

President Steve Stowe
First Vice President Dina Guirguis
Second Vice President/ELL Rep Robert Aguilar
Recording Secretary Alice Licato
Treasurer/BBP Appointee Inga Smolyar



Council Members

Alan Aja - IEP Rep Vito LaBella
Mauricia Cadillo Simeon Stolzberg - BBP
Yi Fang Chen Appointee
Adele Doyle

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

Community Education Council District 20 March Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Meeting ID: <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/82623582359?pwd=MzRUUV1JjTXM2bU1zVWlJMC8yNzdHUT09>

Meeting Start Time: 6:03 PM

Present: Steve Stowe, Adele Doyle, Vito LaBella, Mauricia Cadillo, Yi Fang Chen, Simeon Stolzberg, Alice Licato, Dina Guirguis

Excused: Alan Aja, Robert Aguilar

Absent: Inga Smolyar

Guests: Dr. Joseph O'Brien, Deputy Superintendent; David Pretto, D20 Superintendent; Sylwia Jasinski, Family Support Coordinator; William Chin, Family Leadership Coordinator; Steven Wieser, FACE Representative; Dianne Gounardes, CSA Representative and Pre-K Director

- I. **Meeting called to Order:** Steve Stowe, President
 - a. **Roll Call:** Alice Licato

- II. **Old Business (00:06:13)**
 - a. Approval of February Business Meeting Minutes
 - i. Minutes unanimously approved
 - b. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes (00:08:37)
 - i. Change V.i to express that Vito LaBella stated that the laptops be used to stream future meetings on Zoom regardless of whether the meetings are remote or in person (00:10:08)
 - ii. Use of Padlet- confirmation that the council agreed to use Padlet to elicit parent feedback during that meeting (00:11:17)
 - iii. Motion to approve: Alice Licato; Second- Vito LaBella (00:11:58)

- III. **New Business (00:12:58)**
 - a. Parents Survey
 - i. Steve Stowe gave an update on finding vendors for a parent survey, the different service packages provided by each company, and allocating funds for the survey
 - ii. Simeon Stolzberg asked if the responsibility of getting parents to complete the survey would be left to the company or the CEC (00:18:15)
 - iii. Alice Licato wondered if there was a better way to reach different category of parents and asked if the CEC could fund the district to ensure that it gets to each school (00:23:18)
 - b. Budget (00:17:33)
 - i. Money for the survey can be obtained by members volunteering to waive their reimbursement
 1. Has to be moved to a separate line by the March 25th deadline (00:25:30)
 2. Council will need to have a special meeting to move the money (00:25:55)
 3. If everyone makes up their minds, the council can vote during tonight's Calendar meeting (00:26:27)
 - c. School year 2021-2022 (00:27:41)

- i. Simeon Stolzberg led a discussion prior to writing a resolution about the summer and next school year
 - 1. Possible positions to push the DOE to
- ii. For the Summer (00:28:25)
 - 1. Are they offering programs for the summer?
 - 2. Making all the DOE computer programs accessible to parents (00:28:51)
- iii. For the Fall (00:29:24)
 - 1. With teachers eligible for vaccination, there is potential for schools to open 5 days per week
 - 2. What does that mean for remote learning?
 - 3. How will the schools build up trust?
- iv. Vito LaBella expects normal learning with complete occupancy in schools; teachers can wear protective gear or take leave until they are comfortable reporting to work; there should be a remote learning system in place for students uncomfortable to return to school (00:31:11)
- v. Steve Stowe asked about assessment of students for when they return (00:33:15)
- vi. Adele Doyle asked about more transparency because parents are left out of the discussions about going back to school (00:34:57)
- vii. Alice Licato suggested that while in-person is preferable, remote learning should be kept for students who cannot access in-person resources; and the district should be able to use teacher assessments in lieu of state tests (00:36:47)
- viii. Vito LaBella stated that he had a teacher who was able to individually assess his child, but not all teachers may give individual assessments for each child (00:39:48)
- ix. Simeon Stolzberg brought up the topic of ventilation in classrooms, which was a problem before the pandemic (00:41:27)
- d. Arts Initiative (00:44:14)
 - i. Adele Doyle gave an update on the arts initiative
 - 1. Each school is eligible to submit one art submission per grade and one performing arts submission per school, Preschool is allowed one submission per class (0:44:49)
 - ii. The Google drive is set up to accept submissions (00:45:10)
 - iii. Betty Zohar (UFT) has agreed to assist the schools (00:45:18)
- e. Parks Alienation (00:46:05)
 - i. Steve Stowe followed up on a parent suggestion of using the tennis court at Leif Ericson park to build a new school and fulfilling the need for seats in the district
 - ii. Complicated process involving multiple NYS and NYC departments and councils (00:46:41)
 - iii. May have to find the same acreage of space to replace the park (00:47:33)
 - iv. Alice Licato asked if it is a case where there needs to be a park space every few blocks (00:49:31)
 - v. Vito LaBella stated that he would be opposed to using park land, but was disappointed that SCA did not seem to consider using platforms above railyards and highways (00:50:04)
 - vi. Simeon Stolzberg suggested reaching out to community boards since they make zoning decisions (00:53:38)

