

MINUTES
Community Education Council 30
Calendar Meeting
December 11, 2023

The December Calendar Meeting of Community Education Council 30 was held in person in the fifth-floor conference room at 28-11 Queens Plaza North, LIC, and via Zoom on Monday, December 11, 2023.

Ms. Toussaint, President, called the Calendar Meeting to order at 6:46 PM.

Roll Call

Victoria Medelius, Secretary, conducted a roll call for the Calendar Meeting.

Present:

Deborah Alexander
Linda Chung-Leung
Kelly Craig
Todd Hunter Dare
Jonathan Greenberg
Nick Masson
Victoria Medelius
Danny Rojas
Marlene Rossi
Marisela Santos
Whitney Toussaint

Whitney Toussaint explained the format of the meeting.

District 30 Respect For All Contest Winners

IA Superintendent Hidalgo introduced the winners.

Poster Winners: 30Q092 Eduardo Jaramillo & 30Q227 Minahil Chaudhry
Essay Winners: 30Q111 Amiyah Hollington & 30Q227 Sarah Lahfid

First Public Comment and Speaking Time

Emily Affrey, parent PS 78, and Morgan William, parent 972, spoke in support of Whitney Toussaint's leadership.

Presentation – Newcomers High School

Principal Elizabeth Messmann and three students shared information about possible rebranding, allowing all students to attend, and offering a dual language program and career choice opportunities.

Hunter Dare suggested reconsidering the name.

Deborah Alexander asked if it would be an expansion to the school. When Gotham Tech moves out, it will be an expansion of approximately 100 students.

Presentation - School Construction Authority Amendment to the 5-year Capital Plan

Ben Goodman and Yvette Knight for the SCA spoke about the Capital Plan amendments. The current Capital Plan total is 19.4 billion dollars: 8 billion for capacity projects, 8 billion for capital projects, and 3.4 for mandated projects. The new 2025-2029 Capital Plan total is 17 billion dollars: 4.98 billion for capacity, 2.25 billion for health schools, 6.37 billion for capital improvement, and 3.4 billion for mandated projects. The PowerPoint presentations are available on the CEC30 website: <https://cec30.org/meetingdocs.html>.

Nick Masson spoke about the need for air conditioning in common areas and repairing non-working air conditioners. School Facilities is responsible for non-working air conditioners.

Danny Rojas asked about less money for capacity projects and capital improvements. The drop in

enrollment was considered when funds were allocated for capacity, and the city budget crisis is reflected in the capital projects funding.

Mr. Dare asked about leased space. The SCA will look for a new location if the landlord does not offer reasonable terms.

Jonathan Greenberg stated that the city lacks enough funding to meet the lower-class size mandate.

Vaughan Turner, parent IS 227, asked about a solar project scheduled to begin this past summer. There can be solar panels and a greenhouse if there is enough roof space and the building is structurally strong. This can be funded through Reso-A funds.

Ms. Toussaint recognized that NYS Senator Gonzales was in attendance. She has been talking to the UFT to ensure schools have a plan for lower class sizes. Budget cuts are a significant concern.

Lisa Hidalgo, District 30 Superintendent, IA Report

The Superintendent's report follows the minutes.

The video of the Superintendent's report can be viewed on the CEC website at

<https://cec30.org/recordings.html>.

Public Agenda and Speaking Time

Vaughan Turner, parent IS 227, asked about devices provided by schools. His son received a device that does not work and is still waiting for a new device.

Jonathan Greenberg requested that schools be reminded about the 1% Title 1 funds for parent engagement.

Nick Masson stated that younger students also need something similar to Teen Space.

Marlene Russo spoke about students being unable to connect to Wi-Fi in libraries, but DOE devices are blocked, so students cannot do homework.

Resolution 176 Calling on NYCPS to Prioritize Low-Income Families for Summer Rising Seats

Deborah Alexander read the resolution, and member discussion followed. Ms. Alexander motioned to approve the resolution. Jonathan Greenberg seconded.

