

Community Education Council District 20

Adele Doyle, President
Dina Guirguis, First Vice President
Robert Aguilar, Second Vice President
Open Seat, Recording Secretary
Inga Smolyar, Treasurer
Jessica Li, Student Member

Alan Aja
Mauricia Cadillo
Yi Fang Chen
Vito LaBella
Alice Licato
Simeon Stolzberg

D20 Resolution #3 (An Appropriate Educational Response to Racism, Hate and Violence)

Sponsor: Vito LaBella

Co-sponsors: Mauricia Cadillo, Yi Fang Chen

WHEREAS, our nation and community have been subjected to a series of international and national events that have tested us more severely than this country has been tested in generations.

WHEREAS, the public response to the murder of George Floyd by four individual officers of the Minneapolis Police Department has renewed calls for social justice and change and has also highlighted simmering frustration with this country's slow progress towards equality and the end to anti-Black, anti-Hispanic racism.

WHEREAS, since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, Asian-American discrimination and hate crimes have been on the rise, including racist flyers on lampposts in the neighborhoods of Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights.

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus pandemic has also led to an increase in anti-Semitic crimes.

WHEREAS, there is also a palpable anti-Muslim, anti-Arabic sentiment within District 20, which includes White Supremist activity.

WHEREAS, violence, hatred and bigotry directed by anybody, and towards anyone, is in and of itself abhorrent and unquestionably offensive to all people of good will.

WHEREAS, all Americans, including Jews, Muslims, and Christians and people of all faiths and no faiths, have a stake in fighting every form of bigotry and hatred against people based on religion, race, place of birth, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity.

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

WHEREAS, District 20 CEC supports the exercise of our cherished First Amendment Right to peacefully protest by all people, including students, teachers, staff and administrators.

WHEREAS, nationwide peaceful protests (including New York City) seeking police policy reform and equality for all have been hijacked by those who wish to destroy property and commit violence against people, causing billions of dollars in damage, injuring thousands, including serious permanent debilitating injuries and resulting in the deaths of individuals.

WHEREAS, The District 20 CEC explicitly, with no equivocation condemns all forms of rioting, looting or assault and affirms that such conduct is not a reasonable response to a call to effect change.

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

1. Provide direction and resources to all District 20 schools to conduct concrete age-appropriate lessons on anti-racism and cultural diversity that reflects recent events as well as the history and effectiveness of peaceful protests such as Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela and including specifically denouncing the destruction of property, violence and physical attacks in any form.
2. Establish clear and specific plans for implementing anti-black racism and anti-violence education in all District 20 schools for the coming school year.
3. Perform outreach and recruit diverse candidates from across the city to staff Teacher and Administrator positions in District 20.
4. Have existing SLTs form a committee at each District 20 school to examine disproportionality in achievement, attendance, program participation and other data and include the results in the school's CEP. Have the DLT include this data within the District 20 CEP.
5. Disseminate the District CEP with the above data, to the public with an appropriate CEC led town hall to discuss these results and allow parents to provide feedback.
6. Develop and disseminate resources to parents to help them talk with their children about racism, their right to peacefully protest and their responsibilities when doing so.
7. Ensure the curricula used in District 20 schools, especially literature and social studies materials, provides factually accurate information, an expanded world view that includes the history of all cultures, a balance of perspectives, and does not perpetuate stereotypes against any groups or individuals.