

District 30 Community Education Council - October 6, 2025

Calendar and Business Meeting Minutes

Location: 28-11 Queens Plaza North, 5th Floor Conference Room, Long Island City (Hybrid)

Call to Order: 6:32 PM | **Adjournment:** 10:04 PM

ATTENDANCE

Roll Call - Secretary Laura Simpson completed the roll call.

- Nahounha Alexandre: **Absent**
 - Linda Chung-Leung: **Present**
 - Alexis Kaloyanides: **Present**
 - Danielle Lopresti-Lee: **Present**
 - Victoria Medelius: **Present**
 - Estela Nguema: **Present**
 - Marlene Rossi: **Present**
 - Nadeea Saeed: **Present**
 - Laura Simpson: **Present**
 - Kayla Spence: **Present**
 - Whitney Toussaint: **Present**
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PS 384 ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Co-President Whitney Toussaint opened the meeting by acknowledging the PS 384 community dealing with the arrest of a former teacher for possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM). The Council expressed support for affected families and confirmed that Superintendent Hidalgo is working with Principal Britton and Central Office to finalize logistics for a town hall meeting. A town hall was confirmed for October 14th with the Chancellor's team.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Damian LeRock and Mr. Peter Argyris (PS 148, in person)

Presented the District 30 Book Club operating at PS 148, featuring online read-along format encouraging student participation.

Tinesha (Success Level Ventures, Zoom)

Offers financial literacy services to families.

Venus Ketcham (District resident)

Requested book club information be distributed to all District 30 schools.

Becca Stanley (District 30 President's Council)

Reminded schools that Trunk or Treat signup remains open for October 24th event.

Transportation Alternatives Youth Activist Committee

Juniper Wing (LaGuardia High School junior) and **August Waid** (Bard Early College sophomore) presented their Student MetroCard Access campaign with four key demands:

1. Universal access for all students regardless of address or bus eligibility
2. Unlimited rides instead of four-per-day cap
3. Better communication around OMNY card deactivations
4. Faster, more reliable replacement process (currently 2-week wait)

The students requested the CEC draft a resolution addressing these issues, update Chancellor's Regulation A-801, and share their petition. Co-President Toussaint committed to placing this on the November agenda and shared sample resolutions from other councils.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Principal Bill Psoras presented on Newtown High School's programs, college preparation initiatives, and community partnerships.

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL LEADERSHIP BRUNCH

Five CEC members (Alexis, Laura, Estela, Victoria, Whitney) will attend the October 15th lunch with President's Council at the District 30 office.

OFFICE OF DISTRICT PLANNING PRESENTATION

Presenters: Associate Director Rhea Cumberbach, Director Julianne Bozzo, Senior Director Maximilian, Jonathan Geist, Christina Chan

Survey Results (as of 10/6/25):

- **789 completed responses** (significant increase from 600 at September meeting)
- Geographic distribution: 50% Hunters Point, 25% Court Square, 25% other D30 neighborhoods

Temporary Site Preferences:

- Pre-K Center #1: 53% (340 families)
- PS 150 Annex: 27% (137 families)
- Pre-K Center #2: 20% (110 families)

Long-Term Site Preferences:

- **Court Square overall: 52%**
- **Parcel C: 45%**
- Exception: Hunters Point residents strongly preferred Parcel C (78%)

Major Announcement: PS 384 K-8 Expansion Plan

The Office of District Planning presented a proposal to expand PS 384 into a K-8 school using a split-site model across the current PS 384 building and Parcel C (when completed in 2027-28). This addresses community advocacy for both elementary and middle school seats in Long Island City.

Key Details:

- Potential 6th grade addition at PS 384 for 2026-27 school year (pending engagement and PEP approval)
- Split-site implementation when Parcel C opens in 2027-28
- Grade configuration to be determined in collaboration with Principal Britton
- District 75 seats included in Parcel C design
- Court Square Elementary School remains as separate K-5 school

Councilmember Julie Won joined to announce:

- Vernon Boulevard Middle School MOU finalized with \$15 million construction acceleration funding
- Funding contingent on One LIC rezoning approval
- Still advocating for 1,400 additional elementary school seats
- Pursuing BSGE high school campus through the project

Community Response:

Strong positive feedback from PS 384 parents present, with emphasis on ensuring proper facilities (science rooms, gymnasium, lockers) for middle school students. Parents stressed importance of doing implementation correctly rather than rushing the process.

