

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 May Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Meeting ID: <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/83210944687?pwd=MzlpRVFWT2h1WWWhFQkE2Z05FYVRidz09>

Meeting Start Time: 6:07 PM

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

Excused: Dina Guirguis, Alan Aja, Robert Aguilar, 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 (00:09:37)**
 - a. Approval of April Business Meeting Minutes
 1. Minutes unanimously approved
 - b. Recording Secretary Alice Licato made some housekeeping announcements (00:10:08)
 1. Council members should submit their reimbursements soon
 2. Members should submit events to be included on their Individual Performance Reports
 3. The next council has to make sure religious holidays and Parent-Teacher Conferences are taken into account when scheduling meetings
- III. **New Business-Parent Survey (00:12:49)**
 - a. The council reviewed the latest draft of the survey questions
 1. Currently 9 questions; questions similar to those asked on the DOE Spring survey were removed
 - b. Comments from the Council (00:18:27):
 1. Adele Doyle suggested having parents respond to question 7 by ranking the choices (00:18:28); feels that there are parents that will have difficulties with the term "rigor" in question 2 as it can mean different things to different people in a cultural setting (00:19:55); believes that "believe" in question 5 is a conviction statement and recommends "do you feel..." (00:21:18)
 2. Simeon Stolzberg agrees with changing the format of question 7 (00:21:48); Suggested having open-ended questions asking if parents had any concerns (00:22:37); about the use of "rigor" in question 3;
 3. Alice Licato asked for clarification on questions being added and removed (00:24:27); Also agrees with the removal of "rigor" (00:25:30); asked if the questions could be rephrased so that half were phrased one way and the remaining questions phrased another way to streamline the survey (00:25:36); Suggested narrowing the choices and having the social/emotional questions be ranked (00:27:08); Suggested including a definition for "restorative justice" for clarity (00:27:23); suggested simplifying the questions as there are many technical terms

that parents might not be familiar with (00:28:20); including a question that addresses schools providing resources in the languages spoken at home (00:29:06); asked what the next step is if consensus is not reached at the meeting (00:30:54)

4. In response to Alice's suggestions, Adele Doyle agreed on rephrasing some questions and adding a question about resources being provided in other languages (00:32:02); suggested questions about work have "too little/too much/just right" ranking for their answers (00:34:08)
5. If reducing the amount of questions, Alice suggested removing "restorative justice" from question 9 as it is not in each school (00:34:33). Adele suggested removing "trauma – informed curriculum; because she feels some parents will not fully understand what it means, and "social work" and "guidance counseling" because they may be conflated; Alice suggested combining the two (00:36:16); Alice suggested removing "recess" (informal student socialization) (00:36:32)
6. Alice noted that students have been impacted disproportionately by the pandemic and leaving "trauma-informed curriculum" allows parents to ask for what they need for their children (00:40:17)

IV. Superintendent Evaluation (00:41:50)

- a. There was a training on the Superintendent Evaluation on April 26th
- b. Evaluations must be conducted by the end of June
- c. Steve Stowe suggested that the council do the evaluation, approve it at the June 9th meeting, and then share it with Superintendent Pretto (00:43:22)
- d. Comments from the Council (00:43:34)
 1. Alice stated that the evaluations are not presented at public meetings and it does not need a vote (00:43:39), explained that previously, the council would hold a special meeting and in an executive session, would compile their individual evaluations for the president to meet with the superintendent (00:44:03)
 2. Simeon Stolzberg questioned how the council would fill out the evaluation considering that Superintendent Pretto has been with District 20 for only a few months (00:45:56)
 3. In response to Simeon, Alice mentioned that the provided evaluation form is only a template and questions can be left blank (00:46:15)
 4. Having gone through the process several times, Adele Doyle does not feel that the evaluation serves a purpose (00:46:55); the council is never told what good comes from the evaluations (00:47:56)
 5. In response to Adele, Simeon stated that the evaluation is a documented position on what the council thinks of the superintendent's performance (00:48:11)
 6. Alice agrees with Simeon that the council should eliminate questions that do not apply to someone who has been on the job for three months (00:48:59)
 7. Yi Fang Chen agrees that the evaluation would not be a statistically meaningful comparison of someone who has been in the district for 20 years and someone who has been in the district for 3 months (00:50:00)
 8. Steve Stowe stated that there are a lot of imperfections with the evaluation, and many ways it can be delivered (00:50:48)
 9. Alice Licato clarified that she was not suggesting a comparison between Superintendents Costantino and Pretto, but having been with one superintendent for a long time, the council knows what they may or may not want to look for (00:53:30); tabled a motion to call a special meeting until the Calendar meeting when more council members will be in attendance (00:53:55)

