



# Community Education Council District 21

99 Avenue P, Room 127 A, Brooklyn, NY 11204

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*Officers:* Heather Ann Fiorica, President · Anna Lembersky, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President · Randi Garay, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President · Anne Polizzi, Recording Secretary · Maria DiGraziano, Treasurer

*Members:* Umekulsoom Butt · Susan Chin · Sean Chin · Malik Shah Jehan · Yves Etienne

## CEC District 21 Meeting Minutes, November 16, 2016

Location: Abraham Lincoln High School, 2800 Ocean Pkwy, Brooklyn, NY 11235

Community Education Council District 21 presented their Annual High Schools Admissions Workshop from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. The speaker was Ms. Eliana Mascio from InsideSchools. District 21 (D21) High Schools' representatives presented information regarding their respective schools and answered questions that the parents had. The High Schools that presented were:

- John Dewey High School
- William E. Grady High School
- Abraham Lincoln High School
- KECSS

### Business Meeting: 6:30 PM

**I. Meeting called to order** by Heather Ann Fiorica at 6:37 P.M.

**II. Roll Call-** *Recording Secretary Anne Polizzi*

**Present:** Umekulsoom Butt, Sean Chin, Maria DiGraziano, Heather Ann Fiorica, Anna Lembersky, Anne Polizzi, Randi Garay, Yves Etienne, Malik Shah Jehan

**Absent:** Susan Chin (excused)

**III. Old Business:**

**1. Review of October 19, 2016 Minutes**

**2. Review of October 20, 2016 Minutes**

**3. Review of Bylaws Revisions-** Anna and Randi discussed the Bylaws revisions that were made at the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting with Paola DeCock. They told the council that the two biggest areas that were revised were conducting CEC meetings in accessible schools and administrative absences. Anna and Randi also recapped some items that were discussed with Paola, including that minutes, and council resolutions can be voted and approved during the business meeting.

**IV. New Business:**

**1. Approval of October 19, 2016 Minutes-** *CEC21 unanimously approved the minutes.*

**2. Approval of October 20, 2016 Minutes-** *Attendees of the Bylaws Committee Meeting unanimously approved the minutes.*

**3. Approval of Bylaws Revisions-** *CEC21 unanimously approved the amended Bylaws.*

**4. Pre-K & Kindergarten Enrollment Workshop, December 14<sup>th</sup>-** Heather reminded the council that the Pre-K & Kindergarten Enrollment Workshop will be December 14<sup>th</sup>. After having lack of attendees at the High School Admissions Workshop she urged more publicity and more encouragement for parents to attend the December's Workshop. Anna suggested reaching out to local news outlets to help get the word out.

**5. Treasurer's Report: (See addendum 1)**

- As discussed in trainings and during our meeting with Paola, we no longer need to approve a resolution to move money in our budget.
- Heather explained that Sabrina went through training where they said that they will rollover unused council member money from month to month, but we recently found out that that is not in effect yet, so if you don't use your allocated \$125.00 in a month, you cannot roll it over to the next month.

**VI. Councilmembers Reports:**

- Anna Lembersky- Helped at the P.S. 99 Book Fair, KECSS Middle School Halloween Dance
- Umekulsoom Butt- Part of the I.S. 303 PTA meeting which included a bullying workshop. Went with Malik to P.S. 100. Part of P.S. 215's PTA meeting.
- Anne Polizzi- Went to visit P.S. 177. Principal Lettieri-Baker took her around the school and showed her the amazing things that she did with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She departmentalized the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. One section on the top floor is dedicated to that and the students interchange now as if they were in middle school.

