

Community Education Council District 32 Meeting

**CALENDAR AND BUSINESS
MEETING MINUTES**

**January 16,
2020**

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

Absent (unexcused)

Absent (unexcused)

Joanna Fuentes

Absent (excused)

Absent (excused)

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: 6:03 PM

1. Call to order and roll call: Stacie Johnson, Maria Lopez, Wanda Nunez, Desines Rodriguez, Renisha Westbrooks. Late: Martha Bayona, Samuel Olivares. Absent: Luis Fonseca (unexcused), Joanna Fuentes (excused), Yashaira Longras (excused). Present as well are, Ms. DeAngelis, representative from the Office of Council Member Antonio Reynoso, and Mr. Camacho, CB4 Chair.
2. Brief message from Principal Linda Malloy of P.S. 145 followed by P.S. 145's Glee Club performing under the direction of Mr. Peña
3. CEC32 President Report and Announcements:
 - a. Bronx Plan: The main goal is to retain teachers and ensure high student achievement. As part of the plan, some teachers will receive a salary increase of \$3,200 per year and the team leader will receive an increase of \$14,000 per year. Seven schools in D32 will apply. Funding will increase for the selected schools. As a follow-up on a January 10, 2020 conference call about the Bronx Plan, the CEC32 wishes to speak with the principals of the seven school applicants to ensure that parents have a voice within the structure created by the Bronx Plan. Presently, it only requires a 50% representation from the principal's side and 50% from the UFT; some schools might fail to consult with parents. The CEC advises an open communication with parents. Parents want to grow together and be part of the conversation. The parent position is not paid. The new team's plan must be aligned with the CEP and they still have to consult the school's SLT; they must also inform their plans, goals, and opinions and keep an open communication between schools, teachers, and parents. The CEC was invited to next week's Principals' Learning Conference and will discuss with the principals.
 - b. CCECs Meeting with Chancellor Carranza: Will take place on Saturday, January 18, 2020.
 - c. Education Council Consortium Meeting: ECC meetings are only for members of the CCECs and are not open to the public. Committees in the ECC have been formed. Ms. Bayona is part of the Charter, Legislative, and Financial Committees. She will inform the community of any changes and will inform CEC members who are interested in the work of the ECC.
 - d. Community Stakeholders Information Luncheon: Will take place on Friday, January 17, 2020 at 87 Melrose Street. The event is in part a collaboration between the Assemblywoman Maritza Davila and the Council Member Antonio Reynoso. Topics will touch on education, the Census 2020, and funding. Please share your voice, opinions, and ideas. Families do not need to provide social security numbers to be part of the Census count.
4. Superintendent Sheila Gorski's Report, presented by Deputy Superintendent Dr. Rebecca Lozada (please see attachment)
5. Report of Committees
 - a. Afterschool Committee, Chair Samuel Olivares: The committee has identified much work to be done to increase afterschool programs in D32. Mayor de Blasio was committed to have at least one afterschool program in every school by the beginning of his candidacy. There are schools that do not offer the programs, which is a problem for parents who alternatively have to pay for childcare. A bill was introduced in the City Council calling for universal afterschool programs. Through research, the Afterschool Committee has identified five or six elementary schools in D32 that have barely any afterschool programs. Member Olivares will present a full report in the February or March, 2020 meeting. In the meantime, he will work to identify sources of funding and how to work with community-based organizations (CBOs) so that they may bring their programs to our schools. In the past several

weeks, Member Olivares has met and talked with several CBOs. In the past month, he has met with representatives of the LEAP program. They are looking for schools that are willing to participate with them. El Puente, the Coalition for Hispanic Services, and RiseBoro offer free center-based afterschool programs – they are not held in a school, but children can attend if their schools do not provide the programs. If you think your school needs afterschool programs, or are very happy about the programs offered in your school, please let us know. As an announcement, El Puente will host two different shows this Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 1 PM and at 5 PM at 1850 Grand Street. Member Bayona highlighted that if any principals need assistance with afterschool programming, they please reach out to Members Samuel Olivares or Stacie Johnson.

