



Community Education Council District 21 Special Education Committee Meeting

Committee Members: **Elizabeth Rodriguez-Perez** **Amy Chen** **Jay Brown** **Petra Remy** **Priscilla Santos** **Randi Garay**
Committee Chair

VIRTUAL MEETING (VIDEOCONFERENCING)

DATE: Tuesday, January 30th

Location: Virtual via Zoom

ZOOM Link: <https://nycdoe.zoom.us/j/93530991723?pwd=VVIPS3dlVklFc3VNemwrbXU4OFpDdz09>

Meeting ID: 935 3099 1723 **Passcode:** 412422 +19292056099,,93530991723#,,,,*412422# US (New York)

Community Education Council District 21 Special Education Committee Meeting Notes

Committee Meeting 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

(Elizabeth Rodriguez-Perez, Amy Chen, Jay Brown, Petra Remy, Priscilla Santos, Randi Garay)

Also in attendance: Steve Washington (D21 AA), School/Parent Reps, Public Official Representatives

3. New Business

a. Introduction of Members and Attendees

All committee members and meeting attendees were introduced and shared their connection to the special education

b. Overview for the Special Education Committee

i. Clarifying the Scope for the Group: 3K-8th Grade in District 21, D75 CEC Representation

ii. Currently Calendared Meeting Dates

Tuesday, March 26th, 6pm-7:30pm

Friday, June 21st, 12pm-1:30pm

c. Brainstorming Committee Projects and Initiatives

The group discussed some items that come to mind when trying to explore possible work that we can support as a committee, or raise to other stakeholders. Below is shared feedback and potential next steps:

*- **Busing:** new system/app was launched but not active across all programs. Possible action item: reach out to get a status of the rollout, share with the community at upcoming meetings*

*- **Spotlighting Best Practices Across D21 Schools:** there are great things happening within the district in support of students with special needs. It would be great to share out those practices to cross-pollinate ideas across schools. Possible action item: dedicate some time at monthly CEC meetings, or doing a feature dedicated to having schools share out their best practices.*

*- **Collecting resources for afterschool/weekend enrichment activities for students with special needs:** there seems to be a shortage of programs that are available to support and accommodate the needs of children with*

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www.cec21.weebly.com



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special needs, both for afterschool and weekend activities. Possible action items: (1) find information about programs in the area, and increase advertisements of these programs across the district (if programs exist). (2) Increase advocacy with various agencies, and elected officials to increase offerings in our district.

- School Access for D75 Programs for Parents & Variances in Funding for Programs: *Some parents have expressed concerns with having access to their children's schools and teachers. There are limited opportunities to engage with the school/staff without scheduling time. There is an interest to have more access to the building and the kids. There is also a concern about certain programs having more funding/resources than others. Possible action item: assessing funding information for programs and advocate for additional resources for programs that are underfunded/need supplemental resources*

- Pending Budget Cuts and Understanding the Implication to Special Education Services: *there are concerns about the pending budget cuts and trying to understand the implications for special education services. D75 cuts were restored but other consequences are still unclear. Possible action item: get update on funding, school hits and what are they having to scale back to understand how is it affecting staffing, special education services.*

- Connecting with CCSE: *there may be projects that the group has tried and can share context on what we may be able to address as a district. Possible action item: connect with CCSE and invite to speak at upcoming meetings and/or connect offline to get feedback for next steps.*

- Supporting Representation of Special Education Stakeholders on the PEP: *a speaker at past Mayoral Control hearings shared an interesting idea to reform the PEP, but to be sure that there is representation for Special Education needs on the panel. The group was in support of this idea. Possible action item: draft resolution in support of this concept and share with the DOE, NYSED, electeds, and other decision makers.*

- Concerns Around Related Services: *There were concerns raised around related services. Some parents do not know all of their rights, and may get outdated or incorrect information about makeup sessions for missed services. There is also inconsistency in clarity of related service providers for kids, and a void in confirmation that services are being provided as mandated. Possible action items: (1) expand information for resources for parents (possibly on the CEC website), (2) centralize a list of resources that can be shared at the school level (at PTA or other school meetings, or posted in all schools), (3) advocate for increased access to related services information in student's online accounts, including the names and contact information for providers, and access to logs for services provided.*

- Helpful Links: *there were a series of helpful links that were shared during the meeting and are shared below. We can decide how we may want to share these based on the items listed above.*

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education>

<https://cdn-blob-prd.azureedge.net/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/special-education/nycps-iili-glossary.pdf>

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education/the-iep-process/parent-members>

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education/help/getting-support>

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education/school-settings/specialized-programs>

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/student-journey/college-and-career-planning>

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d. Outlining Ways to Connect and Collaborate Between Meetings

ii. Additional Committee Working Sessions (virtual)

iii. Remote Collaboration (surveys, emails, document collaboration)

We will review the notes, and complete a survey before the March meeting to see what initiatives the group would like to prioritize

e. Suggestions For New Business and/or Speakers/Presenters

None were raised beyond what was shared in the brainstorming portion of the meeting

f. General Public Comment/Questions

None were raised

5. Adjournment