

## Pamela Stewart President

Schadell Barnhill Vice President

Shaqua Randle Recording Secretary

Ayishah Irvin Treasurer

# Members Dr. Sanayi Canton Tanesha Grant

Tanesha Grant Sonia Mendoza Gina Williams

#### Borough Appointee Pamela Stewart

Student Member Vacant

Admin. Assistant Lisa Kinsey

Superintendent Danika Rux

# CEC 5 Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes October 28, 2020

Meeting called to order by President Stewart at 6:40 PM. Roll call taken by Lisa Kinsey, which resulted in the following:

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

Approval of June 24, 2020, July 22, 2020 and September 30, 2020 Calendar/Business Minutes Tabled until November 18, 2020 Meeting.

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

Tabled until November 18, 2020 Meeting.

#### Acknowledgement of Elected Officials

- Manhattan Borough President, Gale Brewer
- Stated that she knows how important these days are in terms of schools, and I want to thank you Madam Chair because I know you have been trying to figure out and expand the opportunities for young people in terms of devices internet etc. I want to congratulate you. I look forward to hopefully, making that a reality it is a citywide problem, as you know. The Daily News has been covering it and we are trying to log any specifics we know exactly what the numbers look like in the Borough of Manhattan. You certainly have moved forward.
- Keep us updated with everything from open streets, devices, social workers, nurses and I think we are all trying to figure out how we make sure that the young people have the best possible opportunity. You have a tough job in CSDCEC5 I am very aware of that perhaps tougher than any other community school district in the borough of Manhattan and I just want to be as supportive as we possibly can. I know also that you have so many young people who have parents working and so many young people who need the support. So keep letting us know.
- We are finally getting the Department of Education out of the office of Management and Budget to focus on the 2020 Budget. Forget even 2021to figure out how we can spend the money. We had about \$15 million dollars until I think a month or two ago the city said we could not spend. It makes no sense to spend money on cafeterias right now spend money on technology. We are trying to figure out how to do that, and certainly almost every school in Manhattan was given at least \$100,000. Here we are trying to figure out how to spend it. Just so, you know, we are all on that issue. We are actually calling every single school in the borough of Manhattan to find out where they are in that funding and how they are able to access it. In talking to your schools find out about the RESO A from the City Council and the Borough President how it is being spent 2020 and 2021. It is just sitting there it takes about eight weeks to get a device, if not longer, I think you already know that which makes no sense to me. So, thank you very much.
- Senator Robert Jackson's Office, Director of Community Affairs, Porfirio Figueroa
- Thanked President Stewart and CEC5 so much for recognizing and allowing him to be here.
- It is always an honor to be here. To hear all of the things that you are doing for the children in your district.
- Today Senator Robert Jackson in partnership with the Mobilization for Justice and Met Counseling on Housing hosted a tenant info session on "Knowing Your Rights in New York City as a Tenant". Questions on eviction moratoria, housing court and knowing your rights were discussed it is available on the Senator's FB page which is @senatorrjackson if you want to see it.
- Our office did a self-High Bridge Parks Clean-Up on Saturday, October 24 2020 with Coach Dave, the Uptown Dreamers and in collaboration with Friends of Inwood Hill Park and Hype the Heights. We learned about the monopoly of people who were the original conservationist and the importance of recycling.
- Legislatively we have a press conference Thursday, October 29, 2020 on the Bill F8919 to expand family leave for remote learning.
- We will be having a series of flu shots drive beginning Friday, November 6, 2020 and every Tuesday thereafter in partnership with the Ryan Health Center. We will share all that information in the flyer as soon as it is available to CEC5 and CB9. It is truly inspiring to hear all the work you are doing.

#### Director, Northern Manhattan Office, Athena Moore

Thank you, just here in support. Madam Borough President is here also I am here if you need me. You know where to find me at her the North Manhattan Office. Thank you.

