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**Executive Superintendent**

Karen Watts

**Chancellor**

Richard Carranza

**CEC 13  
Calendar/ Business Meeting  
September 17, 2019 6:30pm  
PS3 The Bedford Village School  
50 Jefferson Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11216**

**Calendar Meeting**

I.) Call to Order & Roll Call

- Call to order at 6:45pm
- Quorum not met for official call to order and roll call.
- Members introduced themselves and the schools he/she represents:
  1. Ayanna Behin- 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Arts and Letters She has been on the CEC for a few years
  2. Cynthia McKnight (Brooklyn Borough President Appointee) son just graduated from the Dock Street school and is now a freshman at Brooklyn Latin. This is her 3<sup>rd</sup> year on the CEC
  3. Kamar Samuels –Superintendent
  4. Enrique Mina - 13 year old at MS 266 Park Place and 1<sup>st</sup> year on the CEC
  5. Aruna Naimji: 7,9, 11 year olds at PS 133 Borough President Appointee and 1<sup>st</sup> year on CEC
  6. Chris Meador – 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at PS9 and 1<sup>st</sup> year on the CEC
  7. Introduction of members not currently present: Meryem Bencheikh Ellis (PS 20), Elizabeth Kearny (PS 3), Jessica Simmons (PS 133), Altenesha Boone (MS 351 Unison) and Faraji Hannah Jones (PS 307)

II.) Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Bypassed until quorum is met.

III.) Superintendent's Report

- Introduction of different parent leadership organizations: DLT (District Leadership Team) 27 Schools with 8 new principals. Superintendent Samuels will continue to recruit strong principals
- Leadership working with CEC there is some work to be done at the President's Council Level

- Review of Community District 13 Assessment Data

ELA - 15 schools showed increases  
11 schools showed decreases  
Math – 17 schools  
7 schools showed decreases  
1 school remained the same

#### School Level Engagement

- Re-siting of Satellite East Middle School to the K093 Building: There was a lot of work done to prepare the building for the transition. The principals are working well together.
- Opening of Middle School 915
- Upcoming School Community Engagement that will be result of the diversity grant.
- Gifted and Talented Phase Out in PS 009
- Potential Re-siting of Arts & Letters and engagement with impacted school communities

#### **NYSIP Integration Professional Learning Community Grant**

Phase III is underway, and the application was submitted last week.

This program is designed to provide participants with the tools, information, and funding necessary to successfully design integration strategies tailored to the district's communities. The methods by which we look to integrate the District are as follows:

- Review of Zone Lines and admission criteria/policy.
- Access to rigorous and unique programming including but not limited to AP courses, DL G & T, dual accreditation at the high school level, ASD)
- Training in Culturally Response Pedagogy, Implicit Bias, and Root Cause Analysis
- We will be working with the community to garner feedback regarding the proposed pilot program

#### **Chancellor Diversity Grant**

In support of Chancellor Carranza's priorities to advance equity and collaborate with communities, the DOE is awarding \$2 million in planning grants for the 2018–19 and 2019–20 school years, which will provide funding and technical assistance to Community School Districts (CSDs) in developing diversity plans. The DOE plans to award ten CSDs grants of up to \$200,000 each over a three-year period; the number and amount of the awards may change depending on how many applications are received and the needs of individual districts. Superintendents may collaborate with borough/citywide support staff in developing their plans and may partner with other superintendents to submit cross-district plans. Funding for these districts will be adjusted accordingly. Superintendents can work with borough/citywide office staff in completing this application, highlighting goals and plans for the community engagement process:

The CSDs are expected to use this grant to implement a community engagement process that will result in a diversity plan for the district. All CSDs are encouraged to apply regardless of the current demographic make-up of the district.

