



Community Education Council District 20

September Calendar Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 18th, 2024

Meeting Start Time: 6:00 PM

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

Excused:

Unexcused:

I. Meeting Called to Order: Stephen Stowe, First Vice President

II. Roll Call: Joyce Xie, Recording Secretary

III. New Business

a. Presentation and Discussion with NIA and FIAO

Superintendent Pretto announced that New York State has allocated \$3 Million to support the after school programming in NYCPS. NIA Executive Director Annete Velez, provided information on the structure of afterschool program funding and explained the current dilemma they are facing. NIA and other programs were funded primarily from DOE Empire and/or Advantage contracts. These contracts were set to expire on June 30th, 2024 and had no plans to renew/replace these contracts. Therefore any after school programs that were funded by Empire or Advantage, would cease operation. In place of Empire or Advantage, the Office of Children and Family Service announced funding would be granted through an application process with LEAPS. While the applications submitted were received with positive scores, they were approved pending funding, essentially a waiting list. Other program providers faced similar results. While the \$3 million funding will aid, not many schools will see an impact. FIAO Executive Director Nancy R. Sottile, another after school program provider, shared similar thoughts. The NIA director noted that they felt the process was not streamlined and had an unclear protocol. The FIAO director also noted that while applications were submitted with similar details, they were rated marginally different, NIA agreed. Both directors recommended more collaboration between city agencies and reaching out to public officials to address this issue now and in the future. Council members asked questions regarding whether the city or state provides more funding, the use of Covid relief, if any programs did not lose funding, and preference between city and state funding.

b. Public Speaking Session

Senator Lester Chang spoke on his office's efforts to recover after school funding. Former Assemblyman Peter Abbate also shared his thoughts on the funding issue, claiming that the \$3 million will not completely solve this issue. Also noting that it was unfair of NYS to give NYC the funding without a clear guidance on how to distribute the funds. Joyce Xie, representing Susan Zhuang, updated the community on the work her office has done including allocating funding to schools. A representative from Alexa Aviles office spoke on their upcoming events (past).

c. Report from Superintendent Pretto

Superintendent Pretto introduced the new principal for P.S. 160, Christopher Gullo and P.S. 971, Tasia Butsikares. Superintendent Pretto also announced the increase in engagement programs for student awareness surrounding student cultures. The council discussed whether the DOE has clear protocols about global, social, and cultural conflicts between students. Members mentioned that engaging in other students' cultures will reduce animosity between students. Superintendent also reviewed data from the 2023 - 2024 school year including attendance, academic screeners such as iReady and Arcadiane, NYS exams, and school surveys. District 20 ranks 2nd in attendance in NYC with a 94% attendance rate, there was a positive shift in regards to Arcadiane and a slight reduction in iReady reading and math benchmarks. In regards to NYS ELA exams, District 20 dropped below the benchmark. Research suggests that a possible cause is a shift in the literature curriculum. Council members also discussed how District 20 will address this reduction and how impactful it is taking the module exams online. Council members also asked if there are any issues regarding the implementation of the new OMNY cards.

d. Report of Council President

A Welcome Back Breakfast is being planned for parent leaders. President Stephen Stowe and First Vice President John Ricottone have kept communication with the Department of School Safety in regards to the hiring of new School Safety Agents. Our D75 representative, Sabrina McNamara, is seeking to have a D75 representative in a future meeting to discuss D75 programs in the new schools. President Stephen Stowe also discussed a recent court ruling that addressed a DOE policy, Regulation D-210. The ruling issued a preliminary injunction reinstating a CEC 2 member.

Public Speaking Session

Community members spoke on the need for afterschool programs. Noting that many working parents rely on these programs and that the social learning opportunities these programs provide is irreplaceable. A representative from the office of Iwen Chu spoke on upcoming events (past).

e. Vote to Postpone Voting a New Recording Secretary

Steven Stowe - Yes

John Ricottone - Yes

Elizabeth Chan - Yes

Joyce Xie - Yes

Meifang Chen - Yes

Tamara Stern - Abstain

Wenming Chen - Yes

Yangqing Chen - Yes

Kevin Zhao - No Vote

Maya Rozenblat - Yes

Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio - Yes

Sabrina Mcnamara - Yes

IV. Old Business - Approval of the August 2024 Calendar Minutes

Calendar Meeting Minutes Approved

V. Adjourn

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

I. All in favor

b. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM

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

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

Submitted by Kevin Vizhnay, Administrative Assistant