6. Distribution of certificates to outstanding students from P.S. 145
7. Vote on Resolution on Updating Amendments on Governance of NYC Public Schools:
 - a. CEC32 President Martha Bayona presented the Resolution on Updating Amendments on Governance of NYC Public Schools. The Resolution was read publicly. The floor was then opened to public comments:
 - i. Judith Rivera, Girl Scouts of Greater New York: Available to offer workshops. If interested, feel free to reach out to (212) 645-4000 ext. 237.
 - ii. Christian Barnes, School Diversity Outreach Team: Attended two CEC32 meetings last year; first to talk about the mayor’s proposal to changes in specialized high schools’ admissions and then to talk about the admissions process. His office regularly conducts presentations for opportunities available in the community. Of the eighth grade student population in D32 on the fall 2018, 1,206 students took part in the preadmissions, 708 registered for the exam online (67%), 473 students actually tested for the exam (39%), and 13 received an offer (3%). Citywide, there were 85,584 students in the 8th grade on the fall 2018, of which 38,270 signed up for the exam (50%) and 27,521 actually tested (32%). The office has also met twice at the Flushing Center and presented to its students. The office wants to ensure that this information is widespread and to continue working with the CEC. Spanish interpretation is available for the presentations.
 - iii. Julio Salazar, Office of the Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez:
 1. 2019 By the Numbers: The office provided 14,793 responses to constituents who reached out via letters, phone calls, and messages. It also held 91 events in the district and sent 159 letters to the federal government and (CBOs) to advocate for schools. More information is in the packet provided at the back.
 1. Appropriations Legislation: The budget for the fiscal year 2020 allocated \$5.9 billion to K-12 education and \$550 million to Head Start initiatives. The census informs much of the data that city, state and federal governments use to allocate this sort of funding. It is highly important that all families participate in the census.
 2. Census Job Fair: In 2019, the office worked with the CEC32 to host a census job fair. Another will be held at P.S. 7, yet all schools from D32 are free to participate. It takes no more than 15 minutes to apply for a job. In the past, the office has also worked with the CEC32 to host three immigration clinics that aided over 65 families.
 3. The Congresswoman’s office is located on 266 Broadway, Suite 201, Brooklyn, NY 11211. It is available for questions, concerns, inquiries made for federal authorities, etc.
 - iv. Evette Lopez, Office of Assemblywoman Maritza Davila:
 1. The assemblywoman just returned from Puerto Rico. She has witnessed firsthand the effects of the recent earthquakes and has been assessing the damages. The office is working to collect donations of vital items from the community. There is an overabundance of water and food but there is a high need for all items listed on the flyers provided. There are two drop-off locations, the Assemblywoman’s office on 249 Wilson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237 and Tony’s Pizzeria on 443 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11237. Collections will run through January 22, 2020.
 2. Domestic Violence Workshop: Will take place on Saturday, February 8, at I.S. 291: The office has been working closely with CEC14 and CEC32. The event seeks to engage middle and high schoolers so that students learn about the causes of domestic violence at an early age. Panelists include Evelyn Lozada, from the Basketball Wives and Evelyn Lozada Foundation; Jessica Castro, from Married at First Sight; representatives of the Office of the District Attorney Eric Gonzalez; and the Brooklyn Supreme Court Judge Evelyn Laporte. RSVP is required.
 - b. Vote in support of the Resolution: Seven (7) members voted in favor, two members (2) were absent. There no abstentions. The CEC32 Resolution on Updating Amendments on Governance of NYC Public Schools was passed 7 – 0 – 0. This resolution will be taken to the state level.
8. Adjournment: 7:18 PM

Business Meeting: 7:23 PM

1. Call to order and roll call: Martha Bayona, Stacie Johnson, Maria Lopez, Wanda Nunez, Samuel Olivares, Desines Rodriguez, Renesha Westbrooks. Absent: Luis Fonseca (unexcused), Joanna Fuentes (excused - in Puerto Rico due to work), Yashaira Longras (excused).
2. Approval of minutes (2 min): All members approved the minutes as distributed.
3. Members’ report (1 min per member – 10 min)
 - a. Renesha Westbrooks:
 - i. January 2, 2020: DLT Meeting: Addressed the Imagine/Reimagine Schools Initiative; 32K116 and 32K274 had been selected. Information sessions to guide the schools on next steps will take place on January 30 (at 125 St. W) and February 6, 2020 (at P.S./I.S. 30 in Brooklyn). The Bronx Plan was also addressed. About 15 schools in D32 were selected, including four high schools. The second cohort comprises 70 schools that are invited to apply based on staff retention rates, student achievement results, and student achievement data; and the principal and UFT must be willing

