



Community Education Council District 20

July Calendar Meeting

Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Meeting Start Time: 6:35 PM

Present: Steve Stowe, Joyce Xie, Elizabeth Chan, Kevin Zhao, Wenming Chen, Yanqing Chen, Meifang Chen, Tamara Stern, John Ricottone

Excused:

Unexcused: Maya Rozenblat

I. Meeting Called to Order: Steve Stowe, President

II. Roll Call: Joyce Xie, Recording Secretary

III. New Business

a. Public Speaking Session (General)

- A Member from the public speaks on rezoning in regards to the new school K053. Parents are concerned that students who live closer to the new school are being forced to take a bus to a further school that they are zoned for. Representative from the office of Senator Iwen Chu, congratulated the newly elected and returning CEC members.

b. Introduction to the newly elected CEC Council

- Newly elected and returning CEC members introduce themselves by giving a short statement about themselves and their goals within CEC 20.

c. Report from Superintendent Dr. David Pretto

- District Comprehension Education Plan - an action plan for the school year 2023 - 2024. One goal, a focal point of Chancellor Banks, is making sure all students are able to read by 2nd grade. All students are physically and emotionally safe, all students have high quality academic experience, all students will graduate college and have a pathway to economic security, all schools are more inclusive and open to families, and reduce strong absenteeism.
- All students K-8 will be assessed three times a year with an academic screening to monitor a student's progress and to verify whether they reach certain benchmarks.
- NYC Reads, a Chancellor Banks initiative, is a strong goal in District 20. D20 will be implementing HMH programs.
- D20 Accelerated Learning Inquiry - The district has 7 gifted and talented elementary school programs and a history of academic screened programs for middle schools.
- The program has had successes - expanded regents offerings and tracked regents passing rates/average scores, cataloged SHSAT preparation in D20, established districtwide structures including STEAM Expo and Math and Science Olympiad, Districtwide Civics for All Partnership, and expanding G&T programs.
- Some challenges of this program include - minimal difference of instruction between advanced classes and general education classes, negative school culture impact between students, students and teachers, and inability to adequately monitor these programs.

- For the School Year 2024 - 2025, the district has a priority to develop school wide national honor society/ARISTA programs and improve access to arts, STEAM, Science Olympiad, Math Olympiad, Civics4All Program, SHSAT preparation, and foreign language/world language instruction.
- d. Presentation from HMH on District reading curricula "Into Reading" and "Into Literature"**
- Presenters from HMH, Erin Kinard, Verborah Reeves, and Shoshana Green, present an overview of their programs, Into Reading and Into Literature.
 - Into Reading is research-based, evidence informed programs that include multi-genre texts worthy of reading analysis. Into Reading has the highest review for a reading program by a third-party reviewer.
 - Into Literature is a comprehensive reading language arts program for grades 6 - 8. This program builds upon the foundation of the framework from Into Reading.
 - Both of these programs are based on scientific background that aligns with the best method for improving reading skills. Each text targets specific reading skills including phonics, phonemic, and comprehensiveness. Includes classic and contemporary texts.
 - Family support and connection is critical in these programs, therefore they both have resources to keep families involved in their child's learning. This includes online resources to aid families in understanding and connecting with the material. HMH is focused on improving the school to home connection, supporting resources are available in 11 languages which are provided to families.
- e. Council President Announcement**
- In the fall, CEC 20 will vote on the zoning lines for the new schools that will open in District 20 (School Year 2025). This matter is actively being discussed by CEC 20 and further discussion will continue with parents and the Office of District Planning.
 - Class Size Law Working Group - The state passed a law that mandates smaller class sizes and the working group is structuring the implementation of this law. District 20 is one of the most overpopulated districts and CEC 20 is actively engaged with this group/law.
- f. Public Speaking Session**
- A member from the public spoke on the importance of the fulfillment of D75 seats. District 75 provides specialized instructional support for students with significant challenges. The council also raised an issue a parent is facing regarding their 5 year old special needs child who has been assigned to a distant school. Dr. Pretto provided contacts for resolving this issue and shared his willingness to assist.

IV. Old Business - Approval of the June 2023 Calendar and Special Meeting Minutes

Calendar Meeting Minutes unanimously approved. Special Meeting Minutes approved with text change.

V. Adjourn

a. Motion to adjourn - Stephen Stowe , Second: Joyce Xie

I. All in favor

b. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM

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

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

Submitted by Kevin Vizhnay, Administrative Assistant