



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

District 4 Superintendent:
Dr. Kristy De La Cruz

High School Student Representatives
Brooke Howard
Kanyisia Crute

Date: Wednesday, November 12th, 2025

Meeting Start Time: 6:03 pm

Introduction of Spanish interpreters: 6:03 pm

Attendees: 35

Calendar Meeting Minutes

November 12th, 2025

1. **Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan-** (6:05 pm – 6:06 pm)
Members Present: Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, Sophie Oulai, Johanna Dominguez, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Lawanda Joyner, Vandana Bonilla and Tia Jackson.
Members Absent: Lacey Jordan and Adriana Tlacomulco.

- **D4 CEC President:** (6:07 pm – 6:09 pm)
 She welcomed everyone for joining the meeting and introduced the student members from Esperanza Preparatory Academy.
 She said we are having our two student members that have been selected by our superintendent, we are also going to expand and do a youth council, two students from every school, every high school located in East Harlem were sent an invitation, to their principals to choose two to four students to join our youth council, which will be meeting monthly, and our two students will be included in that, so that we can have more of a representative student voice on our council. This idea was well received by the Department of Education, hoping that we will be a pilot, to what can be done at other councils moving forward.

2. **NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) Community Action Board – Region 9 (Central & East Harlem)- Midas Touch Consulting- MPA- CEO/ President- Mari Moss:** (6:09 pm – 6:17 pm)
 Ms. Mari introduced herself as working for the Community Action Board that gives federal funding to nonprofit organizations in our community.
 She spoke about the DYCD's mission. DYCD's mission is to invest in a network of community-based organizations and programs to alleviate the effects of poverty and to provide opportunities for New York's communities to flourish. The vision statement is DYCD strives to improve the quality of life of New Yorkers by collaborating with local organizations and investing in the talents and assets of the communities to help them develop, grow, and thrive.
 - Department of Youth and Community Development.
 - Summer Youth Employment Program, which gives young people an opportunity to earn money at 14.
 - NYC Department of Youth Advisory Boards 2024
 - A Short History
 - Organization
 - Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) Structure and member responsibilities
 - 2019 NDA Map New York City
 - NAB member benefits

- **Audience:** (6:17 pm – 6:18 pm)
Can the teachers and school administrators be able to be the part of the board?
 - **Mari Moss:** (6:18 pm – 6:18 pm)
She replied, yes, but they can not ask for the funding. The only conflict of interest is if they are running an after-school program, they cannot serve on the board if that if they are going to be asking for funding from the board, they cannot serve on a board and ask for funding at the same time. Either not be a part of the program or be on the board to decide where the funding goes.
 - **D4 CEC Council Member:** (6:18 pm – 6:18 pm)
Central and East Harlem is home to one of the city's most gifted and resilient young people, yet too often, programs and policies respond to deficits rather than potential. How will DYCD ensure that it's investment not only reaches you but are structured to amplify their voices, sustain impact beyond grant cycles.
 - **Mari Moss:** (6:18 pm – 6:21 pm)
She said the community needs assessment comes in, trying to always be proactive and ahead of, what is happening, trends, and needs of the community, but nobody could have foresaw that we were going to go through a 39-day or 40-day shutdown, so that is not on any one survey, and that there is a lot other people, and who miss out on benefits.
 - **D4 CEC Council Member:** (6:21 pm – 6:21 pm)
She asked, do they have surveys?
 - **Mari Moss:** (6:21 pm – 6:22 pm)
She said usually they are done with the surveys by now, but they have extended it because of the situation lately. She asked to fill the survey tonight, because that data will help them.
 - **D4 CEC Council Member:** (6:22 pm – 6:22 pm)
She asked, what do they do with the data once they collect it? Every two years, or how long before it is posted so that it is covered, so people understand exactly what the needs were? And do they utilize that data, or how often do they utilize that data to go back?
 - **Mari Moss:** (6:22 pm – 6:25 pm)
She answered that the DYCD is a great organization because they have these data scientists that go through and calibrate all the surveys, and weighted data. They have algorithms in which how they weight the data that comes in, and they know exactly, what to look for as far as projections, and they are looking at past data, they are looking at the last census, and then they try to project ahead.
The data is available on DYCD's website and on all the governmental federal websites.
 - **D4 CEC President:** (6:25 pm – 6:29 pm)
She mentioned that the first meeting that they had was productive in the sense that there were lots of folks that were interested in the funding, and they had an ability to engage with them in a comprehensive way. We might not necessarily have a specific need in our home but think about what our community needs when we answer that survey.
3. **Election of Council Officer:** (6:29 pm – 6:30 pm)
Lawanda Joyner was nominated by Johanna Dominguez for Recording Secretary position.

