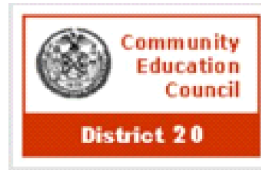


President Steve Stowe  
First Vice President Jennifer Hu  
Second Vice President/IEP Rep Elizabeth Chan  
Recording Secretary Vito LaBella  
Treasurer/BBP Appointee Marie Brugueras



Council Members  
Ghada Amin  
Jona Isufi  
Li Ping Jiang  
Maya Rozenblat-ELL REP  
Joyce Xie  
Kevin Zhao-BBP Appoint

## Community Education Council District 20

### March Calendar Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, March 8, 2023

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:00 pm

**Present:** Steve Stowe, Li Ping Jiang, Joyce Xie, Jona Isufi, Elizabeth Chan, Vito Labella, Kevin Zhao, Marie Brugueras, Ghada Amin

**Excused:** Jennifer Hu, Maya Rozenblat

**Unexcused:**

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

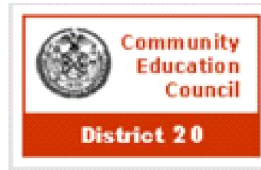
**II. Roll Call:** Steve Stowe, President

### III. New Business

#### a. Presentation on District Student Wellness

- **Opening Remarks by Council Member Elizabeth Chan** - CM Chan made opening remarks about mental health and bullying in the school setting. As this is the first full year for students going back to in-person instruction, CM Chan wants to remind the district that mental health and bullying challenges should be focused on. CM Chan cited various articles and legislation that aims to address mental health issues among students and prevent bullying. Also, after attending various CEC meetings from different districts, noted that bullying is still a prevalent issue in NYC schools. CM Chan also shared first-hand experience of bullying her son encountered. .
- **Presentation on Bullying Awareness & Mental Health Supports from Russell Lieberman, Student Services Manager; and Lauren Tacconi, District Social Worker** - Notable data in the presentation includes: 2022 NYC school survey in District 20, 70% of students felt that schools were effective at preventing bullying and 87% of students stated that they felt their school was a safe place. The DOE has a system-wide response to bullying and harassment known as Respect For All. This DOE initiative provides an RFA liaison who is trained in bullying harassment and intimidation in each school. In regards to mental health, a recent trend since the pandemic found that children need support in goal directed behavior and optimistic thinking. Support strategies that can be found in District 20 schools include but are not limited to, access to a certified school counselor and social worker, mentorship and coaching, individual and group counseling, and referral programs to mental health providers. Answered questions from CEC council members including the ideal percentage for student data regarding bullying and mental health, highlighting the importance of relationships between students and school staff, implementation of programs, and in-school learning programs for mental health and bullying.
- **Update on the Citywide Wellness Committee from Council Member Jona Isufi** - The Citywide Wellness Committee meets once a month to come up with ideas and share existing concerns regarding student wellness, and how different student wellness programs are implemented. The committee strives to strengthen existing policies and programs. Highlights the importance of physical education and physical activity.
-

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**b. Report from Dr. David Pretto**

- **Accountability status** - Announced that our Accountability status from New York State, which is based on schools performance in regards to state assessments and student attendance, is Local Support and Improvement; the highest status. This accountability status measures the entire district in whether or not they are making adequate yearly progress towards goals set in the prior year.
- **Update on the Accelerated Learning Inquiry** - Defines accelerated learning as a program and teaching methods such as data-driven instruction, foreign language/dual language programs, curriculum-driven project based learning, and specialized programs such as content-adjacent programs and cross-disciplinary programs. The progress so far includes expanding regents offerings and tracked regents passing rates and average cores, expanding dual language programs for middle school pathways in Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin, and Italian, and cataloged SHSAT preparation offered Across D20.
- Questions from council - Superintendent Pretto addressed questions from the council including longevity of program based on funding, how students are chosen for dual-language programs, participation of National Honor Society in schools, and are all students able to participate in accelerated learning programs.

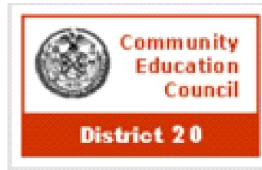
**c. Public speaking**

- Members from the community commented on the importance of mental health programs and DOE initiated tutoring programs. Another member shared their questions regarding accelerated programming, Superintendent Pretto addressed comments and questions regarding accelerated programs.

**d. Resolution 9 - Requesting District 20 Establish A District Academic Screened Middle School Program**

- Motion to vote: Elizabeth Chan, Second: Vito LaBella
  - i. Hu - Excused
  - ii. Chan - Yes
  - iii. Brugueras - Yes
  - iv. Zhao - Yes
  - v. Jiang - Yes
  - vi. Xie - Yes
  - vii. Rozenblatt - Excused
  - viii. Amin - Yes
  - ix. Isufi - Yes
  - x. LaBella - Yes
  - xi. Stowe - Yes

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

- a. Minutes unanimously approved

**V. Adjourn**

- a. Motion to adjourn - Elizabeth Chan, Second: Kevin Zhao

- I. All in favor

- b. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM

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

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

Submitted by Kevin Vizhnay, Administrative Assistant