



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, February 12th, 2025

Meeting Start Time: 6:06 pm

Introduction of Spanish interpreters: 6:14 pm

Attendees: 65

Calendar Meeting
February 12th, 2025

Minutes

- **D4 CEC President welcomed everyone for joining the meeting.** 6:06 pm
- 1. **Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan-** (6:06 pm – 6:07 pm)
Members Present: Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Mario Medina, Lacey Jordan, Rosa Nagovich, Johanna Dominguez, Evelis Galarza-Serrano, Gloria Flaherty, Jasmin Benitez, and Rosa G. Diaz.
Member Absent: Rafael Lima
- 2. **AG swim programming at River East- David Ludwig, Sr. Director of Community Programs:** (6:08 pm – 6: 10 pm)

David introduced himself as the senior director of community programs at Asphalt Green. It is a nonprofit organization that transforms lives and builds community through sports, fitness and play for all. They are at River East Elementary, providing free swim programming and having the Spring programming registration. The opportunity to make this a part of the community that everyone can enjoy is something that they are committed to seeing through and they want the primary participants to be the school communities inside the building and throughout District 4 as well as community residents who live nearby. They want to teach as many people to swim as possible. They have over 600 second graders, and a few from some other grades, but 600 kids swimming once a week during the school day. They have a very competitive high level youth swim team, over 400 kids on it. They send people to the Olympics.

Their contact email is waterproofing@asphaltgreen.org

- **Andrew Bryan:** (6:11 pm – 6:17 pm)

He said they would consider the pool schedule, it lays out 6 days of the week, because, starting March 1st they will be in River East Elementary School on Saturdays. Currently, it is 5 days of the week. They are currently serving all grades. Right now, they have a free beginner swim class for all ages and a free, advanced swim class for all ages. They have 250 unique spaces for registrants and all 250 of them filled. Starting in March, they will be increasing the capacity by adding 4 new classes and prioritizing students in the River East and Harlem Village academies and schools. Including Saturday programs which will encompass a more varied program offering these programs will also be for all age groups and all level assignments but as an added attraction they will be built to and designed to accommodate adults. Their goal is to make this a family affair. In some time later in the day they will move into age specific classes, and then at the end of the day, they are going to build a lifeguard training prep class which is not a certification class, but it is designed to prepare users to successfully navigate the American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Certification class which asphalt green does provide at their flagship locations. They also provide an inclusive swim class for students of neurodivergent on the spectrum addition to that, they will also offer adult water exercise classes, and the hope is to get all people involved with aquatic programming.

- **Parent:** (6:18 pm – 6:18 pm)
Parent asked when the registration will be open.
- **David Ludwig:** (6:18 pm – 6:19 pm)
He replied that they are planning to send the day after President’s Day on Tuesday, February 18th.

3. Fair Student Funding Presentation- District 4 Superintendent- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:
(6:19 pm – 6:41 pm)

She introduced all the attendees and Sharon Boonshoft the budget director. She said Sharon directly supports our schools with all matters related to budgets, we do have rules and regulations and a lot of systems to monitor how we spend our funds. She thanked the community for everyone who was on the panel to change the funding and the weighted formulas for our children and for small schools.

She talked about:

- **NYCPS- School Budgets SY 2025 – 2026- February – April 2025**
 - * Review the NYCSP’ & Your district’s budget
 - * Review Fair Student Funding
 - * Review School Budget Webpages
- NYCSP’ Budget:
 - * Where our funding comes from
 - * How our budget is spent
 - * District specific budget
 - * School specific budget information
- District 4 2024-2025 School- Budgets \$286 million
- Where can I find information about my school’s budget?

- **Sharon Boonshoft:** (6:41 pm – 6:41 pm)
She informed that this is only for New York City public schools and not the Pre-K centers. Pre-K centers are funding from different ways. 3K and 4K within our district for schools is funded with separate money from the Fair Student Fund.

- **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (6:42 pm – 7:13 pm)

She continued the FSF.

