



## Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council

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### **CPAC Parent Advisory Council Board**

*Co-Chairperson – Shirley Aubin*

*Co-Chairperson – Randi Garay*

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson – Jazzy Rivera*

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*Parliamentarian – TBD*

*Livestream Coordinator – Charlene Dawson*

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### **CPAC Virtual Monthly Meeting**

**March 14, 2024**

Meeting was held via Zoom and live streamed on YouTube. CPAC YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCidrkVTelRgYjBs93Mmd7vQ>)

March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting link: <https://youtube.com/live/RaVbs9jx8FY>

### **Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 09:30 AM

CPAC's Meeting Procedures and Standing Rules were reviewed; attendance sheet was placed in the chat.

### **Roll Call – Districts / Boroughs in Attendance:**

D02, D03, D04, D05, D06, D08, D09, D15, D17, D20, D21, D23, D25, D26, D28 Excused, D29, D30, D31, D32, Manhattan HS, Queens HS, and Staten Island HS.

## **Review Minutes:**

February 8<sup>th</sup> minutes tabled.

*March' theme: March Madness... SLT and the Budget!*

## **CPAC Business:**

### **Announcements:**

- Brooklyn High School Presidents' Council membership encouraged to **hold their board accountable** *Among other things, BHSPC lacks attendance and quorum, they refuse support, refuse to provide support, violate virtual guidelines, and their bylaws are out of compliance.*
- Reminder: Our PTAs are also autonomous. We are here to support and guide.
- NYCPS School Survey was released last month and will take responses until Friday, 5 April
- Summer Rising application period ends 25 March – parents and families will be notified in April.

### **Working Groups / Task Force:**

- A-655 Working Group
- Equity Working Group
- Digital Learning & Dyslexia Task Force
- Citywide CEP Template and iPlan Meeting
- CCEC Elections Working Group
- Special Education Advisory Council  
Report: [Overview of the Special Education Advisory Council Final Report](#)
- NYC Class Size Working Group  
Report: [Class Size Working Group: Final Report](#)

## **CPAC Updates:**

CPAC Committees: Meeting Schedules / Dates:

- Capacity Building & Support – First Tuesday each month @ 11:30AM
- Communications – First Tuesday each month @ 10AM
- High School – First Monday each month @ 10:30AM
- Legislative – January 30<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30PM
- Multilingual Language Learners (Bilingual; English Language Learners) – February 6<sup>th</sup> @ TBC
- Special Education – Schedule TBC
- Title I – First Tuesday each month @ 11AM
  
- Wellness (Health & Safety) – Second Wednesday each month @ 10:30AM
- Alumni – Quarterly meetings, March 18<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30AM

*Reminder! Check the website for news, info, events, resources, and sign-up for CPAC's committees.*

## **FACE Updates**

Cristina Melendez, EdD, Executive Director FACE [cmelendez15@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:cmelendez15@schools.nyc.gov)

Joined by Jesse Mojica, Deputy Executive Director FACE [jmojica@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:jmojica@schools.nyc.gov)

- Melendez greeted CPAC  
Happy Belated Birthday, Dr. Melendez
- Melendez noted that Town Halls will take place every Monday in March alongside various training and professional development opportunities, including:
  - HR-specific training for CEC Presidents
  - Bias Awareness (re-occurring)
  - Parliamentary Procedure (re-occurring)
- Melendez confirmed the date for FACEs Resource Fair – 1 June
  - Location is TBC
  - Focus will be on literacy.
- Pep application opened on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - CEC, elected pep members must reapply as they are not reelected.
- Melendez shared the application information and links in the chat and encouraged members of CPAC and others at home to apply.
- Melendez shared that the A-655 working group has submitted a draft and is proceeding to the next step (legal team review)
- Following review by the legal team, other departments will have the opportunity to review and provide any notes or comments.
- Melendez noted that following the completion of the A-655 process, they will begin a review of A-660  
*She also shared that she is aware that many have expressed interest in this update, specifically in the extension of terms for PA/PTA president from one year to two years.*
- Melendez noted that the homeschool partnership has started.
- Melendez shared updates about the NYC Reads Reading Ambassador Program noting that (at the time of recording) the first cohort was entering week 6!
- Melendez shared that over 1000 families have enrolled across cohorts one and two and that these sessions are offered in English, Spanish and Mandarin
- Mojica shared that FACE is always working closely with CBO partners and their current collaboration is focused on summer programming and support for newly arrived New Yorkers
- Mojica also noted that the experiential professional development sessions for Parent Coordinators remains ongoing and provided details about the upcoming session in District 23
- Mojica also noted that FACE is working to convene city agencies and select one to spotlight – in the past FACE spotlighted NYPD, and will be spotlighting a different agency at the next

