



CEC 5 Calendar Meeting Minutes November 18, 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 6:37 PM. Roll call taken by Lisa Kinsey, which resulted in the following:

Present: Schadell Barnhill, Sanayi Canton, Tanesha Grant, Ayishah Irvin, Sonia Mendoza, Shaqua Randle, Pamela Stewart and Gina Williams

Approval of July 22, 2020, September 30, 2020 and October 28, 2020 Calendar and Business Minutes

A motion by Treasurer Irvin to accept the minutes with suggested amendments from Member Canton second by President Stewart voice vote for the record: Yes: 5 No:1 Abstain:1

Election of the Second Vice President

December 16, 2020 Meeting.

Acknowledgement of Elected Officials

- **Senator Robert Jackson's Office, Director of Community Affairs, Porfirio Figueroa**
 - Assisted Senator Jackson, Al Taylor, Mark Levine, Chair of CB9 volunteers and members with PPE (mask and hand sanitizer) from 135th Street to 165th Street to stores and individuals that would stop and talk and take a mask. It is important for us to get these numbers down. With the announcement today that schools are closed. Even more so that we can get all back to normal and keep our lives somewhat sane during these times. Thank all of you for doing your part to make that happen.
 - Monday, November 23, 2020 Senator Jackson will be going to the Westside Campaign against Hunger to help give out turkeys to needy families at 1:00pm 263 W. 86th Street.
 - Hosting a series of free flu shots. Just did our third free flu shot giving out over 90 to all constituents and people thru out the district. The next free flu shots is Tuesday at the corner of 159th Street and Amsterdam Ave from 10:00am-3:00pm a new partnership with Ryan Health Center.
 - We honored one of our 2020 Veterans of Distinction this past Thursday in honor of Veteran's Day in recognition of his service to the country. Our veterans and military personnel do a lot to keep our country safe. The Senator honored him with a plaque.
 - Held a Press Conference for Bill S3320, which greatly affects people of our community and it, was in tandem with Senator Assemblyman Jeffery Dinowitz and Housing Advocates. This law signed by the Governor requires landlords to tend to court ordered repairs within 60 days of a court order which is a great bill and fight one for tenants. The whole Tenant Assistance Program called HEAP (Home Energy Assistant Program) for low-income families to pay for heating. The open enrollment is online and available by visiting otda.ny.gov/programs/heap
 - Covid-19 numbers are up we can all do our part by wearing a mask, staying home if you do not feel well, make sure we keep our 6 feet of social distance, wash our hands often and be tested.
 - Wishing everyone a safe holiday from the bottom of my heart Happy Thanksgiving and thank you for this opportunity to be will you.
 - **Manhattan Borough President's Office, Chief of Staff, Jessica Mates**
 - Gale will be jumping on later. She has many meetings tonight, but I will be here the whole time. I want to say we are so supportive of all the work you are doing Pamela Stewart and the entire CEC.
- We are working very hard to try to get more devices that are more technical in the hands of students. We just sent a letter to the Mayor about it we found another wrinkle. We have spoken to the School Construction Authority. Also, found out that the Mayor is trying to charge schools actually to pay for the warrantees for the devices to get to students and to pay for the case and delivery that is unacceptable to us. We are going to yell and scream about that. Hoping to work with CEC on this issue it is not right it is not fair and will not work. We continue being engaged on that issue. Will keep you updated as we continue to work on it.
- We are here to listen and please call on us as you do whenever we can be helpful. Thank you.

Report of President

- Manhattan Borough President's Office is giving District 5 families 50 turkeys to be distributed. President Stewart is working on getting the names from the principals.

