

Community Education Council District 32 Meeting

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES	August 22th, 2019	6:00 PM	CEC D32 Office 797 Bushwick Ave Brooklyn, NY 11221
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Type of Meeting	Calendar and Business Meetings		
Note Taker	Stacie Johnson, Recording Secretary		
Attendees			Business Meeting
	Martha Bayona	Present	
	Joanna Fuentes	Absent	
	Stacie Johnson	Present	
	Maria Lopez	Absent	
	Wanda Nunez	Absent	
	Samuel Olivares	Present	
	Desines Rodriguez	Absent	
	Renisha Westbrooks	Present	
	Quorum	Met	

Business Meeting: 6:28 PM

1. Roll-call: Present: Martha Bayona, Stacie Johnson, Samuel Olivares, Renisha Westbrooks. Absent: Joanna Fuentes, Maria Lopez, Wanda Nunez, Desines Rodriguez.
2. Old Business:
 - a. Planning for the upcoming school year:
 - i. List of potential presenters:
 1. The Office of District Planning has contacted the CEC32 and would like to present its blue book in September's Calendar Meeting to look at enrollment in D32. Requests for data should be sent to them advance.
 2. There are four mandated presenters: Contracts for Excellence, the School Construction Authority, Fair Student Funding, and District Planning.
 3. Other entities that have contacted the CEC32 for presentations: Office of Student Enrollment, Class Size Matters, and the UFT. They may present at a business meeting as well.
 - a. Class Size Matters is interested in presenting on school funding (particularly to lower classroom sizes). Looking into the schools' current contract with the UFT may enhance the conversation. They both can present, perhaps in January 2020.
 - b. The Office of Student Enrollment may speak about the High and Middle Schools application process, especially about the new application process in place that will require parents to apply to schools once and which creates a waitlist for alternative options, which parents may access. In the past, there were two application rounds, there was no waiting list, and appeals could be made. Parents may seek assistance with the new process at Family Welcome Centers, from parent coordinators or other school staff. The Office may be scheduled for October 2019.
 - c. The Office of the NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer may be invited along with the Independent Budget Office.
 - d. City Council Members Daniel Dromm and Mark Treyger.
 - e. Conversation with safety representatives regarding the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Mayor, Chancellor, and the NYPD, focusing on the collaborative work of safety agents and the school community, student disciplinary procedures, and to inform families of their rights, especially in sight of a high percentage of minority student arrests. The NYPD may also talk about youth programs offered. All principals in the district have been informed of the changes. Suspension data will help analyze the effect of the changes. The Chancellor has pushed for more social workers in schools as well. The Council will invite the NYPD and the Office of Safety and School Climate for September 2019 to talk about the new guidelines and support programs offered.
 - f. The Council will meet with the Division of School Facilities, along with the Office of the Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez and representatives from District 75 who wish to be invited for a

conversation regarding lead found in paint and water in schools. Schools received information on the presence of lead based paint in specific rooms, but not the actual levels. Affected rooms are being cleaned. An investigation by Christopher Werth, reporter for the Gothamist, found lead in city schools. In response, a group of members of Congress wrote a letter to have schools tested for lead and the CEC32 also wrote a letter in support to them. A new inspection protocol now in place requires three annual school checks for lead and subsequent reports of findings. Anyone can report online the locations where chipping paint is seen, for testing. John Shea, from the Division of School Facilities, assured that there will be no retaliation against anyone who adds his or her name on the report. These reports can be requested for review. The CEC32 members volunteer to make the report on behalf of parents who do not want to identify themselves. Schools that were open during the summer sent a letter via student backpacks to inform parents of the locations where lead was found and that this would be fixed. The DSF may also come when the SCA presents.

b. Structure of monthly meetings

- i. How to increase parent involvement: the council is planning to backpack a letter, as it has been doing when visiting schools, to parents to invite them to the meetings and ask them to sign up for the mailing list. Additionally, include in the notices that if parents cannot come to the meetings, they may email their questions to the Council, or fill out a form and have it returned to the CEC. If many parents ask many similar questions, the issue can be addressed at the meeting. Questions asked after the meeting happens, can be sent to the presenters for answers; and the Council may also send the questions in advance for presenters to answer during the presentation. A live page on the Council website will be created to put the questions and answers in. Some schools print the meeting notices and others include them in their newsletters. All schools in the district and the Superintendent's office will have websites. Members will follow-up on the creation of some form of social media page for the CEC.
- ii. Member reports, including the Borough Appointees' reports are held during the business meetings, per the CEC32 Bylaws. Space for public comment is included after presentations given during Calendar Meetings and before adjournment. There is a plan to provide the Council's question cards as the audience comes in, to announce them at the start of the meeting as well, and to collect cards with unanswered questions at the end of the meeting to follow-up. The student performances will be separated: the host school will perform first, and the guest school will perform after the presentation. Members are to be at the door welcoming the audience.

