



Community Education Council for District 4
240 E 109 Street, Room 104, New York, NY 10029



Phone: 212-360- 4777 Email: cec4@schools.nyc.gov

President Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez	1st Vice President Sophie Oulai	2nd Vice President Lacey Jordan– D75 Rep	Recording Secretary Lawanda Joyner– MBPA	Treasurer Johanna Domínguez– ELL
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Council Members:
Elizabeth Soto-Cardona
Adriana Tlacomulco
Vandana Bonilla– MBPA
Tia Jackson IEP

District 4 Superintendent:
Dr. Kristy De La Cruz

High School Student Representatives
Brooke Howard
Kanyisia Crute

Date: Wednesday, January 14th, 2026

Meeting Start Time: 6:25 pm

Attendees: 65

Calendar Meeting Minutes

January 14th, 2026

1. **Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan-** (6:25 pm – 6:26 pm)
Members Present: Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, Sophie Oulai, Lawanda Joyner, Johanna Dominguez, Vandana Bonilla and Tia Jackson.
Members Absent: Lacey Jordan, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona and Adriana Tlacomulco.

- **D4 CEC President:** (6:27 pm – 6:28 pm)
 She welcomed everyone for joining the meeting, wished Happy New Year, and Happy belated Three Kings Day, for those that celebrated.

2. **Making NYC School Finance as Public as Possible- David Backer:** (6:26 pm – 7:15 pm)
 He talked about school finance. He said he wants to make school finance less of a technocratic and more populist for New York City school finance to be as public as possible.
 He discussed the four possibilities.
 - Property tax reform
 - Rethinking hold harmless, city and state
 - Pooling Parent Money
 - Green Fiscal Mutualism

3. **Report of District 4 Superintendent- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (7:15 pm – 7:46 pm)
 She started off by thanking everyone for being in the meeting. She introduced the attendees.

 She talked about Mindfulness practice: It is called, The butterfly Hug.

She discussed:
 - ❖ District 4 Community Norms
 - ❖ New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) Mission
 - ❖ Chancellor Kamar Samuels- * Safety * Academically Rigorous * Truly Integrated
 - ❖ District 4 East Harlem Mission
 - ❖ District Priorities
 - ❖ Important Updates & Celebrations
 - ❖ Enrollment Updates

- ❖ Upcoming District Four Event- * Save the date (s) DECP Roundtable January 29th & A Town Hall Event March 11th)
- ❖ Detention Supports Overview
- ❖ Detention Reporting Protocol Overview
- ❖ Meeting the moment: NYCPS Stands Against Hate

4. **Report of D4 CEC President –Kaliris Salas:** (7:46 pm – 7:53 pm)

She said on December 31st, we found out that Chancellor Samuels was appointed by our mayor-elect, Mayor, Zoram Mamdani. She said she is very excited about March 11th, CEC4 Chancellor's Town Hall, parents, and the community, will soon receive a survey from us. We are going to ask the audience questions, and we are going to do our best to make sure that we create a space where community is heard.

She informed that she had the opportunity to meet with him, as president of this council, on the 22nd and her first question was, what does he exactly mean by doubling down on New York City reads? Revising New York City Solves, and at the same time, having culturally responsive and sustaining education, when we must acknowledge and recognize that this prepackaged curriculum has been deemed culturally destructive by several reports.

She said we are one of two CECs that passed a resolution asking for a moratorium on the use of generative AI in our classrooms. There have been a ton of studies that have been released and today a report from NPR showing how harmful AI is for children. Some studies published by MIT and Harvard, when comparing individuals that use AI, to individuals that just engage with Google.

The Panel for Educational Policy has not passed most of the contracts, because there are no guardrails in place right now for children. But also, there are privacy laws that are potentially being violated during this time.

She added that we have seen an announcement that 2K is coming to the city. The governor and the mayor will figure that out. But conversations in terms of early childhood, what does it look like for our schools, what is the pipeline going to be, especially today, that the applications for 3K and Pre-K were open.

She informed that the next meeting for the Panel for Educational Policy is in Staten Island on January 28th, in partnership, with the superintendent, she spoke about our undocumented families. On January 24th we are collaborating with El Museo del Barrio, as well as our community leaders, there will be training, from Hands Off NYC. The training is from 9 am to 4 pm on Saturday, January 24th, they will be providing childcare and snacks for kids, we want to make sure that our families and our communities are safe.