Community Education Council (CEC5)
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- Manhattan Borough President supported the purchase of laptops for our District 5 students. President Stewart collaborated with two non-profit organizations with a gofundme page to buy new laptops for our District 5 students.
- President Stewart has reach out to principals to get names of those students in temporary housing, shelters and just students who are in need.
- First event was Saturday, October 31, 2020. Twenty laptops purchased and distributed looking forward to the next laptop distribution.
- Received an additional \$12,000.00 now up to \$25,000.00 purchased 17 laptops already. Looking forward to actually purchasing up to 20 laptops for distribution the beginning of December. We received wonderful overwhelming support generous donators from NAACP President, Dr. Hazel Dukes, wonderful Manhattan Borough President, Mark Trager and even gofundme because it was so successful. This is all for the children and we just want to do the best we can to help our students and our district.
- President Stewart, Chair, ECC Finance Working Group met with Deputy Chancellor, Adrienne Austin posed are few things that are implemented right now reimbursement for Wi-Fi and the use of your telephone. As you know, we received an email from them requesting that we could definitely submit your reimbursements for \$75. President Stewart is looking forward to those reimbursements. You can submit your reimbursements starting from July.
- Working to build those relationships with our community and get the polls from the community, because we are not really touching the surface, but we are doing what we know and what other people are telling us. Building those relationships with elected officials so now they are really reaching out. Scholarships for our students we submitted I believe three names for high school students to receive scholarships.
- Working with Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer in her Educational Task Force to get the devices as Jessica mentioned.
- Advocating every opportunity that would be at the ECC meeting with the Chancellor always talking about the devices and the RESO A Funding and State Senator Brian Benjamin working with everyone to get those funds released. They are always telling me yes. I do not think all of them are released yet. Working with them making sure, those funds are released, at every opportunity that is my question. When are we going to get them released? So far, we got one, but the principals are still asking for the release of those funds. That is what President Stewart is working on.
- Attended the first virtual Meet and Greet Dinner with UFT President, Michael Mulgrew and Director, Nick Cruz there was a host of individuals there. It was a great opportunity to meet them and to share what is going on in our districts and concerns; I can guarantee they took notes. Whatever all the issues that were going on at that moment I made it very clear all I care really about is District 5. District five need resources/funding when we are talking about \$100,000, \$400,000, \$600,000 but it is held up somewhere that is annoying. I am thinking about the students and the resources that they need especially now that they are going 100% remote. That is not cool and that is what I am working on in collaboration with the CEC members.
- Attended CEC Executive Superintendent Meeting with Marisol Rosales that was also good. We talked about data what data looks like and requesting the data. President Stewart put in a lot of request for the council hoping that we receive the request in terms of data.
- Attended PTA Meetings getting a sense of what those meetings look like. Some of the meetings disappointed President Stewart because she thought we were a little further than what we are and they really need support. President Stewart is hoping we can get the support. President Stewart will share information with Carla Tenorio, D5 Parent Support Coordinator.
- Attended Parent Coordinators Meeting President Stewart needs to connect and know what the needs are. That was a good meeting to attend and listen to the parent coordinators. Hoping that they feel more comfortable to speak up at the next meeting.
- Attended the DLT Meeting actually working on the District CEP. President Stewart is learning about the DCEP as well. President Stewart will share more information when it becomes available with everyone.
- ECC Steering Committee there is a lot going on there. President Stewart will share at the next meeting.
- eChalk attending this meeting talking about our website. Our website need a huge overhaul. That is what we are working on to improve our communication with the community. It is all about resources, community and communication if we cannot provide that then we might as well pack it up and call it a day because nothing else will matter at this point.

Report of Superintendent Dr. Danika Rux

- **Presented a PowerPoint Presentation: November 2020 CEC5 District Update**
- **District Priorities**
 - Health and Safety
 - Teaching and Learning

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- Social-Emotional Needs of the Community
- Communication with Stakeholders
- **Technology Distribution**
 - All schools distributed their school-based devices in March.
 - 4553 devices requested from Central since March
 - 863 device requested in the central cue
 - 198 shipped as of Friday, November 13, 2020