New Court Square Elementary School Principal Ciani Espada introduced herself and invited community to first engagement meeting on October 16th at 6:30 PM (virtual). Information available on District 30 website under "My Schools."

Parent Questions & Concerns:

Laura Simpson: Asked about remaining elementary seat needs after converting Parcel C to include middle school grades.

Response: Office of District Planning will continue monitoring enrollment and residential growth; Court Square Elementary adds capacity; trade-off is fewer elementary seats for middle school seats, but community strongly advocated for middle school option.

Molly Mazilu (PS 384 parent): Emphasized need for age-appropriate facilities given students have experienced multiple school openings; requested assurance that middle school students receive proper science labs, gymnasium equipment, and lockers.

Response: While Parcel C designed as elementary school, Office of Space Management can outfit buildings for middle school use through furniture, lockers, and equipment; grade placement across buildings will consider existing amenities.

Randy Plemel (PS 384 parent): Requested clarity on timeline and any additional trade-offs families should consider.

Response: Elementary vs. middle school seat balance is primary trade-off; split-siting would begin 2027-28, not 2026-27.

Michaela Dowd: Asked if current 5th graders would continue as 6th graders next year.

Response: Under consideration pending engagement process; would require PEP approval.

Amy Kardon (PS 384 parent): Urged prioritizing "doing it right" over "doing it fast," noting current 5th grade class size and concern that rushing could compromise quality.

Response: Plan has flexibility; does not have to happen for 2026-27 if community feedback indicates more time needed.

Phil Chen: Asked about operational and strategic considerations (curriculum, resource planning, budgeting) for K-8 vs. separate schools.

Response: Office of District Planning handles space and seat planning; curriculum and operational details coordinated with principal and superintendent's office.

Courtney Weinberger (PS 384 parent): Asked about realistic timeline for 2027-28 split location implementation.

Response: Depends on community feedback and how quickly offices can gather data and work through details with principal; requires PEP approval through A-190 process.

Linda Chung-Leung: Noted not all middle schools have gyms, citing example of middle school with two buildings where one has no gym, only outdoor space.

Response: Parcel C design includes gymnasium and District 75 seats.

RESOLUTION 192: GENDER-AFFIRMING SCHOOLS

Resolution in Support of Gender-Affirming Schools and Opposing Letter from US Department of Education Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Craig Trainor

Public Comment on Resolution 192:

Cecilia Durbin (District 30 parent)

Thanked CEC for swift action on Resolution 192, noting it's a "scary time" for trans and gender diverse students. Commended CEC for leadership at recent PEP meeting and for coordinating with other CECs citywide. Emphasized importance of creating welcoming schools that teach gender diversity to entire student generation.

Dr. Anabel Ruggiero

Delivered testimony on Trump administration's attempt to strip magnet school funding, framing it as part of broader anti-trans assault. Cited 850+ anti-LGBTQ bills proposed in 2024, breaking records. Referenced Nature study linking anti-queer legislation to increased suicidality in trans youth. Criticized false narratives linking trans people to violence (noting trans people commit mass violence at rates of 0.11-1.67%, comparable to general population). Called federal action "depraved extortion" and urged CEC to "repost with moral clarity."

Sarah Frazier (District 30 parent)

Thanked Council as parent of trans child previously supported by District 30 school. Emphasized trans children don't exist in isolation—they're loved by siblings, teachers, and community. Noted supporting one trans child affirms all students and staff that inclusion is valued citywide.

