



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 Elizabeth Soto-Cardona – MBPA	1st Vice President Mario Medina	2nd Vice President Lacey Jordan	Recording Secretary Rosa Nagovich – MBPA	Treasurer Johanna Dominguez
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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, December 11th, 2024

Meeting Start Time: 6:05 pm

Attendees: 70

Calendar Meeting

December 11th, 2024

Minutes

- **D4 CEC President welcomed everyone for joining the meeting. She introduced herself and read the meeting ground rules.** (6:05 pm- 6:07 pm)

- **Spanish interpreters:** (6:08 pm- 6:09 pm)

Spanish interpreters introduction and they provided the instructions for the members who needed the interpretation.

1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan- (6:10 pm – 6:11 pm)

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

Member Absent: Jasmin Benitez (Excused).

- **D4 CEC President-** (6:12 pm- 6:14 pm)

She informed that the CEC4 does not have quorum for this meeting, so we will move on and just provide and share information with our community.

2. Report of District 4 Superintendent- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz: (6:15 pm – 6:35 pm)

She greeted everyone and talked about the community norms, she said that one of the hardest norms for her, is accepting and expecting non-closure. Sometimes we cannot solve everything in this meeting, but it is the meaning of a conversation also, just being mindful of allowing everyone to speak their truth without being interrupted so that we can honor everyone's

perspective, and know that sometimes another person's truth can actually cause us discomfort, and that is okay, equity and voice. And the one that she likes believing in best intentions.

She thanked everyone for being in the meeting. She informed that she was at the SLT refresher earlier today,

She discussed:

- District 4 Community Norms
- New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) Mission
- District 4 mission
- Grateful Heart
- District priorities
- Attendance updates(s): 88.9% vs 90.9% (Citywide)
- Office of enrollment
- Meeting the moment (NYCPS) Stands against hate
- Class Size Legislation Update
- **Upcoming District Four Events:**
 - D4 SLT Refresher (Virtual) December 11th, 2024 @ 4:30 pm, D4 Winter Wonderland: Monday, December 16th, 2024 at 4M009 @ 4:00 pm, D4 Let's Talk Literacy: Tuesday, December 17th, 2024, at 4 pm @ Virtual, D4 Participatory Budget Session: Wednesday, December 18th, 2024, at 4M007 @ 4:30 pm in the auditorium, D4 Math Station Rotation: Thursday, December 19th, 2024 @ 10 am.

3. Report of D4 CEC President – Elizabeth Soto-Cardona: (6:36 pm)

She thanked the community and the council.

She informed that our capital planning report deadline is coming up. The council has been visiting schools. We will continue to do so, and we will keep you all updated for next month.

She said that the next agenda item was the new CEC4 candidate's interview since we do not have a quorum, we will move past that.

• **Community Board 11: Chair of the Youth and Education Committee- Ashar Rodriguez: (6:37 pm – 6:38 pm)**

Ashar introduced himself and thanked CEC4 President and the D4 Superintendent for attending their meeting on December 10th 2024, and informed that their meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month. Yesterday they had 2 presentations one from New York City, Smoke Free, which is about the air pollution from smoking within the area, and also how to prevent and to bring awareness that how secondhand smoke is a lot more deadly than regular smoke.

They have an update from reading partners, which is in a few schools in the district. The New York Justice League came and were asking for input. They want to do something about social media and inter-generational social media usage.

He also informed that they also went to the Human Services Committee. They have an addiction forum, which they had some kids from this school year.

4. Budget by Stephanie Herrera- Deputy Chief of Staff to Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala NYC City Council 8th District: (6:38 pm – 6:41 pm)

She introduced herself as the Deputy Chief of staff to Deputy Speaker, Diana Ayala. She informed that they are having the participatory budget this year. It is only \$200,000, 2 million. It is to get the community involved and have to spend the funding. This year they are doing 1 million for the Bronx

and 1 million for East Harlem. They are in the 1st phase where you have to submit the project, any resolution project that any school has and the kids and all that they can submit it.

They have an info section at PS 007, on December 18th to get more information about how to submit it. Everybody can submit their projects, and then it will go to vote, then they have to submit it, and then it will go on board around April. But they have to submit all that information in the map, till December 18th by 4:30 pm.

For the holidays they are sponsoring to assign for the holidays with Central, and they have their own Skate Ring and Holiday Market too. She said if anyone has any questions please come to the participatory budget presentation. That way you can learn more about how to submit it.

5. Presentation by Melissa Ruiz Community School Director for Esperanza Preparatory Magnet School: (6:41 pm – 6:43 pm)

She introduced herself and talked about her position at Esperanza. She said she supports the after school programs, they have a variety of programs, cultural, cooking, culinary, chess. They also do academics as well, algebra, ELA, Spanish tutoring, also launched the Saturday program, supports the students with that transition.

They have a toy drive coming up in December next week. Thursday from 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm at the headquarters on 1044, and there will be a winter concert in the school next Friday at 5 pm.

6. Public Comment:

▪ **Parent:** (6:44 pm – 6:48 pm)

She said that her child's school building does not have a parent coordinator. She asked that how you lend any suggestions on how to navigate this as a parent in a building with no parent coordinator?