## **OSYD & Chancellor's Regulations**

Mark Rampersant, Chief of Safety and Prevention Partnerships [mramper@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:mramper@schools.nyc.gov)

- Rampersant opened with greetings to CPAC and well wishes for women's history month.
- Rampersant provided comments, addressing a number of concerns that are being shared across the city.
- Rampersant's presentation provided a detailed explanation regarding the administration of discipline in schools
- Rampersant answered a number of questions regarding Queens specific concerns.

- Co-Chair Aubin noted that the status of Queens as a transportation desert cannot be overlooked in these types of situations.
- Rampersant highlighted existing partnerships with DYCD specifically their Violence Interrupters and noted that NYPD does not have to dispatch precinct enforcement – they can send Community Affairs officers to support school dismissal.
- Rampersant shared additional information regarding Chancellor’s Regulation A-412 giving an overview of updates by section as well as highlighted protocols.
- Rampersant answered the question regarding the non-invasive scanners that were mentioned by Chancellor Banks
  - Rampersant noted that the most aggressive asks are around less invasive technology and clarified that that is what the Chancellor was referring to – a less invasive technology.

## **Office of Student Enrollment – Acceptance, Waitlist, Ranking + MS Admissions Updates**

Deja Thomas, Engagement & Strategy Lead, Office of Student Enrollment

Joined by Zay Green, Director MS Admissions and Kristen O’Neill, Sr. Director HS Admissions

- Thomas noted that they will provide a high-level overview of the current state of admissions and that high school offers were released.
- O’Neill clarified that high school main round admission offers were released on Thursday, 7 March
- Students who applied to specialized high schools (e.g., they took the SHSAT, auditioned for LaGuardia, etc.) may receive multiple offers.
  - These students must make their selections by April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- O’Neill also noted that students who received only one offer will find that their offer is automatically accepted.
- O’Neill clarified that when offers are released.
  - Waitlists automatically open, so students are automatically placed on waitlist for schools they applied to if those schools were ranked above the school, they received an offer from
  - Students can add themselves to any waitlist of interest.
  - Schools may begin to actively use their waitlist to fill remaining seats.
- O’Neill explained a change related to 9<sup>th</sup> grade applicants.
  - Students must accept or decline these offers June 14<sup>th</sup> or they will remain at their current high school.
- The Office of Student Enrollment is actively engaging with families and started a series of family information sessions.
  - These sessions will educate parents and families on the process by which they receive their offer, and how they can use the waitlist.
- Green noted that middle school admissions is also proceeding smoothly, and every fifth grader will receive an offer.
  - These offers are automatically accepted, and there is nothing more for the student to do unless they choose to explore additional options.
- Like high school, students are automatically added to waitlists.
  - However, if they are accepted into their first choice, they will not be added to any waitlists.
- Green noted that elementary school counselors are very good at helping students navigate this process, but that her office is always available to support.
- Thomas provided high-level updates on other admissions processes, including kindergarten.
  - Kindergarten offers will be released at the end of the month.
  - Families who missed the kindergarten deadline can add themselves to waitlists.

