



# Community Education Council District 26

## New York City Department of Education

Address: 61-15 Oceania Street, Bayside, NY 11364 Phone: (718) 631-6927 Fax: (718) 631-1347 E-mail: [CEC26@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CEC26@schools.nyc.gov).

**Adriana Aviles**  
President of the Council

**Karen Rose Scutt**  
First Vice- President

**Cassandra Louie**  
Second Vice President

**Sandra Lau**  
Recording Secretary

**John Gavros**  
Treasurer

*Council Members:*

**Norman Cohn**  
**Alan Ong**  
**David Wong**

**Todd Friedman**  
**Dilip Nath**  
**Logan Grodsky**

**Danielle Giunta**  
Community Superintendent  
District 26

**Website: [www.CDEC26.org](http://www.CDEC26.org)**

### October 22, 2020 Calendar Meeting:

**Present:** Alan Ong, Adriana Aviles, Cassandra Louie, Norman Cohn, Sandra Lau, David Wong, John Gavros, Todd Friedman, Dilip Nath, Karen Rose Scutt and Logan Grodsky

Welcome –Adriana Aviles

Meeting called to order 6:04 PM

- I. Welcome
- II. **Parent Engagement:** (Kim D’Angelo) We are assisting PTA technically to conduct their election in District 26 and shared information about parent workshop. We also have to thank our Parent-Coordinators for their hard work.
- III. **Superintendent Danielle Giunta Report:**
  1. We are engaging with our community through coffee and conversation and many town halls are being hosted.
  2. P.S. 173 received a soccer pitch grant. M.S. 216/Principal Landeau received two grants from Vaughn College for under privileged students focusing on computer science. Students will be attending Vaughn College on Saturday to participate in STEM & Robotic courses. The second grant focuses on SHSAT prep for students.
  3. We are moving toward the hiring process **(C30) of principal for M.S. 74Q, PS 98Q and MS 158Q.**
  4. **Learning Bridges Program-** We are expanding Learning Bridges Program in the District. We started with PS 133, 191, and 221. We have since added PS 18 PS 186 PS 98 MS 67 and 94 . There is difference between 3k-8<sup>th</sup> and pre-k. There are available seats for PS 159 and PS 133. We will continue to keep updating you.
  5. **Covid Closures-** 24-hour closure at MS 67 and classroom closure at PS 98 and MS 158 . We are really excited that our schools are reopening so fast. Everyone of our leaders are managing it and special shout out to our principal who quickly shared the information to the families and followed each step so quickly.
  6. **Mobile Testing Unit-** We had the mobile testing unit in the neighborhoods that was closed to red zone. We are also doing random testing fully in District 26. There is nothing to fear about Covid testing and there are videos that families can watch how the tests are being administered. There are so many resources available for our families to feel less anxious about random Covid testing in school.
  7. We have been working hard to visit and connect with our school remotely and in-person. We are seeing the connection between teachers and student. We have principal that goes live every morning and connecting with the community.
  8. **Deputy Superintendent-** shared information about PS 46 how principal was really nurturing and the culture with his staff". I saw the staff collaborate for 30 minutes before the school day start which allowed our teacher who are in person and our teachers who are remotely to come together and share what is happening. When I was there earlier this week, for example, with the fifth-grade class we are able to see the remote side of instruction students engaging in their small group and then actually visit in person to see the same lesson. So regardless of whether we were at home or at school, were still navigating and looking at the same content. And that's

because of the great vision that our school leaders have for their communities. But now we can start to see those visions coming back alive.

