

EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31

Dr. Marion Wilson
District Superintendent

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James Desiderato
1st Vice President

Frank Marino
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Joseph Bird
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Melissa Cosentino
Andrew Guido

STUDENT MEMBERS

Princess Abdomeili
Carina Fu

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Leah Stumpf

Vacant
ELL Representative
D31 Representative
Parliamentarian

CEC 31 Virtual Business Meeting and Virtual Calendar Meeting Monday April 8, 2024

Business Meeting

- **Call to Order** at 6:43PM and welcomed by President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
- **Welcomed interpretation services** in Russian, Mandarin, and Spanish
- **Roll call of Members - *In-Person***: Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Frank Marino, Daniella Caputo, Andrew Guido, Melissa Cosentino, Amanda Wolkowitz Teresa Cirelli, Joseph Bird, Princess Abdomeili, Carina Fu

Absent:

Virtual: James Desiderato

- **Approved March Draft Business Meeting Minutes**

- Discussion of Councilmember Daniella Caputo's reimbursements for the 2022-2023 year. After reviewing with Lisa Texeira, Director of Operations in Budget & Finance, it was confirmed that funds are available to process Daniella's request. A motion is requested to vote on fulfilling Daniella's 2022-2023 reimbursement request with this year's budget at the Calendar Meeting.

Motion 1st: Andrew Guido

Motion 2nd: Jimmy Desiderato

- **President's Report:**

Vacant seats for ELL Rep & D31 Rep with a reminder to find candidates via a vacancy link. Appointment fulfillment of vacancies in partnership with SI President's Council following Chancellor's Regulations. Presidents Council may hold candidate forums if they so choose.

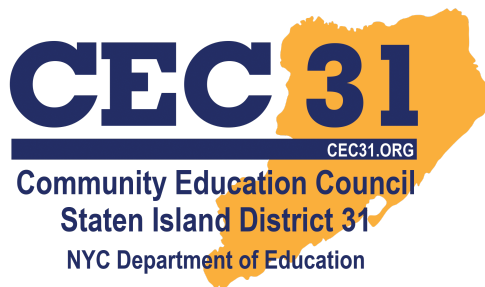
NYS ELA exams this Thursday and Friday district-wide were noted.

The Chancellor virtual bimonthly CCEC Presidents meeting scheduled for Wednesday April 3rd from 4pm-5pm was postponed. Members were asked to prioritize discussion topics if needed.

Issues with early voting impacting PS 65 and PS 8 were discussed, leading to partnerships with Glen Gotha and CCHS for alternative site selections. A successful letter writing campaign to the Board of Elections and elected officials was highlighted, emphasizing the Council's support for early voting access while advocating for educational and physical welfare concerns.

The Center for Urban Pedagogy created a guidebook on how the City's budget is formed and when New Yorkers can advocate, available for download at a specified link.

The state Legislature passed a budget extender until Thursday as negotiations continue.



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The Nominating Committee for the Parent Member of the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) held their first meeting and will reconvene to discuss the selection process.

The SI Student Wellness Council, comprising student Ambassadors from middle and high schools across Staten Island, had a successful inaugural event at Wagner College. Various speakers addressed Mental Health awareness, prior impact of Wellness Councils, and potential funding opportunities. Students shared experiences and initiatives from their schools. IS 61 sponsored lunch for the event. The culmination will be a Mental Health Symposium in May, where Student Wellness Councils will lead workshops.

Attended Borough President Fosella's Middle School Youth Violence Roundtable Discussion with various stakeholders including District Team Members, MS Principals, Elected Representatives, NYPD Community Officers, DA's Office, and Cabinet Members for Education and Mental Health. Discussion highlighted a 40% increase in youth violence in 2023, emphasizing the need for interventions and programs. Agnes McBeth focused on DA's offerings for middle school programming. Takeaways included plans for an NYPD & MS Principal group chat, a call for increased parent involvement, and the piloting of an 8-lesson mental health literacy course in September by the BP's office. Challenges such as the lack of a nearby RESTART program and the prevalence of vaping in middle schools were addressed. Priorities included the need for alternative learning options, potentially through a COOP Tech Site on SI combined with the ALC under D79's direction.

