

Community Education Council District 32 Meeting

CALENDAR AND BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES	October 17th, 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		Calendar Meeting	Business Meeting
	Martha Bayona	Present	Present
	Joanna Fuentes	Present	Present
	Stacie Johnson	Present	Present
	Maria Lopez	Present	Present
	Wanda Nunez	Present	Present
	Samuel Olivares	Present	Present
	Desines Rodriguez	Absent (excused)	Absent (excused)
	Renisha Westbrooks	Present	Present
Quorum	Met		

Monthly Calendar Meeting: 6:00 PM

1. Call to order and roll call: Martha Bayona, Luis Fonseca, Joanna Fuentes, Stacie Johnson, Maria Lopez, Wanda Nunez, Samuel Olivares. Absent: Desines Rodriguez. Late arrivals: Renisha Westbrooks.
Motion made to move the agenda items number 5 and 6 to the position of agenda item number 2, made by Martha Bayona. Members Wanda Nunez, Joanna Fuentes, Maria Lopez, Luis Fonseca, Samuel Olivares, and Stacie Johnson approved the motion. The decision was made in consideration of students who are travelling home alone later in the evening.
2. Brief message from Principal John Barbella of I.S. 347 followed by the I.S. 347 Drumline directed by Mr. Larry Carthan and I.S. 347's performance of Gloria Estefan's "Conga", under the direction of Ms. Ella Rosewood.
3. Brief message from Principal Roxana Toro-Ruiz of I.S. 349 followed by the I.S. 349 student performance of the "Fight Song".
4. Servina Lovell and André Hendricks from the Brooklyn North Borough Field Support Center and the CSD32 Superintendent: The District 32 Contracts For Excellence (C4E)
 - The information presented shows how C4E, discretionary, and non-discretionary, funding is used in district 32's elementary, middle, and high schools.
 - What is C4E? Every public school receives federal funding and uses it according to specific guidelines. Schools talk about C4E during SLT meetings, where decisions are made with every principal on how to allocate funding. The federal government wants more parents involved with funding decisions made in public schools. Parents are encouraged to ask questions during SLT meetings, and to reach out to parent coordinators, parent teacher associations and the CEC.
 - Background: In 2016, a Court of Appeals restated that every public school child in the state has a right to a "sound basic education" and that the State has the responsibility to increase funding for NYC's public schools. As a result, NYS passed a legislature requiring that, for each school district that has at least one school that requires academic progress or is in need of improvement, the school district would receive an increase in foundation aid. Only one school is needed in a district to meet the requirements. A portion of that foundation aid would be subject to the categorical spending requirements of the Contract for Excellence. C4E started and funds were first received in the 2007-2008 school year.
 - Allocations: Schools allocate C4E funding towards specific goals in various buckets, including Class Size Reduction, Time on Task, Teacher & Principal Quality Initiatives, Middle & High School Restructuring, Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten Programs, and Model Programs for English Language Learners. Funds must supplement, not supplant, local funding or other grants. Schools can receive C4E funding for students categorized as English Language Learners, Students in Poverty, Students with Disabilities, and Students with Low Academic Performance. NYC schools will receive a total of \$531 million, \$183 million of which are unrestricted and \$348 million that are restricted funds.
 - Differences in funding: \$214 million in discretionary allocations are directed for the budgets of all schools in NYC. Targeted allocations are meant for specific programs in schools for students in need. The Maintenance of Effort allocation supports summer programs. A total of \$322 millions have been spent on teacher salaries, \$9.4 million in Other Than Personal Services, and \$17 million in Pupil Personnel Service Providers, which is meant to serve students with disabilities.

