

Adele Doyle      President  
Robert Aguilar      First Vice President  
Dina Guirguis      Second Vice President  
Katy Mullins      Recording Secretary  
Inga Smolyar      Parliamentarian/Treasurer



Council Members

Alan Aja                      Sandy Chum-Wu  
Mauricia Cadillo              Vito LaBella  
Yi Fang Chen                  Simeon Stolzberg

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

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## Community Education Council District 20 Calendar Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

Brooklyn South District Office (415 89<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209)

Meeting Start Time: 6:08 PM

**Present:**, Adele Doyle, Alan Aja, Robert Aguilar, Dina Guirguis, Katy Mullins, Inga Smolyar, Simeon Stolzberg, Mauricia Cadillo, Yi Fang Chen,

**Excused:** Sandy Chum-Wu, Vito LaBella,

**Guests:** Karina Costantino, D20 Superintendent; Dr. Joseph O'Brien, D20 Deputy Superintendent;

**I. Meeting called to Order:** Adele Doyle,

**II. Roll Call:** Adele Doyle

### **III. Superintendent's Report**

- a. State of District Address will be given at the September CEC meeting. Standardized Test Scores expected by the end of this month, but preliminary pass/fails suggest our District did very well.
- b. Principal Meeting tentatively scheduled for 12:30 PM on October 15, 2019. CEC is invited to attend to meet with liaison School Principals.
- c. Superintendent has two committees being formed which she would like CEC to be a part of. The first is a culturally responsive instruction committee. Alan Aja was suggested as a participant based upon expressed interest in this area.

The second relates to dual language and the creation of a dual language middle school. Inga Smolyar and Robert Aguilar were mentioned as potential participants. Adele Doyle asked that council members confirm their interest in these committees and intent to commit. Any other council member may also advance their request to be included. Forward intent to Natalia so she can advise the superintendent.

- d. Superintendent also suggested a field trip to visit downtown Manhattan schools which effectively utilize an enrichment model learning environment. Adele Doyle and Dina Guirguis were suggested to participate in this venture with the potential to more fully realize this model in our district.

- e. Floor opened for Q and A. The superintendent suggested that index cards be used should any member have additional questions, and that members can reach out with any additional questions or concerns. Adele Doyle asked that members direct requests for meetings through Natalia so we could keep track of that meeting schedule and ensure that all members receive effective scheduling and access.
- f. Superintendent expressed an open door policy should council members have any concerns. Adele Doyle asked that council members schedule any meeting with the superintendent through Natalia to ensure equal access for all members.
- g. Simeon asked about Envision Math being rolled out across the City as a mandated curriculum. The Superintendent was not sure of the strictness of that mandate and would seek additional information and follow up. Adele Doyle expressed that the Chancellor had directly specified last year that this was a mandated program. Natalia will follow up.

#### **IV. Zoning Presentation and Training by Michael O’Gorman and Jamie Dollinger:**

- a. Zoning training and role-out related to the new construction (746) at 59<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue was undertaken. Powerpoint was presented, and handouts received. In particular it was detailed what steps need to happen in the next three months to solidify the zoning for this new schools. Seven schools are affected by the design. Four schools have direct borders and three additional schools will potentially have numbers affected. A principals meeting with the Superintendent will be scheduled for September and a core of CEC members who can lead the process for CEC are asked to attend. Adele Doyle asked that CEC liaisons for the directly affected schools contact their schools (through Natalia) to attempt to appear at their September or October PTA and SLT meetings to inquire for concerns about projected zoning. The entire process and finalized zoning is anticipated to conclude by the beginning of November. So CEC timely action is required to fairly represent parent concerns. Michael and Jamie provided contact information as further questions arise.