Roll call vote.

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Deborah Alexander | In favor |
| Linda Chung-Leung | In favor |
| Todd Hunter Dare | In favor |
| Jonathan Greenberg | In favor |
| Nick Masson | In favor |
| Victoria Medelius | In favor |
| Danny Rojas | In favor |
| Marlene Rossi | In favor |
| Marisela Santos | In favor |
| Whitney Toussaint | In favor |

Motion passed.

Resolution 177 Opposing 60-Day Limitation on Shelter Stays for Families of New York City Public School Students.

Jonathan Greenberg read the resolution, and member discussion followed. Hunter Dare motioned to amend the resolution to include "Be it resolved that we waive implementation of the 60-day rule in respect of families with children enrolled in NYC public schools at least 15 days beyond the end of the current school year". Nick seconded the amendment.

Roll call vote on the amendment.

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Deborah Alexander | Opposed |
| Linda Chung-Leung | Opposed |

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Todd Hunter Dare | In favor |
| Jonathan Greenberg | Opposed |
| Nick Masson | In favor |
| Victoria Medelius | Opposed |
| Danny Rojas | Opposed |
| Marlene Rossi | Opposed |
| Marisela Santos | Opposed |
| Whitney Toussaint | Opposed |

The motion did not pass.

Deborah Alexander made a motion to accept the original resolution. Danny Rojas seconded.
Roll call vote.

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Deborah Alexander | In favor |
| Linda Chung-Leung | In favor |
| Todd Hunter Dare | Abstain |
| Jonathan Greenberg | In favor |
| Nick Masson | In favor |
| Victoria Medelius | In favor |
| Danny Rojas | In favor |
| Marlene Rossi | In favor |
| Marisela Santos | In favor |
| Whitney Toussaint | In favor |

Motion passed.

Announcements

The following Calendar Meeting is January 8, 2024

The Mayoral Control Hearing is December 18, 2023

Adjournment

There being no further business, Whitney Toussaint motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nick Masson seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Medelius
Secretary

The recording and closed caption transcript of this meeting will be available at cec30.org.

Business Meeting

Because the Calendar Meeting ran long, the members voted to have the Business Meeting on Monday, December 18, 2023, at 6:30 PM.



Superintendent's Report

Community District Education Council CDEC30 Meeting

DECEMBER 11, 2023

In Support of the Chancellor's Pillar #1 Reimagining the student experience

- **Respect for All Essay and Poster Winners**

The theme of the essay contest is "From Bystanders to Allies."

Poster Contest Winner: Q92 – Eduardo Jaramillo – Class 4-406
Q227 – Minahil Chaudhry – Class 812

The theme of the poster contest is "Friends do make a difference."

Essay Contest Winner: Q111 – Amiyah Hollington – Class 8 – Columbia
Q227 – Sarah Lahfid – Class 809

The intent of this contest is to raise awareness around bullying issues through the healing power of art. Art helps us tell stories, express pain, and share hopes.

NYC Teenspace: Free Mental Health Support Program

For many students, feelings of grief, isolation, and anxiety are still fresh. These social and emotional impacts can be especially pronounced for our older students, who also face the daily challenges of being a teen, from peer pressure to social media.

The DOE is helping to promote a new program offered by the NYC Health Department for NYC teens. [NYC Teenspace](#), powered by [Talkspace](#) offers NYC teens ages 13–17 virtual therapy with a licensed therapist in over 30 languages, at no cost. Teens can be connected to a licensed therapist for ongoing support and/or can access online mental health exercises to complete on their own. Teens can sign up for this program on their own by following these [steps](#). Note that teens do not need to be experiencing mental health symptoms to participate and can discuss their thoughts and feelings about their day-to-day life with a Talkspace therapist.

