

Dr. Roderick Palton
District Superintendent

**CEC 31 Virtual Business Meeting and Virtual Calendar Meeting
Monday November 4th 2024**

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Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

James Desiderato
1st Vice President

Frank Marino
2nd Vice President

Andrew Guido
Recording Secretary

Joseph Bird
Treasurer
IEP Representative

Amanda Wolkowitz
D75 Representative

Daniella Caputo
Teresa Circelli
Borough President
Appointees

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Melissa Cosentino

STUDENT MEMBERS
Princess Abdomeili
Carina Fu

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Leah Stumpf

Vacant
ELL Representative
D31 Representative

Business Meeting

- **Call to Order** at 6:40PM and welcomed by President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
- **Welcomed interpretation services** in Russian, Mandarin, and Spanish

• **Roll call of Members - In-Person:**

Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Daniella Caputo, Melissa Cosentino, Joseph Bird, Amanda Wolkowitz,

Teresa Cirelli, Andrew Guido

Absent:

Virtual: *James Desiderato, Frank Marino*

• **Approval November Draft Business Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the November meeting were presented and approved.

Motion 1st: *Daniella Caputo*

Motion 2nd: *Frank Marino*

• **Approval of Member Absences**

• **President's Report:**

1. Council Seats Available

- Three seats are open:
- Two District 31 Parent Representative Seats
- One ELL Parent Representative Seat
- Application links shared in the chat and available on the council's website.

2. IESP Services Deadline Concerns

- Parents of students in non-public schools with IESPs must request services by June 1 of the preceding school year for the DOE to provide them.

- The requirement, though in place since 2007, has been inconsistently enforced.

- NYCPS's application of this rule has caused service disruptions for students in non-public schools.

- Advocates suggest a meeting with elected officials, NYCPS, and Regents to address the issue. Advocates for Children is collecting information (Contact: Maggie Moroff, mmoroff@advocatesforchildren.org).

3. Chancellor's Regulation D-210 Review

- Regulation found unconstitutional and under review.
- The October 24 meeting to discuss proposed changes lacked NYCPS legal representation, raising concerns about protections for CEC members and AA's.

4. Joint Public Hearing Announcement

- Proposals include:

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- Expanding P.S. 26 from K-5 to K-8.
 - Re-siting grades 1-5 from R026 to R121.
 - Co-locating a District 75 program.
 - Hearing scheduled for November 6, with live interpretation in Spanish and Mandarin.
5. Class Size Planning Framework
- NYCPS announced a new framework for class size reduction:
 - Schools may submit Class Size Reduction Plans for SY 2025-26 to access dedicated funding.
 - \$182 million invested this year, with further investments aligning with the state mandate.
 - Goals:
 - 60% of classes meet new size caps by 2025-26, 80% by 2026-27, and full compliance by 2028.
 - New class size caps:
 - Grades K-3: 20 students, Grades 4-8: 23 students, Grades 9-12: 25 students
 - Performing/PE groups: 40 students

• Councilmember Reports

CEC31 will collaborate with Alan Lewin, Manager of Student Services, and the District Team to host a Bullying Workshop for parents and students. The workshop will focus on defining bullying, outlining steps to take if a child is a victim, and strategies to reduce bullying in schools.

• New Business for next month's agenda

None

• Motion to Adjourn

Motion 1st: James Desiderato

Motion 2nd: Daniella Caputo

• Meeting Adjourned 7:15pm

Calendar Meeting

- **Call to Order** at 7:30PM and welcomed by President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
- **Welcomed interpretation services** in Russian, Mandarin, and Spanish
- **Roll call of Members:** Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Daniella Caputo, Melissa Cosentino, Amanda Wolkowitz, Joseph Bird, Teresa Cirelli, Andrew Guido

Virtual: James Desiderato, Frank Marino

Absent

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• **Approval of November Calendar Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the November meeting were presented and approved.

Motion 1st: *Joseph Bird*

Motion 2nd: *Frank Marino*

PS5 Rezoning Discussion

1. Presentation:

• Leah presented a slideshow prepared by the NYCPS Office of District Planning for Brooklyn North and Staten Island.

2. Discussion:

• Council Members were invited to share questions or concerns regarding the rezoning proposal.

• The floor was opened to the public for additional questions, concerns, and comments.

3. Actions Taken:

• A motion was introduced to move the PS6 Rezoning proposal to a vote.

• A Roll Call Vote was conducted.

4. Next Steps:

• The Council will review the Resolution to Approve the Rezoning of PS5.

• A copy of the resolution was distributed to Council Members for review.

