

**MINUTES**  
**Community District Education Council 30**  
**Calendar Meeting**  
**September 12, 2022**

The September Virtual Calendar Meeting of Community District Education Council 30 was held on Monday, September 12, 2022, via the Zoom platform.

Ms. Toussaint, President, called the Calendar Meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Victoria Medelius conducted roll call for the Calendar Meeting.

**Present:**

Deborah Alexander  
Kelly Craig  
Jonathan Greenberg  
Juliette-Noor Haji  
Fatima Lakrafl  
Victoria Medelius  
Michelle Moore  
Marisela Santos  
Whitney Toussaint  
Esther Verhalle

**Absent and Excused**

Kristina Berrouet (Family)

Ms. Toussaint introduced the interpreters and explained the format for the meeting.

**Queens High School North Superintendent Hoa Tu**

Superintendent Tu and Executive Director Anthony Stiffler presented. Their office supports 8 District 30 high schools and plan on developing a partnership with CDEC30. One goal is to create a respectful welcoming environment for students, families, and staff. They are engaging students and have several student lead initiatives. Engagement is stressed.

The lack of high school seats in Queens with an 18,000-seat deficit, was discussed. Northern Blvd building is slated to open 2025. More CTE schools and programs are planned. An additional school, possibly a CTE center, will hopefully be open 2027. Extensions are being built at Francis Lewis, Cardozo, and John Bowne HS. There will be a high school fair, and students have volunteer and internship opportunities.

**Chief Marlon Larin, NYPD, School Safety**

Judy Nunez Aguayo, Borough Director School Safety, introduced Chief Marlon Aguayo. Chief Larin provided crime statistics: Citywide 346 index crimes which is down by 99; Queens North 31 which is up by 2. Last year, there were 6,389 recovered weapons; that's a 136% increase. Scanning operation has been successful. There have been 3 shootings near high schools in Queens.

Barbara Welch, Community Outreach Commander, stated that they need to hear from students. They want to know what students need. Initiatives include Socio Drama/Educational Theater and My School My Responsibility. The vision is education without confrontation. You can find your precinct by going to "Build a Block."

## Election for Vice President

Ms. Toussaint requested nominations for Vice President.

Ms. Alexander nominated Michelle Moore for Vice President.  
Ms. Moore declined the nomination.  
Ms. Moore nominated Jonathan Greenberg for Vice President.  
Mr. Greenberg accepted the nomination.  
There were no other nominations.  
Mr. Greenberg gave a statement.

Victoria Medelius conducted a roll call vote.

Deborah Alexander	Abstain
Kristina Berrouet	Not Present
Kelly Craig	No, Abstain
Jonathan Greenberg	Jonathan Greenberg
Juliette-Noor Haji	Jonathan Greenberg
Fatima Lakraflil	Not Present
Victoria Medelius	Abstain
Michelle Moore	Jonathan Greenberg
Marisela Santos	Jonathan Greenberg
Whitney Toussaint	Jonathan Greenberg
Esther Verhalle	Jonathan Greenberg

Jonathan Greenberg will serve as Vice President for the 2022-2023 school year.

## Resolution #166 Asking the DOE to Provide Access to Physical, Paper-Based High School Directories

Ms. Alexander read the resolution. Mr. Greenberg asked about information missing from the online profiles as compared to the paper directory. Ms. Alexander listed some items. The members and public spoke in support of the resolution.

Ms. Medelius conducted a roll call vote.

Deborah Alexander	In Favor
Kristina Berrouet	Not Present
Kelly Craig	In Favor
Jonathan Greenberg	In Favor
Juliette-Noor Haji	In Favor
Fatima Lakraflil	In Favor
Victoria Medelius	In Favor
Michelle Moore	In Favor
Marisela Santos	In Favor
Whitney Toussaint	In Favor
Esther Verhalle	In Favor

The Motion passed.

## Dr. Philip A. Composto, Community Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent's Report follows the minutes.

Ms. Moore asked who is keeping data on asylum seekers. Dr. Composto said it is kept by the borough, but some families are double-upped with other family members, so they have no stats on that.

Ms. Alexander asked about Tweed staff moving to the district offices. Dr. Composto reported that District 30 received 25 talented staff members. More will be coming.

### **Public Agenda and Speaking**

Kathy Reid, I.S. 126 is putting together a community forum and asked for a way to contact someone from D75. Dr. Composto will assist.

Venus Ketcham expressed concerned about PS/IS 111 test results. Dr. Composto explained that while there is plenty of room to grow, they are continually improving.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Whitney Toussaint made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kelly Craig seconded. All in favor. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Medelius  
Secretary

The recording and closed caption transcript of this meeting will be available at [cec30.org](http://cec30.org)

## **Superintendent's Report Community District Education Council CDEC30 Meeting September 12, 2022**

### **In Support of the Chancellor's Pillar #4 Engaging Families to be our True Partners**

- Dr. Philip A. Composto  
Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year!  
I wish you a happy and successful school year.  
Thank you.
- **School Walkthroughs**

The District Team was dispatched to schools for beginning of the year walkthroughs. All schools were ready to accept the students. The district had a successful school opening on September 8, 2022.