Additional Guidance on Devices for Remote Learning

Please note the following additional guidance regarding remote learning devices and school readiness to transition to temporary remote learning for all students in grades pre-K–12:

- Schools are responsible for ensuring each student has a personal or school-provided device for remote learning.
- Remote learning devices (whether Central or school-funded) assigned to students by schools should remain at home.
- For schools with confirmed students in need of a device for remote learning only, there are two options:
 - While supplies last, Centrally funded Chromebooks will be provided only for students without an assigned device for remote learning.
 - Once the Central inventory of Chromebooks is depleted and/or if other device types or peripherals (cases, chargers, etc.) are needed for your students, schools must purchase their own. These devices are typically received within 30 business days.
- For matriculating or exiting students, note the following:
 - School-purchased devices should remain with the school. School staff are then responsible for collecting these devices from exiting students.
 - Central-purchased devices must remain with matriculating students.
 - No more than one Centrally funded device should be assigned to each student.
 - When a student is exiting the system for any reason, they must return the device (school- or Central-purchased) to their school; these devices should then be kept at the school for distribution to other qualifying students.

Complete Space Survey for Class Size Law Implementation

In September 2022, Governor Hochul enacted Chapter 556 of the Laws of 2022, which now prescribes lower class size targets for K–12 schools within the DOE. For the 2023–24 school year, the DOE is meeting the law’s requirement for 20 percent of all classes citywide to be in compliance with the new mandates. Based on current data, the DOE is at 40 percent compliance for the 2023–24 school year.

In order to support schools’ implementation of the targets beyond this school year and in line with the law’s requirements to increase compliance by 20 percent each year, the DOE is engaging in extensive planning.

Walking School Bus Program Guidance and Safety Protocols

Schools were asked to review the [walking school bus program](#) to determine if they would like to implement it in their school:

Students in grades K–8 are absent from school for many reasons, one being that their parent or guardian cannot walk their child to school. In these instances, school staff have found that if students can be picked up and brought to school by another adult, then the child will attend school and not miss out on valuable instruction. This program is called a “[walking school bus](#),” and is one option to reduce absenteeism for schools that have students who are unable to attend school due to these circumstances. In a walking school bus model, school staff members (volunteers) meet students at a designated location near their home (15-minute radius) and walk with them to school on days that families need extra support.

Note that schools are not required to implement a “walking school bus” program, however, schools that choose to implement this program should follow this [Walking School Bus guidance](#).

Display Menstrual Product Availability Posters in Schools

The DOE expanded availability of menstrual products to K–5 schools. In consultation with building administration, one restroom (either female or single occupancy/gender-neutral) was equipped with a dispenser at all K–5 sites. As an update, please note that products should only be available at designated restroom locations and not in the nurse's office. Note that menstrual products must be readily available without students having to request them from staff. School officials were asked to share this information with their school nurse and other relevant staff.

Title I Schools: Submit Title I One Percent Set-Aside Funding for Parent and Family Engagement

In accordance with Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), all schools receiving Title I funds must implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members of students participating in the Title I program.

To support these requirements, Title I schools must set aside a minimum of one percent of their total allocation to fund parent and family engagement activities. Like last year, every Title I school received an allocation of Title I funding equal to one percent of its base Title I allocation, to be used specifically and only for parent and family engagement; schools also received an allocation of carryover funding for parent and family engagement.

Prepare for 2024 NYS Grades 3–8 ELA, Math, and Science Administration: CBT Testing and Educator Guides

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is mandating computer-based testing (CBT) for grades 5 and 8 for the spring 2024 ELA, math, and science exams. CBT in other grades is optional.

Big Apple Awards Nominations Are Now Open

As in prior years, the DOE recognizes and celebrates teacher excellence through the [Big Apple Awards \(BAA\)](#). The BAA nomination process for the upcoming cohort of fellows for the 2024–25 school year is now open through **January 19**. School officials and all members of the school community (including families, students, and community-based organizations) are invited to nominate a teacher for the Big Apple Award by completing [this nomination form](#) by **January 19**. School officials are asked to backpack home this [flyer](#) (with [translations](#)) as soon as possible, to encourage students and families to nominate teachers for the award.

