



**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](mailto:cec4@schools.nyc.gov)

**President**

Elizabeth Soto-Cardona – MBPA

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Mario Medina

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Lacey Jordan

**Recording Secretary**

Rosa Nagovich – MBPA

**Treasurer**

Johanna Dominguez

**Council Members:**

Evelis Galarza-Serrano  
Gloria Flaherty  
Jasmin Benitez  
Rafael Lima – D75 Rep  
Rosa G. Diaz – IEP

**District 4 Superintendent**

Dr. Kristy De La Cruz

**High School Student Representatives**

Genesis Gay  
Leslie Galan

**Date:** Wednesday, April 09th, 2025

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:02 pm

**Introduction of Spanish interpreters:** 6:03 pm

**Attendees:** 70

## **Calendar Meeting**

**April 09th, 2025**

### **Minutes**

- **D4 CEC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Mario Medina:** 6:02 pm  
He welcomed everyone for joining the meeting. And asked Spanish interpreters to introduce themselves.
1. **Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan-** (6:04 pm – 6:05 pm)  
**Members Present:** Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Zoom), Mario Medina, Lacey Jordan (Zoom), Johanna Dominguez, Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Zoom), Gloria Flaherty, and Jasmin Benitez.  
**Member Absent:** Rosa Nagovich (Excused), Rafael Lima (Excused) and Rosa G. Diaz (Unexcused).
- **D4 CEC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** 6:04 pm  
He informed everyone that as we do not have quorum so we cannot conduct official business. He read the meeting ground rules.  
He welcomed Mr. Robert Williams for the presentation.
2. **OLA-Presentation- The essential resources available to your community- Robert Williams:**  
(6:07 pm - 6:25 pm)  
He introduced himself as external outreach specialist that works on language access. He spoke about the New York City's public schools background, their commitment to New York City's public schools, families, the schools.nyc.gov, web page, raising awareness in our communities. there are over 1 million students in over 1,600 plus schools that speak over a hundred 80 languages. Approximately 40% of NYC public schools. Household speak a language other than English at home and the New York City public schools top 10 common languages, besides English, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. Written translations are also available in both traditional and simplified Chinese.

OLA is dedicated to supporting both New York city, public school, staff, and families by providing the resources necessary for effective communication in languages. He said there are over 2,000 families who prefer to be spoken in their preferred language in this district. Their office is broken up into 3 major teams, the largest team is the translation department, and they provide written translation services in the 19 English languages. Interpretation team works with contractor interpretation vendors to ensure schools receive services for in person virtual. They pursue innovative ways to engage with and receive feedback from families such as online portals emails, robo calls, texts, direct mailers. Leverage technology to continuously enhance the interpretation experience for families such as virtual. They translate foreign transcripts in any language, the schools.nyc.gov website, select what language that you prefer, and the entire web page return will translate into that language. Automatic translations are not intended to replace human translators and are provided as a service to users of the website.

Language assistance services may vary, depending on the type of school the student attends. Families can also call 311 to make a request for language assistance services over the phone interpretation is available in over 200 languages.

The sign language interpretation services. It is a total separate office. If you need services to contact your parent coordinator, or you can email them at [oslis@school.nyc.gov](mailto:oslis@school.nyc.gov).

And if anyone is having difficulties attaining language services. They can click on, get help or click, file a complaint. If you click, file a complaint that goes directly to the district.

- **CEC4 Treasurer:** 6:25 pm  
She asked if we have parents, teachers conference. If one of the teachers wants to talk with one of the parents in their home languages. How the teacher asks for those services? Do the teacher needs to go to the principal or the principal set up, and exactly on that day all the translation, or in a Spanish forum. How we can allow parents to get the parents teacher conference.
- **Robert Williams:** 6:26 pm  
He answered that for the parent just came in and they need their language interpretation, they have trained official language access coordinator.
- **Dr. Kristy:** (6:26 pm- 6:28 pm)  
She said that in our district we have a trained official language access coordinator, preferred communication from families for preferred language, every school has a list, it can be edited.

She explained that there is a difference between home language and preferred language. We have their team, meet with the principals, assistant principals, parent coordinators, the ENL leads, we have multiple layers in our schools. Our goal is that everyone has access.

Every parent can go their account and see what language is on their profile and we can always make updates if somebody wants to make a change.

