

355 Park Place
Brooklyn, New York 11238

Ph: 718-857-3149 ext. 1212
Fax: 718-228-8079

CEC13@schools.nyc.gov
www.cec13brooklyn.org

Calendar Meeting

Council Executive Board

President

Ayanna Behin

First Vice President

Meryhem Bencheikh

Second Vice President

Faraji Hannah- Jones

Recording Secretary

Jessica Simmons

Treasurer

Elavia Bello

Council Members

Christ Meador
Enrique Mina

Borough President Designee

Cynthia McKnight
Aruna Hekinian

Superintendent

Kamar Samuels

Executive Superintendent

Karen Watts

Chancellor

Richard Carranza

CEC 13
Business & Calendar Meeting
August 11, 2020 7:00 p.m.
Virtual

Meeting Minutes

- I.) Call to Order & Roll Call - Unofficial start time 7:06pm
- II.) President's Report :
- Community discussions: There has been discussion of integration and desegregation. That conversation will continue throughout the year at CEC and District Leadership meetings. School leadership teams have been having the discussion on Facebook as well. There has been discussions about school re-openings as well. Conversations have been about how school re-opening will happen and what it will look like
- Brooklyn North Meeting: CEC presidents have come together to provide a community discussion for parents which will take place next week Tuesday with Superintendent Samuels and Executive Superintendent Watts. Socio-Emotional Support will be a focus of discussion.
- Addressing the concerns of teachers about returning to the buildings safely is a conversation that needs to happen. Concerns about proper cleaning and protective equipment are questions that arise that have not received concrete answers.
- III.) Superintendent Report:
- Greetings from Superintendent Samuels.
- As Ayanna stated there are more questions than answers. As answers are found, more questions arise.
- Everyone has been working to ensure the remote learning product for the new school year is dramatically better than the one from March- June. Grouping of teachers and ironing out the best platform for delivery are some of the planning that has been done over the summer. We have a lot of work happening around that in the district and I'm

pretty pleased that how our principles are approaching that work. There is still a concern about how many people will sign up for live instruction which will impact how live instruction will be delivered. There are still time for students to opt into blended or 100% remote instruction.

The next thing is how many teachers are going to ask for an accommodation right to to work from home remotely. There are 75% of teacher accommodations requests. These are requests. One school in the district has 50% requests. This impacts the principals' ability to create an instruction plan. Building maintenance, bathrooms and air quality are additional concerns for re-opening as well.

Questions and Discussion from CEC Members

Recording Secretary Jessica Simmons question: What can we say to families to let them know it's going to be better besides just hearing everyone say it's going to be better. And then secondly, a question, specific to dual language and I, as a former principal understand that staffing wise schools cannot staff a dual language program in person and remotely. But I hear a lot of discussion with the dual language families who want to choose remote, but they're not going to get the dual language and families that want to make sure when their kids in school, they get the dual language and that's down here in the priority of things after safety and education and students with special needs, but I didn't know if you have a quick answer for that as well that we can share back with families.

Response from Superintendent Samuels

Superintendent Samuels stated that the plan is to follow through with the commitments of live instruction. There are documents that outline the commitments. A lot of students are getting what they need. The new commitments can be shared with the CEC. The Chancellor released communication about the commitments.

Deputy Superintendent Meghan Dunn commented:

I don't have answers around like the dual language, I think, though, in terms of thinking about like the do we like commitments are also are things like being made it to make sure that like there was more. Online Resources that curriculum is online and like principals have choice over this because they choose their curriculum. But more as as being given to principals to work with so that they're able to provide a richer experience for students who are blended or remote or whatever you choose. Yeah.

1st Vice President Faraji Hannah Jones voiced concern about the focus on dual language and stated the focus should remain on education equity as some schools in the district do not have access to adequate education needs.

Discussion continued about re-opening plans, equity concerns and how to best support students and concerned parents. Discussion included signing an existing petition or adding on to it to delay the start of schools.

- I.) CEC 13 Member Vacancies:
CEC has member vacancies. One regular member and one Multi Lingual Learner. Faraji Hannah-Jones asked a question about a candidate that had been previously interviewed. Ayanna Behin responded that there were follow up questions that needed to be answered. This would take place in a special meeting and then the CEC would vote on the member. There is also a vacancy for a high school student the CEC is seeking to fill.
- II.) Public Comment
Question raised is there funding for bulk purchase of supplies to provide for needy families. Response from President Ayanna Behin: That is a great consideration and the budget will be discussed tonight. The CEC can potentially facilitate the process of supply donations and how it can be distributed throughout the district.

Family Leadership Coordinator Lorrie Ayers stated there are donations coming to three schools. She is hopeful that more donations will come in to support more students in the district who are in need.

Discussion continued about engaging the community through District Family Day which is an annual event that may now happen virtually this year.

Acknowledgement of Dpac President Ben Greene.

Public comment from Zac Martin, a parent of a PS 133 student about socio-emotional support and families sharig their gifts and capacities to support the D13 community.
- III.) Adjournment 8:15pm

Business Meeting

- I.) Call to Order & Roll Call: Faraji Hannah-Jones, Meryem Bencheikh, Cynthia McKnight, Elavia Bello, Ayanna Behin and Jessica Simmons
- II.) Approval of July Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve minutes made by Jessica Simmons and second by Elavia Bello. Unanimous approval.
- III.) Budget Update: Treasurer Elavia Bello gave an update on the budget. The budget remains unchanged from the intial budget voted on. Elavia met with CEC 13 AA Chivon Anderson to discuss the budget and review budget from previous years. She suggested being strategic about spending funds. Suggestions for spending include workshops, panels, equity and wellness education and IEPs having experts in the field to come in and help parents. During this time of transition the CEC website will be optimized as well as Facebook and Twitter. In comparison to other districts the budget spending is comparable to the spending in other districts.
- IV.) Agenda for September meeting: Discussion about having one meeting in September to accommodate school openings and designating two meetings a month. One meeting will focus on CEC business and the second meeting will be the calendar meeting.
Discussion continued about how best to structure calendar meetings with a suggestion to continue break out groups to foster community discussions and engagement.
- VI.) Adjournment: Adjournment 8:31pm

