



## **Community Education Council District 20**

### **January Calendar Meeting**

**Date:** Wednesday, January 10, 2024

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:00 PM

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

**Excused:** Maya Rozenblat

**Unexcused:**

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

**II. Roll Call:** Joyce Xie, Recording Secretary

**III. New Business**

#### **a. School Safety Discussion**

- Chief of Safety and School Partnerships Mark Rampersant highlighted that the main goal of his office is ensuring physical and emotional safety and security to all of the students in our school system. His office is aware of the lack of school safety agents in District 20 schools and is working aggressively to increase the hiring of School Safety Agents for all NYC schools.
- Door Locking System - Safer Access System is an initiative that allows a single SSA to better monitor visitors with the use of cameras and microphones across all their school entrances. This initiative began in June 2023 and will be implemented in all schools by December 2024.
- Bullying Policy - In alignment with the chancellor's regulations, NYC schools are committed to providing safe and supportive learning environments. Discrimination, intimidation, harassment, and bullying are taken very seriously by NYC schools.
- Parents have the option to report bullying online in any language, principals are given a time period to respond. The school is responsible for providing a safety plan to the student being bullied which includes a regular check in and a guidance counselor check in. Parents may also contact 718-935-2288 or [Respectforall@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Respectforall@schools.nyc.gov) to report bullying incidents.
- Council members asked questions regarding instances in which parents of the bully do not want to take the schools recommendations, leading to the victim having to change schools. While the quickest recourse for the bullying is the involuntary transfer process, the DOE does not want it to be the norm. In instances in which families are not recipient to addressing bullying behavior, involuntary transfer is a last resort with multiple steps. There were also questions regarding the District Safety Plans, PTA presidents, parent coordinators, and principals are responsible to outline a general response protocol at the beginning of the year and hold monthly meetings regarding school safety. Council members brought up that information regarding this meeting is lacking and is not regularly conducted.

## **b. Public Speaking Session**

- Members from the public discussed various topics including the class size law, noting that the implementation of the class size law is necessary to improve the quality of education in NYC schools. Some members from the public shared the opposite opinions, noting that the implementation of this law will negatively impact District 20, more specifically, students will be turned away from their zoned schools due to enrollment caps. A representative from newly elected city council member Susan Zhuang shared their contact information and also announced that they will be reaching out to schools in their district. A member highlighted the importance of bathroom space in order to avoid issues of bullying and privacy. A parent also shared their personal experience and fear their family feels following the P.S. 201 incident. They feel that the response by the school was not adequate and there should be a change in procedure when sharing information about incidents with parents and school leaders.

## **c. Class Size Law Discussion**

- First Deputy Chancellor Daniel Weisberg shared his professional opinion with the implementation of the class size law. While all students would benefit from more direct contact with their instructor in a smaller class size, sacrifices would need to be made to properly implement this law. This includes hiring more teachers, which would require an additional funding of \$1.9 billion. This funding would come from reallocating assets, which would mean removing funding from school programs such as art, mental health, after school, or social workers. Another means to allocate space for students is building new schools, estimated cost by the SCA is \$30 billion, the total available SCA funds last year (2023) was \$20 billion. Another means to comply with this law is implementing enrollment caps, which would negatively impact students who cannot attend their zoned schools due to enrollment caps. Council members also noted that hiring a large amount of teachers can lead to a drop of quality in instructors. NYC already has issues hiring teachers to replace retiring teachers. Some members note that properly funding schools can circumvent the issues that may arise from implementing the class size law.
- Matt Chingos from the Urban Institute, a nonprofit and nonpartisan research group, shares that the Class Size Law, based on studies, does not have strong results and will negatively impact NYC schools. The class size law should be implemented in schools that have low student results. It should not be a one size fits all mandate as this cannot work for such a diverse pool of schools such as NYC public schools. Matt concludes that there is not enough compelling evidence that this law will garner the desired results

## **d. Vote on School Construction Authority Requests - CEC 20 voted to rank the top five requests for SCA funding - #1 - P.S. 506, #2 - P.S. 48, #3 - P.S. 204, #4 P.S. 247, #5 - P.S. 164**

- Stephen Stowe - Yes
- John Ricottone - Yes

- Elizabeth Chan - Yes
- Joyce Xie - Yes
- Meifang Chen - Yes
- Wenming Chen - Yes
- Yanqing Chen - Yes
- Maya Rozenblat - Excused
- Tamara Stern - Yes
- Kevin Zhao - Yes

**e. Report of Superintendent**

- Introduction of P.S. 413 Project Manager/Principal Saher Said. P.S. 413 is a new elementary school opening in the 2024-2025 school year, focusing on international world studies. Curriculums and programs in this school include HMH - Into Reading Literacy, Amplify Science, Passport for Social Studies Envision Math, and Social Emotional Learning.
- Introduction to P.S. 331 Project Manager/Principal Lisa C. Lin. P.S. 313 is a new elementary school opening in the 2024-2025 year. This school will focus on global awareness, academic excellence, fostering entrepreneurship, ethical leadership, adaptability and flexibility, and technology integration.

**f. Public Speaking Session**

- A member from the public shared their desires for P.S. 413. There should be an open dialogue between parents and the school on the programs and curriculum being implemented. They also suggested introducing District 20s first French language program. An accelerated math program would also be very beneficial. Multiple members from the public spoke on the class size law. Another parent brought up the Into Literacy program and note that this curriculum should not be a one size fits all. This program will create limitations for students. Teachers should be trained to provide curriculum that fits their specific students' needs. Many shared the same opinion that students deserve and need smaller class sizes. Some noted that enrollment caps are already an issue that is addressed by the DOE. They also note that bullying and safety issues can be addressed with the implementation of Class Size Laws. Other members noted that they are in favor of reducing class sizes but not in its current form. The current law will negatively impact families and students.

**g. Resolution 7 - Calling for the State Legislature to Amend the Class Size Law**

- Stephen Stowe - Yes
- John Ricottone - Yes
- Elizabeth Chan - Yes
- Joyce Xie - Yes

Meifang Chen - Yes

Wenming Chen - Yes

Yanqing Chen - Yes

Maya Rozenblat - Excused

Tamara Stern - No

Kevin Zhao - Yes

**IV. Old Business** - Approval of the December 2023 Calendar Minutes

Calendar Meeting Minutes unanimously approved

**V. Adjourn**

a. Motion to adjourn - Elizabeth Chan , Second: Joyce Xie

I. All in favor

b. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM

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

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

Submitted by Kevin Vizhnay, Administrative Assistant