5. Public Engagement:

• The floor was reopened for public comment on the CEC31 Zoning Resolution.

• A motion to vote on the resolution was introduced, followed by a Roll Call Vote.

• **President's Report**

1. Council Seat Vacancies:

• Three council seats are currently available:

• Two non-representative District 31 seats.

• One ELL parent representative seat.

• Application link shared: [Insert correct link].

• More information is available on the website: www.cec31.org

(<http://www.cec31.org>).

2. School Calendar Update:

• Monday, December 23, 2024, will now be a day off due to low expected attendance before winter break.

• NYC schools are still expected to meet the 180-day requirement by repurposing teacher training days.

3. Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT):

• Proposed \$17 million contract with Pearson to transition SHSAT to a computer-based model by Fall 2025.

• The contract includes an optional extension, potentially raising costs to \$23.5 million.

4. Financial Literacy Curriculum Review:

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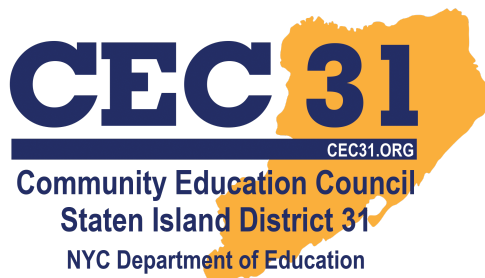
- NYC public schools are working toward system-wide financial literacy implementation by 2030.
- Families, students, and educators are invited to participate in curriculum reviews, with stipends offered (up to \$875).
- Submission deadline: November 15, 2024.
- Application link shared: [Insert correct link].
- 5. AI in Education:
 - NYC DOE is developing guidelines for integrating generative AI in schools.
 - Feedback is being gathered through an AI Advisory Council to ensure responsible usage, fairness, and data privacy.
- 6. Parent-Teacher Conferences (PTCs):
 - Dates and formats for PTCs across all school levels were confirmed.
 - Conferences will be held remotely, with in-person meetings available upon request.
- 7. Veterans Day Recognition:
 - Acknowledgment of veterans' sacrifices and commitment to service.
 - The Council emphasizes ongoing honor and gratitude beyond the holiday

• Presentations

Superintendent's Report

1. Implementation of NYC Reads Curriculum:
 - Staff teams and HMH coaches are actively supporting daily implementation visits to schools.
 - Emphasis on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) practices integrated into the curriculum.
 - Teachers are encouraged to treat the curriculum as a guide, ensuring teaching methods meet diverse student needs, including students with IEPs and multilingual learners.
 - Focus remains on the science of reading and building capacity for a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to provide targeted interventions.
2. Concerns About Assessments:
 - Clarified that assessments measure standards not yet taught and should not factor into student grading averages.
 - Schools will receive guidance to ensure assessments are used to gauge student progress, not as proficiency indicators.
3. Chancellor's School Visits:
 - Chancellor Melissa Avilés-Ramos visited PS 39 and Port Richmond High School to observe the new curriculum and other initiatives.
 - Highlights included impressive kindergarten classrooms, a strong school culture, and student empowerment at Port Richmond.
4. Student Achievements:
 - Acknowledgment of outstanding students, including:

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- A student featured on American Idol.
 - Chase Olson, founder of “Never Lose Hope,” a nonprofit supporting cancer patients.
5. Recent Events:
- Borough-Wide School Fair: Hosted at Wagner High School with 450+ families in attendance.
 - College Essay Masterclass: Over 100 students participated, gaining valuable skills for college applications.
 - Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk: Community event attended by students, staff, and families.
 - Patriots Tribute Ceremony: Honored the memory of Michael Aulis, a former student and soldier, with his family donating his medals to the school.
6. Community Partnerships:
- Meeting with the “Ambassador for Peace” coalition to discuss clergy and community support for schools, particularly IS 27, IS 49, and IS 61.
7. Upcoming Initiatives:
- Pivot to Remote Drill: Scheduled for November 6 or 7, testing readiness for remote learning.
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences:
 - Elementary: November 7
 - Middle School: November 14
 - High School: November 21
 - Parents are encouraged to discuss student progress and ask questions.
 - Parent Empowerment Event: Planning a “Paint and Sip” meet-and-greet to foster community engagement.
- **Public Speaking**
 - **Committee Reports**
 - **New Business for next month’s agenda**
 - None
 - **Motion to Adjourn**
 - Motion 1st:** Daniella Caputo
 - Motion 2nd:** Amanda Wolkowitz
 - **Meeting Adjourned 9:30pm**