V. Adjourn (00:54:51)

- a.** Motion to adjourn: Steve Stowe, Second: Vito LaBella
 - 1. All in favor
- b.** Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir
May 26, 2021

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



Council Members

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

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

Community Education Council District 20 May Calendar Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Meeting ID: <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/83210944687?pwd=MzlpRVFWT2h1WWWhFQkE2Z05FYVRidz09>

Meeting Start Time: 7:02 PM

Present: Steve Stowe, Adele Doyle, Vito LaBella, Alan Aja, Mauricia Cadillo, Yi Fang Chen, Simeon Stolzberg, Alice Licato, Inga Smolyar, Dina Guirguis, Robert Aguilar, Alan Aja

Guests: Dr. Joseph O'Brien, Deputy Superintendent; David Pretto, D20 Superintendent William Chin, Family Leadership Coordinator; Steven Wieser, Alycia Zieno, Educational Consultant and Professional Development Specialist for Curriculum Associates; Paulette Thompson, Educational Solutions Consultant; Matt Severino, Professional Development Specialist for Curriculum Associates; Jessica Vitale, Account Manager

- I. **Meeting called to Order (00:59:48):** Steve Stowe, President
Roll Call (00:59:56): Alice Licato

- II. **Old Business (01:08:38)**
 - a. Recording Secretary Alice Licato shared a few housekeeping items: the next meeting is June 9th, the 2021-2023 members will be elected by then, the public comment period for the proposed school on 5th Avenue will end on May 16th, (01:09:40)
 - b. Approval of April Calendar meeting Minutes
 1. Natalia Mondesir stated that at the April meeting Simeon Stolzberg suggested including the phrase "at least" in the proposed bylaws Amendment and will add it to the minutes (01:10:57)
 2. Minutes unanimously approved (01:15:35)
 - c. Alice Licato made a motion to separate the 40 min Public Speaking session into two 20 min blocks in order to have a public speaking session specifically for the resolutions, as per the bylaws (01:15:55)
 1. Steve Stowe objects to separating the Public Speaking session due to his interpretation of the bylaws (01:16:50)
 2. After much debate, Alice Licato retracted the motion (01:20:18)
 3. Simeon Stolzberg reintroduced the motion to have a dedicated public speaking session for parents to have an opportunity to comment on the resolutions after the council discusses them (01:20:28); Second- Alice Licato
 4. All in Favor (01:22:13)

- III. **i-Ready Presentation on District-wide Assessment (01:25:08)**
 - a. Alycia Zieno, Paulette Thompson and Matt Severino from Curriculum Associates gave a presentation on District 20's partnership with their company and the use of i-Ready as an assessment tool in schools (01:25:50)
 1. Diagnostics will begin the week of May 24th with ELA (01:31:21)
 2. Math assessment will begin the week of the 31st (01:36:37)
 3. There will be a week of support the following week for students who have extra accommodations or need make up time (01:36:40)
 - b. Questions from parents (01:40:00)

1. Christine Intervallo asked if there are any accommodations to help dyslexic children with their assessments and if not, how is the program a true assessment of their abilities (01:40:18)
 2. Michael Loeb cautioned the district and parents that the program seems to be overstating where children are despite it being the type of test the district should be doing (01:47:47)
 3. Michelle Ngai asked what the district is prepared to do if students are ranked above average since there are no Gifted and Talented programs for middle school (02:00:38)
- c. Questions from council members (01:55:35)
1. Vito LaBella asked if parents will have a dashboard to view their children's results and how soon (01:55:38)