*Due to the time, council members' reports were cut short and will be revisited if there is time at the end of the next meeting.*

**Meeting Adjournment: Motion made by Heather Ann Fiorica and seconded by Anna Lembersky at 7:03 PM.**

## CEC District 21 Meeting Minutes, November 16, 2016

Location: Abraham Lincoln High School, 2800 Ocean Pkwy, Brooklyn, NY 11235

### Calendar Meeting

**I. Meeting Called to Order** by Heather Ann Fiorica at 7:03 PM.

**II. Student Performance by the Chorus of Abraham Lincoln High School**

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Roll Call- Recording Secretary Anne Polizzi**

**Present:** Umekulsoom Butt, Sean Chin, Maria DiGraziano, Heather Ann Fiorica, Anna Lembersky, Anne Polizzi, Randi Garay, Yves Etienne, Malik Shah Jehan

**Absent:** Susan Chin (excused)

*Heather Ann Fiorica welcomed staff, parents and students to the meeting. She thanked Abraham Lincoln Principal, PTA, Parent-Coordinator and staff for hosting CEC21's November meeting.*

**V. Superintendent's Report-** Superintendent DiMola welcomed everyone to the meeting. She spoke about Lincoln High School being the place where she began her educational career as a Social Studies Teacher. She went on to speak about the president's elections and the unexpected results. She said that since the election there have been protests all over the nation and some have turned violent. She said that as leaders, we need to remind students that we have a democratic process and to take pride in the peaceful transition of power. She also stated that she and Neal Opromalla have been to many schools in the district and by winter recess they will visit all the schools in the district. She was happy to report that schools are working hard and continuing to improve. Teachers are trying to teach each student, students are able to communicate, Kindergarten students are already formulating sentences through writing initiatives, and she is very excited to see the hard work of Principals, teachers, and staff. Finally, she wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**VI. President's Report-** Heather Ann Fiorica addressed the vacant seat on the council and the High School seat that is available. She also went over important upcoming dates (*see addendum 2*). She discussed the HLA 2 Charter School Public Hearing and went over the response that she had received that day. The final recommendation stated that based on review, the Board of Regents approved to open HLA 2 in Community School District 21. She also reiterated that the council is not against charter schools, they are against co-location. Moving forward, she discussed that she received a "Notice of Public Hearing for Charter School Revision" for Coney Island Preparatory School on November 29, 2016. She then asked the members that were representing Coney Island Prep to go up and introduce themselves.

**VII. Coney Island Prep-** Emily Behan, Director of Family and Community Engagement, Jacob Mnookin, Executive Director, and Matt Stern, Director of External Affairs from Coney Island Prep addressed the council members and audience.

- o Jacob Mnookin discussed that the situation they find themselves in is that actual enrollment is bigger than the enrollment they have on paper on the charter application. On the charter application it said that this year they would have enrollment of 888 but their actual enrollment is 940. He explained that there are two main reasons for this discrepancy. The first reason was due to expected attrition when submitting the charter application. The estimated attrition was 10% but actual attrition is closer to 2%. The second reason was that when they submitted the application, they did not anticipate to backfill as many seats as they did. They stated that they just want to submit the revision to make sure that what is on paper matches actual numbers. He stated that he understands that space is a big concern. He said that he wants to make clear that any changes in the enrollment will have no effect on the amount of space they need. He said that they do not need any more rooms, or any more time in the cafeteria.
- o Heather addressed Coney Island Prep with a question about the space. She wanted to make sure that they made clear that they will not need any more space. She stated that she does not want to see the public schools in the district not being able to grow due to space limitations and caps. Jacob Mnookin emphasized that there will be no more space being used and told the council that in the revision they submitted to the Department of Education, it makes this clear in writing (*see addendum 3*) Heather and Anna expressed their concerns with the original enrollment that was approved. They questioned that if the enrollment was approved at 888, but they have 940 students now, where did they get the extra room to begin with? Did they originally ask for more room than they actually needed and took the room away from I.S. 281 and I.S. 303 to grow? Jacob responded by giving the example that in the original enrollment they had 60 kindergarten students broken down by 30 students in each room. In the new enrollment they have 64 kindergarten students which would be 32 students in each room. He also stated that most of the enrollment differences come from the high school grades in which they have their own stand-alone building.