to engage and work collaboratively. The CSD32 is also implementing the Wit and Wisdom Common Core ELA Curriculum, a pilot literacy curriculum that is currently in 32K299, but will not be enforced to the district. The Council discussed talking about the Bronx Plan during the upcoming Principals' Learning Conference (PLC) in order to address concerns with the level of parent input under the plan, since they are not mandatory members (the initiative is focused on quality teacher retention, particularly targeting Special Education and ELL teachers). Members Martha Bayona, Joanna Fuentes, Stacie Johnson, Maria Lopez, Wanda Nunez, and Renesha Westbrooks will attend the PLC. Member Samuel Olivares will confirm at a later time.

- ii. January 8, 2020: Presidents' Council Meeting: Members discussed the Chancellor's Regulations surrounding PTA/PAs and SLTs.

b. Wanda Nunez:

- i. January 9, 2020: 32K383 SLT Meeting: Discussed capital funding requests and updates on the school's logo.

c. Stacie Johnson:

- i. January 16, 2020: 32K151 SLT Meeting: Discussed the school's participation in the Bronx Plan.
- ii. Announcement: City Council Hearing on Class Size Reduction will take place on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 1 PM; a press conference will start at 12 PM. RSVP may be in person or via email.
- iii. Administration for Children Services (ACS): The Progressive Caucus on the City Council is helping parents obtain more rights with the ACS. The Council agreed to distribute flyers provided by Member Stacie Johnson announcing services and guidance for parents regarding the ACS.
- iv. Paraprofessionals: Per a recent discussion with UFT, the CEC mentioned that most paraprofessionals in the CSD32 are not being nominated for full time positions because they do not meet all the necessary requirements. Although the CEC does not work with paraprofessionals, members stated that the CEC may address funding and the high allocations that schools make for paraprofessionals in their budgets; one way of doing so is by speaking with PTA representatives of their liaison schools so that they may discuss with their SLTs. The CEC also discussed concerns with the availability of funding once a student's IEP ends, that funding – yet not the paraprofessional him/herself – moves with the child, the quality of a paraprofessional to a student if they are constantly assigned different paraprofessionals throughout the year, and how to connect this to mayoral accountability.
- v. Funding for playgrounds in the CSD32: Options include the Green Infrastructure initiative and the PlaNYC Schoolyards to Playgrounds program, which keep playgrounds open nights and weekends. DEP helps with infrastructure under the first, and through the latter, school playgrounds become community playgrounds. Some locations in D32 are not opening nights and weekends. One possible reason is the need for funding from the City Council. Member Johnson learned that the project is state funded and that D32 has not received the funding for staff to keep the playgrounds open. The Council is concerned that low enrollment in the district's schools might be exacerbated by a lack of opportunities for families to feel comfortable in the space of their children's schools. The community playgrounds offer an opportunity for residents to join the schools and for parents to consider enrolling their children in them. Member Johnson asked the DSF for a list of schools currently under the Schoolyards to Playgrounds Program and for those that are on a waitlist for extra funding.