- Who decides how money is spent at the school level?
- Fair Student Funding (FSF)
- What is FSF?
- How does Fair Student Funding works?
- SY 2025-2026 Proposed Fair Student Funding Weights
- How the FSF Wights work per student: If the Per Capita Were \$1
- How the FSF Wights work per student: At the 2024-2025 per capita of \$4,254
- Budget Websites: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/funding/funding-our-schools>
- FSF Overview and details for 2023-2024 School Year
- School Year 2024-2025- School Budget at a Glance
- Future Changes & feedback

She shared that this school year 41.2 billion or about \$32,284 per student in our system. The New York City provides most of our funding. For the 2025/26 school year, the city will contribute 24 billion, or 59% of our total budget. So, about 59% becomes from New York City, and about 36% or 15 billion comes from New York State. New York State is our second largest source of funding. Federal funding is comprised of about 2 billion dollars or 5% of our funding for this school year. The Federal Government is our 3rd largest source of funding.

- **Parent:** (7:14 pm – 7:15 pm)

She asked if she can get a picture of the last 5 slides.

- **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (7:16 pm – 7:17 pm)

She said she will put it in the chat, the whole slide deck.

- **Dr Kalaris Ramirez:** (7:15 pm – 7:21 pm)

She said while the slides say 32,000 plus is what we spend per child, that money is not all going directly to schools, and different people increase that amount for different purposes. We do have the largest budget in terms of the whole city, this is also because the Department of Education also pays for facilities and for pension funds. She said we must continue to fight for funding for our schools. Currently the governor is also revising the formula 40% of the funding that comes to schools, comes from foundation aid, and that foundation aid is also a formula. That formula has not been revised in roughly 20 years. New York City ends up getting millions of dollars cut. The advocacy level is at the level of the city, particularly around early childhood. Mayor Adams is planning to cut early childhood education by 320 million dollars. But we are also losing money at the level of the State, and so the advocacy is also at the State level with our senators and assembly, and that some of these people that represent us.

4. Resolution on Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States: (7:22 pm – 7:45 pm)

Resolution read by CEC4 President Elizabeth Soto-Cardona.

Roll call for motion to vote for the Resolution on Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States- by Mario Medina seconded by Lacey Jordan.

Roll call and call to order to vote for the Resolution on Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States: Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Mario Medina (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Abstain),

Rosa Nagovich (Abstain), Johanna Dominguez (Abstain), Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Abstain), Gloria Flaherty (Abstain), Jasmin Benitez (Abstain), and Rosa G. Diaz (No).
Yes- 2 No- 1 Abstain- 6 Absent- 1 (Rafael Lima)

5. Resolution Opposing a Cell Phone Ban in New York City Public Schools (NYCPS):
(7:46 pm – 7:50 pm)

Resolution read by CEC4 Member Evelis Galarza-Serrano.

Roll call for motion to vote for the Resolution Opposing a Cell Phone Ban in New York City Public Schools (NYCPS)- by Johanna Dominguez seconded by Mario Medina.

Roll call and call to order to vote for Resolution Opposing a Cell Phone Ban in New York City Public Schools (NYCPS): Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Mario Medina (Abstain), Lacey Jordan (Abstain), Rosa Nagovich (No), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Yes), Gloria Flaherty (Abstain), Jasmin Benitez (No), and Rosa G. Diaz (Yes).

Yes- 4 No- 2 Abstain- 3 Absent- 1 (Rafael Lima)

6. Resolution Urging New York City Public Schools to Promote Inclusion of, and Correct Bias Against, English Language Learners in the Administration of the SHSAT and Admissions to Specialized High Schools: (7:51 pm – 7:56 pm)

Resolution read by CEC4 President Elizabeth Soto-Cardona.

Roll call for motion to vote for the Resolution Urging New York City Public Schools to Promote Inclusion of, and Correct Bias Against, English Language Learners in the Administration of the SHSAT and Admissions to Specialized High Schools- by Johanna Dominguez seconded by Evelis Galarza-Serrano.

Roll call and call to order to vote for the Resolution Urging New York City Public Schools to Promote Inclusion of, and Correct Bias Against, English Language Learners in the Administration of the SHSAT and Admissions to Specialized High Schools: Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Mario Medina (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Rosa Nagovich (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Yes), Gloria Flaherty (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes) and Rosa G. Diaz (Yes).

Resolution approved by 9 votes.

