



# Community Education Council District 21

Officers: **Jay Brown** President      **Randi Garay** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President      **Lakeisha Bowers** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, September 20, 2023      **Location:** I.S.281 Cavallaro, 8787 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**Zoom link:** <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/87699821402?pwd=Y3NJTIxZzNFeCtjQXVWRTU0WjBtQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 876 9982 1402      **Passcode:** 110280      +1 646 518 9805 US (New York)

### **Business Meeting 5:30 PM**

**Call to Order:** at 5:40PM      Motioned by: *Amy* seconded by: *Esfira*

President Brown thanked Principal Bender 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.

**Roll Call:** in person: Jay, Lakeisha, Esfira, Elizabeth, Amy, Nadiia, Dawn, Petra, Maxim, Mei Ping and Priscilla; Virtual: Randi

### **Old Business**

#### **Review of August's minutes**

- Sent to all members in advance of the meeting, no questions were raised

### **New Business**

- **Approval of August's minutes** – minutes approved unanimously by members present
- **Treasurer's Report:** *by Esfira*
  - Opening balance: \$18,004, closing balance remains the same

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

### **Adjournment** at 5:50PM

President Brown called for an intermission until 6:00pm for the calendar meeting and allow time for the students to prepare for their performance.

### **Calendar Meeting 6:00PM**

**Call to Order** at 6:00PM      Motioned by: *Lakeisha* seconded by: *Amy*

President Brown thanked Principal Bender 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.

### **Performance by the Cavallaro Dance Team**

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:** in person: Jay, Lakeisha, Esfira, Elizabeth, Amy, Nadia, Dawn, Petra, Maxim, Mei Ping and Priscilla; Virtual: Randi

**Superintendent's Report:** *Isabel DiMola, Superintendent*



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- Superintendent DiMola opened her remarks by indicating her enthusiasm for the new school year, thanked the school for hosting, and sent a thanks to NYC Council Member Ari Kagan's office for supporting the renovation of the school's auditorium, with the CEC meeting being the first public event to take place in the updated space.
- Thanks were given to those in attendance, in person, and virtually, and to the dance team for their great performance, which reinvigorates our work, and pride for the school and the students served every day.
- Remarks about the Chancellor's State of the Schools address, which took place earlier in the day were shared. There was mention of the implementation of the NYC Reads initiative; D21 is already in Phase 1 of implementation for grades Pre-K-8<sup>th</sup> grade. The new program aims to ensure that every student leaves with the foundational reading skills to read on grade level, to develop critical thinking skills, among others, to reach their full potential.
- As part of the initiative, there will be on-site coaching and professional learning provided to all Phase 1 schools this year, to support teachers with learning the science of reading and curriculum implementation. There is also a structured literacy program being rolled out for those in 3s/4s programs.
- There will be a series of virtual parent engagement events—be on the lookout for news on those this school year.
- The new Principal, Ms. DeNatale from PS199 was introduced to the community, and welcomed to the district.
- Remarks were closed with a final thanks to Cavallaro and the PTA, and well wishes for a great year.

## President's Report: *Jay Brown*

- President Brown also attended the Chancellor's State of the Schools Address, so additional takeaways were shared with the community, including:
  - Wanting to acknowledge and connect that 51% of students were not reading at grade level, larger  $\frac{2}{3}$  among black and Latino students
  - DOE is adding 1000 seats for students with disabilities, opening up more options closer to home
  - There was discussion about students in temporary housing, which is connected to the migrant crisis, but is an ongoing issue that existed, and continues to persist
  - The DOE is looking to engage more with parents, schools, PTAs, SLTs, and CECs
  - The work of CBOs, many offering services in schools were raised
- Important Dates
  - The DOE has shared their calendar for this school year, and for the upcoming two school years to assist with family planning and preparations. Those can be found [here](#)
  - There were a series of other important dates shared, which can be found at the end of the minutes
  - Finally, there was an acknowledgment of 9/11, and the importance of teaching our students, all who did not experience that day/national event, about the relevance of this day
- School/Community Safety: An advisory was shared about being vigilant after there was a fatal pedestrian accident in the neighborhood, where we have 3 District 21 schools.
- Other Helpful Resources
  - Other helpful resources were shared in the chat for school menus, Coney Island Poetry Map, the link to postings for school crossing guards, and the posting for D21's Administrative Assistant search
- SLTs are back in person; email dates to [CEC21@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CEC21@schools.nyc.gov), so that we can share with your liaison
- Lakeisha: Shared updates on upcoming events on behalf of the Brooklyn Borough President's office
  - 9/28/23: Community Resource Fair with NYC DEP (emergency preparedness) at the Coney Island YMCA
  - 9/21/23: Brooklyn Sustainable Building Resource Fair from 4pm-7pm at Borough Hall
  - 9/26/23: H3AT Worksite Program Session- program that will take 20 kids from Brooklyn South, and get them into work-based learning experiences

## Report of Committees

- Committees have been formed, the committees are working on dates and more news will be forthcoming

## Public Comment

- Parent, IS 239

Address: Seth Low IS 96 - 99 Avenue P, Brooklyn, NY 11204

Email: [CEC21@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CEC21@schools.nyc.gov)

facebook: [facebook.com/CECD21](https://facebook.com/CECD21)

Twitter: [@CEC\\_D21](https://twitter.com/CEC_D21)



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- Wanted to raise awareness on the law decreasing class sizes, which goes into effect this year, has a 5-year timeline for implementation, which all schools must comply with
- There will be a cap of 20, 23, or 25 students depending on the grade level; there are concerns about managing this fiscally, and with enrollment as some D21 schools, which rank 5<sup>th</sup> in the city for math scores, will encounter issues with compliance.
- There are potential issues with busing, costs that will require us to cut non-core classes, extra-curricular classes
- Information was shared on upcoming information sessions taking place on 9.26, 9.27, and 10.2 parents were encouraged to attend.
- Questions and requests for information can be sent to [classSize@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:classSize@schools.nyc.gov)
- Judge Gottlieb, NYS Civil Courts
  - Provided information regarding the opportunity to have students in upper grades, to sit in on live court proceedings.
  - The program/initiative is intended to provide students with the opportunity to get real-life experience being in a court room, and getting the vantage point of the judge. There are also chances to learn about other court related professions.
- Craig Schatzman, Shorefront Toys for Tots
  - Shared fliers regarding the upcoming 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Children’s First Award Ceremony for Shorefront Toys for Tots taking place on Sunday, Oct 15th; PS/IS 209 Principal Matthew Barone is one of the honorees
- Richard Connelly, America Debate League
  - Shared information regarding programs offered at schools based in other districts in NYC. An interest was expressed to offer/partner with D21 to offer classes or debate event opportunities in our area.
- Virtual, Frances Brown, State Senator Chu’s Office
  - Shared information regarding the upcoming Autumn Festival Parade taking place on 9.24.23
  - Also shared that the coming Tuesday, the office will be doing school supply distribution at their district office

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

**Adjournment** at 7:02PM

### Dates and Activities

Sept 21<sup>st</sup> – Evening PTC for MS & D75

Sept 25<sup>th</sup> – Closed for Yom Kippur

Sept 28<sup>th</sup> – Evening PTC for K-12, 6-12, HS

Oct 9<sup>th</sup> – Closed for Italian Heritage/Indigenous Peoples' Day