



Community Education Council District 20

June Calendar Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 12th, 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

Excused: Maya Rozenblat

Unexcused:

I. Meeting Called to Order: Steve Stowe, President

II. Roll Call: Joyce Xie, Recording Secretary

III. New Business

a. Opening Remarks

Principal Ruth welcomed all attendees to the meeting and the in-person attendees to her school. Students gave a presentation about healthy eating habits, cleaner environmental practices, and overall healthy living.

b. Report of Superintendent

Fiscal Year 2025 Contracts for Excellence and Class Size Engagement - C4E legislation requires that funding be allocated towards specific programs that raise the achievement of the students with the greatest educational need including but not limited to those students with limited English proficiency, students in poverty, and students with disabilities. In 2022 C4E was updated to include requirements related to class size limits. C4E is increasing to \$803 million for FY 2025 citywide. \$487 million will be given to schools to meet C4E purposes at the discretion of the schools; \$316 million will be given to specific eligible programs including but not limited to Fair Student Funding, Integrated Co-Teaching Classrooms, and Summer Programs. District 20 will receive \$49,259,180.

The draft of the Class Size Reduction Plan includes -

- Proposal to set class size reduction targets for districts for superintendents to distribute across schools, to ensure Principals are prioritizing class sizes
- Non-exhaustive list of strategies that schools may undertake to reduce class sizes
- Updated capital planning strategy that considers a range of school needs and ensures seats in development are meeting existing school needs
- Multiple strategies to support teacher recruitment and retention
- A continued focus on high poverty schools

- Improvements in data collection and analysis to support future implementation

Additional funding for class size, including an additional \$45 million in C4E funds, and an additional \$137 million that schools may only use for class size.

Council members asked questions, including penalties for not utilizing C4E for the appropriate means, connection between regents requirements and class size law, class size cap on summer school, inclusion of pre-k in C4E,

c. Celebrating STEAM Initiative - Deputy Superintendent Joseph O'Brien

Celebration of District 20 STEAM coaches, Merilla Deeb, Sarina Rodriguez, Marissa Carter, Diane Corrigan, and Andrea Pizzimenti. These teachers spearhead the STEAM Initiative in District 20 by engaging in the design and delivery of professional development for D20 staff that have resulted in students across the district engaging in STEAM education. Celebration also includes Dr. Hector Uribe who assists in facilitating and coordinating teaching practices and classroom projects in relation to STEAM.

d. Vote on Superintendent Evaluation

- Newly appointed members Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio and Sabrina Mcnamara gave introduced themselves to the community. Council member Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio was appointed by the borough president and advocates for students in ENL. Council member Sabrina Mcnamara was appointed by D75.

e. Vote on Superintendent Evaluation

- All CECs submit an annual evaluation report to the NYCPS on their Superintendents strengths and areas of growth. Contents are not publicly shared but overall, CEC 20 feels that the Superintendent Pretto provides great leadership to District 20.

Steven Stowe - Yes

John Ricottone - Yes

Elizabeth Chan - Yes

Joyce Xie - Yes

Meifang Chen - Yes

Tamara Stern - Yes

Wenming Chen - Yes

Yangqing Chen - Yes

Kevin Zhao - Yes

Maya Rozenblat - Absent

f. Statement regarding CEC 20 May Meeting

In response to comments made from meeting attendees at the CEC 20 May meeting, Superintendent Pretto reminded the community that he acts as a liaison between the Chancellor and NYCPS and represents the school, staff, parents, and students. The superintendent is a guest at CEC meetings and does not endorse or

represent comments made by meeting visitors during the public session. District 20 and NYCPS has a zero tolerance policy for bias and discrimination against the LGBTQI community and rejects all hate. NYCPS goal and responsibility is to ensure all students feel safe and welcomed regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability or weight.

President Stowe stated that as president and moderator of the public speaking session, it is incumbent that he run the public speaking session under the open meeting law which includes Freedom of Speech. Freedom of Speech can only be limited when physical harm is imminent or incitement to break the law is imminent. Freedom of Speech is protected in situations where speech may be considered offensive or hateful by others. Allowing community members to speak during the public speaking session does not mean CEC 20 agrees or disagrees with any public speakers.

g. Public Speaking Session

Senator Lester Chang questioned the impact the Class Size Laws will have on migrant students, where parents, students, teachers, and community members can provide feedback, requesting waivers or exemptions for certain schools, and supply of teachers in relation to the class size law. Community members discussed their distaste with remote learning, specifically the negative impact it can have on D75 students. BSI parents expressed their gratitude to CEC 20 and the District Superintendent for hearing their comments and requests throughout the year. Community members also shared their content with CEC 20 and Superintendent Pretto for addressing the community's concerns regarding public comments. Members shared their distaste with the Class size law. Council Member Tamara Stern shared her discontent with the public speaking session from May. Noting that the speakers created an unsafe environment for herself and for listeners from the LGBTQI community.

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

Calendar Meeting Minutes unanimously approved

V. Adjourn

a. Motion to adjourn - John Ricottone, Second: Joyce Xie

I. All in favor

b. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM

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

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

Submitted by Kevin Vizhnay, Administrative Assistant