**VIII. Public Questions & Comments**

- o Kate O' Hagen asked about the attrition rate model. She questioned why they built a model that they estimated a 10% attrition rate per year. She also asked if there will be a change in the model after the revision request. Jacob said that it will be based on a 2% attrition rate.
- o Heather asked if this will be the last year they will be asking for this. She stated that they had the same conversation last year. Jacob Mnookin said that this will be the last year they ask for this revision. The council questioned what happened the year prior since this is a resubmission. Jacob Mnookin explained that when they submitted last year it was because they were forecasting and this year it actually happened.
- o Sean stated that from a planning perspective, the backfilling is a controllable feature. He asked why they felt that they needed to backfill at that time. He asked if they always were planning to just request to increase anyway so they could just continue to backfill. Jacob Mnookin explained that in public schools, if a student shows up in January, the schools has to take them but traditionally, charter schools have not done that.
- o Anna asked if they are getting a double fee for the students. For example, if a child comes in and they were paid for it, once she leaves and another child fills the seat, do they also receive payment for filling it? Jacob Mnookin stated that they get paid on a per pupil allocation. He explained that if they start the year with 500 students and one student leaves half way through the year, they will get paid for 499 ½ students.
- o Michael Young, teacher at I.S. 303, expresses his concerns with the Coney Island Prep co-location. He addressed that they don't always explain what attrition means. It could be that a child leaves due to behavioral problems. He also said that something else that they don't tell you is that some of the rooms they are using are a nursing room for their teachers. He stated that the rooms that they are taking away are actually being underused. They use the auditorium to give lessons on stage to 6-8 students at a time. He spoke again that attrition can also mean that students fail out due to low scores. He continued to speak about his concerns with the safety of the I.S. 303 students as well as the space that the charter school keeps asking for and taking away from the public school.
- o Lisa Addeo, PTA President of I.S. 281 stated that she is okay with the charter school as long as it doesn't affect the children of her school.
- o Heather invited Councilman Mark Treyger to come forward. Councilman Treyger thanked CEC21, Parents, PTA, and Superintendent DiMola for the timely gathering. Councilman Treyger stated that our children are our children regardless of the schools they go to. He stated that he has always said that we should not put kids against kids, or parents against

parents. He stated that he has observed that we have district public schools that are at a certain capacity and are overcrowded. He also stated that he wishes that the education powers that be cared more about the infrastructure needs of District 21. He reminded everyone that as we're entering the winter season, we still have schools operating on temporary boilers. The schools with temporary boilers cannot adjust their heat which makes some schools piping hot or freezing cold. He wishes that the DOE paid mind to these issues as well. He stated that he is tired of complaining about school infrastructure issues and nothing being done about it. He said that he plans to invite the SCA President again down to our community. He said that he plans to work with the CEC, Superintendent DiMola, and the parents to make sure that we prioritize infrastructure, wiring, roofs, and air conditioning. He thanked everyone for attending and wished them a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

- o Brian Gotlieb of CB 13 said that next meeting will be Education, Youth and Library Committee meeting, Community Board office, 1201 Surf Avenue, 3rd floor, 7PM. He also spoke about the Shorefront Toys for Tots' 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner - 2nd Annual "Children First Award Ceremony" which will be on November 17<sup>th</sup> at Sirico's Caterers.
- o Kate O'Hagen introduced herself. She said that it is a privilege to work in District 21. She addressed the Coney Island Prep attendees and said that it is great to see them out tonight, but as a member of the community she hasn't seen them at any other events. She began to speak a little about the co-locations in the schools she visits. She said that in the schools that are co-located, teachers are not able to walk a straight line in the hallway to get from one classroom or another because one classroom belongs to the public school and one classroom belongs to the charter school. In one school, there is a set of double doors between them which basically divides the public school and the charter school. She continued to express her concerns with the separation of the student hallways and staircases. She also spoke about the funding for the students. She said that if a child leaves the charter school in the middle of the year and attends a public school, the public school does not get the funding for that student.

