

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
Li Ping Jiang

Maya Rozenblat- ELL Rep
Kevin Zhao- BBP Appointee

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

Community Education Council District 20 November Business Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Meeting ID: <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/83536151953?pwd=K25BMEhpcHZobW9LNzZ2RVo3d2duQT09>

Meeting Start Time: 6:03 pm

Present: Steve Stowe, Elizabeth Chan, Jennifer Hu, Vito LaBella, Kevin Zhao, Li Ping Jiang, Ghada Amin, Marie Brugueras

Excused: Maya Rozenblat

- I. **Meeting Called to Order:** Steve Stowe, President
 - a. Roll Call: Vito LaBella, Recording Secretary

- II. **Old Business**
 - a. Approval of October Business Meeting Minutes
 - i. Minutes unanimously approved
 - b. Approval of October Special Executive Session Minutes
 - i. Minutes unanimously approved

- III. **New Business**
 - a. President Steve Stowe opened the discussion of creating a new line in the budget for events
 - i. Planning an event for the elected officials of District 20
 - ii. This event might not occur until next year, but planning will start now
 - iii. Budget line
 1. Steve Stowe volunteered to move his reimbursement funds into the new line (\$2,400)
 2. Treasurer Marie Brugueras volunteered her reimbursement funds (\$1,500)
 3. Kevin Zhao volunteered his reimbursement funds (\$1,500)
 - iv. Motion to create a new line for events- Steve Stowe, Second: Vito LaBella
 1. All in Favor
 - v. Motion to move a total of \$5,400 from the President and Member Reimbursement lines to create a new line for events- Jennifer Hu, Second: Vito LaBella
 1. All in Favor
 - b. Steve Stowe announced that a second seat on the council has been vacated due to an administrative error
 - i. There have been multiple incidences in the city of members having applied for CEC positions using their spouses NYC Schools Account (NYCSA)

IV. Open Discussion

- a.** Vito LaBella requested a discussion on the changes to Chancellor's Regulation A-101 concerning admissions to non-zoned schools throughout the school year
- b.** Ghada Amin asked if the vaccine will be mandatory for children ages 5-11 now that the vaccine has been approved for that age range
- c.** Marie Brugueras stated that private schools have set a deadline to have children vaccinated by January 5th, after which they are requiring that the whole family be tested weekly
- d.** Li Ping Jiang asked if children will still have to be tested if they are vaccinated
- e.** Steve Stowe stated that he had calls with several groups in the district, including the Regional Coordinator for Students in Temporary Housing, and the UFT representative, Ariel Arroyo), and attended the CCSE meeting
- f.** Marie Brugueras and Kevin Zhao attended meetings with the Borough President, who supports G&T programs
 - i.** Eric Adams has been working with the Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz, on the expansion of the program to more schools and boroughs

V. Adjourn

- a.** Motion to adjourn: Steve Stowe, Second: Jennifer Hu
- b.** Meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir

Date: November 18, 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
Li Ping Jiang
Mei Yun Lin

Maya Rozenblat- ELL Rep
Kevin Zhao- BBP Appointee

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

Community Education Council District 20 November Calendar Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Meeting ID: <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/83536151953?pwd=K25BMEhpcHZobW9LNzZ2RVo3d2duQT09>

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 pm

Present: Steve Stowe, Elizabeth Chan, Jennifer Hu, Vito LaBella, Kevin Zhao, Li Ping Jiang, Ghada Amin, Marie Brugueras

Excused: Maya Rozenblat

Guests: Dr. David Pretto, D20 Superintendent; Dr. Joseph O'Brien, D20 Deputy Superintendent; Sylwia Jasinski, Family Support Coordinator; William Chin, Family Leadership Coordinator; Steven Wieser, FACE Representative; Sergey Chuprik, Brooklyn Liaison from the Office of New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

I. Meeting Called to Order: Steve Stowe, President

- a. Roll Call: Vito LaBella, Recording Secretary

II. Old Business

- a. Approval of October Calendar Meeting Minutes
 1. Minutes unanimously approved