Vote on Resolution 192:

Roll Call:

- Linda Chung-Leung: In Favor
- Alexis Kaloyanides: In Favor
- Danielle Lopresti-Lee: In Favor
- Victoria Medelius: In Favor
- Estela Nguema: In Favor

- Marlene Rossi: In Favor
- Nadeea Saeed: In Favor
- Laura Simpson: In Favor
- Kayla Spence: In Favor
- Whitney Toussaint: In Favor

RESOLUTION 192 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (10-0)

RESOLUTION 193: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Resolution to Hire an Administrative Assistant

Vote on Resolution 193:

Roll Call:

- Linda Chung-Leung: In Favor
- Alexis Kaloyanides: In Favor
- Danielle Lopresti-Lee: In Favor
- Victoria Medelius: In Favor
- Estela Nguema: In Favor
- Marlene Rossi: In Favor
- Nadeea Saeed: In Favor
- Laura Simpson: In Favor
- Kayla Spence: In Favor
- Whitney Toussaint: In Favor

RESOLUTION 193 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (10-0)

Administrative Assistant Leslie's first day was confirmed as October 7th, with training to follow.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Lisa Hidalgo

PS 384 Response:

Superintendent Hidalgo thanked PS 384 families for patience during her absence due to illness. Expressed gratitude to Dr. Fahey, Dr. Mera, Principal Britton, and CEC leadership (Victoria,

Whitney, Danielle) for supporting the community. Town hall with Chancellor's team confirmed for October 14th.

Response to Service Gaps:

PS 384 Occupational Therapy Services (raised by Courtney Weinberger):

Full-time OT provider currently on leave, expected return in December. Because leave is under one year, position cannot be reassigned. OT caseload shared with contracted agencies over summer, but cases not yet accepted. RSA forms issued in September allowing families to seek independent providers. Central transmittal team continues agency outreach; urgent high-priority email sent September 22nd. Partial coverage provided in 2024-25 (2 days/week); students eligible for summer make-up services. Weekend Academy may offer Saturday/Sunday services when operational. Potential new OT candidate identified but awaiting DOE clearance; superintendent committed to following up with Human Resources to expedite.

Q972 Pre-K Center Speech Services (raised by Randi Dinh):

District 30 Pre-K centers still lack a speech provider. Superintendent acknowledged ongoing issue; has met with CPSE Queens North Director Erin Edwards and escalated to Dr. Goldstein. Committed to continued advocacy but no immediate resolution available.

District Performance & Priorities:

2025-26 Theme: "Planting Seeds Together and Growing Futures as One"

District Priorities & Goals:

- Academic Excellence: Math focus—5% increase all students, 8% for ELs/IEPs
- Safety & Wellness: Leader in Me program (\$1M+ funding)—10% incident reduction
- College Savings: NYC Rides accounts from 62% to 70%
- Parent Involvement: 92% to 95%
- Chronic Absenteeism: 27% to 24%

State Assessment Results (2024 vs 2025):

- ELA: 55.8% → 60.9% (+5.1%)
- Math: 58.4% → 61.5% (+3.1%)
- Science: +11.1% (District 47.4% vs. lower city average)
- Notable gains: Grade 5 ELA +10.5%, Grade 3 Math +9.6%
- K-2 growth: +9% all students
- Students with IEPs: +10% (K-2), +6% (ELA 3-8), +5.4% (Math 3-8)

MTSS Parent Communication Discussion:

Council member Alexandre raised equity concerns about parents not knowing to request tier supports. Superintendent confirmed parents should receive letters when children placed in Tier 2/3 interventions.

Community Questions:

Venus Ketcham (District resident)

Requested demographic data on Black/African American students and asked whether Black Studies curriculum discussions were happening across district schools. Expressed concern about PS 111 proficiency rates (17.8% ELA, 30% Math) compared to other district schools, noting school serves Queensbridge Houses with high-needs population.

Response: Superintendent acknowledged PS 111 in crisis with new leadership; rates improved from previous year. District office providing extensive supports; school has complex, multi-layered challenges. Emphasized commitment to ensuring Black and Brown children receive necessary resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next CEC 30 meeting: November (November 10)
 - Panel for Education Policy: October 29, 6 PM, Food and Finance High School (525 West 50th Street, New York, New York 10019)
 - Communications and Outreach Committee Meeting (Thursday Oct 9)
 - Events Committee Meeting (Tuesday Oct 7)
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BUSINESS MEETING (9:29 PM)

ATTENDANCE

Roll Call - Secretary Laura Simpson completed the roll call.

