



## CEC 5 Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes September 30, 2020

**Pamela Stewart**  
**President**

**Schadell Barnhill**  
**Vice President**

**Shaqua Randle**  
**Recording Secretary**

**Ayishah Irvin**  
**Treasurer**

**Members**  
Dr. Sanayi Canton  
Tanesha Grant  
Sonia Mendoza  
Gina Williams

**Borough Appointee**  
Pamela Stewart

**Student Member**  
Vacant

**Admin. Assistant**  
Lisa Kinsey

**Superintendent**  
Danika Rux

Meeting called to order by President Stewart at 6:47 PM. Roll call taken by President Stewart, which resulted in the following:

**Present:** Schadell Barnhill (late), Sanayi Canton, Tanesha Grant, Ayishah Irvin, Sonia Mendoza, Pamela Stewart and Gina Williams

**Absent:** Shaqua Randle (Excused)

**Approval of June 24, 2020 and July 22, 2020 Calendar/Business Minutes**  
Tabled until October 28, 2020 Meeting.

### **Bylaws Amendment Vote**

Motion by Member Grant second by Member Williams voice vote for the record. Yes: 4 No: 0 Abstain: 2  
Tabled until October 28, 2020 Meeting.

### **Election of the Second Vice President**

Tabled until October 28, 2020 Meeting.

### **CEC5 Calendar and Business Meeting Dates 2020-2021 Vote**

Motion by Member Williams second by Member Canton voice vote for the record. Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0

### **Report of President**

It is always an honor to be here and in front of our community.

- ☐ CEC 5 has been working tirelessly to help the community.
- ☐ President Stewart shared that everyone is busy, but it is important that we come together as a community.
- ☐ President Stewart emphasized her goal is to build relationships with elected officials and to always have our elected officials in the room. Elected Officials are present tonight. Porifiro Figueroa represents Senator Robert Jackson's Office. It is important that we reach out to the community and building those relationships.
- ☐ President Stewart shared that the great thing about virtual meetings is that you can attend more than one meeting at a time. You get to interact with everyone.
- ☐ President Stewart shared that networking and collaborating are important.
- ☐ The CEC5 & District 5 Parent Town Hall was amazing. All chat questions were answered. There were 79-80 attendees at the Parent Town Hall that was amazing.
- ☐ Attended District 5 Reopening Task Force
- ☐ Manhattan Borough President's Education Policy Committee: provided updates regarding the needs and issues in the district: Admissions, Technology, PPE Supplies, etc. to the Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer.
- ☐ President Stewart shared her belief that elected official's job is to do the grassroots work and help/connect with the community.
- ☐ Provided the update on the reopening process in our district and shared concerns for reconciliation.
- ☐ Advocated for the release Funds from the DOE for District 5
  - RESO A Funds given to District 5 from the Manhattan Borough President for FY 20-21 Funding.
  - Senator Brian Benjamin provided District 5 FY 17-18 estimated \$400,000 confirmed by Deputy Superintendent Davson.
  - RESO A Funds were important as some of our students are still in need of devices. President Stewart assured that funds will be released to SCA (school construction authority) to order devices.
- ☐ Attended Manhattan Borough President's Candidate Forum as a CEC Member.
- ☐ Attended ECC General, Steering and Emergency Meetings.

### **Community Education Council (CEC5)**

123 Morningside Drive, Annex, Room 232

New York, N.Y. 10027-5002

[\(212\) 222-1395 Ext. 2321](tel:(212)222-1395)  (Tel.)

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- Attended numerous CPAC General and Emergency Meetings to meet with the Chancellor.
- President Stewart would like to ensure that everyone is receiving updates for District 5. If not, please let her know.
- CEC 5 Members volunteered in District 6 Assemblyman Al Taylor had a Back to School and Food Giveaway. There were a lot of networking and opportunities to provide our ask to Senator Robert Jackson and Assemblyman Al Taylor for district support.
- President Stewart has been networking with NAACP and other organizations to get funding support for our district. Just a few things that President Stewart has done in collaboration with other CEC members.
- President Stewart attended the Success Academy hearing and did not see Member Canton. However, Anna Minsky and Erica, a member of ECC were present. The hearing started 45 minutes late and had to request that she send her comments electronically in order to attend the CEC5 meeting on-time.