III. Vote on CEC Candidates

- a. Council members cast their votes for the four candidates

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Steve Stowe: Edward | 6. Ghada Amin: Yamina |
| 2. Jennifer Hu: Edward | 7. Li Ping Jiang: Joyce |
| 3. Elizabeth Chan: Abstain | 8. Maya Rozenblat: Excused |
| 4. Vito LaBella: Edward | 9. Kevin Zhao: Joyce |
| 5. Marie Brugueras: Edward | |

- b. Results

- i. Edward Lai: 4 votes
- ii. Joyce Xie: 2 votes
- iii. Yamina Kezadri: 1 vote

- c. As no candidate received 6 votes, there will be a third round of voting

- d. Vito LaBella asked for clarification as to how voting will work next month with two open seats

- i. There will be two separate votes

IV. Report of the District Superintendent

- a.** Dr. Pretto spoke on three topics: the academic screener progress, the DESSA SEL Screener, and Community engagement and next steps regarding Brilliant NYC
 - i.** iReady assessment is complete; Over 25,000 children were assessed in reading and over 31,000 children were assessed in math
 - ii.** Schools are still administering the DESSA, the deadline has been extended to December 4th
 - iii.** Over 600 community members registered for the community engagement, they were divided into breakout rooms to give feedback on the Brilliant NYC blueprint. There will be a follow-up engagement and a citywide expert panel on Brilliant NYC
- b. Questions from the Council**
 - i.** Steve Stowe asked about two branches of the program (accelerated learning and individualized pathways) that are not listed on the Brilliant NYC website
 - ii.** Elizabeth Chan asked how many expert panelists have children or used to attend a NYC public schools and what is being done for the children who have lost almost two years of education
 - iii.** Steve Stowe asked for clarification on how the screeners use data to identify which children may be struggling
 - iv.** Kevin Zhao stated that if children with different academic levels are placed together they won't benefit unless the class size is reduced because the teacher will be trying to figure out how to teach all the children; asked how can the district balance the curriculum for children with different academic levels; asked if class sizes are reduced, how much money will be put into the project; asked how is a benchmark result set for the class
 - v.** Steve Stowe asked if the Brilliant NYC program will depend on all children having an individualized education plan and if it wouldn't make more sense to group the students with similar abilities
 - vi.** Jennifer Hu asked if the superintendent has heard anything about plans to have a vaccine mandate for the 5-11 year olds; asked for clarification on how the iReady assessment is used; stated that in her breakout room during the Brilliant NYC Parent Engagement, there were concerns about how the components of the program would work without reducing class sizes; asked for links to the research behind the Brilliant NYC program
 - vii.** Vito LaBella expressed concern about changes to the Chancellor's Regulation A-101, allowing parents to enroll their children in a non-zoned school at any point during the school year; asked if public school enrollment numbers are available to the public

V. Report of the CEC President

- a.** Steve Stowe discussed holding an event for the elected officials in the district
 - i.** Probably would not occur until 2022
- b.** He has had outreach meetings with the Department of Students in Temporary Housing, and the new UFT representative, Ariel Arroyo

- c. He has reached out with concerns about the staffing shortage and how it affects students, especially how it affects the Special Education students
- d. Shared his view on the Brilliant NYC presentation

VI. Public Speaking

- a. M Magnus is concerned with the government's vaccine mandates, believes that parents are losing their parental rights over their children; the government is putting money into programs that do nothing

VII. Resolutions

- a. Brilliant NYC- calling for the DOE to suspend G&T reform until Mayor-elect Eric Adams takes office in January
 - i. Steve Stowe discussed the asks of the resolution
 - ii. Motion to edit a typo "Blueprint NYC" to read "Brilliant NYC"- Steve Stowe, Second: Elizabeth Chan
 - 1. All in favor
 - iii. Comments from the council
 - 1. Jennifer Hu is concerned with isolating the gifted students from other students in the school
 - 2. Vito LaBella stated that there are many opportunities for children to get to know each other, but at the elementary level the kids really get to know each other because they stay together for 5 years
 - 3. Kevin Zhao stated that the idea is to group the children with similar academic levels together so they get the support they need, but if they are in a group where the academic needs are very different, they will lose interest in learning
 - 4. Ghada Amin stated that every child has a different talent and it's good that the children would develop strong friendships from being together
 - 5. Elizabeth Chan stated that when G&T students were bussed in, the classes were separated and they did not intermingle with the children who were zoned to the school; G&T should be tested in second or third grade
 - 6. Marie Brugueras stated that her children started in G&T classes, but they are not in G&T now; their classes work well because the class sizes are smaller or there are more teachers; when there is one teacher and 30+ student, the only way to teach is to group them by academic level
 - 7. Vito LaBella state that he thinks a lot of parents want a program that starts in kindergarten or first grade; if G&T programs are eliminated, D20 will lose students to other districts and charter schools; stated that he would prefer a program where students applied, rather than tested in
 - iv. Motion to add a sentence where G&T children would not be isolated "however, pull-out programming, enrichment and extracurricular activities should include students of all academic levels": Steve Stowe, Second- Jennifer Hu
 - 1. All in favor