- Waitlists are open to view so families are able to see their position.
- Thomas also noted that 3K and pre-applications closed on 1 March and those offers will be released on 14 May and 16 of May, respectively.
- Thomas and Green provided additional information regarding the times that admissions officers office offers are released and noted that they want to be as responsive as possible as an office and they cannot do so if release office offers are sent out after the workday.
- Co-Chair Aubin asked that additional explanation we provided regarding the waitlist process and how students are ranked on waitlist.
- Thomas explained that waitlists essentially work by picking up where offers left off.
- In response to a question, Thomas explained that if the high school or middle school program is screened then the waitlist will operate according to the admissions criteria.
- O'Neill added that for screened admissions for high school students are provided a random number, when waitlisted.

## **Office of Food & Nutrition Services**

Christopher Tricarico, Sr. Executive Director OFNS, [ctricar@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ctricar@schools.nyc.gov)

Joined by Nelson Quiles, Chief of Staff

- Quiles provided an overview of the Office of Food and Nutrition Services (OFNS) and some anticipated updates.
- Quiles explained that their mission is to “equitably serve NYCPS students with healthy and delicious meals to enhance their educational experience, represent their voices and nourish them into adulthood.”
- Quiles noted that there are currently 35 different menus encompassing over 470 recipes, and this number will continue to grow as recipes are tested.
- Quiles also noted that they service over 1800 schools and feed approximately 900,000 meals daily. This is inclusive of breakfast, lunch, and afterschool meals.
- Quiles highlighted that every menu item has been student taste tested via the test kitchen at OFNS headquarters.
- He also noted that comments provided by students are shared with vendors, and these are opportunities for vendors to reformulate their product if they do not pass.
  - If vendors choose to reformulate, the OFNS test kitchen allows them a second opportunity to taste test with students providing a second opinion
 

*Quiles noted that they look for a 70% success rate.*
- Additional highlights include menu items like daily fresh and seasonal fruit, local dairy, whole-grain, low-fat and high fiber, as well as items with limited sugar content.
- Quiles shared additional lunch highlights including Meatless Mondays (in place for many years), Plant-powered Fridays instituted 2 years ago, and the removal of all deli meats due to their highly processed nature last year
 

*Note: OFNS has previously been asked about weekly menus consisting of more than one meat-free day. Previous answers concluded that there is only one day of the week where menus are meat-free (Plant-powered Fridays)*
- Quiles also noted that they have recently begun identifying items that are Vegetarian versus Vegan on menus these are signified with a VNA VE, respectively.
- Quiles provided additional information regarding menu accommodations, especially when required for food allergies.
- Quiles is provided an overview of the self-service cafeteria concept for high school students.

- Tricarico highlighted that all of the food that is served is cooked by an in our cafeteria by 8000 staff members across DC 37 and NYC
- Tricarico encouraged everyone to check out the OFS website as well as the national school lunch program website.
- Co-Chair Aubin pledged CPACs ongoing commitment to this partnership.

## **NYCPS Chancellor David C. Banks**

- Chancellor Banks shared that he and his cabinet just finished a press conference at Tweed.
- These will be occurring every two weeks and Banks clarified that they would do pressors with all major outlets across the city to “share content, good information, and good things that are going on in our schools today”
- Banks explained that while he understands these are meant to be opportunities for the press to ask questions, he believes that the New York post was irresponsible in their publications on Origins High School
- Banks clarified that the priority in working more with the press is to try to tell the positive stories coming out of NYCPS while dealing with the responsibility of managing challenges.
- Banks shared well wishes with CPAC for a happy women’s history month and Ramadan Mubarak to those celebrating.
- Banks noted that there are too many “adults behaving badly” in our schools and alluded to the controversy surrounding CEC 14’s support of a student-run walk out in protest of the ongoing genocide in Palestine.
- Banks explained that they are taking advantage of opportunities to meet the moment – one of these opportunities was the day before where NYCPS principals, along with their superintendents, engaged in a full day of professional development surrounding the reinforcement of the disciplinary code  
Banks noted that they would also have discussed how to have courageous conversations with students and teachers.
- In response to a question, Banks explained that they understand the difficulties parents face when struggling to provide protection to their child, on the way to and from school and noted that they have their work cut out for them.
- Banks explained that while they have not seen an increase in violence in schools, and they do not currently have scanners in every single school, NYCPS is pursuing the installation of non-invasive scanners in New York City Public schools.
- Banks noted that this initiative will likely be in place sooner rather than later, and the goal is for the monitoring system to be discrete and unnoticeable as he doesn’t want students to feel like they’re “walking into jail or something just to go to your first period class “
- Banks stated that he would love to see these inconspicuous monitoring systems in every single New York City Public School
- In response to a question, Banks noted that school safety is always a priority, and it is up to the community to keep the corridors from school to home as safe as possible so that students make it to their destination safely.
- In response to a question about the merger of multiple schools of Manhattan that would result in students ranging age from 13 to 22 circulating within the same building daily, Banks explained that this situation (though taking place under Mayoral Control) is why Mayoral Control or *Mayoral Accountability* of NYCPS is important.

