

MINUTES
Community District Education Council 30
Calendar Meeting
September 20, 2021

The September Virtual Calendar Meeting of Community District Education Council 30 was held on Monday, September 20, 2021, via the Zoom platform.

Jonathan Greenberg, President, explained the format of the meeting.

Mr. Greenberg called the Calendar Meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Roll Call

Juliette-Noor Haji, Secretary, conducted roll call for the Calendar Meeting.

Present:

Deborah Alexander
Kristina Berrouet
Kelly Craig
Jonathan Greenberg
Juliette-Noor Haji
Fatima Lakrafl
Michelle Moore
Chuck Park
Marisela Santos
Whitney Toussaint
Esther Verhalle

School Climate and Wellness Presentation: Social Emotional Wellness, Mental Health, Social Workers and Guidance Counseling

Mr. Greenberg introduced the presenter, Julie Mchedlishvile.

The PowerPoint will be available on the website, cec30.org, meeting documents page.

Every school has a certified counselor, and additional social workers were hired. Ms. Craig stated that the number of social workers is not adequate. Also, 115 million was recently added to the 1.25 billion dollar Thrive budget. How can some of that money be used for our children? Ms. Mchedlishvile will bring the question to City Hall. Ms. Toussaint would like to know the resources at each school. Mr. Park read questions and comments from the Q&A.

Division of School Facilities Presentation: Air Filtration, Ventilation and Sanitization

Mr. Greenberg introduced the presenters: Mark Harri, Sunita Mahabir, Dave Adebajo

The PowerPoint will be available on the website, cec30.org, meeting documents.

Ms. Mahabir explained the upgrades to ventilation and air filtration in schools including air purifiers in each room. In addition, indoor Air Quality Meters are used to check carbon dioxide levels and temperatures in rooms. Levels are monitored once a month. Mr. Greenberg wants the meter readings to be made public daily.

Meghan Cirrito, parent, stated that there is only one IAQ meter per school, and it is only used when there is a complaint. Heather Clark, parent, said that not all schools have working ventilation and asked why rooms are tested only when students are not present, and the filters do not work for this virus. The presenter stated that they need readings when students are present and a baseline when the room is empty.

Schools are not relying on windows being open. All buildings have outside air coming into the building. All buildings have fresh air movers.

Schools Construction Authority: New High School

Mr. Greenberg introduced the presenters, Benjamin Goodman and Andrea Bender.

Renderings and drawings of the new high school located at 316 Northern Boulevard were shared. The building will include art rooms, instrumental rooms, auditorium, gymnasium, exercise rooms, chorus room, computer labs, library, and District 75. This is the largest public school in the history of the School Construction Authority. Parents are concerned about the safety of the students traveling to and from school because it will be located at a busy intersection. And if the building is environmentally friendly. The building is fully accessible and includes elevators. The building is on track for a 2025 opening with two general education organizations and one District 75 organization.

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

The Superintendent's Report follows the minutes.

Ms. Haji asked about vaccination exemptions. Staff with exemptions will be out of the school and placed in a central office.

Council members requested data regarding the number of teachers vaccinated and students tested for covid. Also, data on enrollment and attendance was requested.

The Superintendent was asked about using outdoor space. Some schools do not have schoolyards, and some are connected to public parks. Schools are not interested in using public parks because the community and other children are there. SLTs can discuss this topic.

Resolution #154 Requesting that the Mayor Honor His Promise of Parent Engagement Prior to Instituting Changes to the G&T Program

Deborah Alexander read Resolution #154 Requesting that the Mayor Honor His Promise of Parent Engagement Prior to Instituting Changes to the G&T Program.