- v. Roll call vote on the resolution with the proposed changes: Resolution passes unanimously with 8 Yes votes
 - 1. Steve Stowe: Yes
 - 2. Jennifer Hu: Yes
 - 3. Elizabeth Chan: Yes
 - 4. Vito LaBella: Yes
 - 5. Marie Brugueras: Yes
 - 6. Ghada Amin: Yes
 - 7. Li Ping Jiang: Yes
 - 8. Maya Rozenblat: Excused
 - 9. Kevin Zhao: Yes
- b. Deveraux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA)- Asking the DOE to change how the DESSA is administered
 - i. Steve Stowe discussed the asks of the resolution
 - ii. Comments from the Council
 - 1. Kevin Zhao asked what actions the DOE would take once a child's assessment is complete; if children need tutors, have they been included in the DOE budget
 - 2. Jennifer Hu stated that it seems that once an assessment is done, it's up to the principal and teachers to decide how to use the data to support the child
 - 3. Vito LaBella questioned how is it that teachers are just discovering if a child is having trouble through this assessment when they've been in school since September
 - 4. Kevin Zhao stated that the questions asked were very generic and the type of questions that teachers are already asking
 - 5. Marie stated that based on what we know, the money should be spent on a program that provides a tangible level of support; when a teacher sees that a student needs help, the social worker can assist
 - 6. Jennifer Hu asked if the money has already been spent to purchase the assessment
 - iii. Motion to allow comments from the public: Steve Stowe, Second- Vito LaBella
 - 1. All in Favor
 - 2. P.S. 204 teacher, Brittany Bugge, stated that teachers do not need the assessment to decide if a student needs help; the DESSA can take up to 20 minutes for each student; parents might not be clear that they can opt-out; each school has to choose two to four leads to implement the program; they will identify the lowest sixteen percent in each school, then decide if they need tier two instruction (small group services)
 - 3. M Magnus is concerned about where the DOE is finding guidance counselors when they're having a hard time filling full-time teaching positions; this is an example of how the DOE is incorrectly allocating money
 - iv. Motion to vote on the resolution: Steve Stowe, Second-Jennifer Hu
 - 1. All in Favor
 - v. Roll call vote on the resolution: Resolution passes unanimously with 8 Yes votes
 - 1. Steve Stowe: Yes
 - 2. Jennifer Hu: Yes
 - 3. Elizabeth Chan: Yes
 - 4. Vito LaBella: Yes
 - 5. Marie Brugueras: Yes
 - 6. Ghada Amin: Yes
 - 7. Li Ping Jiang: Yes
 - 8. Maya Rozenblat: Excused

9. Kevin Zhao: Yes

c. CEC 26 Resolution on anti-Asian bullying

- i. Elizabeth Chan introduced the resolution by discussing an incident where an Asian person was attacked in her neighborhood**
 - 1. This has been an ongoing issue for the past year and a half**
 - 2. D20 has one of the highest Asian populations**
- ii. The resolution:**
 - 1. Describes the proportion of Asian students in New York City schools**
 - 2. Reiterates their beliefs in diverse cultures and heritage of the Asian American Community.**
 - 3. Recognizes the history of bigotry and xenophobia against the Community**
- iii. CEC 20 has to write their own resolution using this one as a foundation**
 - 1. Kevin Zhao suggested adding something regarding school safety**
 - 2. Jennifer Hu stated that non-Asian communities do not know these attacks are still happening because the media no longer covers the attacks**

VIII. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn: Steve Stowe; Second- Jennifer Hu**
- b. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM**

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir

Date: November 18, 2021