#### ***Comment:***

Chronic Absenteeism

- Fariji expressed that school leaders should consider special circumstances that are a legitimate concern and cause for the absence. There should be more that school leaders and DOE administrators can do to support the real needs of students and parents.
- Ayanna suggested a caravan that could assist with decreasing chronic absenteeism by providing a community committed to getting students in the same neighborhood to school on time.
- Superintendent response: What has been described is the core work of an equity team.
- Ben Green (parent) concurs and says equity teams should be inclusive and not exclusive of parents.
- Parent (name not recorded) shared concern for parents in special circumstances such as living in shelters, domestic violence

#### IV.) President's Report

- Welcome to all and thank you to PS 3, to Principal Kristina Breecher and Parent Coordinator Atasha Johnson. Shout out to CEC13 member Elizabeth Kearney who could not be here tonight, but has been a great voice on the CEC from PS3 and from the community.
- We as a CEC are focused on serving the whole child in every school that exists in District 13. We are liaisons with every community school in the District, we visit schools, go to PTA meetings, SLT meetings and more so that we can help to amplify your voices to the Superintendent's office and the folks at every department within the DOE.
- Many of our members were elected in this year's Spring elections, and we held our first meeting together in July. We will have at least one meeting a month this year, and our agenda is shaped by the issues that we have seen rise up in our experience as parents and parent-leaders as well as from what we hear from you every day.
- We have already been working on the priorities that we have inherited and those that we plan to address as they arise, as well as those that we can see coming in the future. These priorities are, in no particular order: systemic racism and segregation, equitable sharing of resources, school buildings (which means building maintenance, upgrades, and school moves), wellness (which includes school food and opportunities for joint nutrition and other scientific education, physical and mental health, and garden train), charter/public school relations, STEAM, and educational rigor. It should go without saying that in all of these priorities we are considering the needs of children with IEPs and English Language Learners. We are privileged to have a couple of parents helping to center the voices from the IEP community, and we continue to seek a CEC member from the ELL community as well.

Here's a look at what we have been doing this summer and plan to do this year:

#### WELLNESS - MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH:

- Healthy Food - Several of us have joined the Alliance for Healthy Food and have been working with that group, and with others, including the Office of School Food's Andrew Goodman who is here tonight, and city legislators and elected officials to improve the quality of the food in our schools. It is well known that when children have access to healthy food, meaning whole foods, fruits and vegetables, their physical,

emotional and intellectual health is better, which leads to better outcomes for them and the other members of their school communities.

- Wegman's reached out to us over the summer because they are moving to the Brooklyn Navy Yard and reaching out to the schools in D13 to provide some nutritional education and fresh food to go along with it. Tomorrow they will be visiting PS270 and on the 27th they'll be at PS56. If you're interested in having them visit your school, please reach out to us by email and make sure that you've got school food in the subject line. They open next month and will start making school visits again in January.
- You can also reach out to us to find out more about the Alliance for Healthy School Food, including how to move your school to the Alternative School Food Menu, how to join the Garden Train, which brings gardening to our schools Dr. Meryem Bencheik-Ellis or I will get back to you.
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- Our Wellness Committee focuses on healthy food, the Garden Train, physical activity and mental health, we will meet before the October CEC meeting, and members include: Ayanna, Meryem, Cynthia & Aruna

## DESEGREGATION AND INTEGRATION

- District 13 has been a leader in this area for years, and we have been clear that when we talk about desegregation and integration of our schools, that we aren't just talking about moving bodies from one neighborhood to another. This is part of the work, having children and faculty of different races working together. But, the bulk of the work we think is reflected by the 5 Rs that were articulated by the youth-led group IntegrateNYC - (1) Racial Integration: Who is in our schools, (2) Resource Allocation: What is in our schools, (3) Relationship Across Group Identity: how do students relate to one another across differences and how do teachers learn to build across difference, (4) Restorative Justice: Who is punished in our schools and how, and (5) Teacher Representation: Who teaches and leads in our schools.
- In the Spring, we invited the folks from Teens Take Charge to share their experiences with us and to help inform our work. In the Fall of last year, we had almost 1000 people come together with D16 and ASID to talk about this work. From there, our District has been privileged to receive 2 grants to help support this work going forward - 1 grant from the state and the other from the City. Together with our partners in the DOE, and the Superintendent's office, we are going to work with other stakeholders to support a process in District 13 where we identify a pathway forward. We cannot wait another minute to make sure that every child in this District has access to a rigorous and empowering education. If you are interested in joining us in this part of our mission, please email us with Desegregation in the subject line and please keep an eye out for information about a late October or early November special meeting that will be entirely focused on desegregation in District 13. We want to hear your hopes and your fears and we want to find a way that voices from every school are part of the process.
- We are also very lucky in District 13 to have award-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones in our parent body. And her talented and thoughtful husband Faraji Hannah-Jones as our CEC Second Vice President and now the PTA President for PS307. You'll hear more about this later on tonight, but I did want to highlight her 1619 Project with the New York Times and the Pulitzer Center's K-12 programming that is free for all. We have some copies of the magazine in the auditorium tonight.

## SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- As part of the way that we are incorporating the 5Rs into our mission as a CEC, we are using that lens to think about every aspect of our job, including our review of school buildings - their maintenance, and their locations. This is why last Spring when we saw that moving MS301 to the PS93 school building would provide that campus with an opportunity to grow, share resources, and thrive. We also noticed that without MS301, PS305 would struggle to do the same. We asked for the Superintendent and the DOE to work with us to create an opportunity here that would help make sure that the PS305 leadership, as well as all constituents in this community, would be supported in having conversations with other schools, including Arts & Letters, PS20 and PS44, about a path forward that would resolve some of the under and over-enrollment issues in the District while keeping equity and the 5 Rs at the forefront of that conversation. The group of stakeholders met twice in June and will be meeting again soon to continue to have these conversations and to come up with a path forward.
- It's clear from the Superintendents' presentation, that there may be other schools in this community that need to have their own conversations to help resolve issues of resources, equity, and utilization. Given our experience in District 13, the outcomes of those conversations are best when they are proactive and driven by the school
- communities themselves instead of starting in an office or a cubicle in Manhattan.
- We are inviting the Office of District Planning to come to our November 12 CEC meeting to share the District-wide Data Workbook with us. And, you can be sure that we will have reviewed it in advance of their presentation and will be ready with substantive questions to make sure that everyone who attends can understand what the report says and what the consequences of the data mean for us.
- We are also starting our school visits now and will complete the first round in October, this will help to make sure that we are ready for the various Capital Plan requests that our schools will put forward.

## RIGOR

- We want folks to choose District 13 elementary, middle and high schools. And, we know that one of the best ways to do this is to make sure that these schools offer rigorous, challenging, and creative curriculums. We want our students to have access to world languages, emerging technology, and the best that a world-class city like New York has to offer. We are supporting our schools and our Superintendent in creative partnerships. We also want to support our school communities in giving students an opportunity to shine and to be celebrated for their excellence.
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- In the Spring, we have a STEAM fair, we announced the award winners at our June meeting, and we will look for another opportunity this year to do the same. Next Wednesday is WE Day at the Barclay's Center, where we will help to celebrate students from around the Borough who are engaged in Community Service by giving back to those in need. And, the CEC is looking for a way to work with our schools to showcase each school's talent on a District-wide level, and to come up with a District-wide literary challenge.
- We are also inviting all of our Middle Schools to our October 29 CEC meeting, we want to hear from them what their strengths and challenges are, so that we can be sure to support them in any way that we can. We

know that we have some wonderful schools in our district and we want to make sure that you all know what they are. When you're looking for a middle school, we want to make sure that you're looking in District 13 and when you find your school, we want to help make sure that you made the right choice in school that will help prepare your student for success.