Members discussed the resolution. Ms. Alexander stated that this resolution is only about public engagement. Ms. Toussaint would like the resolution to qualify the types of meetings allowing engagement to be equitable. Ms. Craig wants to support community engagement. Ms. Haji believes community engagement is vital, but this is not the time. Mr. Park asked what community engagement looks like. Many people cannot attend and limits discussion to just G&T. He will not support this resolution as written. Ms. Craig feels very strongly about public engagement for everything, and the council should not cherry-pick what topics deserve engagement and which do not. Mr. Greenberg does not think the DOE can engage the public effectively. Ms. Santos stated that the DOE is not working well with parents. The special education community in District 30 doesn't have a voice. It would be a waste of time. Ms. Verhalle is worried about engagement but is concerned about the quality of engagement. The resolution needs to be amended to include District 30 as a whole. Ms. Craig wants equity for everyone on all topics. Ms. Haji stated that this is much deeper than adding the word equitable to a resolution and asked who are we giving a voice to? Many families will not be able to attend. Ms. Lakrafla stated that this effecting all parents, not just G&T. Opening engagement now is necessary for parents to make decisions. Ms. Toussaint wants more outreach and equitable engagement.

Alexander Malchik, parent, stated that members are voting to block public engagement. He said that if they were voting for public engagement for a different group of people, they would not block it.

Michelle Lee, parent, stated that for members to say it's an elitist program that deserves no attention and discussion is disappointing. It's important to discuss with everyone of all opinions. Kate Swearngen, parent, spoke in favor of the resolution because it's essential to hold this mayor and future mayors accountable for their promises.

Ms. Alexander made a motion to adopt Resolution #154. Ms. Toussaint asked if Ms. Alexander would add language to include asynchronous, in-person, and remote options. Ms. Alexander made a motion to amend Resolution #154 to include:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council for District 30 urges Chancellor Porter and other DOE officials to hold equitably facilitated meetings, both in-person and remote, and meet with parents, educators, and stakeholders in an open public meeting to solicit community input, within the next four weeks or before the announcement and implementation of any changes to G&T programs."

Ms. Craig seconded to motion.

Ms. Haji, secretary, conducted a roll call vote to amend the resolution.

Deborah Alexander	In favor
Kristina Berrouet	Not present
Kelly Craig	In favor
Jonathan Greenberg	Abstain
Juliette-Noor Haji	Abstain
Fatima Lakrafli	In favor
Michelle Moore	Abstain
Chuck Park	Abstain
Marisela Santos	In favor
Whitney Toussaint	In favor
Esther Verhalle	Abstain

The motion did not pass.

Whitney Toussaint made a motion to change the resolution to read:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council for District 30 urges Chancellor Porter and other DOE officials to hold equitably facilitated meetings, in person, remote, and asynchronously with parents, educators, and stakeholders in an open public meeting to solicit community input, within the next four weeks or prior to the announcement and implementation of any changes to G&T programs."

Ms. Craig seconded the motion.

Ms. Haji, secretary, conducted a roll call vote to amend the resolution.

Deborah Alexander	In favor
Kristina Berrouet	Not present
Kelly Craig	In favor
Jonathan Greenberg	Abstain
Juliette-Noor Haji	Abstain
Fatima Lakrafli	In favor
Michelle Moore	Abstain
Chuck Park	Abstain
Marisela Santos	In favor
Whitney Toussaint	In favor
Esther Verhalle	In favor

Motion to amend the resolution passed.

Deborah Alexander made a motion to adopt the resolution as amended.

Kelly Craig seconded the motion.

Ms. Alexander read the amended resolution.

Ms. Haji, secretary, conducted a roll call vote to amend the resolution.

Deborah Alexander	In favor
Kristina Berrouet	Not present
Kelly Craig	In favor
Jonathan Greenberg	Opposed
Juliette-Noor Haji	Opposed
Fatima Lakrafl	In favor
Michelle Moore	Opposed
Chuck Park	Opposed
Marisela Santos	In favor
Whitney Toussaint	In favor
Esther Verhalle	In favor

Resolution #154 passed.

Public Agenda and Speaking

Mercedes Jennings, parent and community liaison for Senator Gianaris, reported that parents are requesting more open streets so that students can go out for recess.