- District 32: Please see the additional attachment for a breakdown of C4E allocations made per school. SLTs decide how to allocate discretionary C4E funds. Each school's School Allocation Memorandum shows how schools use these dollars. Targeted funding, on the other hand, is intended for specific purposes. The data presented shows only amounts provided through C4E funding. Amounts presented for programs such as pre-K and 3-K are coming from the C4E. Schools that have these programs receive other types of funding as well. The NYC DOE as a system is no longer required to have a system-wide funding for C4E class size reduction. The funds are given to the individual schools and their use is at the principal's discretion.
 - First public comment session
 - i. Which schools are using the funds for ELLs and which for Class Size? Please see FY 2020 School Memoranda attachment.
 - ii. Does class size reduction mean more teachers? The answer lies on the way every school writes its CEP. These funds are used to help make classes smaller. Schools can use the funds on different programs or to help teachers work with a smaller group of kids.
 - Questions may be sent to ContractsForExcellence@schools.nyc.gov . For an immediate response, the presenters can be contacted directly.
5. CEC32 President Report and Announcements
- October 9, 2019: Meeting with Ms. Adriene Austin, Interim Acting Deputy Chancellor; Mr. Jesse Mojica, Senior Director; Mr. NeQuan Mclean, Chair of the ECC; and the CEC32, to discuss SLT bylaws. The bylaws template provided by the DOE will be updated to reflect a 2016 court order that mandated that SLT bylaws state that its meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Law, and to specify how the public will be addressed during meetings. The Chancellor's Regulation A-655 will also be amended to include that a member will serve in the Panel for Educational Policy, and that every school must have a Title I representative who can no longer be the president of the school's PTA or PSA, per a federal law and the ESSA.
 - October 12, 2019: Meeting with the Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor Karen Goldmark: The Chancellor announced the implementation of a parent university intended for parents to gain financial literacy skills, learn about sustaining education, and understand how SLTs and budgets work. It was additionally noted that the State determines student learning standards; principals and teachers cannot adjust them. In order to enhance a culturally responsible sustaining education, the Chancellor does not need approval from the PEP, CECs, nor the Mayor. This is a pedagogical decision based on best practices. Further discussion topics include:
 - o Formative assessment: The NYC DOE Chancellor will conduct a formative assessment four times a year to assess student progress. Other assessments will be eliminated gradually.
 - o Chocolate Milk: no decisions have been made on whether to remove it from schools or not.
 - o Bronx Plan: Recruiting and retaining licensed teachers is a focus. Last year 28% of classes did not have certified teachers now 99% do. The plan provides an extra differential pay of \$7,200 and 80 schools will be added to the plan.
 - o Re-imagine Schools: The DOE has partnered with organizations like the Robin Hood Foundation and XQAmerica, and communities to design schools. These conversations should happen within SLTs. Parents interested in bringing specific programs into schools can speak with principals and the superintendent to identify the schools that could benefit from this partnership.
 - o Students with special needs should be included in general education.
 - o The NYC DOE Chancellor has been conducting unannounced visits to schools to assess their environment and will continue to do it.
 - o SDAG recommendations: For the Gifted and Talented program, the community will have the opportunity to provide their input.
 - o All elementary schools are receiving social emotional training.

There is a liaison in every school whom transgender students may speak with. Parent coordinators, PTAs, principals, and the CECs may assist in finding who this person is.

Julie Shapiro is the new director for fund for public schools: the three current funding priorities are intended to work with anti-bullying, fine arts in elementary and middle schools, and STEAM.
 - October 15, 2019: Meeting with the Brooklyn North Executive Superintendent Karen Watts, community superintendents, principals, and the CECs. Schools CEPs are being aligned with the chancellor's priorities to accelerate learning and instruction, partner with communities, develop people, and to advance equity now.
6. Superintendent Sheila Gorski's Report: please see attachment
- Additional information:
 - o I.S. 347: 92% attendance for September 2019.
 - o I.S. 349: 94.5% attendance for September 2019.
7. Distribution of certificates to outstanding students from I.S. 347 and I.S. 349
8. Public comment
- YMCA Representative: promotion of free student programs provided by YMCA, including Talk About Teens In The City, the Leaders Club, and after school programs.
 - Member announcement: A community-based organization is offering workshops to girls aged 10-18 years old about self-esteem, financial literacy, resume writing, community service, and career exploration. The events will take place on November 2 and 16, and on December 14, 2019 in the Brooklyn Commons.

- The Office of Council Member Antonio Reynoso's participatory budgeting process for the community school district 32 is open. Students and teachers can propose project ideas online. Three assemblies will be held this month to discuss those ideas, the first on October 21st at I.S 347. The CEC shared this with all schools under the council member's jurisdiction. Parents may contact their schools' PTA or the CEC.

- Family Leadership Suite: located on 100 Irving Avenue. Workshops for parents are offered here. The district's Family Leadership Coordinator, school principals, and parent coordinators (who lead the workshops almost every month) are available to answer questions. There are several uses for the suite and the resources available, including laptops, desktop computers, a conference table, a promethean board, and a carpeting area. Parents can draft their resumes, for example, and access the InfoHub, do research, and search for career opportunities. Additionally, parents can have gatherings at the suite, as long as they do not end after 9 PM.

9. Adjournment: 7:26 PM

Business Meeting: 7:35 PM

[For all council decisions and votes taken, Member Luis Fonseca was not counted, as he does not have a signed and notarized oath of office]

1. Call to order and roll-call: Martha Bayona, Luis Fonseca, Joanna Fuentes, Stacie Johnson, Maria Lopez, Wanda Nunez, Samuel Olivares, Renesha Westbrooks. Absent: Desines Rodriguez (excused)

2. Approval of minutes: Motion to approve the minutes for September 26, 2019, made by member Martha Bayona. Motion was seconded by member Maria Lopez. Revisions were made to the minutes under the "Elected Officials Announcements". All members approved the minutes after the revisions were made.

3. Member's report:

a. Wanda Nunez: attended 32K383's SLT meeting

b. Joanna Fuentes: conducted a visit to 32K106

c. Luis Fonseca: The member has selected 32K045/162 to liaise with and will attend their upcoming SLT meetings. The member also attended Senator Julia Salazar's Education Roundtable on September 21, 2019.

i. Brief announcement: the new Presidents' Council elections will take place on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 under the direction of Mr. Steven Wieser and Ms. Mollita Abron, from FACE.

d. Martha Bayona: attended 32K291's SLT meeting

e. Renesha Westbrooks: conducted a visit to each of 32K562/274/75. The member also attended the October District Leadership Team Meeting.

f. Samuel Olivares: attended 32K116/045/162's SLT meetings and conducted a visit to 32K116

i. The Brooklyn Borough President is accepting capital requests. Schools must submit a form with a proposal for discretionary funding.