## Report from Council Members

### ☑ Member Canton reported out on:

- Attended two hearings regarding increasing seats across 12 districts including District 5. Member Canton emailed council members and Superintendent Rux asking if anyone was interested in attending the hearing, participating or working together on a statement for the hearing as other districts. Member Canton received no responses.
- Success Academy is going to place 368 new seats in District 5 at PS 123, possibly PS 30, and PS 175. They want to increase 250 middle school seats in the middle of a pandemic.
- The district has advocated for the last three years starting a brand new middle school. Asking the DOE for another middle school for the district.
- Member Canton stated the only representation from District 5 was she and another parent. Member Canton and the parent also testified.
- Member Canton stated she and Member Mendoza does not receive any information when CEC5 is doing something with the District Office.
- Member Canton stated that we have to fight and advocate for the kids in this district. Member Canton states that her voice cannot be the only voice testifying at these hearings.
- Member Canton is calling out to the council and district office moving forward that they would find a way to come together and work for the issues of this district.
- Member Canton is asking that the Education Policy Task Force is an agenda item for October 2020 Meeting. She has information she would like to share with the community on CSS and other issues that they have been diligently working on as a committee.
- Member Canton met with Senators Holman, Liu and Jackson on September 23, 2020 regarding charter accountability and transparency. Member Canton will shared information received. Member Canton invited back to work on bills that are in place. Member Canton stated it would be helpful if the community can testify in January 2021 when the session reopens why transparency and accountability is important in NYC Charters.

### ☑ Member Grant reported out on:

- Pamela Stewart as a Community Leader and Parent Advocate in partnership with Parents Supporting Parents New York and Moms United for Black Lives started an initiative in Harlem (this has nothing to do with CEC) to supply as many kids in Central Harlem and Harlem with laptops (8GB). We are raising funds to buy HP or Acer laptops for as many students as we can. The laptop company Acer or HP is undecided whichever company gives the best deal. We are trying to collaborate with internet companies to get kids free service for at least a year. Many iPads given out are not working. As a community, we have taken the initiative to get laptops for our kids. Planning an event to distribute the laptops. Maybe CEC5 will participate in the distribution of 30 laptops providing it is not against the rules/bylaws etc.

### ☑ Member Irvin reported out on:

- Upcoming ECC Meeting Saturday, October 3, 2020 with the Chancellor. RSVP until tomorrow October 1, 2020. All presidents will have an opportunity to ask questions.
- PA/PTA regulations are now available on the DOE website. DOE is offering two webinars (morning and evening) on October 1, 2020 explaining to current/interested parents.
- The young scholar that went missing on Randall's Island was a first grader from our district that attended TCCS Lower School. His service was last Tuesday. TCCS is having a memorial on October 1, 2020 from 3:30pm-6:00pm @ Sakura Park releasing butterflies in his honor. A friend of the family started a GoFundMe page estimating about \$95,000.00 to date. A Meal Train has been set-up where people with feed the family every week.

### ☑ Member Mendoza reported out on:

- Shared the same sentiments as Member Canton with the actions of the council regarding information/collaborations. Member Mendoza does not feel like a part of the team/council. Member Mendoza would like a meeting with CEC5 FACE Liaison Michelle Change to discuss the issues.

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☑ **Member Williams reported out on:**

- Simple e-card sign up library for students, parents etc. to reserve pick up and drop off their books. The email for the ecard is [vit.ly/simplyecard](mailto:vit.ly/simplyecard) also; information is on the library website.
- Received a personal email regarding the back to school supply event with Assemblyman Al Taylor. Received an email from President Stewart sharing information with council members asking if anyone wanted to volunteer for the event. Member Williams volunteered for the event in advance.
- Attended a Hip Hop Health Walk Sunday in honor of pioneer community member DJ Lord Yoda X. Unfortunately, DJ Lord Yoda X passed from heart attack before the walk.
- Attended Veterans Helping Veterans and the community collaborated with Cherry Kids for a wonderful Covid-19 testing at Multi-Cultural Center on 120<sup>th</sup> Street giveaways distributed.
- Attended a Parent and Community Rally with Member Grant on Friday at TWEED regarding the reopening of schools hosted by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams.
- Upcoming Community Event honoring DJ Lord Yoda X Saturday, October 3, 2020 hosted by Rev. Christian John Boyd. Speaking out against gun violence and racism within the community encouraging voting and participation of the census.
- Shout-Out to Nicole Yearwood from Census2020 for her contribution of maps. Thank you to Frederick E. Samuel Democratic Club for extending the club to store maps for distribution.

**Report of Superintendent**

Superintendent Rux greeted the community. Superintended Rux states that she continues to receive guidance on a daily basis from central. Continuing to put priorities on four basic things.

