

Dr. Roderick Palton
District Superintendent

CEC 31 Virtual Business Meeting and Virtual Calendar Meeting Monday October 7th, 2024

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James Desiderato
1st Vice President

Frank Marino
2nd Vice President

Andrew Guido
Recording Secretary

Joseph Bird
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Amanda Wolkowitz
D75 Representative

Daniella Caputo
Teresa Circelli
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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, Frank Marino, James Desiderato

Absent: Teresa Circelli, Andrew Guido

Virtual: N/A

- **Approval September Draft Business Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the September meeting were presented and approved.

Motion 1st: Daniella Caputo

Motion 2nd: Frank Marino

- **Approval of Member Absences**

Absences *Teresa Circelli from the September* meeting were reviewed and approved via roll call vote.

- **President's Report:**

1. Vacancy Update:

- The Council currently has three available seats: two District 31 parent representative seats and one ELL parent representative seat.
- The application link will be posted in the chat and on the website.

2. Climate Action Days:

- School communities will participate in sustainability lessons and activities.
- Over 1,100 schools took part last year, involving families in events such as community clean-ups, planting, and wellness activities.
- Flyers will be shared with the NYCPS community, and families can contact schools for more details on Climate Action Days.
- More information and resources are available on the NYCPS website.

3. Chancellor's Regulation D-210 Update:

- DOE has paused enforcement of provisions related to harassment, intimidation, and revealing private student information.
- Complaints on other prohibited conduct can still be submitted.

4. Upcoming Events:

- November 16th, 10 AM-2 PM: The Office of Family and Community Engagement will host a citywide resource fair at Murry Bergtraum High School. The event will include resource sharing and family activities.

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5. Committee Reports:

- The Family Engagement Committee is planning workshops for the Fall/Winter season in collaboration with Dial-A-Teacher and the Board of Children and Family Services.
- Acknowledgement to PS45 for the opening of new STEM labs, supported by Councilman Borelli and Joe Imperatrice with Blue Hearts

• **Councilmember Reports**

Frank Marino: Frank Lucia, and Leah attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at PS 45, invited by Principal Vega. The ceremony celebrated the success of the Blue Hearts program, which has presented at previous CEC meetings. The program utilized funds from a city grant to create a Minecraft-themed STEM lab at PS 45, which has been a great success and is highly appreciated by the school and students. The event was well-received and marked a positive day for all involved.

Jimmy Desiderato: Spoke about attending the NYC School Safety Coalition Meeting and discussed weapons being found in our school buildings, the inefficiency and failure of the suspension system and the need for a proactive approach to safety for our students including the placement of scanners in every school building. He exchanged words with NYC Schools Security Director Mark Rampesant and emphatically reminded him that he is the one who is responsible for keeping our children safe before something happens, not after. Council member Lucia Curatolo-Boylan agreed that there need to be many reforms to not only the suspension policy but opportunities for alternative education options for students struggling within the system and that because policy is created citywide scanners would be difficult to require in every school building. Council member Daniela Caputo also pointed out the many flaws to the suspension proceedings and requirements for fulfilling suspension requirements. As a Council we are unified in our agreement that we will revisit our suspension resolution and look for ways to find support for a proactive approach to safety

• **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, Frank Marino, Daniella Caputo, Melissa Cosentino, Amanda Wolkowitz, Joseph Bird, James Desiderato

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Virtual:

Absent Teresa Cirelli, Andrew Guido

• **Approval of September Calendar Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the September meeting were presented and approved.

Motion 1st: Joseph Bird

Motion 2nd: Frank Marino

• **President's Report**

1. Vacancy Update:

- The Council currently has three available seats: two District 31 parent representative seats and one ELL parent representative seat.
- The application link will be posted in the chat and on the website.

2. Reappointment of our previous District Superintendent Dr. Wilson

- Welcomed our Acting Interim District Superintendent Dr. Roderick Palton.
- Council is confident that the temporary appointment of Dr. Palton to this position assures a smooth transition for Staten Island as we await the C-37 process
- Spirit of collaboration and mutual respect between the District Leadership and CEC31 continues under our new leadership.
- Thanks to Dr. Wilson for service to Staten Island schools and we wish her luck as she pursues her new position with the New York City Public Schools system.