- **CEC4 Treasurer:** (6:28 pm)  
She asked if the one-to-one parents go in the school that does not get informed that they can go on the website and can change the language. If they start talking in Spanish, is there a staff available who can speak Spanish.
- **Dr. Kristy:** (6:29 pm- 6:32 pm)  
She said the parents can just call and ask that they need over the phone translation. She added that at the district office, we have identified 2 language access coordinators just as a backup. There is district support, and central support too.
- **CEC4 Treasurer:** (6:33 pm)  
She informed that she has seen the information is being given away, in all our schools on the boards, with all the little pockets and in many languages.
- **Dr. Kristy:** (6:34 pm - 6:42 pm)  
She explained they can have signs on the entrance of the school. They usually have it when you come in to sign in, they do have the protocol that everyone when they sign in for the school safety agent. The sign is supposed to be visible there, because that is the 1st point of entry. It is going to be a welcome sign, because parents sometimes do not go to school because they do not speak English, and they are afraid. They go in when they know someone inside there speak their language.  
She said there is a difference between having a on call translator versus a graduation or an event.

**3. CEC4 1st Vice President:** (6:43 pm)

He informed that the next agenda item was the resolution but as we do not have quorum so we can vote it in the next meeting.

**4. Report of District 4 Superintendent- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (6:45 pm – 6:46 pm)

She thanked everyone for joining the meeting and introduced the audience and the attendees on zoom.

She informed that deputy speaker, Diana Ayala, acknowledge AP Ayo Mendez Torres as being one of the heroes the unsung heroes for women's history month, and it is a real testament to Ayo and all her years of serving the East Harlem community.

- **Assistant Principal Ayo Mendez Torres:** (6:46pm – 6:46 pm)  
She stated that it was an honor and she was not expecting it, and it is really humbling, and she want to continue to serve the community.
- **Dr. Kristy:** (6:47 pm – 6:54 pm)  
She informed that a student from School of Authors, she has a broadcasting crew, SOA News, they are like professionals, and they put together our “Civics for All” video. They were interviewing people, and they did such an amazing job. She thanked our elected officials who have supported the development of the production studio. Eddie Gibbs, and just all our elected officials for really stepping up to support our community.

She mentioned that D4 will be having a job resource fair at 108 School of Authors, and on June 17th Welchella event at CPE 2, on 100th Street.

• **CEC4 1st Vice President:** (6:54 pm)

He introduced PS 102 new Parent Coordinator Ms. Martinez.

- **Dr. Kristy:** (6: 55 pm - 7:14 pm)

**She discussed:**

- District 4 Community Norms
- New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) Mission
- District 4 mission
- Attendance updates(s): 89% vs 90% (Citywide)
- District 4 priorities
- Office of enrollment
- Meeting the moment (NYCPS) Stands against hate.
- Supporting our multilingual families
- The students are entitled to get bus services
- Summer rising Host Sites: 4M007, 4M037, 4M072, 4M096, 4M146, 4M372 and 4M964.
- April District Four Events

- **Jessica Roach- UFT:** (7:14 pm)

She said on April 25th they are doing a huge Paraprofessional Celebration. At the Tito Puente complex. She said if you have not said thank you to your paraprofessionals, so please say it today, thank you to all the paraprofessionals.

- **Dr. Kristy:** (7:15 pm - 7:16 pm)

She thanked everyone for joining. Thank you for lifting your voices, and she firmly believe that the only way we can do better is by working together and with people giving us honest feedback.

- **Rasheeda Brown Harris:** (7:17 pm - 7:19 pm)

She introduced herself and talked about that she is here to remind all of us not to get political, but to understand that we are getting ready to vote in a new mayor. It is something that we should pay attention to, because right now in New York City we have mayoral control over our school district, and we just want to learn about these candidates, folks who are running to be the next mayor and we want to try our best to be as informed as we can be. They will have some candidate forums coming up. They are calling it their initiative is "Spill the tea".

- **Assistant Principal Ayo Mendez Torres:** (7:20pm – 7:21 pm)

She said that she wants to inform that this month April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. There is an uptick in our community. They have partnered with the Courtesy Center, which is right on 116th Street and with the NYPD. On Monday, April 21st they are having a parent outreach and educational session.

- **Motion to adjourn the Calendar meeting by Gloria Flaherty seconded by Johanna Dominguez** (7:21 pm)

**5. Calendar meeting adjourned: 7:21 pm**

# **Business Meeting**

**April 09th, 2025**

## **Minutes**

**Date: Wednesday, April 09th, 2025**

**Meeting Start Time: 7:23 pm**

**1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan 7:23 pm**

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

**Member Absent:** Rosa Nagovich (Excused), Rafael Lima (Excused) and Rosa G. Diaz (Unexcused).

**Attendees: 50**

**2. D4 CEC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: (7:24 pm)**

He informed that we do not have quorum, so we will not be conducting any business today.

**Motion to adjourn the business meeting by Gloria Flaherty seconded by Jasmin Benitez. (7:24 pm)**

**2. Business meeting adjourned: 7:24 pm**

**Prepared & submitted by:**

**Farah Khan**

**Administrative Assistant**

*Next D4 CEC Calendar and Business Annual Meeting will be on May 14th, 2025.*