IV. Report of the Superintendent (02:07:27)

- a. Superintendent Pretto thanked the team from iReady for their presentation and mentioned that there will be follow-up training for the building administrators and teachers on how to read the data
- b. Schools have continued to celebrate Asian American Pacific islander heritage month by engaging students and families in activities throughout the day, as well as after school (02:08:21)
- c. Addressed Michelle Ngai's question and explained that much consideration went into choosing iReady for assessment because of what it is assessing and how it is assessed (02:08:50)
- d. Announced the winners of the Respect for All essay and poster contest from PS 127, PS/IS 192, PS 176, and PS/IS 180 (02:09:55)
- e. Parents were able to take the parent-facing implicit bias training on May 6th (02:11:41)
 1. Implicit bias training is the initial step toward forming school based equity teams (02:12:44)
- f. The DOE Learning Environment Survey is open and will close on June 11th (02:13:40), registration for summer rising is open and will be open to all DOE students (02:13:58), there will be 17 sections of 3-K opened in District 20, application period is open (02:14:25), the federal government has created an internet subsidy application at getemergencybroadband.org (02:14:52)

V. Launching of the Arts Showcase Initiative (02:16:53)

- a. Adele Doyle played a video montage of submissions that will be on the Arts Showcase website
 1. The website is district20artsshowcase.com
 2. Work from students and teachers have been submitted
- b. PS 936 Principal Donna Nastasi will take over the domain in July (02:43:15)
- c. PS 69 Principal Jaynemie Capetanakis thanked Adele for her hard work (02:44:35)
- d. A second video clip of students from PS176 was shown later (03:22:14) for the students that were still in the meeting

VI. Report of the Council President (02:45:49)

- a. Steve Stowe shared information on Qualtrics, the vendor that will provide the software for the Parent survey
- b. The goal is a short survey that the CEC can use to understand parent concerns and does not replicate the questions on the DOE survey (02:47:17)
- c. Hope to distribute the survey in about three weeks, in order to give parents time to finish the DOE survey (02:47:44)
- d. Work with the district to get it distributed, especially to communities that do not usually take part in our surveys (02:48:24)
 1. It will be translated into the 5 most widely spoken non-English languages in the district (02:48:46)

VII. Public Speaking on General Topics (02:49:08)

- a. Michelle Magnus stated that there is a desire to get rid of specialized schools and G&T programs, but feels that no one is addressing the overcrowding in schools (02:52:09), questioned how the iReady program could be administered if there are not enough devices for each child and how will the parents access the results once the devices have to be returned (02:53:04), feels that discussing the vocabulary of the survey is a waste of time when the council should be discussing how to keep the specialized schools and G&T programs for parents who want their children in these programs (02:54:46)
- b. Melanie Liu finds it rude when council members cut each other off and speak over each other (02:56:24)
- c. Farida Ardasheva requested that work from her school, PS 176, be shown because parents have been in the meeting (02:58:05)
- d. Michael Loeb does not think that the iReady presentation was transparent because we have not seen what the interface is like for the students, the program is overstated with what information about the students it can provide (02:59:11)
- e. D20 Student Palak Chahal asked if the information provided by the iReady assessment will be sent to a student's new school if they move out of the district (03:01:24)
- f. Flannery asked if the data from the iReady assessments will be used to request extra funding (03:04:52)
- g. Michelle Ngai stated that as an SLT member, her school has not utilized iReady to assess students and asked if this is a pilot program for schools going forward (03:06:35); asked if iReady helps with the rollout of current curriculums such as enVision and Amplify (03:08:40); questioned how beneficial iReady is for grades six through eight in preparation for high school (03:11:46)