Community Education Council (CEC5)
123 Morningside Drive, Annex, Room 232
New York, N.Y. 10027-5002
(212) 222-1395 Ext. 2321 (Tel.)
(212) 316-0451 (Fax)

lkinsey@schools.nyc.gov

#### Acknowledgement of District 5, UFT Representative, Zina Myrick-Burton

- Greeted the community and thanked President Stewart for the acknowledgement.
- We are in a time now trying to make sure that the equity is happening for schools and families in regard to the teaching

mode, models and modalities it has been a challenge for everybody, from blended teachers, remote teachers, fully remote teachers, staffing, and special education issues. We all are working on those issues together, myself, superintendent's office the whole team pounding trying to get these issues resolved so that is one of the major things we have been looking at trying to see what type of mechanisms and ways we can work this stuff out. Of course, health and safety maintains a priority for everybody. We do not know what things are going to look like from one month to the next. Seeing surrounding communities state numbers are going higher from this turnaround time now if students are going to opt to come back into the building or not. All of those things become challenges for the whole school community. Those are the things we are looking at and just want to ensure that the community as a whole is successful that is where we are. Thank you.

# Report of President

- President Stewart reiterated asking that the Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary to re-listen to the CEC meeting recordings again from June 24, 2020, July 22, 2020 and September 30, 2020 again ensuring that everything that was recorded on the minutes. The minutes will be sent to council for review. President Stewart encourages the council to look at the minutes and provide your edits so that we can now present it to the public and vote.
- · We will not do the nomination for second vice president. As there was a question regarding the bylaws as well?
- · President Stewart has been doing a lot.
- At this point right here, it is important that we stick together as a community we work together. You see that in many of the grass roots organizations that are working to help our district, but it is important that our school communities as and parents come together as well and work as one.
- President Stewart emphasized no problem is too small to bring to our attention. We are here to support you and all of our schools. So please feel free to email, telephone call anything we need to hear from you. We are here to serve you.

# **Report from Council Members**

#### Vice President Barnhill

- Greeted the community, right now like everyone else she has an extremely hectic schedule and apologized for being late to the meeting.
- · Going to be in the process of setting up her school visits to see what her schools needs and concerns are.
- Listening to parent and teacher concerns who are very concerned about the situations and taking into account all the concerns back to the council, so that we can work together as a community going forward.
- Reached out to a few teachers for our Chancellor's Town Hall and the very first person public speaker who spoke Thelma Thompson a very prominent and much respected teacher at PS/MS 123. Her concerns were just that the teachers are being of course overrun it is a lot for them when it comes to online learning and worried about the lack of teachers how is anyone going to get any relief going forward. Of course, there is always the safety concerns in the schools, but the concerns are mainly about the teachers they are tired. It is very hard for them with the online classes.
- VP Barnhill states that she has witnessed the difficulty with working from home and home school or online learning
  with her children.
- Some children do not mute their mics, they are arguing, in this case there are two teachers, some cases it is not two teachers, in other cases schools do not have enough teachers. One teacher is teaching for all grades and they are just looking for some relief.

# **Member Canton**

- Helped PS 194 with grant writing in the amount of \$360k-\$780k to support PS 194.
- Working with the ECC Chair of the Charter Committee and CEC5 Charter Committee working with Elected Officials on several bills that will bring transparency and accountability to the district.
- Success Academies has acquired 368 seats in our district in Harlem. Will use the current occupied space within the schools we have. Question/concern was it going to be within IS 286, PS 30, PS 175, and her own building on 129<sup>th</sup> St. if she is going to use her own space; we just opened at a middle school in PS/MS 129, which is around the corner.
- A part of the LeBron James Foundation trying to get individuals to give money to our schools in District 5. She has been a part of that project for the last 2 ½ years. Hoping within the next few months to have a donor to get some funds to schools in District 5. Member Canton will share information as it becomes available.