Guidance on Holiday Displays and Celebrations in Schools

School officials and their staff should be aware of and sensitive to cultural and seasonal observances and religious holidays to foster mutual understanding and respect for the community's diverse religious, racial, and ethnic heritages. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that schools are culturally responsive to the many faiths, backgrounds, and traditions in our school communities, and to affirm students' identities as we celebrate. In addition, public schools may not endorse or promote a particular religion or belief system.

Kindergarten Application Opens December 5

Beginning December 5, families with children born in 2019 can apply to attend kindergarten for the 2024–25 school year; the application deadline is January 19. Please encourage all families with children born in 2019 to participate in kindergarten admissions, including families with children currently attending pre-K, students with disabilities, English language learners, and students with accessibility needs. Also note the following:

- All families who apply by the deadline will receive a kindergarten offer in late March. As a reminder, families can now use the kindergarten application to apply to all kindergarten programs including kindergarten Gifted & Talented.
- Families can apply to kindergarten in two ways:
 - Online at [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov); or
 - Over the phone by calling 718-935-2009.
- [Myschools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov) includes an online directory total that allows families to explore program choices, save programs of interest, and submit their application, all on the same site.

Distribute National Student Clearinghouse Notice and Opt-Out Form

The DOE regularly requests data from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), which has a database of college enrollment and degree information for more than 3,600 colleges and universities. To access this data, the DOE submits each student's name, grade level, and date of birth to NSC so that they can match the students' college information. As in previous years, families have the right to request that their child's name, grade level, and date of birth not be shared with the NSC.

Schools that serve students in grades 9–12, should distribute this [notice and opt-out form](#) to all grade 9 students and to any new students in grades 10, 11, and 12 who were not enrolled in the school last year; There are also [translated versions of the form](#). Families who do not want their child's information released to the NSC must complete the opt-out form and return it by February 16.

Save for College Program: Preparing for NYC Scholarship Month in January

The third annual Save for College Program citywide NYC Scholarship Month will take place in January. This is the first opportunity for schools to support participating kindergarten and newly enrolled grade 1 -5 families in activating and viewing their children's NYC Scholarship Accounts.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Q291

Q291 6th graders presented their interdisciplinary work around "The Hero's Journey."

They made connections between literature, neuroscience, math, social studies, and music. They raised over 2,000 dollars for charities, performed a Beethoven piece, and presented their work to families and other students.

| Upcoming Events | |
|--|--|
| 12/11 - PTA Check L. Greene Fundraiser @ 2PM - 8PM | 12/12 - Parent Workshop @ 6PM |
| 12/14 - Kindergarten Open House @ 9AM | 12/15 - Spirit Day "Palm Beach" & PTA Snack Sale |
| 12/15 - Parent Workshop @ 3PM | 12/15 - Holiday Market @ 4PM - 7PM |
| 12/15 - Clinic Action Day - Near Orange | 12/18 - Parent Workshop @ 3PM |
| 12/18 - Last Day of Food Drive | 12/22 - PTA Meeting @ 6PM |
| 12/19 - 12/19 - PTA Holiday Boutique | 12/22 - High 5 Teacher Day |
| | 12/25 - 1/1 - Winter Recess in the School |

BALLERS VS. TIGERS

Recently, we had a basketball game against P.S. 85 at their SCHOOL. As if you may have heard, WE WORE Our Ballers vs. here's how the game went down.

At 9:05 AM, the Ballers practiced shooting, and the Elite Rock Squad practiced shooting. So, it was time for the game to start! Both teams got into position. The referee placed on both teams then shouted, "Play Ball!", and the game was on!

