

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 January Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Meeting ID: <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/82425637274?pwd=czhPcTZPN2pFeTBsalFrZlBMNG9qZz09>

Meeting Start Time: 6:00 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

Guests: Dr. Joseph O'Brien, Interim Acting 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 (00:02:11)**
 - a. Approval of December Business Meeting Minutes
 - i. Minutes unanimously approved

- III. **Report of Council President (00:03:19, 00:09:30)**
 - a. Motion to add a new resolution to the Calendar Meeting- Inga Smolyar; Second- Vito LaBella
 - i. Motion passes with 7 Yes votes and 4 No votes
 1. Steve Stowe: Yes
 2. Dina Guirguis: Yes
 3. Robert Aguilar: No
 4. Alice Licato: No
 5. Inga Smolyar: Yes
 6. Alan Aja: No
 7. Mauricia Cadillo: Yes
 8. Yi Fang Chen: Yes
 9. Adele Doyle: Yes
 10. Vito LaBella: Yes
 11. Simeon Stolzberg: No
 - b. Motion to rank the Capital Funding requests during the Calendar Meeting- Alice Licato, Second- Vito LaBella
 - i. Motion Passes with all in favor, no opposed

- IV. **New Business (00:15:55)**
 - a. Discussion on middle and high school admissions (0:16:21)
 - i. There is a lot of confusion and stress surrounding the DOE's sudden decision to leave screened programs in high schools, but changed to a lottery system for middle schools
 - b. Discussion on Student showcase at CEC meetings (00:31:15)
 - i. Would like to get students involved in the meeting
 1. Ideas include May Arts Festival, pre-recorded performances, Chinese New Year celebrations
 2. Simeon Stolzberg suggested holding a second Calendar meeting in May
 3. Adele Doyle will take the lead on this
 4. Will continue discussing at the next meeting
 - c. Holding a meeting for schools and their liaisons (00:41:26)
 - i. Would like to find ways to develop the relationship between principals and CEC members
 - ii. Motion to table to the next meeting- Alice Licato,

1. No objections

d. Discussion on Committees (00:45:20)

i. Social Media/Website Committee- content, usage by members

1. Motion to form committee- Alice Licato, All in Favor

ii. TBD Committee focusing on Special Education/IEP/D75 (00:50:30)- get resources and services to the students that need them

1. Motion to form committee- Alice Licato, All in Favor

e. In the interest of time, remaining discussions will be tabled to the next meeting (00:07:15)

V. Adjourn

a. Motion to adjourn: Alice Licato, Second: Adele Doyle

b. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir
January 27, 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 January Calendar Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Meeting ID: <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/82425637274?pwd=czhPcTZPN2pFeTBsalFrZlBMNG9qZz09>

Meeting Start Time: 7:05 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

Guests: Dr. Joseph O'Brien, Interim Acting Superintendent; Sylwia Jasinski, Family Support Coordinator; William Chin, Family Leadership Coordinator; Steven Wieser, FACE Representative; Steve Gonzalez, SCA External Affairs Manager; Andrea Bender, SCA Chief of Staff, Nicholas Del Bianco, DSF Deputy Director; Charles Fisher, Office of Space Planning Director; Colin Albert, SCA Senior Project Officer; Nick del Bianco, DSF Deputy Director of Facilities, William Colton, NYS Assemblyman; Irene Chu, Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Peter Abbatte; Nancy Corona, Community Liaison and Budget Director for Council Member Carlos Menchaca

- I. **Meeting called to Order (01:04:43):** Steve Stowe, President
Roll Call (01:04:51): Alice Licato

- II. **Old Business (01:05:40)**
 - a. Approval of December Calendar meeting Minutes
 1. Changes: summarize the parent statement that was read aloud
 2. Motion to approve- Alice Licato (01:12:25)
 1. Minutes unanimously approved

- III. **Presentation on the SCA Capital Funding Requests (01:21:10)**
 - i. Council members' questions were answered by Steve Gonzalez and Andrea Bender (01:35:05)
 1. Adele Doyle asked what projects are being prioritized by the SCA (01:35:15)
 2. Alice Licato asked if schools should be working with DSF first on upgrading bathrooms (01:38:13), the awning requested by PS 170 (01:39:12), city initiatives for ventilation upgrades (01:41:40)
 3. Simeon Stolzberg asked about how unsited projects are prioritized (01:43:34) and upgrades to a public address system (01:54:52), asked a question from the chat box regarding a building that had been approved but construction had not started after a year (02:14:53)
 4. Vito LaBella asked if the new Pre-K center under construction on 63rd St will be similar to the center on 93rd St (01:48:37), for information on the 63rd St center (01:49:09), and about using eminent domain to obtain under-utilized properties for D75 Programs (02:06:22)
 5. Steve Stowe asked a question from the chat about the construction of high schools (01:52:46)
 6. Anyone can email the SCA with suggestions for potential school sites: sites@nycsca.org