All members are encouraged to inform principals about this and about the Participatory Budgeting cycle that opened for council members Antonio Reynoso and Rafael Espinal.

g. Stacie Johnson: conducted a visit to 32K151 and attended its SLT meeting. The member also attended Senator Julia Salazar's Education Roundtable on September 21, 2019.

4. Treasurer's report: Please see attachment

5. Old business

a. List of potential presenters: Daniel Dromm, Mark Treyger, Scott Stringer

i. Suggestion: to invite them as a group to a CEC32 business meeting to speak with the community and for the opportunity to ask them questions.

ii. Motion to hold a CEC32 town hall meeting with elected officials, made by member Samuel Olivares. Motion seconded by member Joanna Fuentes. All members approved the motion. The town hall will be scheduled during the second week of December. Suggestions were made to contact the elected officials' offices to confirm their availability. The location must be ADA compliant. Members selected 32K383. The Policy Committee will coordinate this event and can meet to discuss further.

b. Diversity/Equity Plan: the council is not currently pursuing this plan

c. Job fair for Census 2020: the Office of the Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez wishes to host a job fair for community members for positions related to the Census 2020. The event will be held in collaboration with the CEC32, the Office of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, and the New York Regional Center of the U.S. Census Bureau. The job fair would take place during the first and second weeks of November 2019 in two schools. The first will be 32K384 and the second will be selected in the near future. All members agreed to hold the job fair in two schools in D32.

d. SLT training for CEC members: the training is meant to address a major concern that SLT members are not informed about what to do in SLT meetings, including what is the C4E and how decisions are made. Current SLT members can attend. Former parent leaders and other representatives from FACE will be there to provide guidance. Additionally, FACE is organizing a training with another office that works to ensure compliance with the ESSA, and will also review requirements stated in the Chancellor's Regulations. This training will count towards the annual SLT members' mandated training and SLT members may receive remuneration for attending. Members are mandated to attend training in order to obtain remuneration. CEC meetings that SLT or PTA members attend also count towards hours for remuneration. CEC members who attend SLT meetings in their capacity as CEC members are not remunerated because they are reimbursed for their expenses. The training can take place at the Family Leadership Suite. A space that is not an auditorium is more suitable. Parents from high schools can also be invited. This is important because in the past, schools that had strong SLTs were able to plan with sufficient foresight to prevent problems.

e. Parental involvement: The CEC will receive a presentation on the new FACE restructure. There are three positions currently working in the district: the Director of the Brooklyn Borough Empowerment Team; the District Parent Leader Liaison; and the School Parent Leader Liaison, who is being hired. The three positions work with four districts. The Parent Empowerment Liaison used to work with community schools, but will now work with FLCs and FSCs to identify other schools that are in need and will also be working with those schools. An employment position that was planned to be opened for parent leaders is no longer being considered.

6. New Business

a. Committees: plan of action

i. Afterschool: the process for obtaining an afterschool program mainly relies on the principals' initiative to look for resources in the DOE, and with CBOs and elected officials. Some CBOs approach the schools. The council noted that organizations must use the

vocabulary and have a purpose that coincides with the DOE's. During the SLT training, a request can be made to request that a CBO representative for a school's afterschool programs be part of the team. Member Olivares, the Afterschool Committee Chair, is free to meet with the CBOs that provide afterschool programs to learn how they approached the schools and how they may increase their offerings for afterschool.

ii. The public will be informed that committees have been created to open membership to members of the community and the CEC32 website will be updated to reflect this information.

iii. IEP: Workshop topics under consideration: Understanding Your Child's IEP, Introductory Transitioning Planning, Parent Support Groups, Advocacy Skills for Parents, Parenting a Young Child with Disability, Promoting Positive Behavior in Young Children, People with Disabilities, Police Maximizing Effectiveness with Communication, Emergency Care for Students with Social Health Care Needs and Chronic Medical Conditions, and College is Possible.

iv. Policy Committee: the committee's focus is around educating the public on what politics means.

v. CEC32 Internal Communications: the CEC32 administrative assistant arranges for the appointments for the member walk-throughs. Once the schools know their liaison, members are free to communicate with the schools. From now on, every liaison will be copied in communications that involve their schools. Members cannot contact nor go into a school without contacting the school's CEC32 liaison first.

7. Adjournment: 8:59 PM

APPROVAL OF CALENDAR, AND BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES	September 26, 2019 - Approved [Met Quorum]
NOTE: All meetings are recorded for future availability/submission upon request at the CEC D32 office.	
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM
SUBMITTED BY:	Silvia Belmonte, Administrative Assistant

Approved on: Thursday, November 21, 2019

_____Recording Secretary