IV. Adjourn (00:55:24)

- a. Motion to adjourn: Steve Stowe, Second: Simeon Stolzberg
- b. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir
March 19, 2021

- i. Alice Licato suggested including links to resources referenced in the document, remove “inflammatory language” from the last paragraph, no guidelines on what to do if the AA is unavailable or the council does not have an AA (01:57:47)
- d. Motion to accept the removal of “inflammatory language” from the last paragraph: Alice Licato, Second: Simeon Stolzberg (02:03:15)
 - i. All in Favor, 0 opposed- motion passes unanimously
- e. Simeon Stolzberg mentioned that the officers would need access to the CEC accounts in the case that an AA is unavailable (02:05:16)
- f. Simeon pointed out that the word “ask” in reference to the DOE social media guidelines does not have any weight and possibly should be replaced with “require” or “expect” (02:09:42)
- g. Simeon asked about the inefficiency of having to meet to vote on approving content (02:11:57), and allowing parents to post comments on the CEC’s social media sites (02:16:02)
- h. Three topics to follow up with before the April meeting: guidelines for if there is no AA or the AA is unavailable, language surrounding posting content in a timely manner, language around comments on a post (02:19:06)
- i. In the interest of time, discussion on the social media waiver will be postponed (02:20:00)

V. Report of Council President (02:20:40)

- a. Steve Stowe discussed the initiatives that the council is planning
 - i. Parents survey (02:20:54)
 - ii. Expand discussions around the curriculum, school opening in the fall, and summer programs (02:21:09)
 - iii. Arts Festival and corresponding website (02:21:52)

VI. Report of District Superintendent (02:22:14)

- a. New Superintendent David Pretto gave thanks to Dr. O’Brien, the district office, UFT, and CEC
- b. Mr. Pretto gave some data points regarding remote and blended learning, school closures, devices, Special Education services, the demand for seats, and programs for multi-lingua students (02:25:34)
- c. He has been introducing himself to the district bodies (02:32:53)
- d. He has been analyzing the district’s use of assessments to monitor students’ progress (02:35:24)
- e. He supports the council’s resolution regarding devices and is willing to partner up for a distribution system (2:27:24)
- f. Questions from Council (02:38:03)
 - i. Simeon Stolzberg asked about meeting benchmarks in special education (02:38:19), what parents should do if they feel that their child should repeat a grade (02:41:04), and state testing (02:46:40)
 - ii. Alice Licato asked for clarification of the term “learning status” (02:42:21), if there is someone in the DOE working with special education parents (02:44:44), and clarity on differentiated learning in the context of G&T programs (02:59:11)
 - iii. Robert Aguilar thanked Mr. Pretto for providing information that had not been previously shared with the CEC (02:45:56)
 - iv. Inga Smolyar asked for an update on G&T and screened programs (02:47:25)
 - v. Adele Doyle asked for Mr. Pretto’s view on G&T and differentiated instruction (02:49:56)
 - vi. Yi Fang Chen asked about Mr. Pretto’s views on the attacks against the Asian community and having a Superintendent’s Program (02:54:28)
 - vii. Vito LaBella asked if Mr. Pretto would work to fulfill the Mayor’s campaign promise if wanted a G&T program in every D20 school (02:58:13)

VII. Public speaking (03:01:52)

- a. Tamara Stern is disappointed with the fact that some CEC members seemed to repeatedly focus questions on G&T programs rather than how to help special education parents or multilingual learners (03:04:07)

VIII. Resolution 12 on Budget Amnesty (03:07:31)

- a. Motion to approve Resolution 12: Simeon Stolzberg, Second: Vito LaBella
- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Steve Stowe: Yes | 7. Mauricia Cadillo: Yes |
| 2. Dina Guirguis: Yes | 8. Yi Fang Chen: Yes |
| 3. Robert Aguilar: Yes | 9. Adele Doyle: Yes |
| 4. Alice Licato: Yes | 10. Vito LaBella: Yes |
| 5. Inga Smolyar: Yes | 11. Simeon Stolzberg: Yes |
| 6. Alan Aja: Excused | |
- b. Motion passes unanimously with 10 Yes votes

IX. Adjournment (03:11:42):

- a. Motion to adjourn: Alice Licato, Seconded: Vito LaBella
b. Adjourned at 9:15 PM

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir
March 19, 2021