- b. Public Speaking (01:55:40)
 1. Rona Merrill asked about a vacant lot near PS/IS 30 that was supposed to be converted in to an early childhood center and the ventilation in the bathrooms of a new building near the school (01:56:33), suggested building over highways for schools (02:08:34)
 2. Francine Almash asked about the number of accessible buildings scheduled to be built (01:58:35)
 3. Paulette Healy questioned why D75 programs are not included in the conversations about the construction of new buildings, especially for high schools (02:02:15)
 4. Michelle Magnus questioned why the city has trouble making older buildings accessible when they make money from fining businesses for not being accessible (02:13:51), and why there have not been any high schools built (02:14:21)
- c. Capital Funding Request Ranking (02:19:52)
 1. The council members ranked the requests with assistance from Nick del Bianco
 2. Motion to vote on the ranking of the top five Capital priorities: Steve Stowe, Second: Vito LaBella (03:00:15)
 1. All in Favor

IV. Report of Council President (03:00:56)

- a. In the interest of time, Steve Stowe cedes his time

V. Report of Community Interim Acting Superintendent (03:01:12)

- a. Dr. O'Brien gave a statement denouncing the armed insurrection that took place at the Capitol
- b. His update included:
 1. The rise of Coronavirus cases (03:02:15)
 2. Single test entry for Kindergarten (03:03:27)
 3. Reboot of Gifted and Talented programs (03:03:46)
 4. How the district is combating student learning loss (03:04:25)
 5. Lack of time set aside for professional development (03:05:00)
- c. Motion to suspend questions- Steve Stowe; Second: Vito LaBella (03:10:02)
- d. Simeon Stolzberg asked if students who are currently in G&T programs will remain in those programs for the remainder of their elementary school years (03:10:18)

VI. Public speaking (03:16:18)

a. Elected Officials

- i. William Colton, along with other officials, will be sending a letter to the Mayor regarding their concerns with the middle school admissions policy (03:17:48)
- ii. Irene Chu shared key points from Assemblyman Peter Abbatte's statement on G&T admissions (03:21:47)
- iii. Nancy Corona shared that schools can also submit requests to Councilmember Menchaca's office, There is a forum for Capital Discretionary Funding that principals can use for FY 2022 until March 1st (03:26:48)
- iv. Donald De Rosa shared that the Comptroller's office has many policies moving forward and will keep the CEC updated (03:31:31)

b. General Public

- i. Paulette Healy spoke about the inclusion of the resolution that had not been distributed before the meeting, hearing that the Equity Committee had been cancelled without notification, and having elected officials in the meetings (03:33:29)
- ii. Jason Matthew (on behalf of Rachel) spoke about the need to fight for the student who are marginalized and have limited access to resources (03:37:12)
- iii. Rona Merrill spoke about the historical and scientific research on G&T programs, and how schools should be diverse and offer support for the minority groups (03:39:38)

- iv. Tamara Stern spoke about needing more equity in the district and having to fight more for children with special needs than children in G&T programs (03:44:33)
- v. Francine Almash spoke about being on the Equity Committee and hearing that it had been cancelled, and parents supporting the end of the test for G&T programs but others are fight for it while complaining that general education is substandard (03:47:15)
- vi. Motion for Dr. O'Brien to speak after the Public Comments- Vito LaBella, Seconded-Steve Stowe (03:49:37)
 - 1. All in Favor
- vii. Michelle Magnus spoke about constantly hearing the argument between G&T testing and IEP and specialized programs without hearing solutions, and resources should not be taken from one to give to the other (03:50:08)
- viii. Dr. O'Brien stated that the Equity Committee has not been disbanded, but is just on a temporary pause due to the implicit bias training for District 20 administration (03:53:07)
 - 1. Francine Almash asked if there would be implicit bias training for the members of the Equity Committee (03:54:20)

VII. Resolutions (03:54:59)

- a. Resolution 7- Internet for All (03:55:57)
 - i. Changes to some of the wording proposed by Alice Licato
 - ii. Resolution with the proposed changes passes with a unanimous vote

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: Yes	
- b. Resolution 10 on Democratic Principles Proposed by Simeon Stolzberg (04:08:30)
 - i. Resolution is not passed with 5 Yes votes and 6 No Votes

1. Steve Stowe: No	7. Mauricia Cadillo: No
2. Dina Guirguis: Yes	8. Yi Fang Chen: No
3. Robert Aguilar: Yes	9. Adele Doyle- No
4. Alice Licato: Yes	10. Vito LaBella- No
5. Inga Smolyar: No	11. Simeon Stolzberg- Yes
6. Alan Aja: Yes	
 - ii. Vito LaBella read a sentence from a statement given by CEC 15 on the attack at the Capitol (04:29:55)
- c. Resolution 11 in Support of Retaining Gifted and Talented Programs in District 20 proposed by Inga Smolyar (04:32:05)
 - i. Resolution passes with 6 Yes votes, 4 No votes, and 1 Abstain

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

V. Adjournment (05:10:04):

- a. Motion to adjourn: Steve Stowe, Seconded: Alice Licato
- b. Adjourned at 11:10 PM

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir
January 27, 2021