VIII. Vote on the Bylaw Amendment (03:14:45)

- a. This proposed amendment is a modification of the timeline of how the council introduces resolutions (03:15:05)
- b. Motion to approve: Alice Licato, Second: Simeon Stolzberg (03:15:37)
- c. All in favor, No opposed (03:15:40)

IX. Resolution 14 on Vaccinations (03:16:00)

- a. Simeon Stolzberg introduced this resolution to ask those who are eligible for vaccination to get vaccinated in order to help schools to be able to reopen (03:16:28)
- b. Vito LaBella suggested having clinics at schools for vaccinations (03:17:10)
- c. Simeon Stolzberg made a motion to include an ask to have vaccine clinics offer vaccinations at schools (03:20:46)

1. All in favor, No opposed

- d. Roll call vote on Resolution 14:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Steve Stowe- Yes | 7. Mauricia Cadillo- Yes |
| 2. Dina Guirguis- Excused | 8. Yi Fang Chen- Abstain |
| 3. Robert Aguilar- Excused | 9. Adele Doyle- No |
| 4. Alice Licato- Yes | 10. Vito LaBella- Yes |
| 5. Inga Smolyar- Excused | 11. Simeon Stolzberg- Yes |
| 6. Alan Aja- Excused | |

- e. Amendment Does not pass with Yes-5, No-1, Abstain-1, Excused-4

X. Resolution 16 on Summer School (03:27:32)

- a. Simeon Stolzberg introduced this resolution asking the DOE for quality education during the summer program, five days of paid preparation time for teachers to prepare for this program, high impact tutoring for students who are below grade level, pre- and post- assessments to

evaluate the program's impact, and that they make online resources available to each student (03:28:13)

- b. Vito LaBella suggested an ask which would hold the DOE to their promises (03:29:42), Gave examples as to why he believes the DOE is not prepared for the summer program (03:32:04)
 - 1. Alice Licato stated that focusing on accelerated curriculum for students diverts resources that should be used to help students most affected by the pandemic (03:35:45)
- c. Motion to accept the amendment about including acceleration opportunities (03:38:49)
 - 1. Motion: Vito LaBella; Second: Steve Stowe
 - 2. 6 in favor, 1 opposed
- d. Roll call vote on Resolution 16 (03:39:32)
 - 1. Steve Stowe- Yes
 - 2. Dina Guirguis- Excused
 - 3. Robert Aguilar- Excused
 - 4. Alice Licato- No
 - 5. Inga Smolyar- Excused
 - 6. Alan Aja- Excused
 - 7. Mauricia Cadillo- Yes
 - 8. Yi Fang Chen- Yes
 - 9. Adele Doyle- Yes
 - 10. Vito LaBella- Yes
 - 11. Simeon Stolzberg- Yes
- e. Amendment passes with Yes-6, No-1, Excused-4

XI. Resolution 15 on School Reopening (03:41:20)

- a. Simeon Stolzberg introduced this resolution asking the DOE to fully reopen schools in September 2021, have transparent planning with information provided in a timely manner, have timelines and criteria for making decisions, have a communications campaign to inform parents well in advance about instructional options for the next school year, to look at the social distancing requirements so schools can open fully, look into ventilation options, have remote learning taught by teachers who are trained in remote learning, that remote learning not be used as a disciplinary measure (03:41:26)
 - 1. Adele Doyle asked if there have been reports of students sent into remote learning as discipline (03:45:11)
- b. Roll call vote on Resolution 15
 - 1. Steve Stowe- Yes
 - 2. Dina Guirguis- Excused
 - 3. Robert Aguilar- Excused
 - 4. Alice Licato- Yes
 - 5. Inga Smolyar- Excused
 - 6. Alan Aja- Excused
 - 7. Mauricia Cadillo- Yes
 - 8. Yi Fang Chen- Yes
 - 9. Adele Doyle- Yes
 - 10. Vito LaBella- Yes
 - 11. Simeon Stolzberg- Yes
- c. Resolution passes with Yes-7, Excused- 4

XII. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn: Steve Stowe,
- b. Adjourned at 10:08 PM

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir
May 26, 2021