



President: NeQuan C. McLean
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The presenters were unable to answer questions about the G&T data, which was the catalyst for the meeting. Our CEC worked in tandem with Councilmember Comegy's office for approximately one year to bring these opportunities to D16 students. Our community was looking to understand these options in D16. And Ms. Chadha told us that despite G&T options in the Middle School Directory, these programs are not real. She further explained that if students are accessing these G&T options to gain admission to a school, they are likely being placed in other, non-G&T programs once they arrived. Our community was not only shocked but dismayed.

Community members articulated how disrespected they felt, while listening to a presentation from people who neither understood our community dynamics nor the details about the proposal that they were sharing. When asked why the head of OSE did not lead this presentation, Ms. Chadha explained that it was open school night. As parents who juggle professional and parental obligations, we know that open school night dates are shared with ample time for parents to plan. Ms. Kleinhandler had ample time to inform us of her inability to lead this presentation. Further, while we have corresponded with Ms. Chadha over several weeks, she explained that she didn't know that she was on the agenda until the same day of the presentation.

Contracts for Excellence (C4E)

Adrienne Huggins led the C4E presentation that same night. In the past, Laurita Moye provided us with a thorough presentation that left our community more knowledgeable about how our schools and students are supported with C4E funding. Ms. Huggins came unprepared. In fact, she asked us for the powerpoint presentation, as she didn't have a copy with her. She then told us that this wasn't her presentation and proceeded to read from paper. Ms. Huggins had a polite disposition, but had no answers to any of our questions. She referred us to email ContractsForExcellence@schools.nyc.gov for all answers. A few of these questions are sampled below:

1. What is the relative rate of distribution to all schools?
2. If D16 schools are largely under-enrolled, why is so much money being allocated to class size reduction?
3. Why do the numbers not tally up to 100%?

In closing, we request a presentation about how the NYDOE is supporting D16 students through G&T programs, including how the SHS proposal will be a more inclusive process in admission as well as retention. We request that this presentation be led and informed by the decision makers who are leading these efforts - Deputy Chancellor Josh Wallack, Deputy Chancellor LaShawn Robinson and anyone else who will be able to answer our questions. We are asking for another C4E presentation, led by someone who can provide information applicable to D16 schools and students. D16 will no longer be ignored and marginalized. Our kids and our schools deserve our advocacy, and we can only do that well with good information.

We look forward to your prompt response to our requests and the points of this letter. Please contact our President, NeQuan C. McLean at (347) 470-4975 or nequanmclean@cec16.org.

Sincerely,
The Members of the Community Education Council District 16

125 Stuyvesant Avenue Suite 132 | Brooklyn, New York 11221 | Tel: (929) 397-3786