**Brief Priority Updates:**

☐ **Reopening Safely**

- More of our schools have received all of the PPE Supplies that were promised/ensured to reopen safely gloves, mask, face shields, sanitizer, wall pumps, forehead scanning thermometer and individual family thermometers. It has been a huge week tracking all of the supplies. Mary was at the helm of that making sure that every school had everything. UFT was making sure the DOE held accountable and monitoring daily updates. All schools are supposed to have 30 days of supplies at hand. Custodians know where to go to get additional supplies when needed. MLK is the hub for all of the supplies any school community that is need and cannot wait for shipment they can go to MLK and pick up their PPE supplies.
- We have done several walks thru all of our campuses. The District Office, Manhattan Borough Team, CSA, School Construction Authority, UFT and Central Team have all walk thru every school in our district room by room. A school building survey completed daily with school leaders to ensure readiness for our students.
- Working closely with the custodial staff at our schools to ensure that there are plans for cleaning thru out the day in our school communities. Paying special attention to push bars on doors, handrails, doorknobs any of those surfaces that many people will touch.
- School nurses was the biggest fight to get one additional nurse in a school. Happy to report that PS/MS 123 has a school nurse now. Every single one of our schools have a nurse.

☑ **Teaching and Learning**

- We have a few challenges with staffing. We have a huge amount of teachers across the district who approved for reasonable accommodations. That is causing a huge strain in school communities in terms of staffing. The numbers continue to spike as well, because there is no deadline for staff members to put in for reasonable accommodations.
- Principals spent so much time over the summer planning and programming for schools knowing that a certain number of teachers were going to be in the school. That shifts every Sunday night.
- DOE has given funding \$3k to \$263k to hire subs, f status teachers, pay teachers per session and circular six schools opportunity programs, if needed to help us with staffing needs.
- DOE also redeployed several people from central. Fifteen people from central redeployed to FDA. This is a short-term solution for a huge problem. Superintendent continues to ask what the long-term plan is. People redeployed from central will not be with us for the entire year.
- DOE also redeployed Euclid Coaches and most of the people in the Division of Early Childhood have been placed in schools as of recently. However, we are experiencing CSA has interjected. We continue to monitor the numbers.

☑ **Social/Emotional Needs of the Community**

- Continuing our work with Claudia our Restorative Practice Coach in the district. She is continuing to touch our parent coordinators, but we are at a point where we need to shift the focus from parent coordinators to get a wider range of people engaged in the work in order for it to be more impactful.

☑ **Communication with Stakeholders**

- Happy to share as of last week we have a District 5 App talked about in the past. Not ready just yet in the process of trying to refine it so that it is ready for public view it will be coming out very shortly user friendly with the right information accessible to families, students and community as well.

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- We abandoned the initial thought of reopening schools on one day for 3K-12 it did not make sense at the time given the challenges we were having. We had a staggered back to school for our students. Started last week with our 3K/Pre-K and it was wonderful. This year has been the most challenging year not as a superintendent, but as a person. We had many happy faces in school buildings last week. The happy faces continued as we welcomed back our K-5 students. Looking forward to that tomorrow when we welcome back our 6-12 students as well.
- Principal Michelle Verdiner at TCCS School Community had an out of the country traveler that tested positive for Covid-19 and the school community was closed at the very last minute as the school was not safe without properly sanitizing and cleaning the community to ensure it was safe for everyone. We found out that thru contact tracing nine individuals from that school community was in contact with the person who had Covid-19. The school already had eleven teachers with reasonable accommodations twenty staff members out would not be a good situation for a school to reopen. Finally, DOE has agreed to keep the school closed to go fully remote just to ensure that everyone is safe.
- Superintendent Rux answered questions asked of her.
- **Deputy Superintendent Robin Davson** answered question from the community chat. Sharing that Covid-19 testing will be random and not mandatory for students. Not sure about the UVC Sterile lights in each classroom, not actually sure what that is maybe that can be looked into. Recording sessions there are laws and policy against recording students. Thanked President Stewart for the \$400k Grant push they have been very communicative with the district receiving the funds for technology. A request for 1,047 laptops needed for the district. Working diligently to close the gap.
- **Yael Leopold, District 5 Director of Early Childhood** stated 3K/Pre K students had an amazing opening week last week. Proud of all of the teachers and families who entrusted our school communities with their babies. Received positive feedback from families. The amazing opening continued with our K-5 students this week as well. In person, teachers were excited to welcome students back as well. Meeting quite often with school building leaders offering support to teachers in terms of all the new daily guidance. It has been a team collaborating effort. Collaborating with Mental Health and Wellness social worker team out of the Division of Early Childhood to offer support for teachers as well as families. Next family workshop October 21, 2020 we have had two family workshops already. Workshops are usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. It has really been a great experience having early childhood families from across the district come together and navigate in person and remote learning.
- **Speaker's List**
- Time allotted for the speaker's list.

President Stewart adjourned the calendar meeting at 8:40PM.

Business meeting immediately followed. Business meeting attendance same as calendar attendance taken by President Stewart. Council reviewed school liaison list 2020-2021. President Stewart adjourned the business meeting at 9:13PM.

Submitted by: Lisa Kinsey, Administrative Assistant