

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL 14

January 13, 2022/ 6-8pm / Public meeting with members and public via zoom

Meeting Start

INTRODUCTIONS AND COMMUNITY CHECK IN

Introductions in the Chat and Community Welcoming

Roll Call at 6:03pm

Attendees Present:

Yuli Hsu

Casey Laytin

Jose Del Toro Alonso

Marissa Manzanares

Shy Fieldust

Absentees:

Kenyatta Reid

Tajh Sutton

Iris Gutierrez

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

YAY

Yuli Hsu

Casey Laytin

Jose Del Toro Alonso

Marissa Manzanares

Shy Fieldust

COMMUNITY CHECK IN

Welcome to the CEC 14 monthly meeting for January. Please introduce yourself in the chat! We'd love to know your name, school or community affiliation, preferred pronouns, what you're bringing into the space and hoping to get out of it. If your school community is in need of additional masks and rapid tests- please email us at cec14@schools.nyc.gov thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COVID TESTING AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS:

There are new Testing sites in and around the district, expanded eligibility for booster shots for 12-15 year olds and private insurance coverage available for take home tests.

Testing Locations In and Near the District

We are working on securing a new free testing site in the Downtown Brooklyn area. We hope to have updates very soon on social media.

Local Sites:

- **Greenpoint: McCarren Pool, 776 Lorimer St,** Mon–Fri, 8:30am to 8pm
- **Williamsburg: 376 Bedford Ave,** Sun–Fri, 10:00am to 7:00pm
- **Williamsburg: Woodhull, 760 Broadway,** Mon–Thurs & Sun, 7am to 7pm, Fri, 8am to 1pm
- **Downtown Brooklyn: 620 Atlantic Ave** (old Modell's space) – Mon–Sun, 11am to 7pm

There is emergency rental assistance available for qualifying families. If you or someone you know is in need of support visit <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/>

The Fund Excluded Workers Coalition is hosting a socially distanced and masked art build tomorrow at community Mayday Space from 3-8pm. If you can support in Solidarity or have been impacted and would like to be in community please come out!

St Nicks alliance is providing free training and certification in home health aide work, information technology and construction. Remote classes are available. Please email sjackson@stnicksalliance.org for more details.

More Caucus UFT

Ilan Desai-Geller

Jia Lee

Ilan and Jia are here to present the UFT perspective of schools over the past two weeks.

Ilan says that his school is “super chaotic and disorganized.” His school is averaging 60% attendance. Teachers were told that they are not allowed to provide instruction unless the student was home with a confirmed positive case. Staying home for safety does not allow for teachers to provide remote learning as the DOE’s current policy is that there is no remote option. Ilan shared that his school was very cold and because they have no ventilation or HEPA filters so they have had to struggle through frigid temperatures over the last two weeks. Ilan stated that he personally watched community spread and transmission in his classroom over the last two weeks despite the claim from the Mayor and Chancellor that there is not spread happening in schools.

Jia Lee - Special Ed teacher at Earth School - She stated that the most chaotic situation she has ever experienced in the schools. Teachers have been told that they “are tough” and have been guilted into overworking themselves. Jia’s experience is that this narrative creates tension. She also pointed out that the data that the mayor is touting to keep the narrative that “schools are the safest place” is based on last year’s data when there was a remote option and in school attendance was lower. Jia agrees with many parents in the community that the omicron rhetoric has become that we need to learn to

live with COVID. Jia shares that the DOE has asked the administrators of schools to act as test and trace over the past two weeks during a time that they are already overworked and understaffed. Over the break, schools were given a new test to stay policy by increasing 20% testing including vaccinated children, but that only includes children who have opted in. Jia points out that this is an access matter, and there are limited families who have opted in resulting in NYC public schools only testing 1.3 percent of the student population.

Community Questions and Comments:

Question:

Parents are having a hard time trusting the data, is there any other way to get trusted data about attendance, staff absences, etc...?

Yuli shared that PRESS NYC has created a hub to gather public available data, it is a people's dashboard. You can find that data here:

<https://pressnyc.github.io>

<https://schoolcovidreportcard.health.ny.gov/#/home>

Question:

Is anyone monitoring if special ed services are being tracked with staff shortages?

Jia shares that she is a special ed teacher and is incredibly concerned about special education. She feels there is a top down forced reopening and no one is getting consistent instruction, access to devices, wifi, and that families are no longer work from home so there is no relief anywhere.

Ilan joins in to state that the roll down effects for special education have been vast at his school. He teaches three integrated classes and his Special Ed teaching partner was pulled for coverage at least 10 days causing many students to not receive IEP services they are legally entitled to.

Dr. Alexander states if anyone is experiencing a situation in which IEP is not being met they should to file a complaint with the District 14 office.

There is a central office survey that principals must input the percentage of staff and students in the building.

Community Questions:

Is the survey broken down and delineated by the type of staff?

Dr. Alexander stated that as of now it is not delineated by staff type.