- State tests, we do not speak with one voice on this issue. It is up to each family to decide whether and when to Opt Out of the State Tests. The data has been useful for some schools and for the District as a whole to see which schools need the most help. But, there is a strong argument that testing, especially for young children does more harm than good. It's a complicated issue and one that we will continue to circle back to. Especially as we review the recommendations made by the SDAG.
- We have decided that while the state legislature may act on these priorities in 2020, we should work today to build relationships with the charter schools in our District so that we can show that transparency and accountability is healthy for all schools, including charters.
- Last week there was a hearing related to the renewal and revision of several charters in D13, we used that opportunity to help build relationships with those schools.
- Still to come is the September 24 hearing for Success - Ft. Greene and the January 7 hearing for Community Roots. The hearings are open to the public. And, as we upgrade our Communications plan we will find ways to share that information with you.
- September 9, 2019 hearing: Achievement First Endeavor Charter School (renewal); Brooklyn East Collegiate Charter School (renewal & revision); Leadership Preparatory Bedford Stuyvesant Charter School (renewal & revision)
- Today is Constitution Day, where we as citizens observe and recognize the adoption of the US Constitution and those who have become citizens. So, let us take a moment to do just that - celebrate the living breathing Constitution that has taken us from 1787 to 2019 and which will hopefully secure our rights as citizens going forward. Let us take a moment to celebrate the immigrants in our midst and our immigrant relatives who through hard work and dedication became US citizens, and to those who are striving towards citizenship today, let us wish them well on their journey. (Faraji shared information about the meaning of today and the popularity of the newspapers and magazines printed to share information of its importance).
- As both an attorney and arbitrator, I have sworn an oath to uphold the US Constitution and its laws, and it fills me with hope to recite the preamble for you now:
- Recited: We the People, of the United States of America, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish the Constitution of the United States of America.

## CHARTER SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS

- Although most of our jurisdiction centers on Community Schools, we believe that it is our job to look out for all of the students in District 13 who receive public funds. This is why we passed a resolution last year asking for the state government to maintain the charter cap, and asking for transparency and accountability for charter schools.
- Propose language
- Literary Event and Talent Show
- MS 1 information from developers: There is a meeting

\*Quorum met at 7:08\*

- Meeting minutes were reviewed and unanimously accepted. Motion made by Cynthia and 2nd by Enrique

V.) Presentation from D.K. Holland:

- Presentation by Elizabeth Waters and DK Holland Co-Directors of Inquiring Minds about Constitution Day

VI.) New Business: Continued discussion of presentation.

VII.) Public Comment

- Comments expressed during reports.

VIII.) Adjournment: 7:59pm

- Motion made by Cynthia and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Enrique and Chris

## Business Meeting

I.) Call to Order & Roll Call Roll 8:00pm: Ayanna Behin, Faraji Hannah Jones, Chris Meador, Aruna, Cynthia McKnight and Mereyem Bencheick

II.) Review Mission Statement (2 mins.)

- Mission Statement was reviewed and conditionally accepted. It will be revisited at the November meeting. Discussion about mission statement being inclusive of chancellor wording while being sensitive to how the working impacts parents. Suggested: Prioritize parent voices and engagement

III.) Finalize Liasion List

- Liaison list was reviewed and a liaison was assigned to each school and alternates assigned to 3 schools for temporary coverage.

IV.) New Business

- Chris: Can we begin scheduling meetings with principals? We will begin to do that and there is a great template created by Enrique that we will distribute to the council as a template
- CEC welcome letter went out to the principals by email
- SuggestiBreak out between business and calendar meeting

- Talent show and spelling bee: there is parent interest from PS 9: There was some push back from educational leaders in the DLT about the educational value of a spelling bee. It is suggested that instead of memorizing kids can create something a poetry or an essay contest that can be presented.
- Ayanna Will petition school authority to have a special meeting with us about MS 1 or share the information from the meeting with the council. Chris stated parents from PS 9 attended and will report back. He will share this information with the council.
- Next meeting will be middle school forum. We can have a special meeting to discuss talent show/spelling bee.
- Chris would like to call for a special meeting to ensure proper planning for the event.
- Faraji: School diveristy group district 2 are in opposition of the removal of g&t programs. There isnt enough information about how the programming impacts the secretations within District 13. This will be added to the agenda. Faraji will send the regulations concerning this. Suggestion to read Nikole Hannah Jones article regarding this information. Faraji will share this as well.

V.) Adjournment 8:45pm

- Motion made by Chris Meador and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Enrique Mina