Community Education Council District 22

June Calendar Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Called to order at 6:30pm

Roll Call

Present: Bridget Kessler, Avi Glickstein, Michael Barth, Tahisha George, Kinga Kusek, Zheng Hao Ma, Megan DeMarkis (Late 7:00pm)

Remote: Vanessa Cannistraci

- **P.S./I.S. 109 Student Performance** – 109 students did a wonderful performance for Caribbean American Heritage Month
- **Land Acknowledgement – B.K.**
- **Approval of May Minutes** – No quorum
- **President's Report** – **B.K.**
    - Welcomes and thanks everyone for coming out in support of the students and families of the district. Please come again and next time please invite a friend.
    - Thanks Principal Bertrand and his incredible team, your parent association, students, and everybody here hosting us tonight.
    - Congratulations everyone on their hard work and contributions this year. Thank you so much!
    - Acknowledged June is Pride Month. There is information on the NYCPS website about support that is offered and how a GSA club can be established.
    - President Kessler recognized Council Member Avi Glickstein for additional remarks in recognition of Pride Month. Council Member Glickstein shared that there is a GSA summit tomorrow at LaGuardia high school. It's generally for middle school and high schools but there are also elementary schools that have GSAs.
    - President Kessler stated that you are aware of unsafe traffic conditions near your school and have concerns about it, please do bring these issues to us. Recognizes families at PS 315 who advocated for changes and a new school crossing guard is assigned at an intersection they were concerned about. It is very important to keep our children safe coming to and from school.
    - The council participated in a beach cleanup for the first time. We volunteered with the organization NYC H2O. Recognized Council Member Zheng Hao Ma for the wonderful suggestion. We picked up a lot of trash, a bunch of District 22 families came out to join us and it was a success.
    - The council has been very closely following the important issue of generative AI in our schools, education technology in general, and screen use in schools. In March, we passed a resolution calling for caution and discussion relating to the use of generative AI in the classroom. We appreciate all who have been in contact with us, sharing their views and concerns. We encourage you to continue to reach out. We want to continue

the conversation and continue to advocate on this important emerging issue in terms of how this new technology relates to education.
    - Another issue that we've been closely involved with is advocating for better screening training and services for students with language processing disorders, like dyslexia dysgraphia. Recognizes the advocacy of Council Member Vanessa Cannistraci on this issue. We have a commitment from the Chancellor and Superintendent to work on establishing a literacy center to specialize in that area in South Brooklyn, but we don't have a site. We will continue to deepen our understanding of that issue, learning together and continue to advocate that all students get what they need and students can learn how to read.
    - Some great news. We have been told by the Division of School Facilities (DSF)ll the bathrooms that the Council identified as high priority in our report to the SCA will be renovated before the next school year. Thanks to council members for their hard work under school visits, advocating for those schools and their needs.
    - We still have 4 open seats. One for the parent of a general education student, the parent of a district 75 student, a resident of the district to a borough president appointee seat, and one for the parent of an English language learner. Further information is on our website and we strongly encourage qualified applicants to apply.
- **Presentation of Certificates of Recognition to "Ambassador" Instructional Leaders**, President Kessler, and Vice President Glickstein
    - Donald Haviland – Music – P.S. 139
    - Megan Jonynas – Music – P.S. 139
    - Dina Grilli – Drama – P.S. 277
    - David Senatore – Math – P.S. 203
    - Ruby Frink – Dance – P.S./I.S. 206
    - Gina Pena – Math – P.S. 217
    - Joseph Polito – Technology – P.S./I.S. 206
    - Michele Kelly – Art – P.S./I.S. 207
    - Tammy Mahoney – Math – P.S./I.S. 206
- **NYC H20 Informational Presentation** – Kiki Tarr
    - NYC H20 – three different areas of focus: Environmental Education (Free field trips to public schools in all five boroughs of NYC), Environmental Stewardship (Community programming in all five boroughs, including beach, park, and street clean ups) and Community Events
    - 66,109 Students reached since 2014
    - 57 Cleanup Events in 2025 – 25 Sites – 28,000lbs of trash 2,990 volunteers
- **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Bove
    - Thanks everyone for joining us. Thanks Principal Bertrand, Assistant Principals and students.
    - Thanks, our Lead Ambassadors
    - Thanks, District 22 team. Acknowledges, UFT representative Victoria Primiano
    - Shares sad news - longtime Parent Coordinator at PS 222 passed away. Condolences and sympathies from all of us in District 22.
    - June 1st through the 5th is Parent Coordinator Appreciation Week. In June, we also celebrate Caribbean American heritage month and Courtney, your students celebrated beautifully today. We also celebrate the great outdoors month. June is also Internet

Safety Month. Later, I'll announce that I will be forming a technology team where I'd like to initiate conversation about limited screen time.