Question:

A community parent states that their concern is not knowing when their child's teacher is out and classes are being combined with other classes. How can we know this? So we can decide if we feel safe sending our kids to school?

Dr. Alexander states that it is difficult to give parents advanced notice when the absences at school are happening day by day.

Question:

Testing/Home test kits are inadequate and PCR testing has significant delays. Are we really just relying on an honor system at this point?

How is information about tests being validated?

Dr. Alexander stated that all COVID cases reported to the school are automatically reported to the situation room.

Question:

Can we get attendance clarification? Are parents going to be reported to ACS for keeping their children home?

If the student is absent due to being in quarantine the school is to provide work.

If the student is absent for reasons other than quarantine (including staying home to be safe) they do not provide instruction.

Many community parents commented and asked if our District can act independently and provide better policies for our D14 students.

Dr. Alexander stated that the District does not have the leeway to make exceptions outside of DOE protocols.

Many parents responded to this asking if we can have a forum with parents, teachers, staff, and district leaders to find common ground.

Question:

What happens if I continue to not send my child to school? What are the consequences?

Dr. Alexander shared that the schools are supposed to work with parents who don't want to send their kids to school out of safety concerns.

Yuli shared with the community that the D14 CEC has been advocating for the DOE to create an attendance code as there have been families in which ACS cases were started due to lack of attendance.

Another community parent shared that the policies and messaging about keeping kids home for safety are in direct conflict with each other. Policy is that only quarantined students are allowed to be provided instruction yet administrations are being told to work with parents who want to keep students home out of safety.

Many parents shared that they feel the current policies on exposure and quarantine are inadequate as it requires they send one sibling to school while another may be quarantined due exposure and that does not make sense or reflect safety.

Many parents continue to advocate for a forum.

Presentation from Dorill

Nora and Tareakeq from Dorill share a presentation presenting their work with student communities. Dorill creates civic engagement by supporting student artists. Dorill is committed to empowering young citizen artists and communities.

More information can be found here:

[DORILL.ORG](https://www.dorill.org)

https://www.canva.com/design/DAE1RxbHNo8/v4TgIFHc5A1v_evGF4VHjQ/view?utm_content=DAE1RxbHNo8&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton

CAPITAL PLANNING PRESENTATION

Yvette Knight, Senior Manager of the School Construction Authority

<http://www.nycsca.org/community/capital-plan-reports-data#Capital-Plan-67>

Capital Plan for 2020/2024

20.6 billion dollar plan

9.48 billion for capacity new seats

7.26 billion for capital investment current projects

3.51 billion for mandated programs (remediation bringing buildings to code)

Williamsburg/Greenpoint to add 920 seats

District 14 has 52 projects ranging from accessibility, systems

PS 196 Exterior Masonry

<http://www.nycsca.org/Real-Estate/Overview>

<https://survey.nycsca.org/bcas/>

Questions: Do we know when and where the new D14 site will be decided on?

Not yet but please send site suggestions to:

sites@nyc.org

WXY TEAM INTRODUCTION

Chris Rice, Director of Planning at WXY studio. They are an urban planning design firm. School planning is core to the work that WXY does. They led the D15 diversity plan. In general they work on equity, utilization, and travel distance.

Abby Zan, Project Manager for the D14 initiative

Natalie Kauz, Project Assistant

Role and scope of involvement of WXY will be interviews with stakeholders, launch equity working group, and an equity audit that establishes a baseline and shared understanding to measure progress over time.

First two phases take us through early spring, interviews, forming working group, and creating the audit

You can send questions or interest to d14gembk@schools.nyc.gov

SUPERINTENDANTS REPORT

Dr. Alexander answered question from community comment about tracking IEP services: parents can log into NYC schools account should be able to access what services were provided on any given day. Please let us know if you have any issues.

~Message from Dr. Dixon

~attendance updates

- ~Renee Baccaus and Dana Queen discussed curriculum night, literacy night on 2/17/22 the five pillars will be discussed:
- ~What's new about the A660 January 18
- ~IEP Parent Workshop part 1 on January 23
- ~IEP Parent Workshop part 2 February 8
- ~District Wide Title 1 PAC Meeting February 9
- ~Literacy Curriculum Night February 17
- ~Minor Collective Workshop February 15
- ~District 14 office has new contact information: D14GemBK@schools.nyc.gov
- ~ D14 Twitter @nycdoed14
- ~Soon the D14 website will be up

Lincoln Restler

Lincoln wanted to come and say hi and check in with D14 parents. KN95 masks are being distributed to schools in need. Lincoln encourages schools to reach out to his office if are capital needs that they can help support.

Public Comment:

A community Parent requests, when we talk about literacy can we also discuss the underlying issues that create literacy difficulty. Literacy night will include what literacy looks like on the ground in the schools.

Public Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm

Business Meeting at 8:17

Discussion of Capital Planning Prioritization
Ventilation Projects and Health and Safety Projects were chosen for priority.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm