



COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 30

28-11 Queens Plaza North, Room 512

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October 12, 2021

TO: CDEC 30 Members
Principals
PA/PTA Presidents
Parent Coordinators
Union Representatives

FROM: Community District Education Council 30

RE: October Calendar and Business Meetings, October 18, 2021

The October Calendar Meeting of Community District Education Council 30 is scheduled for **Monday, October 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**, followed by the Business Meeting. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the Calendar and Business meetings of Community District Education Council 30 will not be held in-person and will instead be held via teleconference. Instructions to access the meeting follows the agenda.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. **Resolution #155 In Support of the 34th Avenue Open Street Followed by Public Comment on Resolution #155**
- IV. **Dr. Philip A. Composto, Community Superintendent's Report**
- V. **Public Agenda and Speaking Time**
- VI. Adjournment

The next **Calendar Meeting** is scheduled for **Monday, November 8, 2021**, at 6:30 p.m., immediately followed by the **Business Meeting**. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the Calendar and Business meetings of Community District Education Council 30 will not be held in-person and will instead be held via teleconference. Guidance on how to access the meeting will be posted prior to the meeting.

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Indeed it is the only thing that ever has. ~Margaret Mead*

BUSINESS MEETING

1. Acceptance of Minutes
2. NEW BUSINESS

Community Education Council 30 invites you to a Zoom webinar.

When: Oct 18, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: CDEC30 Calendar and Business Meetings

You must register for this webinar.

Register here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1SJrFVAYSnW97ai-e0a3Gw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Spanish Interpretation: Call [+1 347-966-4114](tel:+13479664114), Conference ID: 803 227 909#

RESOLUTION #155

IN SUPPORT OF THE 34TH AVENUE OPEN STREET

WHEREAS, starting in April 2020, parts of 34th Avenue in Jackson Heights were closed to cars and trucks between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm, except for local traffic with a speed limit of 5 miles per hour;

WHEREAS, in October 2020, 34th Avenue from 69th Street to Junction Boulevard was designated an permanent Open Street by the Department of Transportation;

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WHEREAS, four schools—P.S. 149, P.S. 398, I.S. 145, and I.S. 230—are directly on the 34th Avenue Open Street, two other schools—PS 212 and PS 280—are within one block of the Open Street.

WHEREAS, as of the 2020–2021 school year, 8,842 students, or 35% of K–8 students in District 30 schools, attend a school within two blocks of the 34th Avenue Open Street;¹

WHEREAS, Jackson Heights and neighboring Elmhurst and East Elmhurst are some of the neighborhoods in New York City with the least amount of access to public park space;²

WHEREAS, even before the pandemic, a number of the schools near the Open Street lack sufficient outdoor space for recess for their student populations;

WHEREAS, because of the significantly higher risks for transmission of the SARS CoV-2 virus in indoor spaces, providing outdoor space for socializing, exercising, eating, and other activities has taken on increased importance;³

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19, public schools in New York City have provided less social distancing than recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, which recommends six feet of distance between unvaccinated individuals, heightening the need for the use of outdoor spaces, especially during breakfast and lunch, when students take off their masks;⁴

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has offered each school on the Open Street full street closure during school and afterschool hours, which would prohibit all cars, bikes, parking, and pedestrian access directly in front of the school, providing the school an expanded area for arrival and dismissal and an opportunity for schools to conduct activities outdoors on the Open Street;

WHEREAS, Car violence is the leading injury-related cause of death in children in New York City. In 2018, a student at PS145 on 34th Ave was seriously injured when leaving school;⁵

¹ Data compiled from school profiles for P.S. 69, P.S. 148, P.S. 149, P.S. 152, P.S. 212, P.S. 222, P.S. 228, P.S. 228, P.S. 398, I.S. 145, I.S. 227, and I.S. 230 at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov>.

² New York City Independent Budget Office, "Which Neighborhoods Have More Nearby Park Space Per Capita?" (July 15, 2020), <https://ibo.nyc.ny.us/cgi-park2/2020/07/which-neighborhoods-have-more-nearby-park-space-per-capita/>

³ Centers for Disease Control, "Participate in Outdoor and Indoor Activities" (Updated, August 19, 2021), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/outdoor-activities.html>; Christina Veiga, "COVID Complicates Back-to-School Lunch Plans for NYC Students," *The City* (September 6, 2021), <https://www.thecity.nyc/2021/9/6/22659562/covid-complicates-school-lunch-for-nyc-students>.

⁴ Centers for Disease Control, "Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools" (Updated August 5, 2021), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#physical-distancing>

⁵ Brad Aaron, "Health Department: Car Crashes Remain Leading Injury Killer of NYC Kids" *Streetsblog* (May 26, 2016), <https://nyc.streetsblog.org/2016/05/26/health-department-car-crashes-remain-leading-injury-killer-of-nyc-kids/>; "Andrew Siff, "12-Year-Old Boy Pinned by Jeep in Front of Queens School: Police,

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WHEREAS, the Open Street recently extended its daily hours to start at 7:30 am rather than 8:00 am, so that students and their families have use of the street while walking to school;

WHEREAS, Jackson Heights has no protected bicycle lanes, making the Open Street the safest place in the neighborhood for cycling, especially for children; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the District 30 Community Education Council enthusiastically supports the 34th Avenue Open Street;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation should devote resources to community engagement and design to improve the safety and ease of use for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and District 30 should encourage and promote schools using the Open Street for eating, recess, and other activities by providing resources such as play equipment and outdoor storage. In addition, use of available outdoor space should be part of administrators' routine evaluations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and District 30 should arrange with the Department of Transportation to have bike parking installed at the six schools on or within one block of the Open Street.

Witnesses" (March 28, 2019), <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/12-year-old-hit-by-car-near-queens-school-police/1563533/>

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