Community Education Council District 20

May Calendar Meeting

Date: 5/14/25

Meeting Start Time: 6:00 PM

Present: Steve Stowe, Yanqing Chen, Meifang Chen, John Ricottone, Wenming Chen, Elizabeth Chan, Tamara Stern, Sabrina Mcnamara, Alina Lewis, Kevin Zhao, Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio, Maya Rozenblat

Excused:

Unexcused: Ryan Li

I. Meeting Called to Order: Dr. Alina Lewis, Council Member

II. Roll Call: Kevin Zhao, Recording Secretary

III. New Business

a. Public Speaking Session

Assembly Member Lester Change provided an update to the community regarding the concerns regarding students safety in the school environment. A representative from Alexa Aviles provided upcoming community events (past) to celebrate a community leader and discussed parental concerns including concerns over students quality of life. Another parent spoke on a new D75 site in the district that parents can look into. A representative from Senator Stephen Chan opened lines of communication for parents to discuss student safety. Various members discussed their concerns and dissatisfaction with student safety at P.S. 176.

b. Presentation from Office of Food and Nutrition

District Supervisors for the Office of Food and Nutrition Services in District 20, Andrew Goodman and Annecia Virgo Shakes provided an update to the community. Employment opportunities were announced with hiring Events on June 14th and June 21st. Summer Meals program, beginning June 27th to August 29th, anyone under the age of 18 can enter schools to grab breakfast between 8 AM to 9:15 AM and Lunch between 11 AM to 1:15 pm. OFNS also announced a Spring Survey to hear back from the community. More info can be found here.

c. Report of Superintendent

Dr. Pretto began with addressing concerns from community and family members regarding P.S. 176. Dr. Pretto reassured the community the DOE is following procedure and working with the School Construction Authority and Division of School Facilities. Dr. Pretto also announced that in relation to CEC 20 Resolution 4, which aims to add an optional Geometry curriculum to middle schoolers, is going to have a pilot program in three middle schools in District 20. Dr. Pretto also provided an update around the Superintendent Program and Algebra Honors

Algebra Program enrollment data for the 2024 - 2025 School Year and provided an overview of the Summer Rising Application Priority process. CEC members engaged in dialogue regarding the mishandling of the issues at P.S. 176, communication process, need for parent involvement for school and SCA meeting, need for translation services for parents

d. Public Speaking Session

Community members spoke of their dissatisfaction of the handling of the issues at P.S. 176. Parents feel that the school and DOE have not properly addressed the issues and need better communication. Another parent discussed the recent CEC elections and gave cautionary advice regarding CEC 20s Resolution 5 which calls to reform the CEC election process.

e. Resolution 5 - Demand Reform of Education Council Elections and The Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE)

Approved by a vote of 11 Yes and 1 Absent

1. Stephen Stowe - Yes
2. John Ricottone - Yes
3. Elizabeth Chan - Yes
4. Kevin Zhao - Yes
5. Meifang (Junmi) Chen - Yes
6. Wenming (Angie) Chen - Yes
7. Yanqing (Angi) Chen - Yes
8. Alina Lewis - Yes
9. Sabrina McNamara - Absent
10. Maya Rozenblat - Yes
11. Tamara Stern -Yes
12. Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio - Yes

f. Resolution 6 - Resolution Urging the Inclusion of State Test Scores in Admissions for Screened NYC Middle Schools

Approved by a vote of 8 Yes, 3 No, and 1 Absent

1. Stephen Stowe - Yes
2. John Ricottone - Yes
3. Elizabeth Chan - Yes
4. Kevin Zhao - Yes
5. Meifang (Junmi) Chen - Yes
6. Wenming (Angie) Chen - Yes

7. Yanqing (Angi) Chen - Yes
8. Alina Lewis - No
9. Sabrina McNamara - Absent
10. Maya Rozenblat - Yes
11. Tamara Stern - No
12. Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio - No

IV. Old Business - Approval of the April 2025 Calendar Minutes

Calendar Meeting Minutes Approved

V. Adjourn

a. Motion to adjourn - Stephen Stowe, Second: Kevin Zhao

I. All in favor

b. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

The full meeting recording is available here: YouTube

The Complete written Transcript is available here: Transcript

Submitted by Kevin Vizhnay, Administrative Assistant