

CEC 8 October 20th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Intro of Guest moderators and Administrative Assistant, Interpretation Lines: Spanish, Bangla and Arabic

Call to Order at 6:14pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Aurora Ronda

Roll Call; Quorum: 7/11

Present: Latoya Coleman, Sandra DeJesus, Farah Despeignes, Lourdes Jibodh, Sabrina Rocchio, Aurora Ronda, Gina Staton

Absent: Sharaf Alghaithi, Crystal Brockington, Ismaila Mamanedan, Anjelica Vasquez

Introduction of members

Approve: July Annual 2021 Minutes: Approved 6/7

Motion to approve - 1st Lourdes, 2nd Sandra

Yes: Latoya Coleman, Sandra DeJesus, Farah Despeignes, Lourdes Jibodh, Sabrina Rocchio, Gina Staton

No: None

Abstain: Aurora Ronda

Senator Sepúlveda introduced himself. Thanked the CEC for the time on the call and the great work that is done, the Senate begins back in session in January- primary concerns is to hear what is mentioned in the community to be able to bring to the floor.

Approve Resolution; Motion to Remove Sharaf Alghaithi, Ismaila Mamanedan, Anjelica Vasquez for Failure to Serve: 7/7

Motion to approve resolution - 1st Aurora, 2nd Lourdes

Yes: Latoya Coleman, Sandra DeJesus, Farah Despeignes, Lourdes Jibodh, Sabrina Rocchio, Aurora Ronda, Gina Staton

No: None

Report of the President; Farah Despeignes: Based on the Resolution, the seats must be filled by Nov 30th. As the CEC and all the CECs across the borough (NYC CEFT) are working aggressively to gain elected officials, like Senator Sepúlveda, to listen to our concerns; e.g. how the school year is going. Senator Bailey, last night, who is the leader of the elected officials of the Bronx, listened to our plea on how important it is for parents to be considered as partners with the DOE. To that point, we are fighting aggressively to fight Mayoral Control. Whatever is going on in schools the decision-making should also include parents of students with IEP. We are fighting to promote safety in our schools; a gun was found, at Stevenson High School. Meanwhile doing the best that you can, there are 6000+ cases, barely 25 days

of school into the year. 1 child has passed away and no one is saying if the virus originated from school grounds.

Members Reports;

Latoya Coleman: Violence, I would like to make note there is a pandemic of it. The aggressive behavior is rapidly going around. As chair of AB/DV, I would like to address that to the District. Also, school lunches are not nutritious. They are coming out as spoiled and/or frozen.

Farah: Schools are not having enough support in respect of SEL. There is simply not enough help.

Gina Staton: School Liaison visits are completed. Joined DA Clarke's office for the 5k for the Domestic Awareness Walk.

Sabrina Rocchio: Mental Health has been a key topic for me. There was an attempted kidnapping of a child within the District. The visit with Mr. Rosoff at MS101 went well and I look forward to collaborating.

Lourdes Jibodh: As mentioned before, Stevenson Campus had a gun on the premise; luckily, it was not passed any farther than the entrance. This brings up questions regarding lockdown policies. Luckily nothing happened. MS 131 visit is coming-up. Remote Learning: Parents are still hopeful this will happen, the staff members who remain unvaccinated would be good remote teachers. Brilliant NYC; Gifted and Talented name being changed, we will be at the table for consultation, not much different from G&T and Brilliant NYC that is being proposed. Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council, we have asked to be included, PA/PTAs to be present soon- all is followed, parents leader at large, when guidelines are released all are included in the communication and are held libel.

Farah: Re: Brilliant NYC: concerned, classroom by classroom- no teacher curriculum structure.

Aurora Ronda: Performed a school visit at Delta School with Crystal, very impressed; UIM visit with Principal Partridge was done in the morning. Domestic Violence unit D8 special events with people who are experiencing trying times; School PS 72 did a cancer walk. I am performing Community Outreach with management housing issues.

