

Community Education Council 24

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September 26th Community Education Council 24 Meeting Minutes

Meeting held at Public School 89

The Minutes of September 26th CEC24 Meeting reflect the changes

Attendees: Matthew Crescio, Connie Altamirano, Mati Gonzalez, Manisha Jain, Veronica Piedra-Leon, Anna Karwowska, Johanna Pineda, Fatima Shamoon, Leticia Vasquez and Guo Zhou, Superintendent Teresa Caccavale, James Leahy, Rachelle Lewis, Eleanor McNamee, Cid Kay, FACE (Family and Community Empowerment); John Harrington, UFT Representative, Rhea Cumberbatch and Reba Lichtenstein, Director of Office Planning; Principal Laura La Sala, former CEC24 Presidents Lucy Accardo, Nick Commanni and Phil Wong, Vaughn Turner, Charles Varsuska representative from Council member Robert Holden's office;

The Annual Meeting for CEC24 (Community Education Council 24) Election of Officers took place. Leticia Vasquez was voted in as Pro-Tem for the elections. As we began the elections, Matthew Crescio, nominated himself and Veronica Piedra-Leon nominated herself. No other nominations. Each nominee had two minutes each to present themselves.

The President position was voted as 6 – 4. Seven votes are needed; not the majority.

The members went into executive session which was illegal during a CEC (Community Education Council) meeting. During the OML (Open Meeting Law) the CEC members cannot go into Executive Session without the public. Kay Cid and Eleanor McNamee contacted Bibi Matadin from FACE to clarify this.

We will hold the Election of President at the October meeting.

Vice President Vote - Connie Altamirano nominated herself. No other nominations for Vice President. All in favor of Connie as Vice President. Congratulations to Connie Altamirano!

Connie Altamirano nominated Fatima Shamoon for Recording Secretary. Matthew Crescio nominated Anna Karwowska for Recording Secretary. Anna Karwowska declined.

All in favor of Fatima Shamoon as Recording Secretary. Congratulations to Fatima Shamoon!

Manisha Jain nominated herself for Treasurer. Veronica Piedra – Leon nominated Mati Gonzalez for Treasurer. Both candidates spoke about why they would be the Treasurer.

The voting took place. Manisha Jain – 4 votes; Mati Gonzalez – 6 votes. We will have the Election of Treasurer at the October 24th meeting.

Guest Speaker: Reba Lichtenstein, Director of District Planning presented the D24 Summary and mentioned the elimination of 6th grade at Public School 153. Some members did not know and were upset about this outcome. An email was sent from District Planning to the CEC members on September 14th stating the information from Principal Berkowitz from PS 153.

Ms. Lichtenstein discussed why Public School 153 will truncate 6th grade. There are 53 kids in the 6th grade which leads us to remove the 6th grade for September 2024.

Ms. Reba Lichtenstein shared about what planning is a diverse community about school trails, for the needs of families for the district, for all to engage with, DOE (Department of Education) offices of student enrollment, school design.

We work with the School Construction Authority which has mentioned that the FDA annually we do notice all the district planning process, which is a strategic overview of enrollment and other data trends to inform any sort of school changes and we have today's meetings to share the data with us, so that we can hear from the community needs and priorities. In the district related to the data or otherwise and we can make informed organizations and partners on any sort of changes. So, part of our strategic planning process, which again is annual and ongoing, is looking at data trends, or zoning, overcrowding measures mentioned any sort of raw data.

Veronica Piedra Leon asked a question how many Horizon/Nest programs are in District 24?

Resolutions

Discussion of three of the resolutions will be discussed at the October meeting. The members want 72 hours in advance to receive resolutions. Motion moved by Mati Gonzalez and Leticia Vasquez. All approved.

Resolution #161 Vacate was read and approved by the members of the CEC24.

Resolution #161 - Resolution to Declare a Seat Vacant

Whereas, NYS Ed. Law, Art. 52-A, Section 2590 provides that a member of a community education council who refuses or neglects to attend three meetings of such council of which he or she is duly notified, without rendering in writing a good and valid excuse there vacates his or her office by refusal to serve; and

Whereas, the law further provides that after the third unexcused absence the community council shall declare a vacancy to the chancellor; and

2.

Whereas, Marianna Miller has, without proving in writing a good and valid excuse, missed three meetings as follows:

July 25, 2023

August 22, 2023

September 26, 2023

Therefore, Be It Resolved That Community Education Council 24 hereby declares to the Chancellor that a vacancy exists on the council.

Duly Adopted by CEC24 members on 26th, September 2023 by a vote of 10-0.

The members discussed the vacancies for CEC24 member and District 75 member. The deadline for applications will be October 13th. A flyer will be made up and sent out to the District 24 community.

Superintendent Teresa Caccavale's September Report:

Project Open Arms:

In the words of Chancellor Banks;

"We brought in 20,000 students. Many of them are students who were living in temporary housing here," Banks said. "We've done a great job with Project Open Arms, it's a challenge for us financially, however, if you want to see NYC Public Schools at their absolute best, you should see how we have been engaging and welcoming in these students." He said the efforts to help the migrant children assimilate are going well. Banks said that the kids pick up on the language very quickly and that their classmates are helping them.

