

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  
Jona Isufi Joyce Xie  
Li Ping Jiang Kevin Zhao-BBP Appointee

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

## Community Education Council District 20

### March Business Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:01 pm

**Present:** Steve Stowe, Vito LaBella, Marie Brugueras, Li Ping Jiang, Jennifer Hu, Kevin Zhao, Elizabeth Chan; Jona Isufi; Joyce Xie

**Excused:** Maya Rozenblat, Ghada Amin

- I. **Meeting Called to Order:** Steve Stowe, President
  - a. **Roll Call:** Vito LaBella, Recording Secretary
  
- II. **Old Business**
  - a. Approval of February Business Meeting Minutes
    - i. Minutes unanimously approved
  
- III. **Open Discussion**
  - a. Jennifer Hu has been spearheading an effort for more liaison outreach
    - i. Has reached out to a few members about having more liaison meetings with the schools
  - b. Steve Stowe discussed the Bylaws and possibly changing the order of the meetings
    - i. Would reduce the time of the meetings so we end closer to 9 pm
    - ii. Public meeting would be earlier
    - iii. Provides more flexibility with time
  - c. Marie Brugueras gave an update on having a legislative event
    - i. Her emails have not gotten a response, one email had not gotten to the recipient
    - ii. May be able to hold it at P.S. 127 McKinley Park
      1. Is requesting a meeting with Principal Agatha Alicandro
      2. Would prevent difficulties with paying for a space that is not an approved vendor
      3. Would highlight the school and the work they have been doing
    - iii. Kevin Zhao may be able to acquire a space if the event is held after April
    - iv. Usually the event is held for breakfast, but can also be for lunch
    - v. Best to hold it on a Friday as legislators will not be in Albany
  - d. Budget
    - i. \$1,250 from the Events line was used to complete a purchase order for Qualtrics
      1. There was an issue where the contract crossed fiscal years
    - ii. There is still \$4,150 in the line to work with
    - iii. There is still a lot of unclaimed reimbursement money

1. Members can donate their reimbursement if they are not going to claim the money
- iv. P-card can be used to purchase drinks for the event
- v. If allowed, the \$2,144 remaining in Equipment can be moved to the Events line
- vi. Motion to move the \$2,144 in Equipment to the Events line, Second: Elizabeth Chan
  1. Steve Stowe- Yes
  2. Jennifer Hu- Yes
  3. Elizabeth Chan- Yes
  4. Vito LaBella- Yes
  5. Marie Brugueras- Yes
  6. Ghada Amin- Excused
  7. Jona Isufi- Yes
  8. Li Ping Jiang- Yes
  9. Maya Rozenblat- Excused
  10. Joyce Xie- Yes
  11. Kevin Zhao- Yes
- vii. Motion passes with 9 Yes; and 2 Excused
- e. Public Hearing on Mayoral Control
  - i. Steve Stowe gave an update on Mayoral control, which is expiring in June
  - ii. Governor Hochul has proposed extending it for four more years
  - iii. Chancellor Banks was also in attendance and spoke about what changes should be made to mayoral control and his four pillars
  - iv. The resolution to revise part of Mayoral control has not had any response from Senator Gounardes
  - v. Questions from the Council
    1. Marie Brugueras asked about where the Chancellor's changes have already gone into effect and stated that there should be caution with the four-year extension and suggested that a two- or three-year extension would be better

#### **IV. Adjourn**

- a. Motion to adjourn-Steve Stowe, Second: Elizabeth Chan
  - i. All in favor
- b. Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir  
Date: March 11, 2022

President Steve Stowe  
First Vice President Jennifer Hu  
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## Community Education Council District 20

### March Calendar Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:01 pm

**Present:** Steve Stowe, Vito LaBella, Kevin Zhao, Li Ping Jiang, Elizabeth Chan, Jennifer Hu, Joyce Xie, Jona Isufi

**Excused:** Ghada Amin, Maya Rozenblat

**Guests:** David Preto, D20 Superintendent; William Chin, D20 Family Leadership Coordinator; Maia Elfont, from the Office of Senator Andrew Gounardes; Patricia Payne, DOE Senior Grants Officer; Sergey Chuprik,

**I. Meeting Called to Order:** Steve Stowe, President

- a. Roll Call: Vito LaBella, Recording Secretary

**II. Old Business**

- a. Approval of February Calendar Meeting Minutes
  - i. Minutes unanimously approved

**III. Report of Superintendent**

- a. Dr. Preto acknowledged celebrations and events happening this month: International Women's Day, International Social Emotional Learning Day, Pi Day, Purim, Parent-Teacher conferences, St. Patrick's Day, Civics Week,
  - i. Principal Jaynemie Capetenakis will be celebrated for having an SEL Day and Principal Chris Ogno will sit on a panel and speak on SEL structures and systems
- b. New York State Exams will be held this year
  - i. ELA: March 29-30
  - ii. Math: April 26-27
- c. High School applications are due this Friday, March 11, 2022
- d. DOE and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene are hosting Covid-19 Vaccination Town Halls
  - i. March 14, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm (English, Mandarin, Spanish, and Arabic)
  - ii. March 16, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm (English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Bangla)
- e. Health and Safety update: Beginning Monday, March 7, 2022, face coverings are optional for K-12 students and staff
  - i. They are still required: after return from 5-day isolation, Early Childhood Programs, and medical rooms and nurses offices,
- f. Academic Screeners update: iReady assessment is used with 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in reading and K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Math, growth and progress in all areas since February
- g. Questions from the Council

