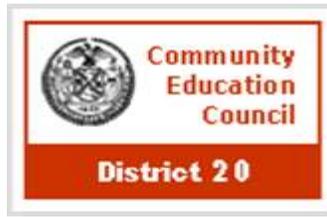


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Dina Guirguis First Vice President
Robert Aguilar Second Vice President
Open Seat Recording Secretary
Inga Smolyar Parliamentarian/Treasurer



Council Members

Alan Aja Alice Licato
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COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 20 RESOLUTION

Resolution calling upon District 20 leadership and staff to acknowledge systemic racism and commit to anti-racism in our schools and community.^[SS1]

WHEREAS, our nation and community have been rocked recently by the twin calamities of the Covid 19 virus and another episode in a seemingly unending series of fatal violence against a black person.

WHEREAS, the public response to the murder of George Floyd has renewed calls for social justice and change and highlighted simmering frustration with this country's slow progress towards ending racism and oppression.

WHEREAS, racist discrimination and hate crimes have been on the rise since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, including racist flyers on lampposts in the neighborhoods of Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights.^[SS2]

WHEREAS, Richard A. Carranza, the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, wrote to families on June 3 in response to George Floyd's murder and acknowledged that racism is "systemic—woven deeply into the fabric of our institutions, our economy, and the systems that make up our shared community... including in our public school system."¹

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Education has a policy committing to culturally responsive-sustaining education, which includes fostering "critical consciousness about historical and contemporary forms of bias and oppression" and improving "classroom and institutional practice through a mindset of high expectations for all students and deep examination and knowledge of one's personal beliefs, assumptions, experiences and identities through ongoing professional learning and support."²

WHEREAS, District 20 has much to celebrate with regards to diversity and academic performance it also has persistent achievement gaps and lacking curriculum and instruction that must get increased attention.

WHEREAS, divisiveness is not the problem with racism, bias, inequity, and social injustice; the problem is their disparate impact on the life, health, safety, education, wealth, income, and general well-being of people with the least power and influence in our society. ^[SS3]

WHEREAS, respect for all is an important value, real change requires more than merely acknowledging feelings and seeking ways to manage emotions.

WHEREAS, District 20 CEC specifically renounces any individuals, groups, organizations or institutions who or which perpetuate racism or cultural intolerance in any form.

WHEREAS, culturally responsive and sustaining education and implicit bias training do not appear to be priorities in District 20 schools.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED AND DECREED that the District 20 Community Education Council calls on District 20 district and school leaders to:

1. Acknowledge the presence and problem of institutional and personal racism in our community and demonstrate more urgency around achievement gaps and commitment to culturally responsive and sustaining education and implicit bias training for all district and school staff.
2. Provide direction and resources to all District 20 schools to conduct concrete age-appropriate lessons on anti-racism before the end of the school year that reflect recent events.
3. Establish clear and specific plans for implementing anti-racism activities for both students and staff in all District 20 schools for the 2020-21 school year.
4. Establish a committee of school leaders, teachers and parents at each District 20 school to examine disproportionality in achievement, attendance, program participation and other data and have each committee publish a public report by January 1, 2021.
5. Develop and disseminate resources to parents to help them talk with their children about racism and privilege.
6. Review the curricula used in District 20 schools, especially literature and social studies materials, to ensure they provide factually accurate information and do not perpetuate stereotypes against any groups or individuals.