And asked about the anti-hate hotline, she said that the district can consider doing a district newsletter with the information, and how are we as a district handling hate?

▪ **Dr. Kristy:** (6:49 pm – 7:05 pm)

She replied that we need to follow up with Principal Gabriel to see what their in-house plans are for the parent coordinator, and that we will make sure to consider the District Newsletter.

She said everyone should have received who is registered with New York City public schools and their NYSCA accounts should have received an alert about tonight's CEC'4s meeting and also the SLT refresher.

It only goes to parents who are registered, because it does not go out to everyone, but if you are a registered parent you should have received those alerts.

She said she will send the anti-hate hotline information to all of the parents and the staff. There are systems and structures from leveraging every person in our community, not only our dream squad team, not only our meeting the moment team, those are like 2 different teams that also work with school teams as well as there are trainings that every school has to do for having difficult conversations, how to create a warm and inclusive environment for everyone. The only way we can do better is by getting feedback. How do we also have a culturally responsive curriculum, and also places to really respect the identities of everyone, and also with the disproportionality of especially black individuals and people of color.

She added that the next level, it starts off with implicit bias, the second foundational level is courageous conversations, and beyond diversity and that is usually a 2 day session. We have

done these trainings with assistant principals, principals, teachers, also leveraging our D 4 student advisory. How can we make sure that parents are feeling included? And also encourage, if you have other friends or families who would like to think of ideas on how we can make sure that our black families feel more welcome and included.

- **Parent:** (7:07 pm – 7:09 pm)
She asked about her daughter, she is autistic and is facing bullying in the school.
- **Dr. Kristy:** (7:10 pm – 7:14 pm)
She replied that she put her email address in the chat, and this goes for everyone because if the only way we can do better is by people sharing what their needs are and what they need support in. FERPA laws and privacy laws, we do not want to share the student's information. But you can email to her or the CEC4 and we can connect offline to continue this conversation.
- **CEC4 Council Member:** (7:15 pm – 7:15 pm)
He said the training for bullying is very good. And regarding anti-hate that if somebody make a complaint, that complaint go to the district, the district handles and if that takes place in the district level working, a parent can make a report. If the problem is in the district, or if the person is not being supported by the district?
- **Dr. Kristy:** (7:16 pm – 7:25 pm)
She said she will share the link in the chat. She said she wants to be very clear, because she does not want her words to be misconstrued. Some investigations are done at the district level. When she reports an allegation to the office of the Special Commissioner, they either accept it and do the investigation, or they determine who does the investigation. Sometimes it might come to the district level.
- **Parent:** (7:26 pm – 7:26 pm)
She asked what is considered in-house investigation within the school where a staff member is talking to a child alone, without a parent or what those particular protocols are, and what is a bullying allegation?
- **Dr. Kristy:** (7:27 pm – 7:34 pm)
She replied that it varies depending on the situation, how investigations are done at the school level. We can connect tomorrow to go over more of the details to the situation, but then also think about district wide as well.
- **Parent:** (7:34 pm – 7:34 pm)
Asked, can we send our child to school when an investigation is being investigated?
- **Dr. Kristy:** (7:35 pm – 7:35 pm)
She replied if you do not feel comfortable sending your child to school, please reach out immediately, even if because sometimes the investigations might take time. But please let us know we do not want any child to miss school because of an investigation.
- **D4 CEC President:** (7:36 pm - 7:37 pm)
She said she would like to thank District 4 for always taking the time to join us and support us. We are here to serve you. We are all parents and we are in this together. This is our last meeting of the year December 11th, we have made it through another year. She said she is grateful for everyone and grateful for the council and said we cannot do this work alone.

Please reach out to us with any concerns. That is what we are here for. We wish you all the best happy holidays, and happy New Year,

- **Calendar meeting adjourned:** 7:37 pm

Business Meeting

December 11th, 2024

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, December 11th, 2024

Meeting Start Time: 7:40 pm

1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan 7:40 pm

Members Present: Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Mario Medina, Rosa Nagovich (Zoom), Johanna Dominguez, Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Zoom), Gloria Flaherty (Zoom), Rafael Lima (Zoom), and Rosa G. Diaz (Zoom).

Member Absent: Lacey Jordan (Excused) and Jasmin Benitez (Excused)

Attendance done: 7:41 pm

Attendees: 45

2. D4 CEC Treasurer- (7:42 pm – 7:42 pm)

She informed that the educational games will be given by the CEC4 in the district 4 Winter Wonderland event for the students, and will be packed by the members as they will be delivered to the PS 007.

3. CEC4 President- (7:43 pm – 7:44 pm)

She thanked everyone for joining and informed as we do not have quorum we will not be able to hold our business meeting. We will table our treasury report and any new business will be tabled till next year including November meeting minutes and future planning.

She also informed that the CEC4 is also planning on having a table at the District 4 Winter Wonderland event, and there will be giveaways by CEC4. We are going to be there to help, support and set up around 3 pm, the event goes till 6 pm.

She said we will see everyone next year and wished everyone happy holidays and a happy new year.

4. Business meeting adjourned: 7:44 pm

Prepared & submitted by:

Farah Khan

Administrative Assistant

Next D4 CEC Calendar and Business Annual Meeting will be on January 08th, 2025.