#### **V. President’s Report and Announcements:**

- a. Adele Doyle presented on last month’s received information and activities as well as future expected events.
- b. Liaison schools were organized to account for newly appointed Brooklyn Borough President representatives. Natalia will distribute these schools and send announcement letters to Principals, PTA presidents and Parent Coordinators. We would also like this information on our website. After that it is up to CEC members to cultivate relationships.
- c. Chancellor Meeting at IS 30 was held this month. Council expressed concern about the poor rollout of this meeting and the restricted attendance. It was reported by Adele Doyle that although areas of concern were gathered from attendees, the Chancellor did most of the speaking, and the value of this meeting was not clearly established in addressing the concerns of parents of this district, particularly in light of the protest going on outside the meeting, by a predominantly Asian population. The meeting predominantly focused on culturally relevant instruction, but whose culture was relevant,

particularly related to District 20 was not reflected. Adele Doyle also reported raising a concern of failure to prepare our students, through the current grading policy of passing students with Ds and Cs. A call for a Mastery Based Learning approach was suggested. This question was not addressed by the Chancellor.

- d. The monthly CCEC meeting was also reported on, attended by Adele, Robert, Yi Feng and Simeon. John Shea of Buildings discussed lead paint and specified that if paint is not moved and is painted over, it is not a hazard. CEC members had expressed concern about that belief. Also, Mr. Shea reported that every major renovation was accompanied by a hazards meeting where stake holders were informed about the process of construction and safety for students. Adele Doyle had specified that she had never been invited to such a meeting and could CEC Presidents be included. Mr. Shea stated that he would report back after inquiring at his office. Natalia has since followed up with that request and we are awaiting a response.
- e. Enrollment was also present at the CCEC meeting and discussed changes to middle school and high school admissions, specifically doing away with second rounds and appeals in favor of wait lists. Webinar upcoming. Specialized high schools not included in this roll out.
- f. The PTA/PC Breakfast I scheduled for Friday September 27 at 9:30 am at St. Ephrem's Early Childhood Center. All CEC members are asked to attend as their schedule permits.

#### **VI. Minutes Approval:**

- a. June Minutes approved
- b. July Minutes approved

#### **VII. Budget Approval:**

- a. Members reviewed the budget provided by Natalia. It was noted that our \$20000 budget was reduced by almost \$1500 but no reason had been provided. Natalia had been asked to follow up on that. Also we have no line budget for the breakfast in September, as noted on the budget provided by Natalia. It was suggested that the P-Card allotment be raised to cover the budget to avoid the difficulty of last year where the breakfast vendor was not paid for 5 months. It was suggested that the P-card be used to pay for the breakfast. The council agreed that the budget could be revisited in September but that we did not want to be caught not being able to cover the breakfast. We also wanted additional money allowed to hire speakers for our meetings. Not having Natalia at the meeting, we could not delve too deeply into the budget as presented but agreed that we would do so at next meeting. A motion was made by Adele to transfer \$4000 from member reimbursements which are hardly tapped, to the P-Card. The motion was seconded and carried by consensus.

#### **VIII. CEC Elections:**

- a. Parliamentarian: No nominations, the position remains open
- b. Treasurer: One self-nomination, Inga Smolyar. Motion made and carried by consensus
- c. Recording Secretary: One self-nomination, Katy Mullins. Motion made and carried by consensus

- d. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP: (Question raised if nomination could be made if candidate not present and was not aware that the nomination was being made. Council discussed and agreed that this did not follow protocol.) Calls for nominations from the floor were taken. Two candidates were identified. Yi Feng and Robert. Both candidates gave speeches. Vote taken from floor. Robert Aguilar was elected 7 -2.
- e. 1<sup>st</sup> VP: Nominations taken, Dina and Simeon. Speeches given. Initial Vote taken. 5 – 3 in favor of Dina, with Yi Feng abstaining. Before call for new vote taken, Simeon withdrew. Oral vote taken, and Dina was elected by consensus.

**IX. General Discussion:**

- a. Classification of culturally relevant instruction and what it means to the representation of District 20

**X. Adjournment:**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Submitted: Natalia Mondesir

August 22, 2019