

Minutes
Community Education Council for District 1
Calendar and Business Meeting, 12/9/15

Present for the meeting were Cynthia Cartagena, Aline Gnali, Luke Henry, Naomi Peña, David Post, Arnette Scott, Moses Seuram, Michael Stutman, and Stephanie Thompson. Marco Battistella was absent (family-related travel) and his absence was deemed excused.

Capital Plan and Resolution A Presentation

- Lisa Donlan and Moses Seuram gave a presentation on Capital Plan and Resolution A funding. They discussed funding allocations, BCAS walkthroughs, the recent unannounced release of the Blue Book reflecting the 2014-2015 school year, and the fact that the DOE has yet to release November Capital Plan updates and has yet to schedule Capital Plan hearings. The presenters discussed the process by which CEC liaisons reach out to principals to gather Capital Plan requests and submit them to the School Construction Authority. The presenters addressed audience questions about feasibility studies and wiring requests.

Minutes

- A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October and November 2015 CEC meetings. The motion was seconded and was carried unanimously.

Updates from Superintendent Phillips

- C30 Processes: PS/MS 140 and PS 142 completed Level 1 interviews. Level 2 interviews are next. The process at Henry Street School for International Studies is at the pre-Level 1 stage, that of forming a committee.
- The hearing for the proposed consolidation of PS 134 and PS 137 took place on 12/7/15 and the PEP vote on the consolidation will take place on 12/16/15.
- The district is advocating for Laura Peynado-Castro (UNMS) to be named a Master Principal, and Office of School Design and Charter Partnerships staff will attend an upcoming CEC meeting with related news.
- Irene Sanchez, the principal of PS 15, will be visiting the White House as part of a group of school leaders being acknowledged for increasing attendance.
- On 12/2/2015, D1 held a Pre-K/K admissions fair. The district had over 180 attendees and hopes to increase attendance at future fairs' Pre-K portion.
- Middle School Regents Academy: 35 students are regular attendees. Students receive grades and credit for participating. A partnership with NYU School of Medicine has been opened to expose the students to STEM opportunities and mentorship. Superintendent Phillips will discuss with Public Prep and Manhattan Charter School the possibility of these schools hosting future MS Regents Academies open to all D1 students.
- SIPP (Socio-Economic Integration Pilot Program) grant: There are 3 active work groups in D1 focused on PS 15 Enrichment, Socio-Economic Integration, and a Family Resource Center (FRC). Funding has been an obstacle during the grant's

- planning period. Early next week, initial funds should be available for travel, professional development, etc.
- Lisa Donlan explained that the goal of the planning period of the FRC work group is to focus on community-wide input about what the mission of a FRC would be in an all-choice district. How could it support parents in getting unbiased admissions/enrollment information, and what kinds of supports could a FRC provide for at-risk families? To facilitate future outreach to D1 families, the work group distributed a survey at the D1 Pre-K/K fair about admissions priorities.
 - Luke Henry explained that in the SEI work group, community members are studying the factors considered in determinations of socio-economic status. The group will eventually make admissions policy recommendations for PS 15 and likely for the district as a whole.
 - The superintendent addressed audience questions about the C-30 process and Interim Acting leadership appointments.
 - She acknowledged the delays in SIPP grant funding and explained that in an update to the state, a request for an extension of the grant timeline could be made.
 - She noted the recent release of renewal/receivership schools' CEPs and benchmarks. She explained that in a merger situation, schools with new DBNs have their records "wiped clean" (e.g., status as persistently dangerous). If a school were to begin to serve entirely new grade levels (i.e., from MS to HS), its previous benchmarks would not be transferred over.

Committee Updates

- Admissions Committee: the recently announced DOE Pilot for 7 set-aside programs will not achieve increased diversity district-wide. The CEC advocates increasing the percentage of students from underserved groups in these set-aside programs, and urges that an equitable admissions policy be enacted district-wide.
- Charter Committee: the public hearing for the proposed New York City Charter School of the Arts was held on the evening of the day that the SUNY Charter Schools Institute (CSI) recommended that the SUNY Board of Trustees approve the school. The institute did not consider the many objections raised by community members to the charter's application. The school will open in the Fall of 2016. On 11/6/15, SUNY CSI announced the proposed merger of Manhattan Charter School II with Manhattan Charter School. No public hearing has been announced for this proposed merger, and the DOE and SUNY CSI have yet to respond to the CEC's written inquiry about this oversight.
- Safety/Bullying Committee: the committee will have its first meeting on 12/14/15 at 6:30pm at PS 20, 166 Essex St.

New Business

- The CEC discussed a resolution advocating universal free lunch. The Program and Policy Strategist for Community Food Advocates was present to explain that schools' Title 1 eligibility would not be threatened by the elimination of traditional school lunch forms. A motion was made to adopt the resolution and was carried unanimously. A motion was made that the council would sign onto a

letter consistent with the resolution in its advocacy for universal free lunch. The motion was carried unanimously.

- CEC1's January meeting topic is still under discussion.
- Council members discussed protocols for responses to press inquiries.

Public Comment

- Several parents of PS 20 students raised concerns about communication and scheduling regarding the school's dual language program; insufficient exposure of students to Chinese classes and to full-time dual language certified staff; students' large class sizes in the 4th and 5th grades; and frequent changes to teachers' schedules. Parents expressed that past meetings regarding these concerns have not resulted in improvements to communication or programming.
- Superintendent Phillips acknowledged that dual language program participants experienced a rocky start—and now continuation—to the school year. She pointed to hiring instability and program attrition, and she made suggestions for how parents could approach further communication with school staff. She noted that the Deputy Chancellor in charge of ELLs will be visiting PS 20 dual language classes later this week. CEC members offered to meet with the parents present to help them advocate to have their concerns addressed.