

Community Education Council District 32 Meeting

**CALENDAR AND BUSINESS
MEETING MINUTES**

**December 19th,
2019**

6:00 PM

CEC D32 Office
797 Bushwick Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11221

Type of Meeting	Calendar and Business Meetings		
Note Taker	Stacie Johnson, Recording Secretary		
Attendees		Calendar Meeting	Business Meeting
	Martha Bayona	Present	Present
	Luis Fonseca	Present	Present
	Joanna Fuentes	Present	Present
	Stacie Johnson	Present	Present
	Yashaira Longras	Absent (excused)	Absent (excused)
	Maria Lopez	Present	Present
	Wanda Nunez	Present	Present
	Samuel Olivares	Present	Present
	Desines Rodriguez	Present	Present
	Renisha Westbrooks	Present	Present
	Quorum	Met	

Monthly Calendar Meeting: 6:00 PM

1. Call to order and roll call (2 min): Martha Bayona, Joanna Fuentes, Stacie Johnson, Maria Lopez, Wanda Nunez, Desines Rodriguez, Renisha Westbrooks. Late: Luis Fonseca, Samuel Olivares. Absent: Yashaira Longras (excused).
2. Brief message from Principal Jayne Hunt of P.S. 151 followed by P.S. 151's Bucket Warriors performing the Bucket Funk (7 min)
3. Brief message from Principal Claudia Harris of P.S./I.S. 384 followed by P.S./I.S. 384's A Holiday Tribute (7 min)
4. The School Construction Authority (Tamar Smith & Yvette Knight): Overview of the FY 2020-2024 Five-Year Capital Plan Amendment of November 2019 (20 min)
 - a. First public comment session (15 min) – Answers were provided by the SCA representatives, except where specified
 - a. Several (Unnamed) Members of the P.S. 151 School Community: *What is the situation with air conditioning in P.S. 151? When will the SCA start working with electricity so that students are in a healthy environment, especially when it gets very hot? Are there any updates on the initiative for air conditioners?* Ten projects are currently active (in design, in construction, or will start construction this year): P.S./I.S. 45, P.S. 116, P.S. 123, P.S. 145, P.S. 151, P.S. 274, P.S. 299, I.S. 383, and P.S./I.S. 384. Custodians, principals and parents will be notified of upcoming work.
 - b. Joanna Fuentes, CEC32 Member: *We do not have overcrowded schools, except for P.S. 86 and P.S. 376. Do we lose the capital funding or are they assigned to other projects?* Capacity money goes to districts that are overcrowded. However, the bucket for capital investment is very large and District 32 has a big piece of it. Throughout five years, the SCA will invest in D32. Elected officials are encouraged to invest. Whatever D32 needs is what it gets. It is not losing anything.
 - c. Carmen Lapaix, Community Member: *When it rains, water leaks through the ceiling at P.S. 151.* Mr. Calderon, the Deputy Director for the Division of School Facilities furnished an answer: In terms of flood mitigation, Mr. Calderon has walked around the building with its custodian, Mike Finneran, and has had issues with classrooms that require flood mitigation. His office refers these needs to the SCA. The issues were beyond what he handles with his contractors and in-house roofers, so he informed the SCA so that it scopes, designs, and prices out what needs to be done. Not only is his office working on the roof, but also with the schoolyard, and the outside walls.
 - d. Liz M. Rivera, Community Member: *We are very thankful for the reparation of the school buildings. We want to know when reparations are going to start. I am concerned about the health of our children. Thank you in advance.* Part of the conversation here tonight is the input that the community gives. Member Stacie Johnson, liaison to P.S. 151 works closely with the school's SLT and principal. Please come together and share ideas that can also be shared with Mr. Calderon, from the DSF.
 - e. Note from SCA: It usually takes about 18 months to address referrals from the DSF. This is because the SCA has to do a scope (an architect has to go around, take pictures, etc.). Afterwards, they sometimes have to bring other people (engineers) to provide the level of details. From the time something is pointed out to the SCA to the time construction work starts, it can take up to 18 months. After the scope, which can take up to 6 months, the SCA has to do a design, which can take up to a year. After that time, they send in their ticket.

