



Community Education Council District 21

Officers: **Jay Brown** President
Randi Garay 1st Vice President
Lakeisha Bowers 2nd Vice President
Esfira Shakhmurova Treasurer
Elizabeth Rodriguez-Perez Recording Secretary
Borough President Appointee

Members: **Amy Chen** IEP
Nadiia Kushylina ELL
Dawn Qiu
Petra Remy D75
Priscilla Santos Borough President Appointee
Maxim Torbin
Mei Ping Tran

HYBRID MEETING (VIDEOCONFERENCING)

DATE: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 Location: P.S./I.S. 226 – 6006 23rd Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11204

ZOOM Link: <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/87699821402?pwd=Y3NJT1AxZZNFcCtjQXVWRTU0WjBtQT09>

Meeting ID: 876 9982 1402 Passcode: 110280 +16465189805

Business Meeting 5:30 PM

1. **Call to Order:** at 5:39PM Motioned by: *Esfira seconded by: Randi*
 - a. President Brown thanked the school principals for hosting our CEC meeting and the PTA for the refreshments. President Brown outlined the norms for our meeting and thanked principals, assistant principals, parent coordinators, Superintendent DiMola, and parents (in-person, and virtual) for attending.
2. **Roll Call:** in person: Jay, Randi, Esfira, Amy, Nadiia, Dawn, Maxim, Petra, and Mei – Ping
Virtual: Lakeisha and Priscilla
Absent: Elizabeth
3. **Old Business**
 - a. **Review of November’s Minutes**
 - i. Sent to all members in advance of the meeting, no questions were raised.
 - b. **Member’s Activities Update**
 - i. Dawn, Esfira, Petra, Amy and Jay attended their Liaison schools for their holiday celebrations as well as events about sustainability, Lighthouse, and PTAs.
4. **New Business**
 - a. **Approval of November’s Minutes** – minutes approved unanimously by members present and virtual
 - b. **Review of Resolution Urging DOE to Implement the proposals of the Class Size Working Group and Comply with the New Class Size Law** – Law built into by Governor and the city implementing it whether people want to or not want to comply with it; however, how to move forward with it.
 - c. **Review of Resolution in Support of Sustaining Key Education Programs Funded with Expiring Federal COVID – 19 Relief**
 - d. **Treasurer’s Report:** *by Esfira*
 - i. Opening balance: \$25,000 Closing balance: \$22,719
 - e. **Review of Spending Report**
 - i. Approval of purchase of OWL and laptop

Motion to adjourn by: Motioned by: *Amy, seconded by: Mei – Ping*

Adjournment at 6:02PM



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Calendar Meeting 6:00PM

1. **Call to Order** at 6:02PM Motioned by: *Esfira* seconded by: *Amy*
 - a. President Brown thanked all of the school campus principals for hosting our CEC meeting and the PTA for the refreshments. President Brown outlined the norms for our meeting and thanked principals, assistant principals, parent coordinators, FACE liaison, Superintendent DiMola, and parents (in-person, and virtual) for attending.
2. **Roll Call:** in person: Jay, Randi, Esfira, Amy, Nadiia, Dawn, Maxim, Petra, and Mei – Ping
Virtual: Lakeisha and Priscilla
Absent: Elizabeth
3. **Pledge of Allegiance and Performance by The P.S./I.S. 226 Middle School Band under the direction of Music Teacher, Ms. Pietro**
4. **School Construction Authority 2024 Capital Plan:** *Steve Gonzalez*
 - a. Review of the 2020 to 2024 Capital Plan and review of Proposal of the 2025/2029 Capital Plan
 - b. District 21
 - i. PS 253 will be opening next year, John Dewey Annex opens in 2026, Bishop Kearney due to open in 2025
 - c. Capital Improvements go in through surveys of schools and rate the building from 1 – 5 (5 being the worst) and are reported to the CSA for repairs that are deemed dangerous
 - d. 12 Auditoriums are upgraded, 21 Science Labs upgraded, 64 projects in technology were saved
 - e. Mayor’s Initiative: cafeteria enhancements, addressing failing boilers, creating health and nutritional learning spaces, more funding for gyms and playgrounds
 - f. \$3.4 billion is being used citywide for capacity seating, new schools, and building facilities
5. **Superintendent’s Report:** *Isabel DiMola, Superintendent*
 - a. 4 PreK Centers, 28 Schools serving grades PreK – 8, 14 Elementary Schools, 8 K – 8 Schools and 6 Middle Schools
 - b. Have a bigger support team members than last year that helps support their schools
 - c. There are 29 Principals, 81 Assistant Principals, over 2,000 teachers, 43 Paraprofessionals, 60 support staff that are within the district, about 34,000 students
 - d. District 21 is slightly above citywide schools when it comes to ELA and Mathematics, however, slightly above isn’t acceptable
 - e. Chancellor’s Priorities are The Four Pillars: Scale, Sustain and Restore – Reimagine – Prioritize – Empower
 - i. Professional Developing what works and what doesn’t work; don’t want to reinvent the wheel and partnering with District 20 and 22 for the best way to learn
 - f. Social and emotional learning to academic success is what District 21 pioneered in
 - g. Thanked the Ambassador of PS 226 for being there this evening
 - h. To improve literacy across all grades is the goal with NYC Reads
 - i. Lauren Wexler, ELA Implementation Specialist explains how NYC Reads is a literacy reform that includes shifts in approach and practice around assessment systems, core curriculum and instruction and intervention
 - i. Students with IEPs will reach their goals in the Least – Restrictive Environment and all Special Education Students will meet their IEP Goals as measured by progress monitoring tools articulated in individual IEPs
 - j. Thanks to all the school leaders and teachers in person and virtually who are making sure that these plans are being implemented in schools and wishes everyone a happy new year.
6. **Vote on Resolution Urging DOE to Implement the proposals of the Class Size Working Group and Comply with the New Class Size Law**
 - a. Adam Shapiro, District UFT Rep, Leonie Haimson, Director Class Size Matters, and other parent leaders expressed their pros and cons for the voting of the resolution to be passed or abstained
 - b. CEC 21 Council Members: 9 Votes Yes 2 Votes No, Resolution Passes



