



Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council

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CPAC Parent Advisory Council Board

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CPAC Virtual Monthly Meeting April 11, 2024

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

April 11th meeting link: <https://youtube.com/live/LiQ2QWywtTs>

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, D16, D20, D21, D22, D23, D25, D29, D30, D31, D32, Manhattan HS, Queens HS, Staten Island HS, and Adriana Alicea.

Review Minutes:

Adoption of Meeting Minutes

MHS – Motion to Adopt February 8, 2024 minutes.

D03 – Seconded Motion to Adopt February’s minutes.

Minutes Adopted.

Adoption of March 14th Meeting Minutes

D08 – Motion to Adopt March 14, 2024 minutes.

D31 – Seconded Motion to Adopt March’s minutes.

Minutes Adopted.

April’s theme: Spring is in the Air! ... PTA, SLT, PAC Elections!

CPAC Business:

Announcements:

- Division of Instructional Information Technology (DIIT) cannot attend this month (will attend in May)
- The presentation on Updated Covid-19 Guidelines will take DIITs spot today.
- Chair Aubin will discuss nominating committees, election meeting certification, etc.
- Committee meetings will be scheduled on a quarterly basis going forward.

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 (**June 4th**)
- Communications – First Tuesday each month @ 10AM (**June 4th**)
- High School – First Monday each month @ 10:30AM
- Legislative – January 30th and April 30th @ 3:30PM
- Multilingual Language Learners (Bilingual; English Language Learners) – May @ TBC
- Special Education – April 18th @ 6pm & April 25th @ 10am
- Title I – First Tuesday each month @ 11AM (**June 4th**)
- Wellness (Health & Safety) – Second Wednesday each month @ 10:30AM (**May 8th**)
- Alumni – Quarterly meetings, June 11th @ 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

Joined by Jesse Mojica, Deputy Executive Director FACE jmojica@schools.nyc.gov

- Melendez greeted CPAC and offered kind words of appreciation.
- Melendez noted that FACE has several fun upcoming activities and events all around the city.
- FACE has partnered with local bookshops, etc. is currently planning a Big Book Party and will distribute approximately 2000 books.
- Melendez noted that in addition to the larger event, some communities will see NYC Reads hubs within their local businesses and around their neighborhoods
Note: Locations were identified by NYCPS families.
- Melendez provided an update on the NYC Reading Ambassadors program – the first cohort of NYC Reads Reading Ambassadors has culminated their sessions.
- Melendez noted that some members of the CPAC executive board took part in the 10-week training and offered thanks and applause to families and parent leaders who participate
- Mojica shared upcoming professional development opportunities for the month of April.
- Mojica shared that April is Autism Awareness month and announced a partnership with Teatro Sea that will center D75 students.
- Mojica explained that through this partnership, our D75 students will have the opportunity to enjoy sensory-friendly performances on Broadway!
- Mojica also shared the order of upcoming Town Halls with Chancellor Banks as:
 - District 2
 - District 11
 - Citywide Council on District 75
 - District 23
- Mojica also provided general updates on parent coordinator experiences, FACEs continued work with various city agencies, etc.
- Melendez provided information about a program for middle school students at the Museum of Natural History – additional details were shared in the chat.

Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) – App Presentation

Glenn Risbrook, Sr. Executive Director, Student Transportation grisbrook@schools.nyc.gov

Joined by John Benson, Deputy Sr. Director, Student Transportation jbenson3@schools.nyc.gov + others

- Risbrook and Benson greeted CPAC on behalf of their colleagues also present.
- Benson provided an overview of the app – VIA – and its current functionality.
- Chambers provided an overview of VIA and discussed how parents and caregivers can access the app.
- Chambers shared several interesting details, including:
 - OPT has the largest ground fleet in North America comprising approximately 11,000 vehicles
Note: This is twice the size of the MTAs ground fleet!
 - OPT services students within the 5 boroughs as well as Westchester, Long Island, New Jersey and Connecticut
Note: In total, OPT transports approximately 150,000 students daily.
 - A desktop version of VIA is now available and it has the same functionality as the smart phone app.
 - Families were notified of the app rollout by backpack letters, emails, etc.
 - Additional information is available on OPTs website.