- f. Parent, P.S. 151 (Unnamed): *My child entered the school in kindergarten. Then, we asked for reparation of the building and it has not started yet; he is in the fourth grade now.* The SCA has completed projects in P.S. 151, including an exterior project with the other principal. Concerns should first be addressed to the DSF. The DSF would refer the project to the SCA if necessary.
- g. Community Member (Unnamed): *Does the principal have to be on top of you guys? It is imperative that the SCA takes the summer time and sends a representative to all schools. Debris recently came out of a building. If you have inspectors going to all schools during the summer time, they can see things that we often do.* The Building Condition Assessment Survey mentioned earlier refers to this exactly, but the survey is not only done in the summer because 1,400 schools cannot be inspected in two months, so the SCA does it throughout the entire year. A team goes out to every single building, every single year. If something like that is happening, it should be pointed out and the SCA will immediately work on it to protect people. On each school's site, the public can see that somebody has come out and seen the building. *What if the inspector comes early in the year and there is a big snowstorm afterwards?* DSF addresses this. They are there on a regular basis.
- h. Samuel Olivares, CEC Member: *Who is responsible for the exterior of buildings (including windows and regular maintenance)?* For summer exterior jobs, and only if the SCA is already doing a project on the site, the SCA will work with the custodial staff to scaffold and to maintain the site. If the SCA is not doing a major project at the school, the DSF is responsible. The custodian should be aware and should be providing the maintenance. Martha Bayona: parents, use School Leadership Team meetings to address these issues. Keep the minutes and all records, as parents are the voice of the school. The meetings are open to the public; everybody should be welcomed at the SLT meetings. If the custodian is not working, contact Mr. Calderon directly, or contact the CEC. No school in D32 should be waiting years. Use your SLTs.
- i. Samuel Olivares, CEC32 Member: *What can we do to make the process less lengthy? How do you decide when to come to a school? How can principals identify what projects not to apply for funding?* There are a lot of projects that the SCA does not need to come in for; they work with "gigantic" capital projects. If there is something smaller in the school, DSF is the avenue. There is no need for a huge capital project to be created and schools can go straight to their custodian for assistance. If your custodian cannot do it, you can go straight to DSF; 75% to 85% of smaller works can be handled this way. You do not need to wait. Eighteen months is the average time for huge projects. For smaller projects it can take less time and go much faster. While you are waiting for a big project, the school building will not suffer, as DSF will try to stock for situations that arise. Many projects can be funded. If a school needs a dire exterior done, auditorium, or fire alarm system, for example, all can be done. Visit nysca.org/community. Towards the back is D32 and every project planned for the next three years.
- j. Stacie Johnson, CEC Member: *Can there be more transparency for parents? How can the SCA work with this information? It is online but it is not easy to find. Is there a way to send a letter for each school? Information needs to be made more clearly for those who are less savvy.* The ACA will take this feedback. Martha Bayona: Each year, the CEC receives the plan and Ms. Bayona ensures that principals are informed. Principals have not received it yet. Parents can ask their schools' principals and advocate for the projects to start. A parent in the audience reiterated that this information should not come from the principal only, but from the SCA. The parent also stated the need for all to have access to it and for it be in a language that is clear for the layperson. The SCA provides this information in www.nysca.org/community.
- k. Stacie Johnson, CEC Member: *A school received many new students recently. They do not have a gym nor an option to have the gym renovated because there are classrooms there. There is a disconnect between the number of students the school holds because there is no gym. There are other schools in the district that are under enrolled and do not have a gym. We do not want to place them in the same situation.* There is a planning division at the SCA. The SCA recommended that Ms. Johnson call so they may pass the information over to the capital planning division who do that calculation.
- l. Renesha Westbrooks, CEC32 Member: *The SCA has broken down capital investments, investment capacity, and mandated programs: How do we start to focus on the mandated programs? Looking at the \$3.6 billion allocation for mandated programs, do we have the same type of platform to discuss these?* The DOE has an entirely separate budget from the SCA's. The SCA only focuses on capital investments – the buildings. "Mandated" are works mandated by law regarding facilities. For example, if a law is passed requiring that more buildings need to be accessible, the SCA will go in and work with the DOE, assess the buildings, etc. It is mandated by law and only has to do with buildings. DOE works with enrollment and programming, gifted programs, etc. *Are charter schools included in this budget?* No, unless one is located in one of our buildings – collated. The SCA does not work on schools that are located in their own buildings.
- m. Desines Rodriguez, CEC32 Member: *Do you upgrade our fire alarm systems? How do you go about the process?* Yes, the fire alarms are surveyed along the same lines as other projects. If there is a major issue with the fire alarm, DSF will let the SCA know. They will do the assessment, but if it needs an upgrade, they will let the SCA know. If it is an emergency, we will take care of this immediately.
- n. Joanna Fuentes, CEC32 Member: *We can talk about this for years. The most important thing we need to realize is that the DOE is doing a lot of changes now. They want to empower parents, but not only this, also open a dialogue where you can get all the information you want, voice your opinions, voice the needs of your schools. Parents need to get involved through their schools' PTA meetings, SLT meetings, to change things.*

5. CEC32 President Report and Announcements (5 min)

6. Superintendent Sheila Gorski's Report (presented by the Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rebecca Lozada): please see Superintendent's report for P.S./I.S. 384 and P.S. 151 (15 min)

7. Report of Committees (2 min)

a. Policy Committee: Wanda Nunez, Chair.

- i. December 12, 2019: First education town hall. It was a success; thank you IS 383 for bringing us in so we can do this. We had NYC Council Member Mark Treyger, Senator Julia Salazar, NYC Council Member Antonio Reynoso, and representatives of the Assemblywoman Davila, the Congresswoman Velazquez, and the Brooklyn Borough President. We hope to see you soon in our meetings.
8. IEP Committee: Joanna Fuentes, IEP Representative and IEP Committee Chair: We are looking for parent involvement. Parents can contact the CEC. The more people we have, and the more voices we have, the more changes we can do. I have a fourteen-year-old going to high school who is on the Autism spectrum. You can contact the District Office, CEC email, your principals, etc. and they will be more than happy to give you the information.
9. Certificate of Appreciation: Principal Jeanette Wigdorksy and Parent Coordinator David Grady of I.S. 383
10. Distribution of certificates to outstanding students from P.S./I.S. 384 and P.S. 151 (10 min)
11. Public comment (6 min)
 - a. Arthur Samuels, Co-Founder and Executive Director, MESA Charter High School: We are collocated with I.S. 291. We have a current student and alumni present. Ms. Gil, Ms. Nava and Mr. Cortes, in total have eight children who have attended MESA. Mr. Cortes is on the board of trustees as well. We have been in Bushwick since 2013 and 80% of our kids from our Bushwick middle schools. We graduate over 90% of our students every single year. More than that, we are a positive partner and member of the community. We work very collaboratively with our collocated partners. We, for example, have used a council member grant to build a new fitness center that all of the schools in the buildings are benefiting from. We were at the town hall meeting last week with Council Member Reynoso who works very closely with our community charter schools. We are opening to expand to also serving students in middle school. We would have a preference in admission for English Language Learners. One of the things we note is that ELLs in the city have been left behind at the middle school level. We graduated 100% of ELLs last year so we would give a lot of preference to them. We would be open to be in a public space if available but also in a private space. We have a very collaborative relationship with 291, we are not looking to take any space from anyone.
 - b. Martha Bayona, CEC32 President: The CEC only works with public schools, that is why we do not visit the charter schools. By law we only work with public schools.
 - c. Angel Cortes, Parent and Member of the Board of Trustees, MESA Charter High School: I have been living in Bushwick since 1982, and lived through the gentrification of the district. Schools have been underserved for many years. Samuels has been great to kids, daughter is studying pre-medicine in St Joseph's College and his son is graduating soon. I really believe in these people. It is a great school.
12. Adjournment (1 min): 7:46 PM

Business Meeting: 7:51 PM

1. Call to order and roll call: Martha Bayona, Luis Fonseca, Joanna Fuentes, Stacie Johnson, Maria Lopez, Wanda Nunez, Samuel Olivares, Desines Rodriguez, Renesha Westbrooks. Absent: Yashaira Longras (excused).
 2. Approval of minutes (2 min): All members approved the minutes as distributed.
- Motion made to table all agenda items that follow until after the review and creation of the list that the CEC32 will submit to the School Construction Authority in January 2020:
1. Members' report (1 min per member – 10 min)
 2. Treasurer's report (10 min)
 - a. Recorder – reconsider purchase
 - b. Vote to purchase one coffee maker
 3. Old business
 - a. Change of the monthly Calendar Meeting start time to 5:30 PM (2 min)
 4. New business
 - a. School Construction Authority list: Council review (5 min)
 - b. CEC32 Bylaws: Potential amendments to outline member communications procedures in greater detail and to address membership in committees (15 min)
 - c. CEC32 means of communications with the public (10 min)
 - d. Presentation Request by I.S. 562: I.S. 562's 8th grade would like to have the opportunity to present at the January 16, 2020 CEC32 Calendar Meeting (4 min)
 5. Building of the agenda (5 min)
3. Review of CEC32 observations of the CSD32 school buildings with the assistance of Mr. Joseph Calderon, Deputy Director for School Facilities for Districts 16 and 32. After review and analysis, the CEC32 agreed to the following list to submit to the School Construction Authority:
 1. P.S. 75: electrical upgrade needed to support technology
 2. P.S. 274: ventilation system needed in the auditorium
 3. I.S. 162: ventilation system needed throughout the entire school building. Currently, there is no ventilation system.
 4. P.S. 151: electrical upgrade needed to support technology
 5. P.S. 86: adult bathrooms
 6. P.S. 116: bathroom renovation/repairs
 7. P.S. 145: surveillance cameras
 8. P.S. 75: yard re-pavement

<p>4. Motion to move all unfinished agenda items into the January 16, 2020 Business Meeting. All members approved.</p> <p>5. Building of the agenda (5 min)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Unfinished agenda items (old business):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. Members' report (1 min per member – 10 min)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii. Treasurer's report (10 min)</p> <p style="padding-left: 60px;">1. Recorder – reconsider purchase</p> <p style="padding-left: 60px;">2. Vote to purchase one coffee maker</p> <p style="padding-left: 60px;">3. Change of the monthly Calendar Meeting start time to 5:30 PM (2 min)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">iii. CEC32 Bylaws: Potential amendments to outline member communications procedures in greater detail and to address membership in committees (15 min)</p> <p>6. Adjournment: 9:30 PM</p>	
APPROVAL OF CALENDAR, AND BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES	November 21, 2019 - Approved [Met Quorum]
NOTE: A draft of all meeting minutes are available within two weeks after the meeting and posted on the Council's website at CEC32.org .	
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM
SUBMITTED BY:	Silvia Belmonte, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: January 16, 2020

_____Recording Secretary