Roll call for motion to elect Recording Secretary by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona seconded by Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez.

Roll call and call to order to vote for Recording Secretary:

Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez (Yes), Sophie Oulai (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Absent), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Adriana Tlacomulco (Absent), Lawanda Joyner (Yes), Vandana Bonilla (Yes) and Tia Jackson (Yes) (07 voted in favor)

Lawanda Joyner elected as Recording Secretary - Congratulations

- **D4 CEC Council Member:** (6:30 pm – 6:31 pm)
New Council member, Tia Jackson, introduced herself. She said she is looking forward working with CEC4 members and want to make sure that we do everything we can for this district and for all students.

- 4. **Resolution Affirming the Values of the District 4 Community Education Council and New York City Public Schools to Ensure All Students Are Welcome and Safe Regardless of Immigration Status:** (6:31pm – 6:39 pm)
Roll call for motion to vote for Resolution Affirming the Values of the District 4 Community Education Council and New York City Public Schools to Ensure All Students Are Welcome and Safe Regardless of Immigration Status- by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona seconded by Vandana Bonilla.

Roll call and call to order to vote for the Resolution Affirming the Values of the District 4 Community Education Council and New York City Public Schools to Ensure All Students Are Welcome and Safe Regardless of Immigration Status: *Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez (Yes), Sophie Oulai (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Absent), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Adriana Tlacomulco (Absent), Lawanda Joyner (Yes), Vandana Bonilla (Yes) and Tia Jackson (Yes)*
Resolution approved by 7 votes.

- 5. **Resolution against the dissolution of the Department of Education and to restore education funds:** (6:40 pm – 6:59 pm)

Roll call for motion to vote for Resolution against the dissolution of the Department of Education and to restore education funds- Elizabeth Soto-Cardona by seconded by Tia Jackson.

Roll call for motion to vote Resolution against the dissolution of the Department of Education and to restore education funds: *Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez (Yes), Sophie Oulai (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Absent), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Adriana Tlacomulco (Absent), Lawanda Joyner (Yes), Vandana Bonilla (Yes) and Tia Jackson (Yes)*
Resolution approved by 7 votes.

- 6. **Resolution in support of restorative justice practices in New York City Public Schools:** (7:00 pm – 7:12 pm)

Roll call for motion to vote for Resolution in support of restorative justice practices in New York City Public Schools– by Lawanda Joyner seconded by Tia Jackson.

Roll call and call to order to vote for the Resolution in support of restorative justice practices in New York City Public Schools: *Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez (Yes), Sophie Oulai (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Absent), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Adriana Tlacomulco (Absent), Lawanda Joyner (Yes), Vandana Bonilla (Yes) and Tia Jackson (Yes)*
Resolution approved by 7 votes.