- OPT is working with the app developers to add additional languages and increase overall functionality.
- Chambers also shared a few future updates including:
 - Push notifications upon arrival and drop off.
 - Push notifications for bus route delays, etc.
 - Scanned and logged entry and exit of students.
- OPT answered a question regarding bus drivers and other staffing shortages.
- Risbrook elaborated and explained how the process surrounding substitute drivers is supposed to work contractually and how they're managing those relationships.
- Vadehra noted her appreciation for this OPT presentation to have taken place at CPAC.
- Vadehra helpfully reminded everyone that a lot of work has been done to increase bus drivers and staff numbers, or staff counts, including increasing driver wages, etc. narrowly avoiding a strike last summer.
- Benson answered a question regarding VIAs ability to track a bus outside of the bounds of NYC.

FY 2025 Fair Student Funding Presentation

Emma Vadehra, Deputy Chancellor, Operations + Finance & Chief Operating Officer ctricar@schools.nyc.gov
 Joined by Sarita Scott, Chief Financial Officer

- Vadehra thanked CPAC and provided an overview on the NYCPS overall budget as critical context.
- Vadehra explained Fair Student Funding (FSF) noting that FSF is up for a vote this month at the PEP.
- Vadehra provided some a number of important data points:
 - NYCPS Overall Budget = \$39.4B
 - \$10.8B or 40% is allocated to critical items **not** directly supporting NYCPS students
 Vadehra noted that these are items that Central does not necessarily have any control or discretion over – including employee benefits, debt payments, pensions, etc.
 - ~ \$3B is allocated directly to Charter Schools
 - ~ \$2.5B is allocated to non-public and contract schools for special education services
Note: This is in compliance with requirements set forth by state law.
- Vadehra noted that that amounts to \$16B with remaining funds being used to fund our schools, CBOs, and early childhood providers.
- Vadehra explained that the largest piece of the budget is the ~ \$15.5B allocated to NYCPS K-12 schools.
- Vadehra explained that ~ \$4.8B is allocated for school operations, including:
 - Custodians
 - Energy costs
 - Facilities
 - Food
 - Food service workers
 - School buses,
Note: This is a small piece of the allocation.
- Vadehra explained that less than 1% or ~ \$200M is allocated for Central staffing and Central administrative offices.
- Vadehra clarified that this \$200M is a small portion of the entire budget and it is where most recent PEGS have hit
- ~ 1% or \$250 million is allocated to Superintendents for staffing, etc. and CSEs.
- Vadehra educated CPAC on main funding sources noting that:
 - Just over half of NYCPS' funding comes from NYC.
 - Just over 1/3 is provided by the NYS.

- Remaining funds are provided by the federal government.
- Vadera explained that NYC spends approximately \$31,000 per student – this number has increased over time and will continue to increase
Note: This number is not inclusive of transportation food that payments, etc. so it is not the equivalent to previously discussed figures.
- Vadehra provided an in-depth explanation of FSF, noting that it provides the largest chunk of funding within school budgets.
- Vadehra added that there are a number of other large funding streams including Title 1 and IDEA noting that these are federal funding streams independent of FSF.
 - FSF only applies to K-12 students in Districts 1-32 and in high schools.
 - FSF is not applicable to charter schools funding schemas.
 - FSF is not applicable to 3K and pre-K programs funding schemas.
 - FSF is not applicable to funding schemas for District 32, District 75, or District 79
- Vadehra noted that in response to feedback and pressure Chancellor Banks reviewed several recommendations related to FSF and has taken action on two of those recommendations.
- Vadehra explained how funding should operate within schools, highlighting relationships and partnerships between SLTs and Principals and highlighted the importance of the CEP.
- Vadehra answered a question regarding inflation rates and how NYCPS is mitigating their effect on school budgets.
- Scott answered a question regarding school bank accounts.

NYCPS Chancellor David C. Banks

- Chancellor Banks opened with greetings to CPAC and showed membership a stunning piece of artwork behind him
Note: The subject of the piece was the Harlem Renaissance and it was completed by students of the Thurgood Marshall Academy in Harlem
- Banks shared several updates, including his upcoming testimony before Congress regarding antisemitism.
- Chancellor Banks took the opportunity to laud mayoral control of NYCPS, noting that a report was released from the NYSED.
- Banks again shared his support for Mayor Adams' continued control and explained that he prefers to refer to it as *moral accountability* in our schools
Note: The report was largely inconclusive.
- Chair Aubin shared a question from the chat regarding sensitive topics of discussion for PA/PTA's
- Chair Aubin shared another question regarding the African American curriculum being introduced at all grade levels across NYCPS
- A question regarding transparency, and class size was asked
Note: The question remains unanswered.
- Deputy Chancellor Weisberg agreed to a larger conversation at the May CPAC meeting.