Heather Clark, parent, asked if parents could keep their child home until they have test results because of exposure. Dr. Composto will find out if they will be penalized if they stay home. If they have remote for the class, every child will have the opportunity to participate.

Mr. Park read questions and comments from the Q&A.

Vivian Sicherman stated that the safety protocols are not being followed in school. There should be a remote option.

Nuala O'Doherty said schools require parents to have forms notarized even though that requirement was lifted a long time ago. Dr. Composto said Ms. O'Doherty emailed him that a week ago, and he immediately sent it to all the principals.

Susan Stewart asked about sensory tools. Which schools will the UFT be working with? Dr. Composto provided the list: PS 11, PS/IS 111, PS/IS 127, IS 145, PS 149, PS 150, PS 151, PS 152, PS 212, PS 228, IS 235, PS 329, 450 Long Island City HS, 555 Newcomers HS.

Amanda Vender wants the superintendent to give a directive to principals to actively use outdoor space. Dr. Composto encourages all schools to use outdoor space.

Nuala O'Doherty expressed outrage that the SCA did not include parent input when designing the new high school.

Adjournment

There being no further business Jonathan Greenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Juliette-Noor Haji seconded. All in favor. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Juliette-Noor Haji
Secretary

The recording of this meeting will be available at cec30.org.

**Superintendent's Report
Community District Education Council CDEC30
September 20, 2021**

In Support of the Framework for Great Schools under Supportive Environment

Dr. Philip A. Composto

Welcome to the 2021-2022 School Year!

As I visited schools on the first day and engaged with students and families, it brought a smile to my face seeing their enthusiasm and excitement. The physical health and safety of our students, families, and staff a priority and our primary goal this year is to ensure students are equipped with the academic and social emotional supports that they need to succeed.

- **Opening of two new school Buildings in D30**

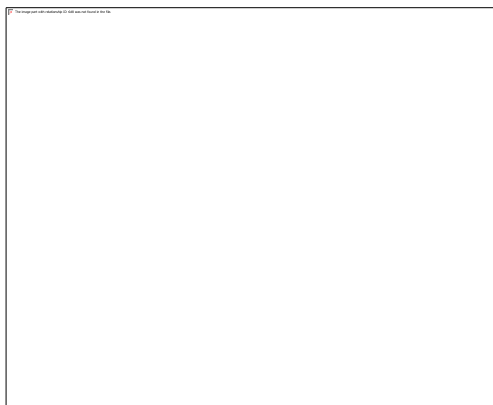
- Q384 – Hunters Point School
School administrators opened the doors of P.S. 384 Hunters Point School, located at 1-35 57th Ave. The opening adds 612 seats to the district. Hunters Point cost \$67.5 million and took more than three years to complete. Hunters Point has been built to serve students in pre-K through fifth grade. The school includes two reading rooms, one speech resource room, an art classroom, a science resource room, a music suite, a full kitchen, a cafeteria, and a library.

The school also houses a staff lunchroom, a teachers' workroom, and a parent room as well as administrative, guidance and medical suites. Recreational spaces include a "gymatorium", an exercise room, an early childhood playground, and a playground for upper-grade students.

- Q2 – opened a 180-seat addition this fall.
The \$29.4 million addition includes an art room, a music room and an exercise room in addition to space for 180 more students in pre-K through fifth grade. Construction on the building began in March 2019.

Please see link for more information:

https://licpost.com/new-public-school-opens-in-long-island-city-one-of-11-new-school-facilities-to-open-this-fall?fbclid=IwAR1ZmB8MFaFhDy3Jkiv7_McW-pp3-Lbm2iMbxNRPb7z1YAVW_t5mhRf8rTE



Mental Health Specialists Program

The Specialist Program will be partnering with the following schools to provide mental health supports for the 2021-2022 School Year. The schools are:

30Q078
30Q122
30Q141
30Q235
30Q291
30Q300

School Mental Health Specialists will complement the schools' teams, staff, and students.