- i. Steve Stowe asked about the proficient grouping in ELA scores and how these scores compare to the Fall scores, how the iReady forecast tool works, what schools can do with the information
- ii. Vito LaBella asked how much training the teachers need to use the tool and who sets up the trainings, if there are any incentives for teachers who attend extra trainings
- iii. Elizabeth Chan asked if keeping the classrooms clean will be a priority since masks are now optional, if there will be a free summer program this year, and if the summer schools could have an arts program
- iv. Steve Stowe asked why the DOE has not changed the masking policy for students under five
- v. Jona Isufi asked if summer programs will provide special services for students who receive speech therapy, etc., and stated the difficulties with getting a child evaluated, especially during Covid
- vi. Steve Stowe asked if the DESSA has been administered a second time, were there any aggregate conclusions from the first round, what kinds of things are done to instill more optimistic thinking in schools, if the district is able to follow up, and the percentage targeted for instruction, If the message about positive thinking is reaching the students, if the district is following the culturally responsive-sustaining education (CR-SE)
- vii. Jennifer Hu asked if there is any coordination with the parents to get them involved in helping the children feel more positive about their situation
- h. Principal Capetenakis spoke on the methods of social emotional learning and how schools have been using the Ruler approach

#### **IV. Fair Student Funding Presentation**

- a. Presentation on how school funds are allocated was given by Dr. Pretto as the scheduled presenter had technological issues
- b. Fair Student Funding is fully funded for the first time
  - i. DOE has received over \$7 billion in federal stimulus funds
- c. Public can sent their questions and comments to [BudgetPublicComments@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:BudgetPublicComments@schools.nyc.gov) or call 212-374-6754 by April 26, 2022
  - i. Feedback will be presented to the Panel for Educational Policy
- d. Feedback from council members
  - i. Steve Stowe asked what type pf comments does the PEP want to hear and what will they do with the information, asked for clarification that the PEP will vote on the DOE budget on April 27, does the PEP have power to make changes, asked if schools were held harmless for the enrollment declines, if there is a district-wide record of how schools are doing financially and whether they are in a budget surplus
  - ii. Elizabeth Chan asked if the fair student funding controls free lunches and if the district would be able to allocate money for district families
  - iii. Marie Brugueras asked why the charter schools did not receive EBT cards

#### **V. Report of Council President**

- a. Steve Stowe reminded SLT members to complete the bi-annual survey
- b. He attended the mayoral hearing on school governance on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>
  - i. Chancellor Banks stated that there may be changes to the high school admissions policy; wants parents to help co-create education policy, wants parents to have a

stronger role and governance, in particular, around superintendent evaluation, irate about the length and slow pace of the PEP meeting, possibly continuing with remote learning in certain situations

- ii. Advocated the CEC's resolution for greater parent involvement in the Superintendent Evaluation process
- c. The school survey data has been released
  - i. Categories have high marks: 81% - 96%
  - ii. In line with the entire city, elementary school, and middle school
  - iii. In the student survey, academic press was below the city level
- d. M.S. 936 Admissions
  - i. The paper files on the school indicate that the location was chosen because there was space, it was not targeted for Sunset Park
  - ii. It was always intended to be a district-wide school to address district-wide overcapacity
  - iii. There is clear evidence that there was intent to set up an audition-based program
    - 1. Intention of an audition-based process was referenced at both the 8/2017 CEC meetings and 11/2017 DLT meetings
  - iv. The Office of District Planning did not approve D75 seats at the school
    - 1. Not the best place for D75, temporarily putting a D75 special class in this building and then reciting to a new location is not optimal for students
    - 2. Emphasized stability, continuity and that they were looking for opportunities elsewhere.
    - 3. There was a long-term lease signed for Our Lady of Guadalupe for a D75 middle school program
  - v. Rezoning: are there rezoning configurations for the former Nathan's site that would alleviate the issues
  - vi. Is there a possibility of moving the art school to the Nathan's site in 2024 if we decide that Sunset Park is in such high need of middle school seats for the general population
- e. Comments from the Council
  - i. Vito LaBella, as President of the Presidents' Council, attended the meetings where MS 936 was discussed and confirmed that the school was intended to have an audition-based admissions process; questioned who would be responsible for the district borders

## **VI. Public Speaking**

- a. Michelle Magnus stated that the DOE has become a business focused on data instead of content, core education has limited children to just math and ELA, not every public school has a science teacher; asked if the iReady data matches what the teachers assess
  - i. Dr. Pretto and President Stowe responded to her statements
  - ii. Vito LaBella agreed with Michelle and stated that there should be a basic program that ensures schools are able to provide certain things for the students

## **VII. Adjourn**

- a. Motion to adjourn: Steve Stowe
  - i. All in favor
- b. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir

Date: March 11, 2022