Sandra DeJesus: The PS 48 shooting that had occurred around the playground, I know both kids who were involved. I asked them about their wellbeing- turned out adults were encouraging/ prompting them to do a dare. During the PS 140 visit, I noticed they needed a lot of work done; PS 75 visit, I was greeted with open arms; PS 93 visit with Principal Kaplan, he and the PC I've known for years had great comments about the school; I did some Community Partnership with an organization that set-up a Circus near Hunts Point train station. A Prayer Walk happened from Garrison Ave to 41st Pct for the fallen people who fell victim to COVID19.

Presenter; John Cerini: Bronx is a hot topic- PS 14, Foodtown Super Market. What is happening is called UpZoning. With 34 proposed sites, developers are seeking approval. People will be displaced; schools overpopulated and a 25% loss of parking in the area. The proposals that is being presented are false.

Bronx Coalition against UpZoning will have an event. Contact info: johncerini@optonline.net, can share a 273 pg report.

Announcements: Email blast, Committee Volunteers, NYC CEFT, Hispanic Heritage, October Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Vacancy Announcement, Student Member inquiry.

Report of the District: Superintendent Joynt

I want to thank you all for being here this evening.

Attendance: D8 is above 90% YTD up to, the goal is above 92% for all of the district. We need to ensure all your students are in attendance, we do understand that sometime our kids have to stay home. Staff attendance in schools have 93% or more vaccination rate with over half of our schools at a 100% vaccination rate. This was in total before the deadline, what is more exciting to report is none of our schools lost anyone due to the vaccination mandate.

Assessment Screeners: ELA and Math, using various assessments.

Superintendent Learning Series: I will ask you to reach out your school: PC, Teachers, AP's and Principals about these assessments and scores. They are a point of entry to determine what is needed for your student in the class. 10% increase in proficiency.

Brilliant NYC: 1st week of November (Preliminary Nov 3rd). Hosting a Townhall along with Dr. Tobia, and Central. Talk about a Blueprint for accelerated for all elementary schools. The document is on the Family website to see, as there was a press release two Fridays ago.

Social Emotional Screeners: Underway next week. Schools are thinking where students are, are they well? Education and Instruction is at the forefront of D8 teachers, AP's, Principals and our Theory of Action around literacy. Students have to be well; a way for the school to check-in to think about what is effective for their educational atmosphere.

Presenters; *Office of District Planning:* Max Applebaum, Director, and Moumita Zaman, Associate Director

East Bronx Regions of District 8, 11 and 12 is overseen by them. Data Summary 2022, Data is collected 6 months before the start of the school year: March 1st.

District Planning Goals: Committed to Equity and Excellence for All

Collaborate with and empower communities, increase access to quality schools and programs (particularly in underserved areas), increase diversity and integration, and improve learning conditions for students and increase to appropriate facilities in the District.

Public Session: Q+A:

Renee Arroyo: Teacher at MS 304. Question is planning for the district; the building is shared with a middle school and D75. I am curious why there is no plan for a new building, especially for a PS when they are short of space. When it comes to a building is it more for seats capacity or the other whole facility like the gymnasium, library and auditorium?

M. Applebaum: Seat and capacity vs. Enrollment-that is the most important detail for the community. When planning co-locations, those shared spaces are taken into account. That being said, there are various successful schools as it has been the basic model in the DOE. PS101 has been over-utilized and it may still be. We rezoned that area about 4 years ago, and have been checking ever since. MS304 is at its enrollment target. As enrollment declines in coming years, we can revisit what the capacity target me become and should be. For example PS14 is showing 68% capacity and that would bring in creative ways to use the space in the absence of a new building. There is additional space coming in for PS138. Right now, we have the seats we need on the district level, as we have more seats coming. We should think about how we use that capacity to the highest and best use.