Specialists will provide the following supports:

1. Psychoeducation through (workshops and trainings) for:
 - Students
 - Parents
 - Staff
2. Student Centered Supports
 - For Middle and High School: Trauma based Skills Groups based on the Supporting Students Exposed to Trauma Model (SSET).
 - Starting late Fall: Bounce Back for Elementary Schools
3. Training, Advisement, and Support to School Teams:
 - Multi- Tiered Student Service Teams
 - Child Study/Pupil Personnel Teams
 - Crisis Teams
4. Linkages to Community Based Resources
 - Mental health informed advisement based on child/family need
5. Crisis Response for school-wide events
 - Time limited support by licensed professionals to support students and staff.

Updates to the Situation Room for the 2021–22 School Year

The updated Situation Room hours are as follows, effective September 9:

- Monday through Friday: 7:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
- Saturday: closed
- Sunday: 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Updates on COVID-19 Testing Consent and Rosters

Increased Testing in All Schools

Beginning immediately, we will increase testing in all schools from biweekly to weekly. Testing will continue to take place for 10% of unvaccinated students in grades 1 – 12.

Consent for Testing

Please continue to encourage your families to submit consent for testing through their [NYC Schools Account \(NYCSA\)](#), or by submitting a signed paper consent form as soon as possible. Our surveillance

program helps us keep our students, staff and families safe and our schools open, and we need everyone to be part of it!

As a reminder, those students who submitted consent last school year are eligible for testing through September 30 when their 2020-2021 consent expires.

Updated Quarantine Policy for Elementary School Students

We have reviewed our quarantine data from the first week of school carefully with the City's lead doctors, and have determined together that we can update our policy to align with CDC guidance to ensure that students are learning in-person as much as possible - while keeping our school communities safe.

Starting Monday, September 27, we will no longer close entire classrooms when there is one positive case in a classroom. We will now follow the CDC guidance which recommends that unvaccinated students who are masked and at least three feet distanced will not have to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact.

We will be sharing this information with families in our next family letter, which we will send to you and make available on our [Messages for Families](#) page.

Staff Vaccine Mandate

The most important thing we can do to keep our students safe is for all eligible individuals in our school buildings to be vaccinated. As a reminder, all school staff must upload proof of their first dose in the [DOE Vaccine Portal](#) by-next Monday, September 27.

Discipline Code and Letters for Families

In accordance with the [DOE Framework for Great Schools](#), schools must be culturally-responsive spaces where students feel safe to be themselves and develop confidence. To help provide students with a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment, the Chancellor's [Citywide Behavioral Expectations to Support Student Learning](#) (including the Discipline Code), outlines the guidelines and expectations for student behavior in school. The discipline codes for grades K–5 and 6–12, for the 2019–20 school year, remain in effect for the 2021–22 school year and apply to all students.

Principals are required to provide parents and guardians with information about the discipline code annually. By September 30th, parents should receive a letter. The letter can be distributed by email and/or backpacking a printed copy and sending it home with students. The letter will be available in all DOE-supported languages by **September 13**, on the [Discipline Code Resources InfoHub](#) page.

Notify Families About Medicaid Reimbursement for Occupational and Physical Therapy Services

As in past years, occupational therapy (OT) and physical therapy (PT) services for students with IEPs are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement. To claim reimbursement, the DOE must obtain a physician's order or referral. To obtain a physician's order or referral, the DOE will contact the principal via email approximately two to three weeks prior, to schedule an in-person and/or remote physician's visit at their

school. In preparation for the physician's visit, school official must email, print and backpack home or mail this [parent notification letter](#) to families of students who already receive OT and/or PT services to notify them that their child will be screened. Translations of the parent notification letter are available on [InfoHub](#).

