



Community Education Council District 21 Community Outreach Committee Meeting

Committee Members: **Jay Brown** **Dawn Qiu** **Esfira Shakhmurova** **Eddie Mark**
Committee Chair

VIRTUAL MEETING (VIDEOCONFERENCING)

DATE: Tuesday, January 2, 2024

LOCATION: Virtual via ZOOM

ZOOM Link: <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/4113816183?pwd=YW5lWmpHbmY2M3NUZXlYUkFESkFwZz09>

Meeting ID: 968 5657 7635 Passcode: 099689 +16465189805

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Committee Meeting 7:00 PM

1. **Call to Order:** at 7:12PM Motioned by: *Esfira seconded by Eddie*
 - a. Jay introduced himself and the mission/purpose of the Community Outreach Committee as well as introduced the other members of the committee. He thanked everyone else who joined virtually (it was difficult due to some technical difficulties) and the CEC District 21 Members in attendance.
2. **Roll Call:** Virtual: Jay, Esfira, Eddie Absent: Dawn
3. **Old Business**
 - a. **Overview of Topics Discussed Necessitating Committee Meeting**
 - i. Jay discusses the safety of streets surrounding our schools, streets around the school and routes to and from the school. safe streets to from and around our schools. Safe streets aren't meant about traffic violations; however, wondering if you would be struck by a vehicle while being a pedestrian on the streets. There have been a lot of safety issues in District 21 and around the entire district
4. **New Business**
 - a. **Family Careers Initiative**
 - i. **Description From Committee Member Esfira Shakhmurova**
 1. Esfira has created a Google Doc, where parents can put in their availabilities certain times and days of the week, where they can give a really great intro of their profession, and be ready to answer questions by students who will be prepared in advance. There will be a dialogue between the students and the professional that will open their eyes to different professions.
 2. Currently kids have a mindset that you can only be a doctor, lawyer, etc. However, there are entrepreneurs, plumbers, sanitation, and tech jobs where technical schools who have lost their transition in our everyday society where we need them more than anything.
 3. They are opening the initiative to all professionals in different forms – in person, ZOOM, their professional office, or in a hospital and give a tour.
 4. She has met with the Principals at P.S. 215 and P.S. 90 about career days where they can have one day of various professionals that come in and talk about their careers. It's an ongoing thing where parents can come in and talk about their professions in each grade, it's not just one grade focus and it can start by introducing it to kindergartners and first graders to start preparing them; for Junior High School and High schoolers it can provide them with community service, you know.
 5. A lot of businesses in the facility who can probably benefit from engaging students to volunteer and share with them of what it is that entail to run a business or open a business or a practice
 - ii. **Committee Discussion**



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1. Jay thinks this will be a continual thing and not a one time opportunity and that Esfira's school will be a test school to see how well it will be and how it works with her school
2. Esfira used to have alumni come once a month when she was a student who were staples in her community to talk with everyone about where their careers have taken them and that it'd be great to bring that back since it's rare in schools today
3. Jay brings up how it'd be great to see how students use fundamentals of everyday life to decide to as a career instead of those who ask when they would actually use subjects in school later in life such as math
4. Esfira believes that families from different cultures who speak different languages can be introduced to this and give them an opportunity to come out. There are some families that work for individuals, some of them are self-made and there are some who are struggling financially, and this is a great to hear their story. It gets children to understand that good grades and skills of certain of certain sort can definitely help them in the future
5. Eddie suggests that videos should be made, and it be given to younger groups for when they get older they can understand it. Upper grades can record the videos on their phones, and it'll give them the skills behind the scenes so that they could be part of it, too, so that you know it just expands on it. He also suggest that the speaker use different language when speaking at kindergarten student vs. a fifth grader but have the same meaning when talking about careers, such as giving small bites of information

iii. Public Comments

1. CEC D21 Member Elizabeth Perez – Rodriguez:

- a. thinks a great idea and can't wait to see it going into effect and would like to address this to a broader audience like at CEC D21 meetings

b. Safe Streets To/From/Around Schools

i. Description From Committee Chair Jay Brown

1. Jay discusses about the fatalities with in the District, a grandmother and her infant child hit that succumbed to her injuries, a mom of six struck while picking up her child right at the school struck and killed, and hit and runs.
2. There are street design changes that can made that are implemented but there aren't enough. Curb ramps, T intersections (three – way crossings), traffic signals, and crossing guards who try to help situations but when they aren't there, the area isn't safe. There are also turning sections that aren't 90 angles so when cars turn they aren't turning safely and sometimes strike pedestrians that aren't paying attention
3. There should be more No Parking areas that can be visible in both daylight and in the dark and ticketing to vehicles that don't move their vehicles in their area. Red ramps are being installed for people with mobility issues which is great; however, they are at a slow pace and there aren't enough of them around