I do want to acknowledge a question, although it is not in our portfolio, of concerns of food at PS101 and MS304. Maybe we should connect who is in charge of the school lunches:

J. Joynt: Those are separate questions, so there is a gas main leak in that building. Principal Rosoff and Principal Galliano are on this call. Hot Lunches will take place from outside vendors, ideally starting tomorrow or as soon as possible. Principal Rosoff sent in a request as this call has been happening. The director of Facilities has been notified to see why ConEd has been taking a long time to remedy this. This is also a prime example of when you (parents) raise your concerns; we will act on it right away. If not tomorrow by Friday.

Sabrina Skelton: ECC topic for 3K and 4K; Space and Capacity, the filling of seats versus the use of the occupied seats, will the students have the same capable access like playing in the park, an alternative access room, library, etc? How is this data collected?

M. Applebaum: We work closely with the Division of Early Childhood Education to make sure that the demand for pre-K seats are met. That can mean opening new programs in district schools or collaborating with NYCS. As a District, as a whole, we have met the demand in those seats, but I do understand the concern for families who have to travel and we can look at the more localized needs.

So the data that is collected is through application, it would be all applicants in the District getting a seat. The DOE does extensive outreach. As far as programing a school, it's up to the principal- we are a part of making sure students have high quality facilities. If there is no accessibility to students who are nearby, gym/auditorium/library, we can see if a shift to a new facility if necessary. Similarly, if we see a sustained drop in enrollment across the district, there would be mini buildings- we would ask do we need it? Is it providing the numbers?

Michelle: Hot Lunch Problem was addressed, Space and Capacity vs. Enrollment: How do you assess the quality? For example in wintertime, do the Middle School kids have to stand outside and wait for 304 kids to go upstairs? It hasn't been worked out with the COVID reality we're in. It looks good on paper, but it's not the reality.

M. Applebaum: For any new co-location that is thinking about a new school or new program, that is exactly what we do, go to the SLT meetings and engage with parents and staff and walk the building. MS 101 has the PS, MS and D75 program for as long as I have been at the DOE. What I am hearing there may be new challenges related to COVID19, so if the principals need support in the programming there we would not directly provide that, it would be the Office of Campus Governance as they are very skilled in scheduling a building, working through shared space issues. If there need to be few kids in the building we could look at the zone of the PS school, take a look at the seat target for 101-as these are popular schools it's always difficult to balance these buildings correctly into academia and educationally they are high quality. Therefore, it has been difficult to manage against these facilities challenges you are bringing up. We want District 75 students, the specialized services that give those opportunities. It is hard to say we would like to remove the D75 program while it is the only one in that Eastern part of Throggs Neck in the district. Again, we can look at reducing enrollment but one thing I would want the CEC to understand are the tradeoffs. The feeling of a parent who will not get to the school that would have got them. In the meantime, for this school year we can provide that programming support through governance if that is something principals are interested in.

Follow-Up: Michelle: It is not the Principals; they are skilled at handling with what they have to do there. I know it's a process, I've been involved between MS101 and PS304 for over 13 years, when was the last time someone took a real live look at what goes on? It is very crowded and it has always been; the shared spaces have been a problem for a while and they probably do not complain because they are very good at figuring things out. However, as it has been a struggle, it is not them but more of a space issue, and yes, it is a popular school because everyone works diligently to keep everything in order.

M. Applebaum: The challenge is exactly that, if it is purely a space issue then we would have to reduce the enrollment in the schools and that is not easy. For schools that have the reputation that yours have which are serving to students so well, as it is something we can consider, it has difficult to do.

Member Gina Staton, Rec. Secretary: I had a school visit with MS 424, and they told me they share a building with a Charter School. The Charter keeps increasing their enrollment, which is affecting the use of shared spaces. MS 424 questions when that will stop. When does the Charter School stop gaining control of the spaces or stop increasing their enrollment and priority goes back to DOE site?