Security Changes to DOE Chromebooks

Starting **October 4**, any student or staff person using a DOE-issued Chromebook will be required to sign in to their Chromebook with their DOE account (@schools.nyc.gov and @nycstudents.net). This change will ensure compliance with the [Children's Internet Protection Act \(CIPA\)](#), by providing web-filtering services to all DOE-issued Chromebooks, regardless of the network they are connected to.

If a school is already using its DOE accounts regularly, they should not be impacted by the change.

Instructional Lunch Guidance

Instructional Lunch is a period/class where students are programmed to eat lunch while simultaneously receiving instruction; classes are programmed as such to meet physical distancing requirements. Instructional Lunch can only be conducted in a classroom that can accommodate 3-feet of physical distancing, and masks must be worn anytime students are not eating or drinking.

Instructional Lunch should only be programmed if other strategies, including but not limited to, the cafeteria, other shared spaces, adding a lunch period, outdoor lunch, and non-instructional lunch, are not able to meet the need.

Back2School CommUNITY Pledge Week

In partnership with the Mayor's Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, the NYC Commission on Human Rights, and the NYC Youth & Community Development, the DOE invites schools to participate in the [Back2School CommUNITY Pledge Week](#), from **September 20–24**.

The campaign helps promote respect, kindness, and civility, and a commitment from all schools to disavow hate, especially in response to concerns from the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and the Muslim community, on the 20th anniversary of 9/11. During this week and throughout the school year, schools will be able to take proactive steps to build community, create a climate and culture of respect, facilitate learning about vulnerable student groups and help fight bias.

Building upon ongoing diversity programs and SEL curriculum-based instruction, schools may develop new initiatives that engage students in meaningful lessons about respect and inclusivity.

For the pledge, as well as grade-level resources, activities and professional development opportunities for staff, students, and families, see the [Back2School CommUNITY Pledge Week family-](#)

[facing page](#) and this [social media toolkit](#), which includes graphics, hashtags, ways for classes to post videos of themselves taking the pledge, and sample social-media posts to use. Prior to posting, please have families fill out the [Media Consent Form](#) for DOE use at the beginning of the school year and maintain it on file.

Diabetes Training for School Staff

Annual Paraprofessional diabetes training, initial and refresher training in diabetes care is also required for school staff who are responsible for a student with diabetes during the school day, or during other DOE programs and activities, including school trips. These individuals are identified by the 504 coordinator and school nurse on a student's diabetes 504 Plan.

Save for College Program Materials

All DOE kindergarten students will be eligible to join the Save for College Program; all schools with kindergarten classes are required to participate in this program.

School officials were asked to share this information with their school teams to ensure that every staff member is familiar with the Save for College Program.

Family-facing materials are now available on the [NYC Kids RISE School Partners webpage](#) for printing and distribution. On the webpage, you will find the [Education Period Companion Guide](#) and [Templates for Introducing the Save for College Program to Parents/Guardians](#). Please use the [downloadable resources](#) tab to access the Save for College Program one-pager, the Save for College Program journey map, and distribute these documents to every kindergarten family by **October 15**.

Universal Mosaic E-Books and Rising Voices Library Collection

Schools will receive sets of culturally diverse and demographically representative trade books to supplement classroom libraries and support independent student-reading. Beginning the week of **September 20**, K-5 schools will receive a subset of Scholastic's *Rising Voices* collection of books celebrating black and Latino boys. Full classroom sets will be delivered beginning in October.

Administration of SAT

All high schools are expected to administer the SAT in October to any interested 12th grade student, as 50 percent of this year's seniors were unable to take the SAT in 11th grade, due to remote instruction. The upcoming fall administration of the SAT exam to this impacted group of students will increase access to postsecondary opportunities.

Harmony Social Emotional Learning Program

The DOE, in partnership with the National University System, is offering a free social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum, [Harmony SEL](#), to schools that serve grades pre-K–6. Harmony SEL fosters knowledge, skills, and attitudes students need to develop healthy identities, create meaningful relationships, and engage productively by providing SEL learning resources, tools, and strategies.