Reassurance was provided regarding school building safety after the recent earthquake, with no indications of compromise reported anywhere in the city, thanks to thorough inspections by Building Response

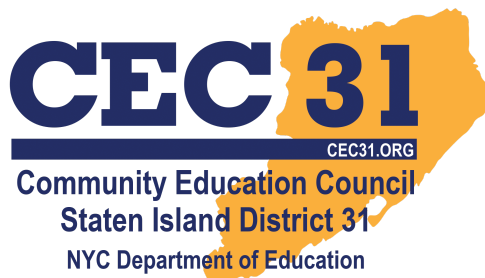
• **Councilmember Reports**

Princess had the opportunity to spotlight the important work of the Youth Violence Project at the District Attorney's office during a session with the Richmond County DA Youth Advisory Council.

Additionally, PS 9 is aiming for a building expansion to accommodate a Gymnasium for its performances,

Discussions with PS 55 families focused on diversity in school libraries. Additional parental concerns were brought up at the forum and promptly addressed by the District Team and Superintendent.

Lastly, CEC31 engaged with Parent Coordinators and PTA Presidents regarding community involvement, CEC, and SLT matters at the monthly District Parent Coordinator Meeting, facilitated by FLSC Rumi Biswas.



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• **New Business for next month's agenda**

None

• **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion 1st: Andrew Guido

Motion 2nd: Frank Marino

• **Meeting Adjourned 7:45pm**

Calendar Meeting

• **Call to Order** at 8:00PM and welcomed by President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan

• **Welcomed interpretation services** in Russian, Mandarin, and Spanish

• **Roll call of Members** -: Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Frank Marino, Daniella Caputo, Andrew Guido, James Desiderato, Melissa Cosentino, Amanda Wolkowitz, Teresa Cirelli, Joseph Bird, Princess Abdomeili, Carina Fu

Virtual James Desiderato

Absent

• **Approval of March Calendar Meeting Minutes**

• **Presentations:**

Rezoning Presentation with Tori Fenton Director of Brooklyn North & Staten Island planning

Language Access for Families with Robert Williams Field Language Access Coordinator

Superintendent Marion Wilson commended PS 41 for their ongoing commitment to providing language services to families.

CEC31 President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan commended PS 19 for their ongoing commitment to providing language services to families.

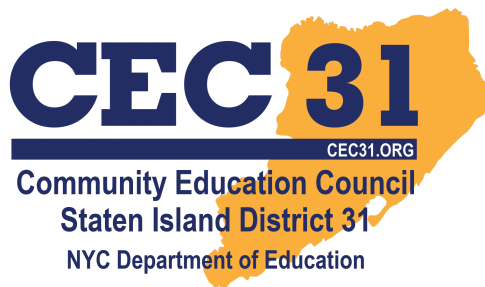
• **President's Report:** The president's report covers several important updates and reminders.

Vacant Seats: There are vacant seats for the ELL Rep & D31 Rep, with Leah providing the vacancy link.

NYS ELA Exams: Scheduled for Thursday and Friday, the District is offering a webinar event called "De-stress The Test for Families" on Tuesday to help families prepare.

Kindergarten and G&T Offers: Families who missed the kindergarten deadlines can add their child to waitlists using MySchools. Schools use waitlists to fill seats available after kindergarten offers are made.

Middle School Offers: Released on April 3rd, middle schools use waitlists to fill any open seats after offers are released. Not all programs will have available seats, and not all students on waitlists will receive an offer. With a support event on April 9th



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providing support and information about how waitlists work at different high schools throughout the city.

Budget Response: NYC Council members responded to Mayor Eric Adams' budget proposal, calling for the reversal of recent budget cuts and additional funding for school food, early childhood education, and other programs.

Education Funding Town Hall: A town hall was held to discuss pending funding cuts to education as federal stimulus resources sunset.

Budget Extender: The state Legislature passed a budget extender until Thursday, while negotiations are still ongoing.

Special Education Lawsuit: A lawsuit filed by Advocates for Children argued that students with disabilities missed out on key services after schools switched to virtual instruction.