Important to note that many of the outstanding requests are due to connectivity issues, lost stolen and/or broken devices. Many of the devices that were originally given out at school communities and the early iPads that were distributed out from central they did not have Wi-Fi access. Devices distributed by the schools did not have many of the apps that students needed loaded on them. Families are now requesting devices that come with Wi-Fi already and come with all of the apps students may need. We are having them swap out the old devices for newer devices.
- **iPad and Device: Inventory/Distribution Update**
 - Additionally, DOE has recently secured 100,000 devices and the process to ship those devices out has started. They anticipate it will take about 4 weeks to get them out to all of the people in need for full distribution. We are asking principals to support with expediting of the process, by going thru their reports of students who need devices and prioritizing them within the system.
- **Hotspots Now Available**
 - Students who had access to Wi-Fi in D5 it was because they had a free three-month contract free Wi-Fi service and that has expired. Families are asking how I can secure Wi-Fi. Principals/Someone at the school can now request hotspots for families; it closes on the November 20, 2020. We do have hotspots available upon request. Priority is always for students in NYCHA Housing, shelters and those who simply just do not have access to Wi-Fi. Hotspots enable up to eight devices to connect at one time. Please view PowerPoint Presentation.
- **Health Screening & Temperature Checks**
 - Schools are closed, but buildings are not closed. Anyone coming into the building principals, teachers, families etc. to distribute/pick-up devices or packets would still have to ensure that they are healthy by completing the health screening and temperature checks.
- **Threshold for School Closure**
 - We were asking this question back in the summer, what would be the threshold for closure. We hit the 3% marker this morning. We are eagerly anticipating a press conference with the Mayor and Chancellor.
- **Scenarios: School Building closure (transition to all remote learning)**
 - Initially there were three different situations for closures. We have experienced scenario 1 and 3 throughout the district. **Scenario 1: Situation Room Closure:** Two or more confirmed cases in different classes within a building within 7 days. We had a number of schools throughout the district that had this similar situation. Either the building or the classroom closed for 14 days. **Scenario 3: Insufficient Staffing Coverage to Ensure Supervision:** As a result of 1-2 people being quarantine or then the tracing process. One teacher may have had contact with 10 people in the building, and in a small school community that may result in the school not having sufficient staff in order to cover adequate supervision of the students in the building, which would force a closure. Again, we have had situation 1 and 3 in the district.
- **System Wide School Closure**
 - We are at a different point we reached that threshold of 3% this morning. The Mayor and the Chancellor announce that we would have a system wide closure this afternoon starting tomorrow. The Mayor shared some thoughts about the plan for reopening and he alluded to having everyone in the community tested. We are waiting to get more solid information about what reopening looks like, when reopening will occur. The Mayor said that it will most likely happen after the Thanksgiving break, but we do not have a reopen date as of yet. All of our schools have pivot plans and looking at the data for quite some time. The daily rate of positivity and 7-day rolling data. We have been looking at this since September. We have had multiple conversations with our principals what does that mean to pivot to full remote, communication with families, students, teachers and professional development all of our schools are ready for full remote at this point. The district team is going to continue to support principals and the community as we move thru this.
- **Mobile Testing**
 - I think that is a thing of the past at this point right now with schools being closed.
- **PPE Distribution**
 - We spent quite a bit of time making sure PPE was in every school that custodians who were distributing material had access to material when their schools ran out.
- **Breaks from Wearing a Face Covering for All Students:**
 - Also a thing of the past with students wearing mask in the building. Please view PowerPoint Presentation.
- **Learning Bridges Program**
 - Is a program that provides free childcare for students who are in blended learning, that program will continue even when the schools are closed, that is a reprieve that families still have access. Priority goes to families that are in temporary housing (including shelters and hotels), children of NYCDOE school staff members, learning

bridges other sites and contracted early childhood providers, families residing in NYCHA, foster care, child welfare services, students with disabilities, parents who are essential workers. Please view PowerPoint Presentation.