ii. Presentation from Transportation Alternatives Schools & Youth Organizer

1. Transportation Alternatives Rep Lauren Newman:

- a. advises people to flood and call 311 to take note of their intersections. Compared to neighboring areas, such as Borough Park and Sheephead Bay, Leading Pedestrian Intervals give people walking and biking a head start at intersections and when they were introduced, they lead to a 56% drop in serious injuries and deaths among pedestrians and cyclists by cars specifically turning left.
- b. The Transportation Alternative have several campaigns such as daylighting (repurposing the parking spots that are closest to an intersection within 20 feet before and intersection making it so that no car can park there) every intersection,



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the New York Safe Streets Act (a legislation that allows New York City to control its own speed limits) that would have technology be implemented in the vehicles of speed offenders and Complete Streets (a street designated for all three users; pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders as well as motorists that enables safe access for all people of all ages and abilities)

- c. The Open Streets for Schools Initiative ensures streets outside of New York City Schools are closed to cars to support the drop off/pick up, recess, outdoor learning and any other creative uses can utilize the extra space around the school
- d. There are 57% more crashes and 25% more injuries per mile on streets near schools during the 8AM hour on school days and additionally 43% more injures in schools where most students are black and brown
- e. The city has to commit \$10 million to the maintenance and expansion of Open Street for schools citywide

2. **Transportation Alternatives Rep Rose Uscianowski:**

- a. Bay Parkway is a corridor that is being given special attention in 2024. It needs safety improvements that would benefit students because it is highly dangerous and is a Vision 0 priority. Few structural improvements have made it safer; however, four pedestrians have been killed on Bay Parkway in crashes since 2019 and five people have been severely injured since 2022.
- b. Dismemberment, significant disfigurement, bone fracture, loss of a fetus or permanent use of a body part and limitation of body function have happened
- c. Curb Extensions can add more greenery to a street that can improve air quality, collect flood water to reduce flooding on the streets, and maximize the benefits of a two-way protected bike lane with a very minimal loss of parking space.

iii. **Committee Discussion/Public Comments**

1. **Parent 1 in Attendance:**

- a. 11 years ago their daughter and driver were killed in a crash by a drunk driver who sped through a red light at 90/100mph. The ongoing driver was also killed and three passengers in their car were injured, one of them critically injured.
- b. There is an issue with speed DWI and driving late at night. They wonder what street designs can do to prevent instances like this when the traffic signal wasn't good enough. The idea of having a device to monitoring the limit in the car is a great idea because sometimes breathalyzers don't work/can be bypassed

2. **Parent 2 in Attendance:**

- a. Believes the DOT has a department where they send people out into schools to do education, to make kids aware of these issues at their age and at the level their intellectual and emotional level. Going straight to kids and telling them the issues that are on the streets and have them do open meetings with parents to the whole school.
- b. Their daughter was killed at Columbia University 34 years ago. It's not only a problem in Brooklyn neighborhoods, it's a problem in every neighborhood; you hear the same stories that it being a city and statewide problem. State legislation should get to the core of drunk driving and give the message to children and young adults about what's safe and what's not. Don't let friends drive drunk

3. **Esfira:**

- a. Thinks speed bumps in designated locations, specifically around schools, help a lot around the school school areas because they reduce the speed. Some families



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have requested the DOT to put speed bumps around their communities to help reduce speed; some speed bumps are even allowed in massive intersections

4. CEC D21 Member Elizabeth Perez – Rodriguez:

- a.** There are a lot people in her school area that use motorized devices on sidewalks with some kids who walk to and from school on their own sometimes on their phones using FaceTime; it's not just cars that makes things dangerous. She feels nothing has been said to the drivers on motorized devices and the city lacks that in general.
- b.** The more you rally the more traction you'll get. No matter how you're travelling, you have to be vigilant whether you're walking on foot and not trying to beat the light or crossing on the street; it risks your life or someone else's

5. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn by:** Motioned by: *Eddie, seconded by Esfira* **Adjournment** at 9:05PM