community to promote children's safety in school.
- Parents questioned the Sgt. Chen and other officers from the precinct, on the incident. Common questions included what the repercussions of this incident will have on schools, how will students feel safe, what measures are being looked into to promote school safety, and what resources are available to those who become a victim of bullying.

c. Certificate of Recognition P.S. 247 teacher Eeman Abdallah

- Eeman Abdalla, a teacher from P.S. 247, was given a certificate of recognition for saving a student choking on an apple.

Presentation on Proposed Rezonings for K053

- 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. K053, an elementary school, will add a total of 307 new seats and will be located at 280 Senator Street.
- The proposed zoning lines for K053 will impact 20K102, 20K185, 20K939, and 20K971.
- 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, how will these new schools impact overcrowding in other schools, and the desire and need from the community to add ASD/NEST/Horizon and Gifted & Talented programs.
- P.S. 939 voiced their concerns on how the new school will negatively impact their enrollment and utilization. They asked the ODP to either create an appropriate zoning line that ensures adequate enrollment and utilization rates or to implement a plan in the 2024 school year district wide ASD/NEST programs. The new line will further inhibit enrollment into P.S. 939 as it will decrease their limited residential space.
- The proposed K053 zoning line will be voted on by the CEC on November 8th.

d. Report from Superintendent Dr. David Pretto

- **Middle school admission:** The application for middle schools opened on Wednesday, October 11th, 2023 and closes on Friday, December 8th, 2023. Offer letters will be sent out Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024.
- **District 20 Accelerated Learning Structure for SY 2024 - 2025:** Based on research, community feedback and professional development with schools, accelerated learning programs have been designed. This includes the Superintendent program which will be introduced to middle schools as well as the Algebra Honors program.
- Due to time constraint, Superintendent Pretto will review test scores and other components of his report at November's meeting
- Superintendent Pretto addressed concerns about the unprecedented raining conditions that recently occurred and are reevaluating their facilities and response in order to be more proactive in a future similar situation.

- e. Bylaw Amendment Vote** - The council voted on amending their [bylaws](#) to better reflect the current number of seats.

Motion to vote - Joyce Xie, Second - John Ricottone

Stephen Stowe - Yes

John Ricottone - Yes

Elizabeth Chan - Yes

Joyce Xie - Yes

Meifang Chen - Yes

Wenming Chen - Yes

Yanqing Chen - Yes

Maya Rozenblat - Excused

Tamara Stern - Yes

Kevin Zhao - Yes

f. Public Speaking Session 2

- A member from the public notes that the focus on specialized programs does not include AIMS (Acquisition, Integrated Services, Meaningful Communication, and Social Skills)

g. Resolution To Expand ASD Nest and ASD Horizon Programs in D20 for Elementary and Middle School

Motion to vote - Joyce Xie, Second - Meifang Chen

Stephen Stowe - Yes

John Ricottone - Yes

Elizabeth Chan - Yes

Joyce Xie - Yes

Meifang Chen - Yes

Wenming Chen - Not Present

Yanqing Chen - Yes

Maya Rozenblat - Excused

Tamara Stern - Yes

Kevin Zhao - Yes

h. Resolution to Amendment Resolution to Increase to Education for children with Disabilities(D75) for District 20

Motion to vote - Joyce Xie, Second - John Ricottone

Stephen Stowe - Yes

John Ricottone - Yes

Elizabeth Chan - Yes

Joyce Xie - Yes

Meifang Chen - Yes

Wenming Chen - Yes

Yanqing Chen - Yes

Maya Rozenblat - Excused

Tamara Stern - Yes

Kevin Zhao - Yes

IV. Old Business - Approval of the September 2023 Calendar and Special Meeting Minutes

Calendar Meeting Minutes unanimously approved and Special Meeting Minutes unanimously approved with amendment to correct vote count.

V. Adjourn

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

I. All in favor

b. Meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM

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

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

Submitted by Kevin Vizhnay, Administrative Assistant