- **D4 CEC Council Member & President of the President's Council:** (7:53 pm – 7:54 pm)

She informed that the next Presidents council meeting will be on this Friday, January 16th, We will have, presentations, community, community emergency preparedness and care soccer. The initiative is, undocumented, domains. They are going to conduct a survey to send it to all EA and PBL and DPAC meeting will be right after that.

- **D4 CEC Treasurer:** (7:55 pm – 7:57 pm)

She informed that the CCELL's legislative breakfast will be on January 22nd from 9:30 am till 12:30 pm at Tweed Building, community partner, advocates, and parents to discuss the benefit of multilingual links and expanding the engagement of parents and students who are learning English.

- **D4 CEC Council Member:** (7:57 pm – 7:58 pm)

She said the Citywide Council for Special Education is meeting tomorrow at 6pm, anyone can join via zoom.

- **D4 CEC President:** (7:58 pm – 7:59 pm)

She said tomorrow, Thursday, January 15th, our new speaker of City Council, Speaker, Councilmember Julie Menon, who is in the district next to ours, will be announcing the chairs of the committees for City Council. This Council has taken a stance in terms of asking Speaker Menon to keep the former education chair, Rita Joseph, she is a city councilwoman in Brooklyn, but she has been the chair of the Education Committee for the last 4 years. The other person that may be getting that committee is Councilmember Eric Dinowitz, who serves the Bronx, who was a former teacher, and a chapter leader. But it may not necessarily represent the demographics that we have, in our public schools

- **Chair of the Education Committee of Community Board 11- Ashar Rodriguez:** (7:59 pm – 8:08 pm)
 He introduced himself and spoke about their meeting yesterday. The Harlem Junior Tennis Program, they would like to build a new tennis facility on top of the East River Plaza Mall, the main thing that came up is what would be the cost to our students? have another experience get access to it, because we have a wonderful partnership with Sports Time on Randles Island, but for expanding even more within the community, because they do a lot of outside programming, but how can we collaborate to purchase this new space in East River Plaza, and at their current space on the west side of the artery, a suggestion also came out was to reach out to CBOs, because that is another way you could get into CBOs.
 There is free membership for Science Center. Their Parks Committee is in current planning for Earth Day event, they would love to have schools come again and present diamond chain projects, environmental projects, anything that has new earth, open spaces it is going to be at the Museum of the City of New York this year. And separate from Community Board, the Youth Pride Forest of New York City, they are looking for new members, ages 13 to 22, they are looking for more representation from Upper Manhattan, lot of kids who live in Brooklyn and Northern Manhattan, but it would be great to have some representation from Upper Manhattan, they do not necessarily have to identify as LGBT.
 - **Parent:** (8:08 pm – 8:09 pm)
 She said East Harlem is in the middle of transitional period, we have got an influx of a completely new demographic coming in that is from a way higher tax bracket for the natives of this community. She wants to have an actual infrastructural setup that acts as standard for when we entered District 4, we entered this community. There is already an infrastructure in place. This is a project that is going to be done in 2030.
 - **D4 CEC President:** (8:09 pm – 8:10 pm)
 She informed our next action on the agenda was to interview our new candidate and as we do not have the quorum, we cannot vote, we will have a special meeting for the new council members' interview and voting. She said that we still have two seats available if anyone wants to apply, please do.
 She thanked PS007 for hosting the meeting for tonight!
 - **Motion to adjourn the Calendar meeting by Lawanda Joyner seconded by Vandana Bonilla (8:10 pm)**
5. **Calendar meeting adjourned:** 8:10 pm

Business Meeting Minutes

January 14th, 2026

Date: Wednesday, January 14th, 2026

Meeting Start Time: 8:18 pm

1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan 8:18 pm

Members Present: Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, Sophie Oulai, Lawanda Joyner, Johanna Dominguez, Vandana Bonilla and Tia Jackson.

Members Absent: Lacey Jordan, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona and Adriana Tlacomulco.

Attendees: 35

2. Treasury Report by D4 CEC Treasurer- Johanna Dominguez: (8:19 pm – 8:32 pm)
She talked about the D4 CEC expenditure report for the month of January.

She mentioned the CEC4 ordered trophies and medals for D4 Science Fair and the Spelling Bee.

- **D4 CEC President:** (8:32 pm – 8:46 pm)
She discussed the CEC4 Chancellor's town hall on March 11th, with the council members.
- **Motion to adjourn the business meeting by Tia Jackson seconded by Vandana Bonilla.** (8:46 pm)

5. Business meeting adjourned: 8:46 pm

Prepared & submitted by:
Farah Khan
Administrative Assistant

Next D4 CEC Calendar and Business Meeting will be on February 11th, 2026.