- June is Pride Month and we celebrate National Immigration Heritage Month.
- June has a lot of celebrations, and it is the conclusion of our school year. This year flew. Summer Rising begins soon, and just in case your child has not been given a seat, check our website for different opportunities and resources. We have compiled a list of free programs for families who have not received a seat in Summer Rising.
- New York City Kids Rise. Last Friday we celebrated 5/29. Kids Rise is the opportunity where s parents can set aside funds for our students' college years. Chancellor Samuels has set a goal to have 80% of families citywide to activate and view their child's New York City scholarship account. Any account that is open gets a $25 additional reward, so please look into it. Information is on our website.
- Joan Snow Pre-K center - a new center is opening on E 57th St. and Avenue M There are open houses on June 5th and 6th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. If you have a young scholar in need of a pre-K seat, please come by and look at that particular site.
- June 4th is Chancellors Conference Day and no students will be in attendance. Students are off June 5th as well, which is a Clerical Day.
- June 5th is the deadline to apply for exciting STEM summer programs. Learn more on our website.
- G&T offers will be released on June 11th is G&T for the upper grades 1through 4, .
- June 12th is the deadline to accept Pre-K offers. If you have a child inPre-K, please make sure you accept those. It's not automatic and you have to accept the choice given to you.
- We celebrate Juneteenth on June 19th and a reminder to parents that is another day off.
- June 26th is the last day of school
- June 29th all the way to September 4th, there will be free summer meals for anyone 18 years or younger. J.H.S. 14 & 78, PS 109, PS 139, PS 152, PS 203. Halel is also served at PS 217, IS 240, PS 251, 254, 277, Marine Park J.H.S. 278 and PS 361.
- We have summer camps within the neighborhood. Flatbush YMCA summer camp is available. Summer Rising is July 1st, and July 3rd is observed as a holiday for 4th of July. No summer program on July 3rd.
- August 7th, Summer Rising ends for grade 6 through 8. August 14th Summer Rising ends for our youngest scholars, K – 5. Summer Rising runs Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM with instruction and enrichment programs. D22 sites are available on our website.
- This year, Linda and Heather put together great workshops. If you missed it, you can get them from the archives.
- **District 22 DCEP Draft Goals SY 2026-2027, Deputy Superintendent Barros**
    - Our Goals – This year we're going to emphasize teacher teams, leveraging items that students may need to fill in the gaps, great core instruction and student success.
    - Priority 1 – Literacy / NYC Reads
    - Priority 2 – Mathematics / NYC Solves
    - Priority 3 – Safe and Inclusive Schools
    - Priority 4 – College and Career Readiness

- Priority 5 – All districts and schools are more inclusive and responsive for parents and families, including having more families choose NYC Public Schools.

- **Responses to additional questions from Town Hall**
  - **Question:** Nutrition – Why would we have a varied menu in our school lunches, especially Halal was asked. **Answer:** The good news is that Food and Nutrition promised us not just at 217, but more schools making that offering, in addition to other special menu options.
  - **Question:** What will you do to ensure schools are staffed with at least two school safety officers? **Answer:** I certainly do not want to speak for the Chancellor, but I can tell you what I've heard is that there were graduating classes to get more officers in our schools. At the time, there was a shortage. Truth be told, there are days that sometimes I get emails that schools, instead of 3, only have 2. Instead of 2, only have one. So, we do need more officers. School safety officers in particular. The agents are not only a safety to the students, but to everyone, parents who come and visit. So, we always push for more agents at the front door. I do not want to speak for the Chancellor, but I think he would agree with me, because one of his biggest priorities, he wants students to be safe and seen, and in the word safe, of course, is the actual word safe in the building.
- **Report of Committee (s) -** None
- **Proposed Bylaws Amendments, Presentation and Discussion –** Proposed Bylaws amendments were shared with the public and the floor was opened for Council comments. Vote on proposed amendments will be scheduled for the next Calendar meeting per Bylaws.
- **Council vote on resolutions –** Reading of resolutions, M.B. and A.G.
  - Resolution to Expand Eligibility for student members on Community Education Councils – Vote: 8 YES, 0 NO
  - Resolution in Support of SCA Site Evaluation of 534 Coney Island Avenue – Vote: 8 YES, 0 NO
- **Special Election to Fill Vacancy in Office**
  - Bridget nominated MeganDemarkis for Secretary. Megan accepted the nomination.
  - Vote: 8 YES, 0 NO
- **Public Comment** (2 mins/ea. speaker)
  - Talia Barrett (Zoom)
- **Adjournment** at 7:55pm

Community Education Council District 22

June Business Meeting Minutes

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Called to order at 7:31pm

Roll Call

Present: Bridget Kessler, Avi Glickstein, Michael Barth, Tahisha George, Kinga Kusek, Zheng Hao Ma, Megan DeMarkis

Remote: Vanessa Cannistraci

- **New Business**
  - Schedule last joint meeting with Presidents' Council – Meet in the Fall. Discuss over the Summer.
  - Technology and Screen Time – Discussed putting together a draft resolution
  - Superintendent's Evaluation – Bridget Kessler made a Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Superintendent Evaluation. Motion was approved by unanimous consent. Council went into Executive Session
- **Old Business**
  - SCA/Reso A Tracking and Follow Up Project – We will have monthly calls with Erica Porter of the School Construction Authority. Goal to put together a spreadsheet to track everything
- **Treasurer's Report** – M.B. Updated council on current budget and deadlines
- **Adjournment** at 8:51 pm