

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir
Date: December 2, 2021

President Steve Stowe
First Vice President Jennifer Hu
Second Vice President/IEP Rep Elizabeth Chan
Recording Secretary Vito LaBella
Treasurer/ BBP Appointee Marie Brugueras



Council Members
Ghada Amin Maya Rozenblat-ELL REP
Li Ping Jiang Kevin Zhao-BBP Appointee
Mei Yun Lin

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

Community Education Council District 20

October Special Meeting – Remote Learning Discussion

Date: Thursday, October 7, 2021

Meeting ID: <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/85181804114?pwd=TUJWbm1lRkg2WVNqY3pKejVJMTdhdz09>

Meeting Start Time: 6:30 pm

Present: Steve Stowe, Elizabeth Chan, Vito LaBella, Kevin Zhao, Mei Yun Lin, Li Ping Jiang, Jennifer Hu, Ghada Amin

Absent: Maya Rozenblat,

- I. **Meeting Called to Order:** Steve Stowe, President
 - a. **Roll Call:** Natalia Mondesir, Administrative Assistant

- II. **Remote Learning Resolution**
 - a. Comments from Council Members on Remote Learning
 - i. Kevin Zhao confirmed that the resolution is not calling for schools to be closed, but children who are at high-risk or living with adults at high-risk of getting COVID be granted the option to learn remotely
 - ii. Steve Stowe favors in-person learning, and believes the option should only be permitted for serious health cases
 - iii. Vito LaBella believes in parent choice and is disappointed that the DOE has not provided a high quality remote option
 - iv. Elizabeth Chan stated that some children are not mentally prepared for a return to normalcy, especially since many children lost caregivers to COVID; read about a school district giving children mental health days
 - b. Public Comments
 - i. Yamina Kezadri stated that the option should be available without needing to prove that there is a need to learn remotely; since parents are not allowed in the building without being vaccinated, what happens if something happens to a child whose parent is not vaccinated, we cannot impose or infringe on peoples' rights if they are uncomfortable with the vaccination
 - ii. Libby spoke to parents across the country, who stated that their children felt isolated, and having children separated is damaging to their mental health
 - iii. Devin Lin (translated by Kevin Zhao) stated that New York is very populated and schools are too crowded; government workers and companies are still working from home; children under 12 who are not vaccinated would be exposed to the risk
 - iv. Carrie (in the chat) stated that children with special needs are being ignored and the current home instruction provides little time for education

- c. President Steve Stowe read the Remote Learning Resolution out loud
- d. Comments from Council Members on the Remote Learning Resolution
 - i. Vito LaBella believes that remote learning be extended for the full 2021-2022 school year; the DOE is being let off the hook and would request full synchronous education for students who cannot be in class
 - 1. Steve Stowe commented that he believes COVID will be more under control by next semester with the vaccine
 - ii. Kevin Zhao stated that he understands the concern that remote learning is not at the same standard as in-person learning, but that is why the resolution is asking for a high quality remote option
 - iii. Ghada Amin suggested adding a remote option for 3-K students for areas that do not have 3-K programs until more programs are established
- e. Public Comments (37:29)
 - i. Yunqian Lin (translated by Kevin Zhao) his son gets special services, but with the current remote option, there is limited support for his son's education
 - ii. Esther (in the chat) stated that as of September 27, only the student diagnosed with COVID is isolated for 10 days while other students in the are not
- f. Motion to amend the resolution and present it at the Calendar Meeting: Steve Stowe, Second: Vito LaBella
 - i. Steve Stowe- Yes
 - ii. Jennifer Hu- Yes
 - iii. Elizabeth Chan- Yes
 - iv. Vito LaBella- Yes
 - v. Marie Brugueras- Absent
 - vi. Ghada Amin- Yes
 - vii. Li Ping Jiang- Yes
 - viii. Mei Yun Lin- Yes
 - ix. Maya Rozenblat Absent
 - x. Kevin Zhao- Yes
- g. Motion passes unanimously with 8 Yes votes

III. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn: Jennifer Hu, Second: Elizabeth Chan
 - i. All in favor
- b. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir

Date: October 13, 2021