"Once they show up on our doorstep at our schools, our responsibility is to take care of the babies and that's exactly what we're doing," Banks said.

I couldn't agree with him more. Last week at our monthly D24 Principal meeting, I had Tamara Mair present to the principals and Sabrina Miket from my team. She is a licensed social worker and guidance counselor. She has done research on the journey migrant families take and all the hardships they face. It is a very powerful presentation and she also presented to all our parent coordinators at their monthly meeting. She can also be present at CEC if you would like her to.

The DOE has lots of resources in place to support us, the UFT, CSA and DC-37 are on board, and I've made it truly clear to all school staff that we are a welcoming environment and safe haven to all our newly arrived families. These students are coded as STH and the schools receive additional funds and resources to support them. This issue is important to me and one that my team and I are closely monitoring.

3.

SAVE for College Program:

The NYC Kids RISE Save for College Program provides families, schools, and communities with a way to work together to invest in and save for their children's futures. It is a scholarship and savings program designed to make college and career training more accessible and achievable for public school students. It enables all of us to work together to build assets and support

expectations of educational and economic success for every child.

In 2023–24, NYC Public Schools will launch Climate Action Days: four days to celebrate climate action in every school.

Climate Action Days are a fun, creative learning opportunity for entire school communities. They are also a way that any school can get started with climate action. Each day will be based on a theme and will showcase the importance of climate education and sustainability practices. Every school will choose activities — or create their own — that best serve their students and interests.

With Climate Action Days, we are engaging the next generation of leaders, in classrooms and communities. When our teachers, building and school staff, and students come together to act, we can make a difference!

Dates and Themes

- Wednesday, December 6: Energy
- Wednesday, February 7: Waste
- Wednesday, April 17: Health, Wellness, and Green Space
- Wednesday, June 12: Water

Grading Policies:

All elementary, middle, and high schools must have written grading policies which they review and update annually. Well-documented grading policies facilitate discussion with students and families about academic growth and support students and families in sharing ownership of their learning. School-based grading policies should be developed with the school community and grounded in their students' needs. Grading policy documents may be organized in various ways, depending on how much schools' grading policies are standardized at the school-, department-, or course level. Schools must share a physical or electronic copy of their grading policies with students and families at the beginning of the school year. Schools should also share grading policies at open houses, parent teacher conferences, on the school website, and through other touchpoints with families. Students and families have the right to request the grading policy at

any point in time, per the Student Bill of Rights and the Parents' Bill of Rights. Schools must translate their grading policies for families when needed. School-based grading policies must describe the grading scales used, how grades are determined, and the grading timelines.

4.

This Toolkit outlines the NYCDOE grading policies applicable to each of these areas and the decisions schools must make in developing their grading policies. For each decision point, the Toolkit provides guiding questions that invite reflection on equity, accuracy, and social-emotional well-being.

Food Education in NYC Public Schools:

Food education is critical in developing healthier students, families, and communities. By developing healthy eating habits early, students achieve and maintain a healthy body weight, consume important nutrients, and reduce the risk of developing health conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes. A healthy diet is also associated with improved cognitive function, reduced absenteeism, improved mood, and improved academic performance.

We are committed to expanding food education across all NYC public schools. The link to the Food Education Roadmap below outlines our Mayor's and Chancellor's commitment to the following areas:

- Students build knowledge and habits about healthy eating and wellness
- Students have access to and consume healthy food in schools that meets their needs
- The community (families, food service workers, educators) has the knowledge and resources to be advocates for healthy habits and wellness

NYC K-12 HIV Education Curriculum

State law requires annual instruction on HIV and AIDS for every student in grades K–12. The DOE has released a newly updated curriculum, Growing Up and Staying Safe: New York City K–12 HIV Education Curriculum. The new curriculum is skills-based, student-centered, age-appropriate, and culturally responsive, with updated content that reflects advances in HIV prevention and treatment guidelines.

Public Session –

Nick Comianni and Lucy Accardo, former CEC24 Presidents spoke and discussed when they were President. Lucy suggested if you needed any help that you can reach out to her.

Phil Wong, former CEC24 President mentioned about the Roosevelt Hotel. The many immigrants who need help with medical and mental services, clothing, etc.

Mr. John Harrington from UFT (United Federation of Teachers) told us about having the World Family Book Fair at PS 7 on Nov 4th, 2023, in association with AFT and FIRST BOOK. There will

be 40,000 books to be distributed among families and teachers for free. As per child can have 25 to 30 books and 50 books for educators.

Business Meeting

Minutes of the August 22nd Meeting were approved with a correction of temporary/preliminary budget 2023-2024.

Discussion to have Public Speaking Session at the beginning of the meeting and the end, since most of the parents leave because the CEC meetings are too late. Two minutes per person (20 minutes). Leticia Vasquez will be the timekeeper.

The Budget was under discussion and not approved. We will discuss the Budget at the October meeting.

The next meeting will be October 24th at PS 19.

Adjournment at 10:00 pm

Janet Kregler

Administrative Assistance

CEC24

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UPDATED