- Nahounha Alexandre: **Absent**
- Linda Chung-Leung: **Present**
- Alexis Kaloyanides: **Present**
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- Laura Simpson: **Present**
- Kayla Spence: **Present**
- Whitney Toussaint: **Present**

Minutes Approval:

September 2025 minutes approved with edits by consensus.

Speaker Series Planning:

Confirmed:

- Fun & Function (sensory room planning): December presentation
- Literacy Partners: November or December
- Office of Language Access: November (postponed from October)
- UFT Parent Workshops: 15-minute presentation offer (childcare provided at district office)

Under Consideration:

- Make the Road: "Know Your Rights" (Victoria coordinating 3 dates)
- District 75 Superintendent: Invite new Acting Superintendent Dr. Keisha McCoy (starts October 25)
- PS 148 Book Club: District-wide expansion discussion

Resolution Planning (November Agenda):

- Student MetroCard Access (Transportation Alternatives request)
- Restorative Justice Programs (in development)

Committee Reports:

Communications & Outreach (Laura Simpson):

Planning tiered communications approach including streamlined social media, newsletter inserts for schools' weekly communications, and converting meeting minutes into multiple formats for broader reach.

Special Education (Estela Nguema):

Reached out to three District 75 school principals; planning workshops with new D75 Acting Superintendent Dr. Keisha McCoy.

Events Committee:

- President's Council Lunch: October 15, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM at district office
- Future events: Legislative breakfast, District Fun Day

Member Reports:

Alexis Kaloyanides:

- Enrolled in AQE's Ed Warriors program with Laura Simpson (weekly sessions through year-end, then intensive lobbying phase)
- Attended Playground 90 meeting (adjacent to PS 148) with Councilman Krishnan's office, tenants' union, and parents from PS 148/149; park in disrepair, seeking funding
- Connected with PS 148 Book Club organizers; planning to attend with child

Whitney Toussaint:

- Multiple meetings with Office of District Planning since April regarding LIC school seats
- Stand Against ICE event with Councilmember Cabán: distributed standby guardianship information, blue cards, multilingual materials (English, French, Spanish)
- PS 384 CompTI meeting attendance
- Testified at City Council hearing on Afterschool For All; DYCD responded to inquiry 2 minutes after testimony concluded
- Advocacy continues for PS 171 and PS 76 inclusion in Afterschool For All rollout (both schools have 93%+ Economic Need Index, serve NYCHA populations, house autism programs)

Victoria Medelius:

- Weekly meetings with Office of District Planning since April
- Stand Against ICE event coordination
- PS 384 CompTI meeting attendance
- Organizing President's Council lunch at district office (October 15)
- Reached out to Principal Costello about hosting November CEC meeting at IS 429

Danielle Lopresti-Lee:

- Attended PS 212 PTA meeting with breakfast; Harvest Festival October 24
- Following up on schoolyard repair issues (incomplete work creating safety hazards)

Laura Simpson:

- Enrolled in AQE's Ed Warriors program
- Attended September 25th PEP meeting in support of gender-affirming schools and PEP Anti-ICE resolution

Marlene Rossi:

- Submitted testimony at ELL public meeting

Linda Chung-Leung:

- Met with Fun & Function regarding sensory room design services

- Distributed product samples to council members; additional catalogs available for schools
- Company works within school budgets to create sensory spaces for all children

Estela Nguema:

- Continuing Reimagining Special Education workgroup participation (quarterly meetings)
- Office hours on District 75 transition scheduled; Dr. Keisha McCoy introduction meeting October 15

Training & Professional Development:

Co-Presidents announced upcoming virtual professional development sessions:

- How to conduct liaison school visits
- Role clarification and communication strategies
- Additional topics based on member input
- Sessions scheduled via poll to maximize attendance

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 PM by consensus.

Minutes Prepared by: Laura Simpson, Secretary