- Task Force on October 15, 2020 Deputy Superintendent did send an email out to enrollment. At the last meeting, Member Canton ask the Superintendent for Columbia Secondary numbers. As you know, we have issues with screened schools and inequalities. Columbia Secondary has been one of those schools that had issues around that. We had an agreement last year that Columbia Secondary for 2019 admissions would make sure 25 seats went to students in District 5 schools because they were under represented for several years. Requested the information back in January. To find out all the things that district 5, superintendent and the principal agreed to was actually being implemented creating a separate orientation and open house for district 5 schools/parents to get additional information was done. Inquired about principal worked on fixing having a conversation with testing, accepted students and clarity of rankings.
- Sent an F.O.I.L. in April regarding admissions. Will forward last response for F.O.I.L 17294 for Admissions Data.
   F.O.I.L request from which school did children receive seats in, which priority special ed., general ed., and demographics.
- April to September got sort of a run around there was a conversation with the Director of Enrollment, Sarah Kleinhandler. Sarah sent an email back in August stating sending all the data over to the F.O.I.L. Office and the F.O.I.L. Office will forward the information to Member Canton. Received a letter from Donald Doyle, Deputy Record Account Access Officer he stated he did not have the data. It was difficult locating, retrieving the data due to the complexity of the request, needed more time and he planned to respond to Member Canton by November 9, 2020. Member Canton understands that the enrollment office was going to take over the process doing the ranking making sure that the seats were evenly distributed. Member Canton ask the Superintendent at the last meeting if she could pull the information now that school has been open over a month. The six graders coming in that information should be available, which schools they went to, what are the demographics, and did we actually get 25 seats for district five. Maybe the superintendent will have an answer in her report.
- Working with the NAACP around this issue. Hazel Dukes is sort of supporting Member Canton with trying to get the
  information. Just want to make sure this screened school that is our school district one of a few that children in
  district five in district five schools will get a seat. Member Canton did email the F.O.I.L to the council. Will share
  information as it becomes available.
- Charter Committee is planning a meeting. four schools coming up within the next year for expansion and there are some concerns on dealing with space issues..
- I hope that in January, we can actually work with Robert Jackson, Senator Mayer, and Senator Liu actually getting those bills passed for transparency around funding, expansion and the other issues we see with charter that we cannot seem to get answers to Member Canton will reach out to President Stewart to discuss a date for the charter meeting.

## **Member Grant**

- The problem that she hears most is that technology is not working is an issue. What she hears from the DOE is that technology is on backorder. She has been working on that outside of CEC.
- On the CEC, she knows that in her schools there is a problem the need for technology.

## **Treasurer Irvin**

- Attended SLT Meetings at TCCS.
- Helped conduct PA Meeting at 371 S.E.E.D. of Harlem. They have their first PA team is in place minus the secretary.
- Helping with a few other schools when they need it.
- ECC Meeting is this Friday, October 30, 2020.
- Grass Roots Organization Teacher Meeting Concerns: Lately they are worried about how the winter will affect them
  in learning teaching students in person. A few schools have actually received air infiltration systems in their schools
  and were unaware how they came to the school. The principal never knew anything of them. They are concerned on
  the protocols of how they got there.
- They are also now concerned about how this only one transition to opt back in person is going to affect schools. One school even though, you can opt back in next week, but it will not take effect until January. Her son's school it is going to take until the end of November. We have various issues with the teachers. At Teacher's College, you only have 64% that is remote if any of those come back in person they say they are at capacity now two days a week for each cohort. If they come back in person now you will have less days for students, maybe one day a week and grades pre-k-8 grade that is not a lot for socialization and learning purposes where they are mostly remote. That is mainly what the teachers are concerned about at this moment.
- TCCS inconsistencies there are days 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers meet twice a day morning and afternoon and middle school you meet each teacher everyday every bell period you are meeting a teacher. Just the inconsistency of each grade

- and teachers are working together, but the whole school overall is not working collectively. They may have the same days, but not the same learning process overall for the school.
- Trying to help with funding donors choose to get needed equipment (attachment to devices apple pencil, keyboard etc.) for learning at home students. Working on that as a PA.
- PA is looking at a grant that West Harlem just put out yesterday given to non-profits. Unfortunately, only three schools in our district were eligible for the grant Columbia Secondary, Teacher's College and PS 125. Hoping that this school year maybe to help more schools to file a 501C-3 process. TCCS would be willing to help. Spoke to someone at Columbia Secondary. Last year they said they would be willing to help. I hope that they will still be willing to help. We can apply for grants not only thru outside sources, but also the DOE has a fund for NY schools, which helps non-profit PA's.