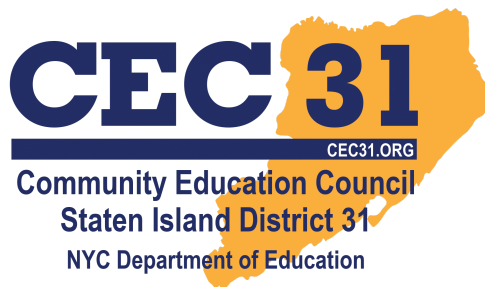
3. Chancellor David Banks investigation

- Federal corruption investigations surrounding the mayor and his administration. Federal agents raided the homes of First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright and schools Chancellor David Banks and now outgoing New York City School Chancellor David Banks will leave his position at the Department of Education in mid-October with Melissa Aviles-Ramos, as the new public schools' chancellor, effective October 16th. She brings a wealth of experience fostering community engagement and supporting families to her new role

4. High school application, LaGuardia application, and Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) registration are now open

- Log into your MySchools.nyc account apply and register
- If you do not have an account, you will need a unique account creation code which is printed on your child's welcome letter, which you can get from their school counselor.
- Tuesday, October 1, 2024: High School Application, LaGuardia Application, and Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) Registration Opens
- Friday, October 18, 2024: SHSAT Registration Closes
- Federal Wednesday, October 30, 2024: SHSAT School Day Testing

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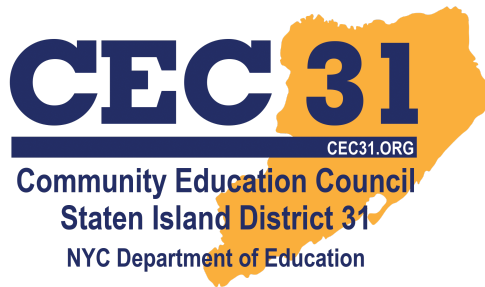
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- Sat / Sun, November 16-17, 2024: SHSAT Testing (8th grade students not participating in school day testing)
- Wednesday, December 4, 2024: High School and LaGuardia Applications Close
 - Sat / Sun, December 7-8, 2024: SHSAT Testing (9th grade students)
 - Thursday, March 6, 2025: High School Offer Release
5. Middle Schools Open Oct 9th. Wednesday, October 9, 2024
- Friday, November 8, 2024: Deadline to register to test for Mark Twain I.S. 239 and District 21 Talent Tests
 - Friday, December 13, 2024: Middle School Application Closes
 - Wednesday, April 9, 2025: Middle School Offer Release
6. Lottery Number for School Applications
- Log into MySchools accounts to find their students' randomly assigned "lottery" number. Priority is based on the order of the 32 digits and letters in the random number.
 - Families applying to high school will also have access in MySchools to a gauges to determine an applicant's chances of admission to a particular program based on a student's lottery number, home borough, and course grades.
 - High school applicants can apply to more than 12 schools and Middle school applicants can apply to schools across the city
 - Zoned schools will continue to prioritize zoned students for seats. Most programs will also have a district priority. If seats remain, students and residents from other districts will be considered
 - Strong applications include programs in the district(s) where your child lives or goes to school And includes some programs with an average level of demand (1-2 applicants per seat)
7. District 31 Middle and High School Fair
- October 9, 2024 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Susan Wagner High School For more information email us at: D31schoolfair24@gmail.com
8. Pilot program with BusPatrol was announced at a City Council
- Pilot program started with 30 buses
 - Expanding to 250 buses as per executive director of contract operations for the Office of Pupil
8. New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) on October 7th announced The 'Meeting the Moment' initiative
- Reaffirm NYCPS commitment to safe, inclusive, respectful school environments.
 - There is a new Anti-Hate Hotline to report incidents of hate, harassment, or discrimination at 718-935-2889 Mon-Fri 8am to 6pm.
 - Incidents can be reported anonymously
 - NYCPS' Interfaith Advisory Council community and spiritual leaders from across numerous faiths have begun meeting

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- Hidden Voices curriculum released resources on people with disabilities, and later this year on the Latino community, the Muslim American community, and the Jewish American community
- New anti-discrimination staff training from the office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB), with an explicit focus on Antisemitism and Islamophobia has begun.