4. Treasurer's report (10 min)

- a. Vote to modify the CEC32 Budget (consider printer lease): The CEC budget closes in March, 2020. After this time, the CEC will be unable to move amounts within the budget lines. Member Rodriguez suggested moving funds into Food and Refreshments in consideration of the upcoming CEC-hosted events. The CEC reviewed the council budget lines. Member Samuel Olivares expressed his intent to forfeit his entire reimbursement allowance of \$1,500 so that it may be used towards CEC expenses. Member Olivares will follow-up with an official statement via email.
- b. The following Old Business items were addressed:
 - i. Recorder – reconsider purchase (5 min): The Council reinforced the prior vote to purchase the Philips Conference Recording System for \$675.28. Member Desines Rodriguez made a motion to reinforce the decision and Member Samuel Olivares seconded the motion.
 - 1. The council briefly discussed the alternatives of keeping the audio recordings of the meetings indefinitely or to produce more detailed minutes. This item will be addressed at a later time. The contention lies in deleting the recordings after four months of the approval of the minutes for which they were made, per the official requirement. The Roberts Rules of Order were reviewed and a decision was made to keep only the necessary information in the minutes, but this is a decision that is taken as a council.
 - ii. Vote to purchase one coffee maker (5 min): The Council allocated \$250 for the purchase of a coffee maker. A new proposal will be made for a larger machine.
 - iii. Motion to change the August 15, 2019 vote to continue with the current \$69/mo Ricoh MP 2555 lease for a Ricoh MP 2555 W/ Finished \$111/mo lease, made by Desines Rodriguez. Member Stacie Johnson seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor: 7 – 0 – 0.
 - iv. Motion to modify the CEC32 budget lines as follows, made by Martha Bayona. Member Maria Lopez seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor: 7 – 0 – 0.
 - 1. Move \$2,250 from the Member Reimbursement line into:
 - a. Metrocards/ AA transportation - \$247.50
 - b. Office Supplies - \$1,530.50
 - c. Food & Refreshments - \$472
 - 2. Move \$711 from the P-Card line into:
 - a. Copier Lease - \$210
 - b. Food & Refreshments - \$207
 - c. Supplies - \$294

3. Move \$101.05 from the Website line into:
 - a. Office Supplies - \$101.05
2. Old business: Unfinished agenda items of Thursday, December 19, 2019
 - a. Members' report (1 min per member – 10 min)
 - b. Treasurer's report (please see "4. Treasurer's Report (10 min)" above)
 - c. CEC32 means of communications with the public (10 min): A proposal was made to have a separate email address for the CEC32 administrative assistant and to carbon copy the entire Council in all email communications leaving the CEC32 account. The Council agreed to discuss a formal procedure to achieve this at a later time. The Council decided to include a disclaimer at the end of all emails distributed to the community so that it has the option to unsubscribe from email communications.
 - d. CEC32 Bylaws: Potential amendments to outline member communications procedures in greater detail, to address membership in committees, and to change the monthly Calendar Meeting start time to 5:30 PM (20 min)
 - i. The Council created a Bylaws Committee. President Martha Bayona assigned Member Desines Rodriguez as the Chair of the Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee will review the above and other concerns, including membership in committees, changing the calendar meeting start time to 5:30 PM, and creating a procedure for communications (social media, etc.). The Bylaws Committee will present all of their suggestions to the Council.
 - e. (Updated) Presentation Request by I.S. 562: I.S. 562's 8th grade will present during the March 26, 2020 CEC32 Calendar Meeting (1 min)
3. New business
 - a. School Construction Authority list: Council review of final list submitted and strategies to make the process for creating the list more effective for the next year (5 min)
 - i. The final list submitted to the SCA is:
 1. P.S. 75: Electrical upgrade needed to support technology.
 2. I.S. 162: Ventilation system needed throughout the entire school building. Currently, there is no ventilation system.
 3. P.S. 151: Electrical upgrade needed to support technology.
 4. P.S. 86: Adult/Staff bathroom needed.
 5. P.S. / I.S. 45: New boiler.
 6. P.S. 151: New windows throughout the entire building. They no longer provide use and are causing discomfort to students. The windows do not provide heating protection (they cannot retain heat) and water leaks/penetrates from the outside.
 7. P.S. 75: Yard re-pavement needed.
 - ii. The Council has considered starting the process of creating the list at an earlier point in the year moving forward and to meet with DSF prior to and not during the council's meeting to decide on SCA capital budget recommendations.
 - b. Consider establishing clear public comment speaker protocols (5 min): This item will be reviewed by the Bylaws Committee and later presented to the Council. The CEC highlighted that speakers must be aware that all comments must be related to education.
 - c. Letter in support of public schools (7 min): The CEC intends to write a letter to reaffirm its position against the expansion of charter schools in the CSD32.
4. Building of the agenda (5 min)
 - a. Old business:
 - i. Steven Wieser: CEC Roles and Responsibilities (3 min)
 - b. A presentation on the FY 2021 Fair Student Funding allocations will be made during the February 27, 2020 monthly meetings.
5. Adjournment: 9:09 PM

APPROVAL OF CALENDAR, AND BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES	December 19, 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 9:09 PM
SUBMITTED BY:	Silvia Belmonte, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: Thursday, April 23, 2020

_____ Recording Secretary