#### Member Mendoza

- · Will schedule school visits with Lisa for November.
- Working with the Parent Association Election at PS 133.
- Ask the council when you do your school visits if you will ask if there are any special education concerns. It is on Member Mendoza's agenda item know what the kids are getting and not getting.
- Will have a talk with parents of PS 133 to find out their needs.
- Spoke to a parent at New Design/PA Executive. She is also a New Horizon parent as well. Will ask the parent about New Horizon concerns too.

# **Secretary Randle**

- Greeted the community, apologized for not being present September 30, 2020 Meeting had some family emergencies in regards to that date.
- Looking forward to her visits with my current schools.
- Recently spoken to teachers who had questions about distant learning and who are able to work from home
  opposed to our in class. Seems like some of the teachers that are teaching from home in some cases may have more
  students than the teachers that are actually in the building just want to get some more clarification with my
  principals during my visits.

#### **Member Williams**

- Submitted virtual school visit form today shared that both schools are concerned about keeping PPE gear (mask, sanitizer, etc.) supplied.
- PS 175, Principal Kavita is doing an excellent job and hosing the elections, temperature checks, social distance, school is immaculately kept; she does have a challenge though, with the charter school. Apparently, the charter school have a key that they inherited before she became principal. They are not doing the appropriate policies, procedures and protocols according to the DOE in terms of using the soccer field without letting her know especially, now during this pandemic. They are bypassing security, not doing temperature checks; they have a host of problems with that, which need addressing. She spoke to someone at DOE, but she had not heard back anything. This is an outgoing concern. Substitute teachers come in as a need. Fifty-four percent of parents have opted into blended learning. Dropped off maps donated from the census by Ms. Yearwood for children who are in school as an extra learning tool. Website on the back of the map to help students learn about geography on a broader sense
- PS 133, Principal Medina have some challenges with some of the staffing she is jumping and pitching in multi-tasking, wearing many hats school is clean. One issue that stood out upon entering the building security did not check temperatures and did not check ID. I am sure that is something she will streamline later. The maintenance of the building was impeccable. She is a new principal and doing amazing things. Right now, there is not much concern about IEP's blended or remote learning all of that is working out well.
- PS 197, Principal Spann there is a concern there because of positive testing from one of the students. They closed down on Monday and quarantine the room. One of many concerns that many parents are having in the community who children attend that school is quarantining, cleaning and sanitizing the room for 14 days is fine and the other children that may have been exposed however, what else was the child around. They are having lunch in five of the classrooms etc., but what about going to the bathroom. Some parents were concerned why they did not close the school for 14 days.

#### **Deputy Superintendent Robin Davson**

· Greeted the community and happy to be here for Dr. Rux, she is multi-tasking right now.

In addition, to teachers feeling overwhelmed and stretched, Zina could not have said it better as district and a UFT. We have been working collaboratively to make sure that we do the best we can to make sure teachers are not being

stretch to alleviate any of those issue that is happening across the district. We know citywide there is a staffing issue. We have been doing our best to alleviate that for District 5. I would like to acknowledge our teachers for the stretch for over working being their responsiveness and willingness to do whatever necessary for our scholars. We have been working tirelessly to make sure that those issues are resolved.

- Covid-19: I just want to let everyone know there is a protocol whenever there are cases in schools and to make sure all schools have been enforcing all protocols and guidance around the protocol for Covid-19 all schools. Any cases or any issues around that the superintendent's office is aware about it and all guidelines and protocols have been followed we are make sure of that. That is an occurrence the protocols are happening, school cleanings and all protocols are being followed.
- Enrollment: Dr. Canton as you stated I have emailed them. They actually got back to me today. We will be convening that meeting shortly. I am excited about that. We can receive that information from enrollment.
- PS 175: We are on top of the issue with the charter school. We have been working tirelessly with our borough director to make sure that the students at 175 are safe and that those issues rectified immediately.