Summer Rising Program: Despite a high number of applications, the Summer Rising program may not guarantee a spot for all applicants due to limited slots.

COMPASS Explore and SONYC Program Cuts: Due to budget cuts, the COMPASS Explore and SONYC programs will lose a significant number of seats after June 30th.

• **Superintendent's Report:**

Tomorrow's workshops De-stress the Test offering support for students facing upcoming ELA State Tests will be recorded and available on the app.

New school leadership announced: IA Rachel Elfassy as interim acting principal of Marsh. Dina Testa was appointed as the interim acting principal at IS 7.

Recognition for outstanding presentations, including one by Princess.

Community event with Singer Cam discussing resilience and drug addiction.

Collaboration with New York State Senator Jessica Scarsella Spanton to address opioid use.

Appreciation for organizational efforts by Deputy Chancellor Christine Chavez and Dr. Paulton.

Support provided for students protesting at Wagner, including community circles and surveys.

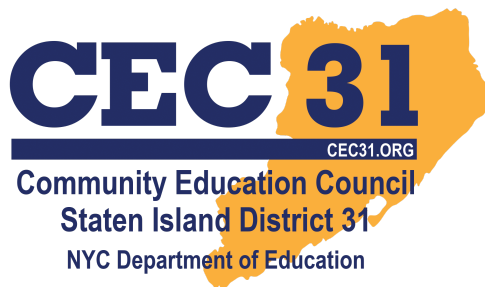
Emphasis on the importance of supporting students and families in District 31.

State exams this week, with a focus on equal opportunities for all students.

Updates on North Shore consortium work and non-negotiables for school leaders and teams

• **Committee Reports:**

Joseph Bird: During a recent Campus Council meeting at Michael J. Trees campus, concerns were raised about safety and well-being due to the co-location of various schools. Immediate safety concerns were addressed by District 31 leadership, but there are still unresolved issues, particularly regarding school drop-off procedures. There's a need for



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more holistic actions and consistent procedures, including staggered arrival and dismissal times. Tim emphasized the search for alternative sites for Bridge Prep. Collaboration is ongoing to improve safety for students and parents, with more updates expected in the New School Year.

Jimmy Desiderato: IS72 organized a Bulldog Olympics event for our ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) children. It was aimed at adaptive learning and was a success. Requesting too add to next month's agenda bringing back similar events district-wide as they are low-cost and inclusive, allowing all children to participate in activities typically reserved for others during regular field days.

Frank Marino: was informed about the Champs Sports and Fitness program, which offers elementary and middle school students the chance to engage in supervised physical activities before and after school. It's inclusive and free for all students, focusing on fostering cooperative, healthy, active, motivated, and positive behavior. Eager to learn more about it and potentially invite a guest speaker to discuss its implementation in our schools, as it's something I strongly advocate for

Princess Abomeli: had the opportunity to spotlight the important work of the Youth Violence Project at the District Attorney's office during a session with the Richmond County DA Youth Advisory Council.

YOUTH VIOLENCE PRESENTATION

• **Public Speaking**

Cheryl McMillan: In college, adults understand the importance of seeking help when struggling academically, taking responsibility to get tutoring. However, many children may not feel as responsible or comfortable seeking help. Encouraging children to see tutoring as a positive resource could help shift the mindset that asking for help is bad. CEC31 encouraged her to speak directly with other parents through PTA meetings to get more families on board, and discussing directly with Parent Representatives on their school's SLT to discuss whether or not the budget supports offering free after school tutoring.

Nefertiti Star Middleton: The speaker emphasizes the importance of clear communication and mutual assistance within the community. They inquire about evidence regarding the impact of community schools on children and suggest that liaison schools receive more attention and support from CEC members. CEC31 discussed that both the celebrations and needs or concerns of the schools within her community are discussed at our monthly meetings and that the CEC31 President has been personally overseeing those schools as the current vacancies left them without a current liaison. We will look more into the community



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schools for her. We offer our availability to help and encourage reaching out for assistance when needed.

• **New Business for next month's agenda**

None

• **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion 1st: Daniella Caputo

Motion 2nd: Andrew Guito

Meeting Adjourned 9:40pm