



## **Community Education Council District 20**

### **March Calendar Meeting**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 13th, 2024

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

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

**Excused:**

**Unexcused:**

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

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

**III. New Business**

**a. Public Speaking Session**

- Community members voiced their concerns over the HMH program and note that neither children nor teachers have had positive experiences. A representative from Alexa Aviles' office shared initiatives that involve District 20 including a safety audit and community conversation. Assembly member Lester Chang discussed the current standings with the preliminary budget.

**b. NYC Independent Budget Office - Julia Konrad, My Nguyen, and Taina Guarda**

- The NYC IBO is a nonpartisan agency that analyzes the fiscal impact of major NYC policies. In relation to NYCPS, school budgets are largely funded by FSF (Fair Student Funding) and SAMS (School Allocations Memorandum). The FSF model considers the enrollment number of students at each school, and adds additional "weights" based on the needs of the student (housing needs, special education, English language learners, and academic intervention). SAMS are categorical grants that are administered under specific criteria.
- Council members asked questions regarding the end of COVID Relief to NYCPS and its future impact on staffing and enrollment, how community members and leaders reach out to express their concerns, and how cuts in the upcoming school year will have a drastic impact.

**c. Presentation from Food and Nutrition Services - Annecia Virgo Shakes and Andrew Goodman**

- The OFNS discussed current initiatives and programs being implemented in school cafeterias including daily offerings of fresh fruit and vegetables (salad bar). There is also Plastic Free Day. Council members engaged in conversations regarding the current menu options and their longevity in the school year. Food waste was also discussed, items that students do not want and are prepackaged, will be placed on a cafeteria table that is known as the “shared table”. In regard to non-packaged food, cafeterias follow a “batched cooking method” in which they track daily attendance and consider how many of the children will actually eat school lunch. There is also an onsite tracking method for each school. For unused items, there are recent efforts to donate them to food pantries and kitchens.

**d. Report of Superintendent**

**NYC Reads in D20** - D20 Learning Labs are monthly sessions for K - 2, 3 -5, AND 6 - 8 leaders from all D20 schools. These learning labs are designed to provide district wide professional development and support for all D20 schools that are implementing NYC Reads. In regards to the successful implementation of the NYC Reads program in D20, teachers and principals from P.S. 127 McKinley Park, P.S. 247 NYC College Partnership School, P.S./I.S. 163 Bath Beach, and P.S. 160 William Sampson were celebrated for their work.

**CEC/President’s Council/Title 1 DPAC/Educator Feedback and Action Plan**

- Feedback from these organizations included grade-level curriculum information, sequence of lesson, access to novels, module assessments/unit assessments, writing, computers vs books in classroom, information on decodable texts, and homework expectations. In order to address these concerns, Accelerated Learning ELA Teacher Advisory

Curriculum Compacting, PBL and Novel Study, Assessment Plan Revisions, D20 Learning Labs: Writing, District Communication on NYC Reads through D20Brooklyn.com and Webinar, School Communication on NYC Reads through Parent Workshops and Websites

**New Schools Update** - MS 407: will host D20's first middle school ASD Nest Program. Discussed open house dates for PS 331 and PS 413 (all passed)

**Chancellor’s Town Hall Follow Up** - Dr. Pretto addressed the unanswered questions from the Chancellors Town Hall Event including the expansion of D75 seats in District 20, Enrollment Patterns will be updated at the end of the school year, Crossing guards present a staffing challenge but efforts are being made to hire more guards, a specialized high school is supported by the superintendent's office. access and exposure to other cultures is fully supported by the DOE through the CRSE program, working with D75 to implement ASD and Nest programs

**e. Second Public Speaking Session**

Educators and parents note that while the HMH program has some benefits, there are significant drawbacks. Some major concerns are that children will not read any books together in classes and that literacy experts were reached out to discuss the potential impact of this program. While community members are happy to hear that the program is successful in other schools, it is not a uniform experience. Other parents spoke on the new school P.S. 413, specifically regarding the previously highlighted programs including outdoor recess, accepted math learning, no homework and French Dual Language Program. However, the recent announcement (January 2024) noted that the only program included will be an Arabic Dual Language.

**f. Resolution 9 - Resolution for Renewal of Mayor Control with Reforms**

- Stephen Stowe - Yes
- John Ricottone - Yes
- Elizabeth Chan - Yes
- Joyce Xie - Yes
- Meifang Chen - Yes
- Wenming Chen - Yes
- Yanqing Chen - Yes
- Maya Rozenblat - Excused
- Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio - Excused
- Tamara Stern - No
- Kevin Zhao - Yes

**IV. Old Business - Approval of the February 2024 Calendar Minutes**

Calendar Meeting Minutes unanimously approved

**V. Adjourn**

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

I. All in favor

b. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM

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

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

Submitted by Kevin Vizhnay, Administrative Assistant