#### Report of Superintendent by: Deputy Superintendent Robin Davson

- Presented a PowerPoint Presentation:
  - o Welcome New Leaders in D5
    - Principal Lakia Washington, Eagle Academy for Young Men Harlem
    - o Assistant Principal Tonato Perez (IA) PS 154
    - Assistant Principal Michelle Malverty (IA) PS/MS 123
  - o District 5 Polling Sites
    - PS 30, PS 46, PS 133, PS 154, PS 175 (early voting), PS 194 and Harlem Renaissance HS
  - o Learning Preferences (Percent of Students Engaged in Remote Learning currently in D5)
    - o MS/HS 148: 77.2%
    - o MS 286: 77.2%
    - o MS/HS: 362 69.6%
    - o District Average: 57.5%
    - o PS 194: 41.8%
    - o PS 36: 39.6
    - o PS 125: 38.1%
    - o PS 318: 68.1%
    - o PS 30: 66.4%
    - o PS 175: 48.9%
    - o MS 371: 48.7%

The remainder of the students blended in person.

Superintendent Rux added that 57.5% of families in District 5 selected to engage in remote learning.

# o Remote Learning Devices

- o Total Requests 883 started at 1,033 we are down 250 our schools provided 250 laptops since our last meeting: However, there is still a need of 883.
- o Highest: MS/HS 499, PS/MS 46, MS/HS 362
- o Lowest: MS 286, PS 154, (need 10 or less devices) MS 514 (need 11 devices)

Superintendent Rux shares that on the Monday call the Chancellor stated that the DOE is to receive a large number of laptops. There has been more demand than devices nationally, but the DOE has secured laptops. We are a priority district and Superintendent Rux will continue to make every effort to ensure that these 883 students have the devices that they need. We are well into this pandemic it makes no sense to Superintendent Rux that we still have 883 students who do not have devices. Part of the issue is the lack of wi-fi on some of the devices. We are hearing from some families that they have devices and just do not have wi-fi access. We are going to talk about measures that families can take to secure wi-fi. Today there was an announcement made that all shelters in the city will have access to wi-fi as well.

# o Learning Bridges

- Program that provides free childcare options for children from grades 3-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade on days when they are scheduled for remote learning. Please see entire PowerPoint Presentation.
- The sites are not necessarily located inside schools. They are around and within the school community. Children that attend schools within the community can attend the learning bridges program.

Superintendent Rux shared there are additional learning bridges programs at PS 30, PS 36, PS/MS 46, PS 92, PS/MS 161, PS 175, and PS 197. PS/MS 129 we are in conversation about having a learning bridges program in the school building. Not certain if that actually happened, but that was a conversation to better service the students in that school community. Meredith Hill shared in the chat that they do have it there at MS 371.

# o Random Covid-19 Testing in Schools

Community Education Council (CEC5)
123 Morningside Drive, Annex, Room 232
New York, N.Y. 10027-5002
(212) 222-1395 Ext. 2321 (Tel.)
(212) 316-0451 (Fax)
lkinsey@schools.nyc.gov

This testing is organized is organized by our partners at NYC Health + Hospitals The New York City 0 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and the NYC Test & Trace Corps. Please view entire PowerPoint Presentation.

### **Covid-19 Random Testing**

PS 30,PS/MS 46, PS 125, PS/MS 123, PS 154, PS/MS 161, PS 197, MS 286, PS/MS 517, MS/HS 499, PS 0 36, PS 129, PS 194, PS 133, MS 514, PS 154, PS 200, and PS 92 (MS 148 and MS/HS670 have not been randomly tested yet, but they will be)

#### **Blended Learning Opt-In Window**

Monday, November 2- Sunday, November 15

Blended Learning Opt-In Window for Families only opt-in window for families this school year, through the last day of the 2020-2021 school year

Weeks of November 30 & December 7 0

Students begin In-Person Learning

Superintendent Rux shares that if a family later on feels that they want to transition their child from blended to in person just email her and they will make it happen. It is up to the superintendent and we have been granting request. Superintendent Rux is aware that families need change within families. Just want to make this process is as easy as possibly for families. If you find yourself in a position after the November 15, 2020 deadline that you want to switch just simply, send an email to your principal they will forward the email to Superintendent Rux and she will approve it.