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7. Vote on Resolution in Support of Sustaining Key Education Programs Funded with Expiring Federal COVID – 19 Relief

a. CEC 21 Council Members: 12 Votes Yes (unanimously), Resolution Passes

8. Vote on Spending Proposal

a. **Purchasing an OWL and Laptop Computer for CEC Use for Meetings**

i. CEC 21 Council Members: 12 Votes Yes (unanimously), Resolution Passes

9. President’s Report: Jay Brown

a. President Brown wanted to wish everyone who celebrated a Happy Hannukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and a much needed break

b. Schools will be closed, and next meeting will be January 17th

c. 2023 – 2024 calendar as well as the next two years are online

d. High school and middle school admissions were closed earlier this month, and the results will be released March and April respectively

e. Kindergarten and Kindergarten G&T are currently accepted to January 19th

f. Free camp PreK opens January 10th

g. 2 weeks ago, there was an assault against a student at Murrow High School and another being hospitalized. School administration issued their safety protocols in the matter. Parents voiced their praise as well as concerns on how the situation was dealt with

h. President Brown will be donating blood at Utrecht High School December 21st and thanked the school that offers the program – nybc.org – so many places to donate blood around the city

10. Public Comments

a. Virtual:

i. Stanley Ang, Representative from Councilwomen Elect Susan Zhang, thanked the CEC and Superintendent for all that they did because of his 10 years’ experience previously on the board

ii. Frances Brown, Representative from Senator Iwen Chu, thanked the CEC for holding this weekend

iii. Eddie Mark, Representative from Community Board 13, shared free Ice Skating on December 28th and 29th from 8a to 12p for kids

iv. Judge Gotlieb thanked the council and is looking forward to students coming to take a tour of the courthouses and speak to the representatives in the upcoming year of 2024 and looking forward to more schools throughout the year

v. Community Member: the balance of the funding for schools is going towards the UFT contracts so there is no additional funding going towards class sizes (\$1.5 billion) so some school functions and programs have to be cut

vi. Steve Stone, President of CEC 20, there are logistical issues that were not solved and there will be a lot of disruptions in District 21. He has a resolution coming up in his District coming up and he is opposing it and welcomes people to come to his meeting as they discuss it

vii. Community Member: is encouraging people to read the report and pay attention to the test scores. Employability and what employers are looking for are soft skills, interpersonal skills, and social emotional skills for future economy and some students won’t be seen; however, we will get through this

viii. Community Member: concerned where elementary and middle school graduates will go once they graduate, whether the schools can hold them due to class size and thanked the parents that speak on their concern

b. In – person

i. Community Member: principal informed her that her school will be losing 300 seats to a school that is very popular. With the lack of space and a teacher’s shortage, funding will be capped.

1. Is not in favor of passing of the resolution because of the overcrowding of schools and they have nowhere to go



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IEP ELL D75 Borough President Appointee

- ii. Community Education Council Member wanted to make sure that everyone thanks the supporting staff of schools, such as the crossing guards, for all of the work they do for the children and making sure that they stay safe
- iii. Superintendent DiMola thanked the students in attendance and the parents for holding a civil conversation and being passionate of the community. Also thanked the Ambassador of the school for being present and would like more students to be involved in the school meetings

11. Report of Committees

- a. The Chair of the Special Education Committee will be coordinating a meeting with the community soon
- b. The Community Outreach Committee are coordinating a meeting in January to hold with the community

Motion to adjourn by: Motioned by: *Amy, seconded by Esfira*

Adjournment at 8:14PM