Superintendent JJ: I can address that; they are not taking any space. That is something that had been orchestrated by Max, Ron Caccioppoli, and myself. What that Charter School has is all that have. They may ask, inquire more to their want but the space allotted to them is all what has been given, they may not have more space. Max and I have looked at that site for a possible D75 expansion and it seems there is no space for that in the spring. No one can take rooms from our DOE schools unless there is

a complete walk-through in their space to give. That would only go through Max, Ron or myself and that is not happening in that building.

No Spanish Questions

No Bangla Questions

No Arabic Questions

No Phone lines

Adjournment: 8:13p 1st: Lourdes, 2nd Sandra 7/7 Yes

Latoya Coleman, Sandra DeJesus, Farah Despeignes, Lourdes Jibodh, Sabrina Rocchio, Aurora Ronda, Gina Staton

Business Working Meeting: 8:14pm

Present: Latoya Coleman, Sandra DeJesus, Farah Despeignes, Lourdes Jibodh, Sabrina Rocchio, Aurora Ronda, Gina Staton

Absent: Crystal Brockington

Discussion Items:

A. Presidents Council, Executive Board Meeting:

- a. Executive Board and PAPEC; Shortly (soon) October 27th
 - i. Expedited elections for Recording Secretary, 3 Trustees
- b. Announced: Newly elected member
- c. Creation of bylaws committee (3-5 people)
- d. Title 1 review
- e. October 29th is to be conducted (deadline has been extended)

B. School Visits and Norms:

- a. We do not know how to conduct meetings at full capacity; and are not adhering to waiting for people who are scheduled to present. DOE has a job to do, so do members- to get to the truth. There was not a lot of validation from what we are discovering.
- b. If it does not have a guide or norms, refer back to page 14 from CCEC Manual. It does not have a kit but it is useful to share a highlight.
- c. Two sides of a story, Sounds like A Tale of Two cities
- d. Be responsive to each other; arrive on-time (meetings); check each other to ensure what was said was what was heard, the notes you are receiving should be shared amongst all in the council.
 - i. Aside from scheduling meetings, we need to be responsive to the scheduling emails.

C. Meet n' Greet with the PCs/Principals

- a. Silvia and her PCs meet PD the 2nd Tuesday of every month
- b. CEC meet n' greet with Principals: We can give them two dates

- i. Would be amenable to any date. Any school date or following after the workday (3-5p).
 - 1. First Week of December as an idea, holiday flare.
 - 2. Lunch with the Principals as an idea; location; an idea
 - ii. Question: Who updates the distribution lists?
 - 1. AA updates the information.
 - D. Google Forms for a sign-in sheet
 - a. Parent Calendars, up-to-date, CECs, PA/PTA announced, too.
 - E. Parents have the opportunity to opt-in to share information with schools leaders
 - a. Yes, are PCs aware?
 - b. NYCSA account have capability to opt-in and share their contact information
 - i. Is that information shared? Who is supposed to share that?
 - ii. One problem: Alternating emails are not able to register if parent chooses to use for Parent Leadership. Second: glitches occurring for accessing already existing accounts on NYCSA
 - c. Fariña Administration re-did election certification form: Opt-In/Out.
 - d. Work with Superintendent Joynt, FLC/FSC: work to Opt-In using the tiny URL to email distribution list for CEC8
 - e. SPCLI: Not up-to-date: still is not.
 - i. Vanessa: Give me until spring to have it done for all 36 schools, by June 2022. Get this done early enough
 - ii. Richard: Do not forget that you did through advocacy for the NYCSA to have the box to opt-in/out. That was included because of you.
 - F. Student Leader
 - a. An interest is shown at MS269

Adjournment: 9pm 1st Lourdes, 2nd Sandra

Latoya Coleman, Sandra DeJesus, Farah Despeignes, Lourdes Jibodh, Sabrina Rocchio, Aurora Ronda, Gina Staton