- **Middle School & High School Admission**
 - Not open as of yet and no longer close on December 4, 2020. Registration is not open for specialized high school. Please visit the DOE website to stay abreast to when admissions open. Families have more opportunity to dig deeper into school options. Video virtual high school tours are available. Please view PowerPoint Presentation.
- **Learning Preferences**
 - Opting in dates Monday, November 2 – Sunday, November 15 are put on hold probably revisited if we return to school buildings. Please view PowerPoint Presentation.
- **Learning Preference Data:** Please view PowerPoint Presentation
 - Superintendent stated 63.5% of families have opted for remote learning since September 2020. We are 100% remote selected or not. It is important that all families sign up for NYCSEA Accounts. It has vital student information. Great way to get general DOE information.
- **Chancellor Virtual Information Session: Remote and Blended Learning**
 - Thursday, November 19, 2020 from 6:30 P.M-8:30 P.M presuming there will be an adjustment to just remote learning in general. Hoping there will be some pertinent information as to where we are heading in the next couple of weeks. Please view PowerPoint Presentation.
- **D5 Digital Curriculum Needs**
 - ELA 7 out of 23 schools purchasing digital Reading and Writing Curriculum
 - Math 4 out of 23 schools purchasing digital math curricular
 - Foundational Literacy 14 out of 16 schools purchasing digital phonics curriculum K-2
 - Science 2 out of 23 schools purchasing digital in science
 - Social Studies 2 out of 23 schools purchasing digital social studies curricular
- **Grading Policy**
 - 3K and PreK: No change because students do not receive report cards or grades.
 - K-5: Schools select their grading scales for marking period and final grades. Students will receive grades of “needs improvement” (N) in place of failing grades. . Parents/guardians may choose to have any passing grade updated to a passing grade of “meets standards” (MT).
 - 6-8: Schools select their grading scales for marking period and final grades. Students will receive grades of “course in progress” (NX) in place of failing grades. . Parents/guardians may choose to have any passing grade update to “pass” (P). Grades of “P” will not be factored into students’ GPAs.
 - 9-12: Schools select their grading scales for marking period and final grades. Students will receive grades of “course in progress” (NX) in place of failing grades. Parents/guardians may choose to have any passing grade updated to a passing grade of “credit” (CR). Grades of “CR” will not be factored into students’ GPAs
- **Attendance**
 - We want all of our children to be present, but even more so engaged. District Goal: 90% of children attending school and class every day and 100% participation and engagement attendance as of 11/16/2020 = 81.9%. We really want families and schools to work together to create an engaging and inviting environment for our children to learn.
- **Early Childhood Updates**
 - Monthly Family Workshops once a month Web Wednesdays for early childhood families PreK-K. Carla has also provided family institute workshops once a month on Web Wednesdays and both well attended. We encourage as many families as possible to attend. If you have not received a calendar, please reach out to you school’s parent coordinator and they will make sure you receive it for future workshops and events. In addition, we have been holding professional leaning opportunities for school building leaders, teachers and para professionals well attended as well. Recent workshop on supporting special education in remote settings well received. In addition, really pushing for families as partners in teaching and learning especially in this remote environment that we are navigating. We need families to work with teachers and school communities. You are the teacher at home. We appreciate everything you are doing. The collaboration is important. Lastly, PBS started this past Monday everyday M-F an hour of educational TV on PBS it is called Let’s Learn channel 13 at 11am or channel 21 at 9am geared for ages 3-8.
- **Presentation by: Anthony Carrion, Community Organizer**
 - Superintendent Rux, Robin Davson, Debra Spivak and Yael Leopold answered questions raised.
 - Hunger Free NYC A division of HUNGER FREE AMERICA
 - Hunger Overview
 - SNAP/WIC Overview
 - Importance of the food safety net
 - Other food services
 - Contact us

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- **Time allotted for the speaker's list.**
 - No one for the speaker's list

President Stewart adjourned the calendar meeting at 8:06PM.

CEC5 Business Meeting Minutes November 18, 2020

Meeting called to order by President Stewart at 8:08 PM. Roll call taken by Lisa Kinsey, which resulted in the following:

Present: Schadell Barnhill, Tanesha Grant, Ayishah Irvin, Sonia Mendoza, Shaqua Randle, Pamela Stewart and Gina Williams

Absent: Sanayi Canton

- **Website Builder Presentation by: Christopher Conforti eChalk, Regional Sales Manager**

Mr. Conforti shared the background history of eChalk. The council shared an open question and answer CEC5 website dialogue with Mr. Conforti. Mr. Conforti also shared a website proposal (council is in receipt of website proposal) and other websites that eChalk created for other CEC's/DOE schools. Mr. Conforti is available for a follow-up meeting with the council.
- **Executive Session**

No quorum council was unable to have an executive session

President Stewart adjourned the business meeting at 8:53PM.

Submitted by: Lisa Kinsey, Administrative Assistant