- 7. **Report of District 4 Superintendent- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (7:13 pm – 7:23 pm)
She started with gratitude and thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

She discussed:
 - ❖ District 4 Community Norms
 - ❖ New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) Mission
 - ❖ District 4 East Harlem Mission
 - ❖ District Priorities
 - ❖ Important Updates & Celebrations
 - ❖ Enrollment Updates
 - ❖ Upcoming District Four Event

- **Principal Gregory Castro:** (7:23 pm – 7:24 pm)
He informed that he is supposed to be receiving about 150 turkeys, on the 18th, and can reroute to District 4.
- **Dr. Kristy:** (7:24 pm – 7:36 pm)
She thanked Principal Castro for the turkeys he wanted to be delivered to D4 for the Turkey Giveaway event. And she informed that now, translations and interpretations of IEPs and documents are at no cost.
- **Chair of the Youth and Education Committee for a community board, Asher Rodriguez:** (7:36 pm – 7:38 pm)
He informed that their meeting is next week, on Monday, November 17th. He said a journal called the Social Mobility Journal, which they basically want to come and asked for collaboration within the district to have middle schoolers and high schoolers to tell their stories of what it means to grow up just as they are. Like, they want to collect stories from across the cities and elevate youth voices, so, the person's name is Tony LA Barbra. They finalized district needs and budget requests for this cycle and they want next year to have a little bit more collaboration and go to different schools and at the district legislative breakfast, he spoke to, Mr. Castro and all the kids from Manhattan East, which he invited to come present. They had the Children's Aid Groundbreaking last month for their new center.
They gave a letter of recommendation for the new RFP process through DYCD for Children's Aid to continue running programming within our schools.
- **D4 CEC Council Member & President of the President's Council:** (7:39 pm – 7:40 pm)
She informed about the updates, on November 21st at 12 p.m they have the President Council's meeting via Zoom. She asked all the presidents who were in the meeting, and the PCs to join their meetings. She asked to share the information that has been provided to us with the community and schools.
- **D4 CEC Treasurer:** (7:40 pm – 7:40 pm)
She informed that the next meeting is going to be on the 25th.
- **D4 CEC Student Members:** (7:40 pm – 7:41 pm)
The student member informed that the water leaks on the 3rd floor bathroom in the school. They said that there should be a Mental health education for students.
- **D4 CEC President:** (7:41 pm – 7:42 pm)
She replied to the students that we can support by drafting a resolution and send that as a message to the Department of Education for what they are asking for.
- 8. **Report of D4 CEC President –Kaliris Salas:** (7:42 pm – 7:44 pm)
She said we had a citywide leadership meeting, which was sponsored by the Division of School Leadership, where they got updates about what the Department of Education is looking towards in terms of building community, building capacity. In that meeting, CECs and parents' leaders were able to engage with their superintendents. They talked about some of the goals that they have for this coming year and highlighted the fact that they are creating youth council in collaboration with Azeen Karamati and the superintendent to bring in more students into the CEC space. The city published the Capital Plan, which is the plan of the schools that will be built and the amount of money that will be invested in school with the school construction authority, whether that be capital improvements to buildings, accessibility, large projects and so that capital plan will be presented to the panel for educational policy in the spring, and so they will have an opportunity as a council to take a look at that capital plan, and make any additional suggestions for our schools.
Yesterday they had a meeting with the division of Inclusion and Language Access.
- **D4 CEC Council Member:** (7:44 pm – 7:45 pm)
She spoke about the Horizon program and the NEST program, added to the district, because there is a big need for it. Also informed parents about the program, as a lot of parents were not informed about the program. As a parent, for her child was the first student in the Horizon program in the district, she has seen great progress with her daughter, and mentioned it is a wonderful program, and they need to extend it out to other families.
- **D4 CEC President:** (7:45 pm – 7:47 pm)
She informed that meeting with the Division of Inclusion and Language Access spun from a CEC President's

meeting where there were, 6 or 7 presidents, talking about the needs of and supports for students with, IEPs that have learning differences, and they highlighted some of the inefficacies of early intervention. The CPSC is not streamlined and that sometimes, particularly if someone is outside of the system or the child is in a private school for special needs, it is difficult to streamline them back into public schools.