- In response to a question about early voting sites, a member of the Chancellors cabinet explained that they have been working with the Board of Elections to find a truly beneficial solution.

### **Settle's Not so Secret Gems**

Anthony Settle, Governance Team Specialist, FACE Liaison [asettle@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:asettle@schools.nyc.gov)

Topics: *SLT & DLT*

- Settle provided CPAC with education regarding District Leadership Teams (DLTs) – essentially, DLTs are the first line of support for SLTs.
- Settle noted that DLTs should be representative of the entire district, including high schools.
- Settle recommends practicing delegating responsibilities to members, especially to attend DLT meetings,
- Settle noted that district support should be developed with meaningful input from all stakeholders.
- Settle explained that parents and families – to the greatest extent possible – must be involved in the composition or development of their Comprehensive Education Plan (CE) or District Comprehensive Education Plan (DCEP)
- Settle also noted that DLTs can provide certain levels of training to SLTs or SLT
- Settle highlighted again that the DLTs primary responsibility is to craft the DCEP in the same way that an SLTs primary responsibility is to craft the CEP  
*This is important because we must consider how we are aligning our budgets to enable us to generate as many resources as possible to building great success stories.*
- Settle emphasized the importance of membership to join DLT meetings and be active participants and closed by encouraging membership to increase their level of personal engagement with all entities.
- Co-Chair Aubin clarified that as Presidents of Presidents' Councils, CPAC membership are mandatory members of their respective District Leadership Teams
- In response to a question regarding time constraints on SLT meetings, Settle responded that he errs on the side of an SLT meeting being allotted the amount of time necessary to craft a CEP.

### **Stimulus Money Expiration**

Randi Levine, Policy Director, Advocates for Children [rlevine@advocatesforchildren.org](mailto:rlevine@advocatesforchildren.org)

- Levine presented in detail expiring, temporary COVID-19 funds.
- In her presentation, Levine explained that the New York City Department of Education received approximately \$7 billion from the federal government in the form of temporary, one-time Covid-19 relief funding – NYCPS used a portion of the funding for pandemic-related programming needs.
- Levine notes that a significant amount of the funding – approximately \$1 billion a year – was invested in long-term programs.
  - The funding is running out and will expire at the end of September 2024
- Levine explained that some of the programs at risk include:
  - 3K and Pre-K
  - Service providers for students with disabilities.
  - Community schools
  - Social workers
  - Bilingual staff
  - Interpretation and translation services
  - Restorative justice practices
  - Shelter-based community coordinators
  - School psychologists and family workers

- Dyslexia programming
- Literacy initiatives
- Student success centers, etc.
- Levine elevated several actionable items including a rally and press conference on the steps of City Hall will be taking place the following Monday at 9 AM
- Levine noted that the City Council Education Budget hearing is scheduled for the same day at 10 AM
- Levine also invited CPAC to complete a survey and shared the link in the chat

D31 - Motion to adjourn the meeting.

D03 - Second the motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned 12:43 PM.

**The next Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council Virtual Monthly Meeting is Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 09:30 AM.**