9. The Citywide Council on High Schools presents Saving For College/Financial Aid Tips Event on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 7 PM

- Register for this meeting at https://nycdoe.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJApC02srDMpEteVquIGTApP_VOK6zx-LU0

10. Custodial Appreciation Day was October 2nd. CEC31 is thankful for the hard work of all our D31 Schools Custodial Teams

11. Congratulations to P.S. 35 The Clove Valley School, for being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon Schools

12. Our hearts go out to all those impacted by Hurricane Helene and we wanted to provide our families and students ways to help if they are so inclined.

- Sign up to volunteer with a reputable group or organization <https://www.nvoad.org/volunteer/>
- Financial contributions to recognized disaster relief organizations are the fastest, most flexible and most effective method of donating.
- Check to see what might be needed - and where - before you send supplies <https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html/>

• Presentations

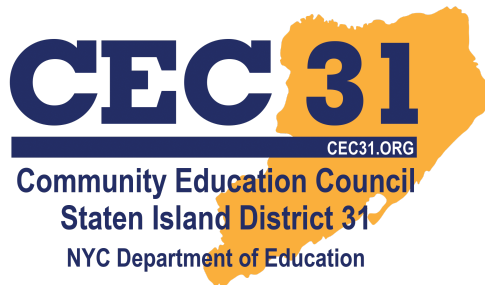
Guest Speaker: Tori Fenton Director of Brooklyn North and Staten Island Planning for NYCPS Office of District Planning team

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Guest Speaker: Kelleyann Royce-Giron Citywide Senior Director/ Administrative Assistant Superintendent Prevention and Intervention Programs for the Office of Safety and Youth Development to discuss Attacking the Substance Abuse Crisis in NYCPS

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• Superintendent's Report

• Public Speaking

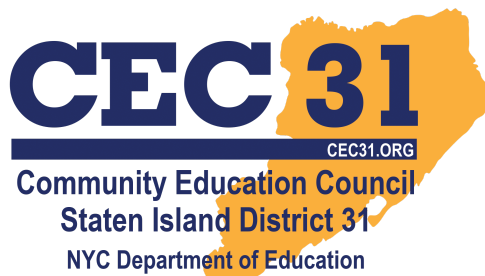
Azalia Volpe and Denise Pacheco, Representative for the Office of Assemblyman Michael Reilly, asked questions and demanded that New York City Public Schools resume the Individualized Education Services Program mandated by NYS law for D31 students enrolled in private or religious schools. New York City Public Schools arbitrarily enforced an established rule that service requests must be submitted by June 1st of 2024 or if the student was newly identified as a student with a disability after June 1, and the parent submitted a request within 30 days thereafter. This has left thousands of children throughout New York City without care, support, needed devices and is causing delays in students with disabilities learning. Several attendees also spoke to the same difficulties with their own child. CEC31 sympathized with their concerns and agreed that New York City Public Schools should resume the legally mandated services. While our Councils specifically do not serve families not enrolled in Public School, we will do all we can to find and answer when services will resume and look for resources and even lawsuits in which our families requiring IESP's can utilize.

• Committee Reports

Frank Marino: Frank Lucia, and Leah attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at PS 45, invited by Principal Vega. The ceremony celebrated the success of the Blue Hearts program, which has presented at previous CEC meetings. The program utilized funds from a city grant to create a Minecraft-themed STEM lab at PS 45, which has been a great success and is highly appreciated by the school and students. The event was well-received and marked a positive day for all involved.

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

None

• **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion 1st: Daniella Caputo

Motion 2nd: Amanda Wolkowitz

• **Meeting Adjourned 9:30pm**