**VIX: Dates and Activities (see addendum 2)**

**Meeting adjournment:** at 8:15 PM with a motion by Heather Ann Fiorica and seconded by Anna Lembersky.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
 Sabrina Argiro  
 Administrative Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Anne Polizzi (Recording Secretary)

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

**Addendum 1:**

**2016-2017 Budget: October 20, 2016- November 16, 2016**

**Our opening balance is: \$18,252.43**

**Our current balance is: \$14,609.61**

**Total Spent: \$3,642.82 (Non-Contractual Services (copier) \$1,920 + Reimbursement \$849 + P-Card \$873.82)**

**October**

P-Card	Items	Vendor	Total
	Bottled Water	Staples Advantage	\$3.97
	Paper for Printer	Staples Advantage	\$177.50
	Paper for Printer	Staples Advantage	\$65.76
	Supplies for Nov/Dec Workshop	Positive Promotions	\$446.59
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$693.82</b>

Non-Contractual Services (copier)	Items	Vendor	Total
	Lanier MP 4002 (ID# 90481)	TGI	\$1,920.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,920.00</b>

Reimbursements	Member	Month	Reimbursement
	Anna Lembersky	Sep-16	\$63.00
	Maria DiGraziano	Aug-16	\$32.00
	Maria DiGraziano	Sep-16	\$32.00
	Randi Garay	Aug-16	\$120.00
	Randi Garay	Sep-16	\$38.00
	Randi Garay	Oct-16	\$88.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$373.00</b>

**November**

Reimbursements	Member	Month	Reimbursement
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	Susan Chin	Oct-16	\$115.00
	Susan Chin	Sep-16	\$51.50
	Heather Ann Fiorica	Oct-16	\$200.00
<b>P-Card</b>	Anna Lembersky	Oct-16	\$109.50
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$476.00</b>
	<b>Items</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Total</b>
	Food for Workshop/Meetings	Tasty Bagels	\$180.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>

	Budget	Total Spent	Balance
Non Contractual Services(Copier)	\$1,920.00	\$1,920.00	\$0.00
Reimbursements	\$8,840.00	\$1,776.00	\$7,064.00
P-Card/Office Supplies	\$8,340.00	\$1,682.39	\$6,657.61
Transportation of Staff	\$100.00	\$12.00	\$88.00
Furniture	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Fax Machine	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$5,390.39</b>	<b>\$14,609.61</b>
<b>Total Spent</b>	<b>\$5,390.39</b>	<b>\$5,390.39</b>	
<b>Balance in Budget</b>	<b>\$14,609.61</b>		

## **Addendum 2:**

### **Dates and Activities:**

#### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

High School: November 17-18

#### **Schools Closed**

November 24-25- Thanksgiving Recess  
December 26-January 2- Winter Recess

#### **Middle School Application Deadline**

Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

#### **High School Application Deadline**

Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

#### **Kindergarten Applications Begin**

Wednesday, November 30

#### **Pre-K and Kindergarten Enrollment Workshop**

Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at P.S. 216, 350 Avenue X , Brooklyn, NY 11223

## **Addendum 3:**



Finally, it is important to note that the requested material revision will not require any additional space in any of the three facilities that Coney Island Prep currently operates out of. The room allocations for Coney Island Prep in both K281 and K303 would remain the same. This revision to our enrollment is an effort to ensure that our charter application accurately reflects the realities in which we are currently operating. To that end, we will not be recruiting additional students or enrolling additional students in any way that is different from what we have been doing over the previous seven years.

**From:** Susan Chin [mailto:susanchin37@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, November 10, 2016 10:06 AM

**To:** Cec21 D21

**Subject:** Re: CEC21 High School Admissions Workshop & Meetings (Agenda Attached)- Wednesday, November 16th @ 5PM

Hi Sabrina-

Unfortunately I am unable to make the next CEC meeting due to work obligations. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,  
Susan