c. Meeting with the Superintendent and the Executive Superintendent:

- i. The CEC president meets with the district's superintendent three times during the school year. Because these conversations are not open to the public, Ms. Bayona has chosen to invite at most four members. In addition, the superintendent is required to hold two townhalls over the same period. The CEC32 has invited the superintendent for a conversation with the entire council twice in the past during its business meetings.
- ii. Wednesday, August 21, 2019: President Bayona met with Superintendent Gorski and Executive Superintendent Watts to discuss the 2018-2019 superintendent's evaluation. It was discussed and produced with all CEC32 members. Ms. Bayona invited the Executive Superintendent Karen Watts. The Superintendent agreed to base her monthly report on the host and guest schools (programs offered, student performance, plan in place to grow, and why families would want to attend the school) where the CEC32's monthly meetings are held. Her report will be extended to 15 minutes.
- iii. Calendar meeting for the year:
 1. If 32K045 is ADA accessible, it can be the host school in September.
 2. September monthly meeting date: Parent Teacher Conferences in intermediate schools are being held too. The Council will hold a special business meeting to vote on a change of date to the monthly meeting in September. A conflict is also present in November. This will be addressed at a later date.
- iv. Calendar and business meeting arrangement: not all members can commit to meet twice a month for two separate calendar and business meetings. The Bylaws, however, provide opportunities to hold extra business meetings if necessary.
- v. Microsoft Teams
 1. Not all members are able to access it. Will follow-up.
- vi. School liaisons
 1. Liaison assignments can be modified as the year advances. Council visits are conducted in preparation for the SCA list. SLT meetings and contact from the school's PTA can allow CEC members the opportunity to talk about the school. There is a protocol when visiting schools. Going into classrooms is not included because class instruction cannot be interrupted, but principals can show liaisons if they want to.
- vii. Update on Afterschool Programs:
 1. The Council wants to hear from parents and their experience with afterschool in District 32, particularly: if they meet their expectations, if they were able to obtain a seat. This is to see why there is not full access to the afterschool programs. In 32K106, Chancellor Carranza announced that all schools would have afterschool until 6 PM, and chorus during school hours, by 2020. Also, in tandem with the mayor's goals, that all schools will have air conditioning. There are three steps to the process: first, to update an electrical systems update is needed. Some schools have finished this stage. The Council spreadsheet will include which schools do not have air conditioning. Additionally, CEC32 is not included in the capital plan for accessible buildings.

- viii. Diversity Plan: a plan only for District 32. A grant is offered to districts for which they delineate a proposal to promote diversity. Many districts are implementing diversity initiatives readjusting enrollment criteria hoping to can desegregate schools. The Council may put forth recommendations to minimize segregation as enrollment increases in the district and to avoid the need for desegregation in the future. District 1, for example, un-zoned its schools because they were overcrowded; district 15 received funding for it diversity plan to relieve overcrowding and better serve students living in the district. In District 32, this may also be treated as an equity plan, considering that schools have different percentages of students in temporary housing. If there is an established enrollment criterion, the schools to which STH attend will be better selected. Parents or legal guardians have the right to select which school a STH will attend, as they may come from far into a community they are acquainted with. Regarding classroom size, contracts with the UFT prevent a decrease. An example of overcrowded schools in our district are 32K086/376. Projections for student retention from the Civil Rights Data Collection show that the student body in District 32 often times becomes 100% Latinx. As regards to funding from elected officials, it is discretionary. Schools need to approach their representatives. The Council spreadsheet is meant to compare resources offered in schools.
- a. Plan to form an Equity and Diversity Plan Committee. Membership in committees is open to the public.
 2. The CEC32 committees need to work in the vision of the CEC. The Council's major goal is to have students achieve the education they need. The overall vision, including a description of the Council and how it is working must be in a public document.
3. Building of the agenda
 - a. Forming committees.
 4. Public Comment
 - a. Positive feedback for the Council members
 5. Adjournment: 8:22 PM

APPROVAL OF CALENDAR, AND BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES	July 2019 - Approved [Met Quorum]
NOTE: All meetings are recorded for future availability/submission upon request at the CEC D32 office.	
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM
SUBMITTED BY:	Silvia Belmonte, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: Thursday, September 26, 2019

_____ Recording Secretary