Updated Covid-19 Guidelines

Tracy Agerton, Assistant Commissioner, Office of School Health

Joined by Gail Adman, Executive Director of Nursing, Office of School Health

+ Jessica Cowitt, Chief of Staff, Office of School Health

- Agerton opened with thanks to CPAC for the time and opportunity to present these updates

- Agerton shared details about the Office of School Health (OSH) – namely, that it is a dual agency under both the Department of Health (DOH) and NYCPS
- As of March 2024, NYCPS and OSH received updated COVID-19 guidance from the CDC.
- Agerton explained that the CDC removed the minimum isolation period instead opting to bank on herd immunity or immunity grown throughout a population.
- According to the CDC, the severity of Covid has decreased
Note: This claim has been refuted by multiple reputable agencies globally.
- Agerton explained that the CDC has aligned Covid guidance with their guidance surrounding all other respiratory diseases
Note: Covid-19 is an airborne, novel Coronavirus that has more in common with the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) than it does with Influenza A or B (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK554776/>)
- Agerton noted again that the main update received from the CDC was the removal of the previously mandatory five-day isolation period.
- Agerton noted that the new guidance “really is (that) if your child has symptoms of Covid they should get tested and separate from others until it’s known whether they have COVID-19. Your child should really stay fever free without medication for at least 24 hours.”
- Agerton noted that if a child tests positive *and* does not have any symptoms they are **not** required to stay home – they are free to come to school.
- Agerton explained that students should take precautions to prevent spreading the virus to others, especially those who have a high risk of illness or are immune compromised
Note: Even one transmission of Covid-19 irreparably compromises the immune system.
- Agerton explained students who return to school having tested positive for Covid-19 should consider wearing a well-fitting mask and distancing themselves from others.
- Agerton ended by encouraging people to stay healthy and avoid infections and to stay up-to-date on their vaccinations

Settle’s Not so Secret Gems

Anthony Settle, Governance Team Specialist, FACE Liaison asettle@schools.nyc.gov

Topics: Overview of Complaints, Grievances, and Investigations

- Settle provided CPAC with education regarding complaints, grievances, and investigations.
- Settle explained in great detail the differences between complaints and grievances and their respective differences and paths of escalation
Note: Grievances are reserved for election-related concerns – all others are labeled complaints of varying degrees.
- Plainly, the goal is to create and maintain consistency to ensure that members receive fair treatment and the PA/PTA continues in “the direction of self-improvement.”
- Settle encouraged all parent leaders to always address concerns and cautioned against this with a witty quip, “Don’t sit on it or dismiss it – address it” (Thank you Mr. Settle)
- Settle explained the grievance process (see summary below)
 - a. All grievances must be in writing.
 - b. Grievances must not be anonymous so the complainants name and contact information must be shared
 - c. Grievances must be filed no later than 5-days after the election
 - d. Complainant must allege a specific or material violation of CR A-660 or relevant bylaws.
 - e. All election grievances must be answered within 10-days from receipt by the district office

- f. Any appeal(s) of an election grievance must be made to FACE within 5-days of correspondence with the district.
- g. Any decisions related to appeals must be shared within 5 days by FACE.
- Settle explained that the most common investigation inquiries are for audits and noted the different approaches that can be taken based on the facts.
 - Internal Audit: performed by the PA/PTA Executive Board and/or auditing committee.
 - External Audit: performed by Presidents' Council, SCI, OSI
- Settle provided CPAC with a few other helpful tips and pieces of advice regarding bank accounts, etc.
- Settle answered a question regarding how to best annotate a sponsorship in the annual report.
- Settle answered a question regarding how to best complete the annual report if the PA/PTA does not have a bank account.
- Settle noted that another common question is regarding election timing and whether that should be at the convenience of parents and families or not.

D31 - Motion to adjourn the meeting.

D04 - Second the motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned 12:39 PM.

The next Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council Virtual Monthly Meeting is Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 09:30 AM.