9. **Anthony Inzerillo-** I visited six schools in the last couple of days. All have to tell you we've experienced that in classrooms are always students who are always willing and have their hand raised willing to participate. Then there are those that maybe are reluctant or a little hesitant to engage and the digital platform is that a lot of us teachers are using sometimes can create added communication challenges by making it hard to know when to talk, or how to read subtle but important elements of discourse, like a person's body language and facial expressions. But, I have to tell you in my visits and I'm so happy to share that I witness then observe teachers and students use discuss discussion strategies or discourse strategies in classroom settings that they would normally use in classroom settings and applied them to their remote settings. Some of them included students were provided opportunities to answer questions independently and then share their responses and thinking with their peers. I was so impressed with the students who would respond back and share some of the thinking and question each other's thinking. I also witnessed students that didn't want to verbalize their responses and their teachers encourage them to add their responses or the thinking inside the chat. I saw teachers assessing students by asking them to put their thumbs up or thumbs down to indicate whether or not they needed additional support needed additional help or if they mastered some of the content that the teacher was sharing with them and I saw such a wonderful use of breakout rooms where in one literacy class students that wanted to try to add more elements to their plot were in one breakout room one group of students that wanted to add tone to their story was in another breakout room. It was nice to hear students question each other and give each other feedback on how that they can make the tone of their story. It's nice to know that our children are engaging in a variety of different ways.
10. **Superintendent Giunta-** In my visit, we are seeing teachers using new software and technology to perform the same task as in class but virtually.
11. **Karen Rose Scutt-** The schools that were closed, who reported it? How many of our schools requested additional teacher support?
  - Superintendent stated that it was self-reported in one case and another case was school reported. MS 67 had two unlinked cases and hence 24 hr. closures and tracing team closes to check to see how wide the spread is for example there might be a remote teacher who tested positive but did not have any connection with the students. If classroom closes, it generally is 14-day closures. We have been getting as many staff as possible and central deployed across our schools. We are continuing to narrow down the information.
12. **David Wong-** Can you clarify information about students that are not consenting to testing will have to be in remote?
  - At this point, we are focusing on students and families that have consented first.
  - Ms. Aviles objected to testing without having the parent present or going to their own physician the day before.
  - David Wong suggested that everyone should be tested for random sampling.
  - Superintendent explained about random sampling versus covid testing and the purpose of random sampling.
13. **Cassandra Louie-** We have good amount of first responders and essential workers that are in the most eastern part of the district because they're, you know, kind of close to the medical care doors. How can their schools or how can they begin to mobilize and make the request to be part of the next phase of the learning Bridges program.
  - We are escalating the requests.

14. Superintendent is also continuing the process of keeping Cathy Grodsky and Ms. Aviles updated regularly.
15. UFT updated about teachers and families.
16. Public Comment:
  - Annie Wu- I am a medical doctor. Even the same people opt in to do the test in school over and over again, it still gives valid information because they are in school with the kids who opt out for the test. If they keep testing negative, it's unlikely the kids who did not get tested will be positive.
  - Jim Gallagher- The farmers market at Cunningham park will be open Sunday, December 20 from 9am to 2PM
  - PS 133 playground is opened.

*Adriana Aviles motioned to adjourn meeting 7:05 PM.*

**October 22, 2020 Business Meeting:**

**Present:** Alan Ong, Adriana Aviles, Cassandra Louie, Norman Cohn, Sandra Lau, David Wong, John Gavros, Todd Friedman, Logan Grodsky, Dilip Nath, and Karen Rose Scutt

- I. **Minutes** were reviewed for September 21, 2020. Adriana Aviles motioned to pass the minutes. Motioned passed unanimously.
- II. **Budget Approval-** John Gavros motioned to approve budget . Motioned passed unanimously. See addendum A. .
- III. **CEC Presidents' Report:** We are waiting to hear back about grading and admission.
- IV. **Presidents' Council President-** For the remote portion of blended learning and many schools still is the issue and then moving on to the lack of information on high school and middle school admission is harrowing for the families in District 26.
- V. **Members Report-**
  - Dilip Nath proposed a Diwali resolution . Council will added to the agenda for November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting for public comment and vote.
  - David Wong raised concerns regarding lack of information about SHSAT.
  - Cassandra Louie updated information to the council about PEP meeting.
  - Karen Rose Scutt updated about ECC and their letter.
  - Logan Grodsky requested the council to put emphasis on ensuring the continuation of SHSAT admission process.
- VI. *Adriana Aviles motioned to adjourn the at 7:36 PM. Motion passed unanimously.*