We had a bit of a rough start. The Tigers got the first point. Soon enough, it was 9-5. Then, quarter 2 began and soon enough, things started to get back on track! In Quarter 2 began, we scored 2 more points! 13 - 11! We were in the lead! A little later, we had 17 points to 11! How we're doing great! The game is already almost over, and quarter 4 was gaining on us! Quarter 4 had begun! Soon, we had 28 points to 11! And a little later, it was 23 - 12! The Tigers scored the last point, but we still won! The final score was 28 - 14. It was a tough game, but we did it! Great!

Written By: Beta Herrera & Gaja Letona

"One of a Kind"



Photographed By: Kasia Chastain

Meet Emilia Catalan. She is kind and loving. Emilia says that she will change the school by making memories of past years/events for us all. Emilia is in Dance Club, Art Club and you know it... Photography. Emilia would be happy to take pictures at any event. Emilia loves this school with all her heart. Emilia says she will be super sad when she leaves this school. She knows that Ms. Danner is the best Principal! Emilia will make a difference by taking pictures for the future!

Written By: Kasia Chastain



Photographs By: Gofija Backovic

HEALTH IS WEALTH

Did you know that our school has a Nutrition Committee? Ms. Danner is the one who came up with the idea. Students in the committee will learn how to make healthy choices when it comes to food.

These students will also have an opportunity to prepare a variety of healthy recipes. Committee members will also have the opportunity to go on trips related to living a healthy lifestyle. The Nutrition Committee will help promote healthy eating habits as well as physical activity that will impact the overall well-being of our students and their families.

The Nutrition Committee will play a crucial role in enhancing our students' overall health and well-being. The Nutrition Committee will meet during the day and during after school hours in the library.

Written By: JOLID SALLAM



Photographed By: Kasia Chastain & Gaja Letona

DID YOU KNOW? ...FACTS

- Jingie Bello was originally a song about Thanksgiving, written in 1957.
- A Christmas tree is filled with 5 candles because there are 5 days of Hanukkah, but the one at the end is has to be taller than the other 4, so each night of Hanukkah, a candle is lit.
- Each year, approximately 28-30 million Christmas trees are sold in the U.S. Most of the trees are sold in 48 states as a symbol of the holidays will that burn 8 nights straight. Christmas trees usually grow 15 years before they can be sold.

Researched By: Beta Herrera

CONGRATULATIONS Citizens of the Month

Adam Selma Beverly Camila Alaina Faith Lexia Sadie Joshua Ailina Oliver Debra Noah Arden Torrance



Q111

The scholars engaged in a school wide Spelling Bee by grade in preparation for the District Spelling Bee.



- Amiyah Hollington; 8th Grade; is a winner of the Respect for All Essay contest. We hope to get pictures of her on December 11, 2023.

- We celebrated 100% Attendance in November with Hot Chocolate. Before receiving the Sweet Treat, the scholars had to verbally explain why they received the ticket to the Hot Chocolate Bar. The goal is to help students make the connection with the monthly incentives and 100% Attendance.



Q300

Principal Sonita Ramkishun shared her school highlights:

1. In honor of Computer Science Education Week, Q300's Kindergarten to 4th grade students will be engaging in a family coding event.

On Thursday, December 7th, parents and students will collaborate to build their very own Scratch projects. Together, they will build, learn, and have a blast. Families will dive into the world of technology and unleash their imagination. Families will choose from 3 different projects based on their level of experience.

Rookie: If you're brand new to Scratch, this beginner project will teach you the basics of the Scratch interface while animating your name!

Mid-level: You might have some experience with the basics of Scratch but this All About Me project will take it to new heights. You'll learn how to add animation to your project.

Skilled: Seasoned scratch users and/or families who have a background in computer science will collaborate on an interactive, choose your own adventure story where each family member contributes a part of the plot. Use variables and conditionals to make the story change based on choices.

2. On December 5th, children born in 2019 can apply to kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year. The application deadline is **Friday, January 19, 2024**.

Q300 will continue to prioritize 40% of incoming kindergarten seats to students who qualify for free and reduced lunch and/or currently reside in:

- citywide section 8 housing
- citywide NYCHA
- citywide temporary housing