#### Free Wi-Fi

- The following internet carriers are offering free household Wi-Fi or special accommodations. 0
- Comcast Free Public Wi-Fi 1-855-846-8376 for English Enrollment call 1-855-765-6995 for Spanish 0
- Charter Communications Free Wi-Fi Access or Call 1-844-488-8395 0
- Altice USA Free Broadband Announcement or Call 866-200-9522 to enroll in Optimum Region: Call 888-633-0030 to enroll in Suddenlink Region. Please view entire PowerPoint Presentation.

#### **DOE Students Accounts**

- Please view entire PowerPoint Presentation. 0
- By now parent coordinators, teachers, principals, and school communities been reaching out to 0 families about having access to DOE Students Account. Your parent coordinator and schools hold your account id and password. You can retrieve this information on the student account self-service. We highly recommend that families have this access. Access is pretty much like a passport.

#### NYCSA

Please view entire PowerPoint Presentation. 0

#### PA Elections

- Elections must be held by October 31st 0
- Or have a scheduled election date in place 0
- For more guidance on how to hold virtual PA/PTA elections, please view the Guidance for the Virtual Environment Folder. Please view entire PowerPoint Presentation.

Ernest Clayton at the district office can also assist with this process.

## **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Approaching shortly the beginning of November and schools depending on their SVO and depending on how they roll the day or evening out you will be notified. That will be happening virtually. We are still social distancing, we want everyone to be safe. Families should be receiving appointments from schools, teachers, etc. that can best accommodate your schedule. If you have not received that information, you should shortly. It is generally November 4th and 5th, but some schools do have flexibility and are making those decisions.

## **Grading Policy**

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Schools across the city just received the NYCDOE Grading Policy it is a template of what is expected across the city. However, districts expected to modify and or make the policy theirs pretty much. Something that we have been making sure is clearly communicated around grading policy is equity especially in this remote learning space that children/scholars are being grade fairly and that there is no punitive action against them for wi-fi, travel, temporary housing issues. We do not want it to be a punitive space for scholars. Our communication have been around what is equitable and student advancement we are meeting with principals to make sure we have a cohesive plan in place and all grading policy is 100% equitable across the board and that students are being graded fairly.

#### District 5, Director of Early Childhood, Yael Leopold 0

Update: Shout-Out to D5 Early Childhood Families that have been attending in the numbers of 80+at the Early Childhood Workshops it is so appreciated collaborating in learning about early childhood. Shout-out as well to the Early Childhood Teachers who voluntarily attending optional workshops

> Community Education Council (CEC5) 123 Morningside Drive, Annex, Room 232 New York, N.Y. 10027-5002

> > (212) 222-1395 Ext. 2321 (Tel.) (212) 316-0451 (Fax)

sometimes 3x a week to strengthen their remote learning practices to follow-up on the latest initiatives and are really going above and beyond. Just wanted to shout-out families, teachers and principals.

# o Time allotted for the speaker's list.

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

Business meeting immediately followed at 8:08PM.

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

#### o Website Discussion

Council had an open discussion about the new upcoming new CEC5 Website.

Website Builder: eChalk

TOTAL \$7,581.09

Multi-Year Breakdown Annual Total Cost

Year 1 \$4,598.59

Year 2 \$2,982.50

This price quote expires on 2/25/2021

Council will continue the discussion. Some council members stated the cost for the website is too expensive.

#### o Administrative Assistant Raise

Member Canton did not feel comfortable discussing the raise with the AA in the room. Member Canton stated do not touch her reimbursement.

Council discussed 7% raise @ \$3,500.00 or 10% raise at \$5,000.00

Council member's response to the 10% raise at \$5,000.00

VP Barnhill: Yes Member Grant: Yes

Treasurer Irvin: Yes Member Mendoza: Undecided Secretary Randle: Yes President Stewart: Yes

President Stewart adjourned the business meeting at 9:38PM.

Submitted by: Lisa Kinsey, Administrative Assistant