



Community Education Council District 20

February Calendar Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 7th, 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

Excused:

Unexcused:

I. Meeting Called to Order: Steve Stowe, President

II. Roll Call: Joyce Xie, Recording Secretary

III. New Business

a. Opening Remarks

State Assembly Member Robert Carroll, also member of Chancellor Banks Literacy Advisory Council, spoke on the recent changes in literacy programs that aim to adopt science based reading programs. Notes that there should be a focus on both prioritizing science based literacy programs and allows for divergence and malleability.

b. Public Speaking Session

- In response to the recent update on District 20s literacy based programs, parents, students, and teachers shared their opinions. The common sentiment was that the program is too uniform and strips students of creativeness, writing, and critical thinking. Since students are tasked with answering questions that are directly answered by their excerpts, it removes all the learning attributes from ELA. The community feels that there should have been collaboration prior to implementing this program. Some members of the community call for school based exemptions, citing that teachers and principals know what is best for their students.

c. Report of Superintendent

Respect for All Initiative in District 20. RFA is a DOE commitment to preventing and addressing student-to-student discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying. District 20 holds a contest in which students from all schools celebrate Respect for All through essays, posters, and multimedia. Winners include -

- Essay - 20K127 - Joseph Linksman
- Poster - 20K180 - David Qiu
- Multimedia/ Video - 20K682 - Nicolas Diacomanolis, Susanna Regnier, Liam Lerner-Nunez

Local Law 51 - The DOE is required to provide reports on student-to-student bullying, harassment, intimidation, and discrimination twice per year. Between May 2022 and November 2022, there had been 510 claims with 268 substantiated claims.

Into Reading at a Glance - While there is a strong belief in the community that this program removes novel reading, this is not a valid claim as whole book readings are still practiced in schools. In alignment to NYC Reads guidance, follow sequence of lessons without skipping lessons, with autonomy on how to meet all students needs. Caution using DIY resources by leveraging HMH resources. Enhance access by including extension activities. Small group instruction, partner reading, and project based learning is prioritized within this program. The priority of this program is that all students read well. To that end, we are on track to meet our EOY goal of a 5% increase of at and above on the Acadience Reading Composite Score and on track to meet our EOY goal of a 5% increase of on or above grade level on the 3-8 IReady Reading Diagnostic. In relation to students reading at and above grade level, there is a 17% increase in 3rd grade, 14% percent in 4th grade, 11% in 5th grade, 7% in 6th grade, 6% in 7th grade, 5% in 8th grade.

Fair Student Funding - Every spring the Panel for Educational Policy votes on the NYCPS school budget allocation fund, also known as the Fair Student Funding Formula. The Fair Student Funding (FSF) is the largest funding stream for schools and is based on the number of students enrolled at each school and the specific needs of those students. The budget for 2023-24 school year was \$39.9 billion, an estimate of about \$31,250 per student. NYC provided 52%, NYS provided 36%, and the federal government provided 11%. Major costs include K-12 instructions, Employee benefits, pension, and debt, and school operations. District 20 budget was \$678 million. Principals are responsible for dictating the budget and have great flexibility in allocating their budget/

d. Public Speaking Session

Parents, teachers, and students expressed their concerns over the new literacy program. Mainly citing that this uniform reading policy is limiting students ability to learn. A one size fits all approach harms students who are at an advanced level and control over reading curriculum should be given to teachers and school leaders. Some members of the community noted that this program has greatly assisted their English language learning students. Another member from the community spoke on their displeasure with the length and engagement from the town hall event with Chancellor Banks.

e. Resolution 9 - Resolution for NYCPS Website Compliance with Local Law 51 on Bullying Reporting

- Stephen Stowe - Yes
- John Ricottone - Yes
- Elizabeth Chan - Yes
- Joyce Xie - Yes
- Meifang Chen - Yes

- Wenming Chen - Yes
- Yanqing Chen - Yes
- Maya Rozenblat - Yes
- Tamara Stern - Yes
- Kevin Zhao - Yes

IV. Old Business - Approval of the January 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 9:20 PM

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

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

Submitted by Kevin Vizhnay, Administrative Assistant