### **In Support of the Chancellor's Pillar #1 Reimagining the Student Experience**

#### **Updated District 30 Team Members**

- Dr. Philip A. Composto, Community Superintendent
- Dr. William Fahey, Deputy Superintendent
- Dr. Nancy Di Maggio, Field Support Liaison

- Mr. Ricardo Duran, Executive Director of School Support & Operations
- Ms. Leticia Pineiro, Director of Teaching & Learning, MTSS & Civics for All Point
- Ms. Sheryl Frazer, Director of School Improvement
- Ms. Nicole Vargas, Teacher Development & Evaluation Coach
- Mr. Walter Mora, Advance Lead
- Ms. Cherie Umstead, School Improvement Coach
- Mr. Frank Loza, Data Management & Analytics
- Mr. Gus Hatzidimitriou, Director of State & Federal Program Implementation
- Ms. Miriam Aponte, Principal Administrative Associate
- Mrs. Maria Laura Arcos, Family Support Coordinator
- Mrs. Bandna Sharma, Family Leadership Coordinator
- Ms. April Gurley, Supervisor of School Social Work
- Ms. Phyllis Tam, Math Instructional Lead
- Ms. Nicole Beinhorn, Science Instructional Lead
- Mr. Jesse Sanchez, Physical Education Instructional Lead
- Ms. Maria Wisker, Related Services Transmittal Administrator
- Ms. Rosalind Valenza, MLL/ELL Compliance & Performance Specialist
- Ms. Evelyn Mosquea, MLL/ELL Services Administrator
- Ms. Jenny Ying Ying An. MLL/ELL Services Administrator
- Ms. Laura Van Keulen – Academic Policy, Performance, and Assessment
- Ms. Shelly Thomas – Academic Intervention Services (AIS)
- Ms. Sasha Sam – Academic Intervention Services (AIS)

## **In Support of the Chancellor’s Pillar #2 Scaling, Sustaining and Restoring what Works**

### **D30 Interim Acting Principals**

The following candidates have been approved by Central as I.A. Principals:

- Ms. Nicole Ciorciari, I.A.
  - Retired Principal Martha Vazquez (8-29-2022)
- Ms. Lisa Russo, I.A.
  - Retiring Principal Vincent Vitolo (9-7-2022)
- Dr. Milagros Dueno, I.A.
  - Principal Lisa Hidalgo accepted a position as Deputy Superintendent in District 32.

## **In Support of the Chancellor’s Pillar #3 Prioritizing Wellness and its link to Student Success**

### **Prepare to Support Schools with Requests to Cap Enrollment**

As in previous years, if a school is zoned and unable to accommodate all students zoned for that school because doing so would exceed contractual class-size limits, the principal may have to cap enrollment for a particular grade.

For the 2022–23 school year, superintendent teams will serve as capping points and will review and approve capping requests.

## **In Support of the Chancellor’s Pillar #1 Reimagining the Student Experience**

## **ADAMS ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES ‘PROJECT OPEN ARMS,’ COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT PLAN TO MEET EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF FAMILIES SEEKING ASYLUM**

*Project Open Arms’ Will Provide Wraparound Services for New Students Entering School System, Including Academic, Social-Emotional, and Language-Access Supports  
Plan Includes Targeted Resources for Asylum-Seeking Families Currently Living in and out of City’s Shelter System*

Our city has been, and will always be, a city of immigrants that welcomes newcomers with open arms,” said **Mayor Adams**. “Project Open Arms’ ensures we are well-prepared to assist asylum-seekers as the school year begins and that we are offering wraparound services to students and families. With strong collaboration with our partners, both in and out of government, this plan highlights how we can lead with compassion and ‘Get Stuff Done’ for those who need it most.”

“Project Open Arms is a multi-agency effort that will provide children and families seeking asylum with the services they need to thrive,” said **Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Anne Williams-Isom**. “It is critical to equip these students with the full range of academic, language access, and social-emotional resources to succeed as they adjust to a new and unfamiliar environment. We are grateful to our sister agencies and community-based partners for their heroic efforts to assist these families, and look forward to deepening this work as we prepare for the start of the school year.”

“Our public schools are prepared to welcome families seeking asylum with open arms,” said **DOE Chancellor Banks**. “Our city has always stood with those in need of refuge and shelter, and this administration will continue that proud legacy.

We are working alongside our agency partners to set students up for success by addressing their academic, emotional, and social needs, and ensuring there is no disruption to their education. Our schools are ready and excited to welcome our newest New Yorkers to class on September 8<sup>th</sup>.”

“New York City is committed to welcoming individuals and families seeking refuge and liberty, which is why our staff has been on the ground every day helping to connect new arrivals to resources,” said **MOIA Commissioner Castro**.

“With the start of the school year approaching, we are prepared to assist families entering the school system, providing a broad range of supports, including language access and legal services, in close collaboration with agency and community-based organization partners.”

According to the most recent analysis, most asylum-seeking families are concentrated in School Districts 2, 3, 10, 14, 24, and 30. As of Thursday, August 18, DSS estimates that at least 1,000 children, including 3- and 4-year-olds, will enter the city’s school system in the upcoming school year.

