



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



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|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>President</b><br>Elizabeth Soto-Cardona – MBPA | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b><br>Mario Medina | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b><br>Lacey Jordan | <b>Recording Secretary</b><br>Vacant | <b>Treasurer</b><br>Vacant |
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**Council Members:**  
Evelis Galarza-Serrano  
Gloria Flaherty  
Jasmin Benitez  
Johanna Dominguez  
Niasia Nathaniel  
Rafael Lima – District 75 Rep  
Rosa G. Diaz – IEP

**District 4 Superintendent**  
Dr. Kristy De La Cruz

**High School Student Representatives**  
Vacant  
Vacant

## Calendar Meeting

August 14th, 2024

### Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, August 14th, 2024

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:05 pm

**1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan 6:05 pm**

**Members Present:** Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Zoom), Mario Medina, Lacey Jordan, Johanna Dominguez, Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Zoom), Gloria Flaherty (Came late), Jasmin Benitez (Came late), and Rosa G. Diaz (Zoom).

**Members absent:** Niasia Nathaniel (Unexcused) and Rafael Lima (Unexcused)

**Attendance done:** 6:06 pm

**Attendees:** 20

**Introduction of Spanish interpreters:** 6:07 pm

**2. Election of Council Officers- First Vice President- Mario Medina: 6:07 pm**

He informed everyone that the elections cannot take place since we do not have a quorum. The elections of the council officers will be tabled for the next meeting.

**3. District 4 Superintendent report- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz: (6:08 pm – 6:28 pm)**

- She started with gratitude. She thanked the Tito Puente Educational Complex, Principals, parents, and the audience.
- Summer rising has been a true success. She had a summer rising community tour, she specially thanked to CEC4 members who were able to join.
- Therapeutic crisis intervention for schools training.
- Chancellor's regulation A-411. It changed on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. These are the key changes; it is called Chancellor's Regulation A-411 is that schools should not call 911 unless it is really a life-or-death emergency.

- Now a school is not allowed to say to a parent, you cannot send your child to school unless you have a mental health clearance letter.
- All our 8th graders and 12th graders who did not have the graduation ceremony, they all are invited for a graduation ceremony at 10 am on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.
- District Day will be on August 29<sup>th</sup> at P.S 007 campus. Free haircuts, bag packs, books, and other giveaways for all.
- Swimming Pool is opening this September, we will have a ribbon cutting ceremony.
- Welcome back to School Festival is on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Free Jet blue flights for our raffle, 8 round trip tickets and more gifts.
- Free books and literacy hubs in some of our Bodegas or Delis. D4 is piloting that at 119th and Lexington. They have lots of books that they want to get in the hands of the community. We can restock free books out in the community.
- This week we had our Sound of Music at Lexington Academy.

○ **CEC4 First Vice President-** (6:29 pm - 6:30 pm)

He said the summer rising was amazing, all our community partners, and all different organizations coming together for one goal and that was to support our children. Our teachers even during the summer, taking that time to come out and spend time with our children is phenomenal.

○ **CEC4 Council member-** (6:30 pm - 6:31 pm)

She said many parents were more organized with the CBOs in summer rising. They had meetings and activities with the parents. They had the parent's team that was involved in what their kids were doing inside the schools and the CBOs were very cooperative.

○ **Dr. Kristy-** (6:31 pm - 6:33 pm)

She informed that our schools made their promotional decisions and in the entire district 4 we had 41 students recommended to repeat the school year.

○ **CEC4 Second Vice President-** (6:34 pm - 6:35 pm)

She said the curriculum that is being taught, does not work for everyone . It is very sad that students get left back but teachers and higher grades, when they get those students that still cannot read, they say what are they doing in the lower grades?

○ **CEC4 Council member-** (6:36 pm - 6:37 pm)

She spoke about the exams that most of our students do not understand what the questions are.

- **Dr. Kristy-**(6:37 pm - 6:56 pm)

She said a lot of work needs to be done for literacy. This year we have increased our number for New York City reads ambassadors.

She thanked CEC4 Council Members Jasmin Benitez for informing about the fire in one of the buildings, and for lifting the concerns about some of the debris and how to get it cleaned. Kristy reached out to the police precinct and our elected officials, and within the same day they started working. She said we will continue to advocate for our children and our families.

She also appreciated Lacey Jordan, she said whenever she thinks of Lacey Jordan, it always reminds her of advocacy. She emphasized that we do have a responsibility to lift what is not working what we see both in our schools and around our schools. Otherwise, people think everything is fine and she said for filing complaints, filing reports, if you do not file the report or complaint, then it is like it did not happen.

She said CEC4 President Elizabeth Soto Cardona inquired the updates about the construction and facilities, she informed that we have a lot of construction in the district, which is why we only have 5 sites open because we have so many projects going on. Our buildings will be ready to open for the 1st day of school. The accessibility projects the elevators, the gym and air conditioning, and things are getting done slowly and surely.

- **Motion to adjourn the Calendar meeting by Gloria Flaherty seconded by Jasmin Benitez** (6:57 pm)

#### 4. **Calendar meeting adjourned:** 6:57 pm

## **Business Meeting**

**August 14th, 2024**

### **Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, August 14th, 2024

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:06 pm

#### **1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan** 7:06 pm

**Members Present:** Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Mario Medina, Lacey Jordan, Johanna Dominguez, Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Zoom), Gloria Flaherty, Jasmin Benitez, and Rosa G. Diaz (Zoom).

**Members absent:** Niasia Nathaniel (Unexcused) and Rafael Lima (Unexcused).

**Attendance done:** 7:07 pm

**Attendees:** 16

**2. CEC4 President-** (7:07 pm – 7:08 pm)

She thanked everyone for joining and said that for our business meeting we have a couple of line items, but unfortunately, because we do not have quorum, we will not be able to go through them. She mentioned that we were scheduled to go over old business, July meeting minutes, that will be tabled till September. We cannot go over the budget approval, as we did not have the opportunity to vote on treasurer, we will table that as well, we were planning on speaking about CEC4 website and going over budget, discuss meeting locations, liaison's schools' assignments, all will be tabled to the month of September business meeting.

She said that we do have a training by New York State School Board Association, and we will benefit from the training session today about the responsibilities and what our expectations should be as CEC members.

She introduced Mr. Jay Worona from New York State Boards Association.

**3. Training by New York State School Boards Association- Jay Worona:** (6:08 pm – 7:30 pm)

**Motion to adjourn the business meeting by Lacey Jordan seconded by Gloria Flaherty (7:31 pm)**

**4. Business meeting adjourned:** 7:31 pm

**Prepared & submitted by:**

**Farah Khan**

**Administrative Assistant**

*Next D4 CEC Calendar and Business Meeting will be on September 11th, 2024.*