- **D4 CEC President:** (7:47 pm – 7:59 pm)

She informed in December, the Panel for Educational Policy is going to vote on Chancellor's Regulation D210, which was passed in December of 2020, and the intention of that resolution was an anti-harassment, anti-discrimination resolution, because at that time, there were some council members in the parent leadership space that have engaged in violence against other council members, against women of color. In the last couple of years, there have been council members that have been removed from their councils. And a lawsuit was filed, by the right-wing organization, and because of that, they have basically cleaned up the policy so that you cannot hold anybody accountable for any harm that is being done. She asked the community parents, as council members, to take an intentional look at the changes that have been proposed by the Department of Education. They are on the website.

On November 19th, in Brooklyn, there will be an important vote for busing, there is not enough legislation that provides protection for bus drivers, and these busing companies can put a bus driver and children in buses that are overheated, that do not have any air conditioning, and seat belts.

The Panel for Educational Policy recommends that we vote on a two-year contract and not a 5-year contract, so within those two years, there is enough time to pass legislation so that there are protections for bus drivers and protections for our kids that are on these buses.

- **Parent:** (8:00 pm – 8:07 pm)

She said that the Gifted and Talented Program has become a means of maintaining a level of, classism because the reality is that the children learn differently, especially when our neighborhood is disproportionately filled with neurodivergent children. The children learn differently and that our current educational system does not suit the average mind at this point, and that in solidarity with the rest of the children in the community.

- **Asher Rodriguez:** (8:09 pm – 8:10 pm)

He informed that all the full-time paras within the school are trained.

- **D4 CEC President:** (8:10 pm – 8:14 pm)

She mentioned that in our communities, we need to continue to push for comprehensive conversations between our teaching staff, and also with our parents, the parents do not want their kid to have an IEP, the stigma associated to it, but there are a lot of parents in the Upper East Side that got no problems with pull-outs, and making sure their children have one-on-one support, our kids are the ones that end getting categorized when they are brilliant and amazing.

- **Motion to adjourn the Calendar meeting by Tia Jackson seconded by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (8:15 pm)**

9. **Calendar meeting adjourned: 8:15 pm**

Business Meeting Minutes

November 12th, 2025

Date: Wednesday, November 12th, 2025

Meeting Start Time: 8:21 pm

1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan 8:21 pm

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

Members Absent: Lacey Jordan and Adriana Tlacomulco.

Attendees: 22

2. Treasury Report by D4 CEC Treasurer- Johanna Dominguez: (8:22 pm – 8:32 pm)

She talked about the D4 CEC expenditure report for the month of November.

3. CEC4 Budget Modification: (8:33 pm – 8:35 pm)

Treasurer discussed the CEC4 budget with the members and members voted on the budget modification, they agreed moving \$1,500 from Line 1 (members reimbursement) and adding to Line 2 (CEC4- supplies).

Roll call for motion to vote for the CEC4 Budget Modification by Tia Jackson seconded by Lawanda Joyner

Roll call and call to order to vote for the CEC4 Budget Modification: Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez (Yes), Sophie Oulai (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Absent), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Adriana Tlacomulco (Absent), Lawanda Joyner (Yes), Vandana Bonilla (Yes) and Tia Jackson (Yes)

CEC4 Budget Modification approved by 7 votes.

4. Approval of D4 CEC- Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes, from July 09th 2025, August 13th, September 10th, 2025, and October 8th, 2025: (8:36 pm – 8:37 pm)

Motion to approve CEC4 meeting minutes by Johanna Dominguez seconded by Sophie Oulai.

CEC4 meeting minutes were approved unanimously by the members.

- **D4 CEC President:** (8:37 pm – 8:44 pm)

She said that we will make a Bylaw committee with two or three members. Our bylaws are aligning with Chancellor's regulations, and if we want to change anything, that will be an amendment to the bylaws.

- **Motion to adjourn the business meeting by Vandana Bonilla seconded by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona.** (8:44 pm)

5. Business meeting adjourned: 8:44 pm

Prepared & submitted by:
Farah Khan
Administrative Assistant

Next D4 CEC Calendar and Business Meeting will be on December 10th, 2025.