As part of this plan, the city is:

- **Seamlessly Working Across Agencies** – ‘Project Open Arms’ coordinates across DOE, MOIA, DSS, the New York City Department of Youth & Community Development, and the New York City Administration for Children’s Services.
- **Simplifying the Enrollment Process** – Regional managers and their teams in DOE’s Students in Temporary Housing Office are fully engaged in coordinating with shelters to host pop-up Family Welcome Centers (where DOE staff assist families with the school enrollment process), accompanying families to Family Welcome Centers, and providing enrollment staff at the Asylum Seeker Navigation Center (which will provide asylum seekers with access to and information about a full range of wraparound services) as soon as it opens. Staff immediately identify local schools for enrollment, provide backpacks and school supplies, and assist in connecting families to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene clinics for

ongoing pediatric care. For virtual enrollment support, families are encouraged to visit the DOE's website.

- **Ensuring Language Access and Support** – In collaboration with superintendents, DOE is ensuring that all families are being supported in their native languages and that school leadership is aware of the constellation of resources available to provide translated content-specific information.
- **Providing Academic and Extracurricular Programming** – New York City public school curricular and instructional resources will be culturally and linguistically responsive, and educators will receive additional guidance in the areas of second language acquisition and specialized instruction for diverse learners. Extracurricular activities will be similarly targeted to students' needs and interests, with the goal of enhancing the academic and social experience.
- **Creating Supportive Classrooms and Schools** – Once they are enrolled in school, every student will have access to universal social-emotional supports and will be evaluated using the DESSA social-emotional screener, an educational tool to assess students' social and emotional needs. School leadership and staff will have regular check-ins to review attendance and DESSA data and ensure interventions and supports are activated as needed.
- **Continuous Coordination with Community Providers and Community-Based Organizations (CBO)** – 'Project Open Arms' will work in tight coordination with critical CBO partners, including the United Way of New York City, Make the Road New York, Comprehensive Youth Development, El Puente, United Community Schools, the Coalition for Hispanic Family Services, and other organizations to provide families with critical resources and services.

Since May, the city has experienced a surge in people seeking asylum arriving from border states. Many have entered the city's shelter system, while others have found housing through family members, friends, or sponsors. Additionally, community groups have helped reticket individuals to their final destinations outside of New York City. The city estimates that approximately 6,000 asylum-seekers have gone through the intake process in the last three months.

"Every child, regardless of their immigration status, is entitled to a quality education," said **New York City Councilmember Rita Joseph, chair, Committee on Education**. "Our public schools will welcome students seeking asylum and their families with open arms. As a former ENL teacher who had the privilege of teaching immigrant students and students from immigrant households, I'm going to do everything in my power to ensure that this school year is as great as it can be for every single child that walks through our school doors this academic year."

The Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) is prioritizing routing for all students in temporary housing including those in the 13 DHS emergency shelters and all busing exceptions requests. The STH Team is also coordinating with OPT's Access and Eligibility team to understand the transportation needs of students in the newly-opened shelters and families seeking asylum.

For students in DHS shelters (including the 13 newly opened emergency shelters):

- Students in temporary housing in grades k-6 are eligible for busing.
- STH team and OPT are working closely with DHS to monitor shelter provider support in arranging transportation.
- While in the process of being assigned transportation, the Parent/Guardian can get a MetroCard from their child's school to take their children to and from school.

For students not in DHS shelters (including DV/HPD shelters, doubled up students, and other STH):

- Students in temporary housing in grades K-6 are eligible for transportation.
- Families should work with their shelter staff or school staff to submit the request form.
- No additional documentation is required.

- While in the process of being assigned transportation, the Parent/Guardian can get a MetroCard from their child's school to take their children to and from school.

Reminder, a Busing Exception request form is not required for students in DHS shelters. Families in DHS shelters should work with their shelter or DOE staff who can support them in arranging transportation.

## **FOSTER CARE**

The Office of Foster Care is located in the Office of Students In Temporary Housing. The Office of Community Schools Foster Care team will work closely with schools with Foster Care students in their building and the Foster Care provider agency. The goal is to ensure students in Foster Care receive the necessary support that will give students the ability to meet their academic and social-emotional needs.

There are roughly 4500 students in foster care throughout the city. Many of these students have faced many barriers that have left them struggling in these areas:

- Attendance
- Academics
- Overaged/ Under Credited
- Low graduation rates
- Low ELA and Math scores
- Social-Emotional needs

## **Hochul Approves Class Size Cap**

- Starting September 2023, the legislation will significantly shrink the maximum number of students allowed in each classroom, which for most grade levels is currently set from 30 to 34 students (the limit for kindergarten is 25).
- The new law will cap classes at 20 students in kindergarten through third grade, 23 students for grades 4-8, and 25 students for high school classes. Physical education and classes for “performing groups” must be limited to 40 students.

## **Students in Temporary Housing**

The number of students in Temporary Housing has not been updated yet. You will receive the information as soon as it becomes available.