

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL 14

November 15 2023/ 6-8pm / Public meeting with members and public via zoom

INTRODUCTIONS AND COMMUNITY CHECK IN

Introductions in the Chat and Community Welcoming

Meeting started at 6:08pm

Attendees Present:

Tajh Sutton
Marissa Manzanares
Aubree Henderson
Laraine DeAngelis
Sandra Fereirra
Gianinna Hutchinson
Resham Mantri
Ariana Lopez

Absentees:

None

Welcome to our November 2023 Community Education Council meeting! Please introduce yourself in the chat with your name, school or community affiliation and preferred pronouns. Feel free to share 1 thing you are coming into the meeting with and 1 thing you hope to leave with.

Ice Breaker:

If you had to describe yourself as a flower, tree, or form of plant life, what would it be and why?

Announcements and acknowledgements:

Announcement regarding targeted harassment toward CEC 14 & President Sutton

CEC14 President Sutton named the targeted harassment she is experiencing as a result of parent responses to CEC14 Statement on Events in Israel & Gaza.

It was acknowledged that many meeting attendees were present to comment on this matter, and attendees were reminded of the meeting structure and that public comment would come later in this meeting. This topic was revisited throughout the meeting as folks began to voice their concerns in the chat. Attendees were consistently reminded of the meeting structure and that they would be able to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Some attendees expressed concerns that parents were being removed from or not allowed in to the meeting. Attendees were reminded that duplicate meeting members of the same names will be removed, as will attendees who list no name and only a phone number.

Emilie Ward - Dramatic Stages

Emilie gave an overview of Dramatic Stages, a program using dramatic arts to engage students in learning social-emotional skills. Using theatre games and other types of play to learn is a research-backed intervention.

Survey on Related Services for Students with Special Needs/CCSE

Council members Sandra & Marissa spoke about a survey to assess how many parents are experiencing a gap in their children's related services and how we can identify supports needed. These related services (counseling, speech, occupational therapy, etc.) are among the first things to be cut in budget cuts. Links to survey from CEC14 and districtwide CCSE.

CCSE Survey Link:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=DQSIKWdsW0yxEjaiBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAANAAU3eko9UNVc0SFJOT0IVOUIKVDNMUzRHQkk1MVJZUi4u>

CEC14 Survey Link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-vrXAEne3scs5vroVCpoXdY6UnKb3vQfTqqYzY3vVwkpcbw/viewform>

Presentations

Mental health workshop: strategies for parents and school staff: Nicholas Tamborra Mental Health Counselor

Nicholas Tamborra, LMHC shared a presentation focused on resources for parents & students to support mental health. Topics covered included toxic stress, resiliency, adverse childhood experiences (ACES), strategies to recognize mental health difficulties in young people of various identities, and tools for parents & staff to better support students. Nick's presentation will be shared as a next step.

High School Report: Yuet Chu

Yuet gave an update from Brooklyn North High Schools, including an overview of the district vision & goals for the year. BKNHS is focused on career pathways, culturally responsive curriculum, parent engagement, and chronic absenteeism. BKNHS is very proud of increase in AP exam engagement and scores in Black & Latinx students. She shared updates from the BKNHS Fair - over 300 families attended! In order to support students with IEPs, BKNHS will be hosting a fair for students with IEPs. She highlighted Williamsburg Preparatory School as an outstanding high school in North Brooklyn - open houses on 11/18 and 11/30.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfoLIIBzXNyB9DUH_X-dG8rOtdX7ZUG-iQ34eq001KyD-xgQ/viewform

CEC Website <https://cec14.org>

Superintendent's Updates:

Superintendent Cintron shared updates about admissions updates for Pre-K through High school, Climate Action Days, NYC Reads Program, a collaboration with Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE), NYC Kids Rise college savings program & info sessions (<https://nyckidsrise.org/events>). He shared updates from a variety of schools in the district around events and community efforts.

Upcoming Events:

Workshop - Strategies to Promote Learning Enhancement During Holiday Breaks - 12/13 at 6:00p via Zoom (flyer will be shared in slides)

Workshop - Promoting Social Emotional Wellness At Home - 12/20 at 9am via Zoom

Important Dates: Will be included in Superintendent Cintron's slides (advanced too quickly to transcribe during meeting)

Boricua College Partnership with NYC Reads Program

Superintendent Cintron shared the details of a partnership with Boricua College. William Jusino, Dr. Len Torres, Aurea Morales from Boricua College spoke about the College's partnership with Superintendent Cintron to place student teachers in D14 schools to gain classroom experience and support our learning initiatives. Boricua also offers support to District 14 staff toward getting a degree at Boricua College. The College is committed to supporting the D14 community.

Contact for Boricua - Aurea Morales Dean of Admissions Boricua College 718-963-4112, AMorales@boricuacollege.edu

Public Comment:

Public comment centered on community members voicing their various perspectives about CEC 14's statement on Israel & Palestine. A number of community members voiced strong support of CEC14 and the historical and ongoing contributions of the CEC in the district. These comments pointed to the ongoing work of the CEC and President Sutton in particular around justice for all students and being strong advocates for equity. Many named feeling upset, disgusted, and concerned at the targeting of President Sutton as a Black woman.

A number of community members also shared feeling concerned, upset, and unsafe as a result of the statement as well as a walkout event shared by CEC 14. Concerns raised included not feeling that the statement adequately addressed or supported their perspectives, equating CEC14's support of Palestinians to antisemitism, and not feeling that their concerns are being heard or listened to. Some attendees did give concrete examples of decisions by the

council/details of the statement that they disagreed with or felt uncomfortable with, including terminology like “settler colonialism”, “Zionism”, and “genocide”. Others described a broader sense of feeling it was not the CEC’s place to speak on the events in Gaza & Israel and that the council should refrain from statements or endorsing events that are “political” in nature. Attendees required frequent reminders throughout the meeting (including the public comment portion) of CEC meeting norms & guidelines.

Public comment began at 8:05pm and ran until 9:02pm - council members stayed an additional hour to allow space for public comment.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:03 pm