Absent- 1 (Rafael Lima)

○ **Dr Kalaris Ramirez:** (7:56 pm – 8:05 pm)

She expressed her thoughts regarding the 3 resolutions presented by the CEC4 in today's meeting.

She shared 2 campaigns that are being launched throughout the city. One is the People's Plan for budget. The People's Plan tries to put forth a budget that is conducive to the people of New York City.

The second campaign is being run by New Yorkers. They will be launching that campaign on February 26th and that is called the Spill the Tea Campaign. They will be hosting tea parties on sidewalks with constituents to talk about what it means to have racially just public schools, and that means a platform that is composed of asking for a different governance structure. They will be hearing from students, teachers, parents and families.

7. Report of District 4 Superintendent- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz: (8:05 pm – 8:24 pm)

She thanked everyone for joining the meeting and thanked Renaissance School of the Arts, PS 377, for donating the swags for Black history month for tonight's meeting. They sent pens, notepads and bracelets. She also thanked all the team members and community.

She acknowledged that black history is not just a month, it is American history. It is 365 year-round.

She talked about a book "All About Love", and shared a quote, "When we choose to love, we choose to move against fear, against alienation and separation, the choice to love is a choice to connect and to find ourselves and the other", by Bell Hooks.

She discussed:

- District 4 Community Norms
 - New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) Mission
 - District 4 mission
 - District priorities
 - Office of enrollment
 - Meeting the moment (NYCPS) Stands against Hate.
 - Supporting our Multilingual Families Project Open Arms (POA)
 - Key Reminders
 - What's been shared with our staff?
 - Summer Rising 2025 (Sites- PS 37, PS 96, PS 007, PS 72, PS 146, PS 497)
- **CEC4 Member:** (8:24 pm –8:24 pm)
She asked that when we apply online, it does not show buildings. It shows the schools. How many schools are open for summer rising.
- **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (8:25 pm – 8:25 pm)
She informed that last year there were 5 sites, but this year there are 7 sites open for Summer Rising in D4.
- **CEC4 Member:** (8:26 pm –8:26 pm)
Member asked that are there any problems across the district regarding the cell phones that the cell phones are interrupting the classes that the principals say they need help.
- **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (8:26 pm – 8:27 pm)
She replied that each school is different. As of today, any school leader has not reached out to her for help. However, she has not looked at the online occurrence reports, she can check and inform her. That is the system even for any emergency it goes into ORRS. It is the online occurrence reporting system. She said that last year Chancellor Banks and Governor Hochul wants to promote a cell phone ban as well. It is different in every school some schools use the yonder and some schools have a telephone.
- **CEC4 Member:** (8:27 pm –8:27 pm)
She said as they do not want the kids playing on the phone but there are kids that need the phone when it is an emergency.
- **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (8:28 pm – 8:32 pm)
She said she wants the school leadership teams engage in this conversation but what she has found is that when there is a system and structure where everybody knows how it is working. That is what works most effectively. Most of our schools have some kind of policy whether it is they can use the lock box that is collected, or some schools have a pouch, when you go into the

classroom you put it in sometimes it is locked. She said we encourage that every school to have a policy.

- **CEC4 Member:** (8:33 pm –8:33 pm)
She asked that one of the summer rising locations is PS 146 and they recently sent a proposal for renovation from Community Board 11, so will there be any interruption due to the construction noise.
- **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (8:34 pm – 8:35 pm)
She answered that the construction work is done after school hours.

8. Report of D4 CEC President – Elizabeth Soto-Cardona: (8:35 pm – 8:35 pm)

She said she does not have anything to share for now.

- **CEC4 2nd Vice President:** (8:36 pm –8:40 pm)
She talked about the Black History month, the rich heritage and the incredible contributions of African Americans to our society.
She shared her personal experience as she had very high blood pressure. She said high blood pressure or hypertension is a silent killer that disproportionately affects African Americans but can happen to anyone. It often shows no symptoms until it is too late, and it can lead to a stroke, heart disease, kidney failure, and other serious health problems. She advised getting blood pressure checked regularly by a healthcare professional and to have healthy food options in our daily diet.

9. Motion to adjourn the Calendar meeting by Gloria Flaherty seconded by Lacey Jordan
(8:41 pm)

Calendar meeting adjourned: 8:41 pm

Business Meeting

February 12th, 2025

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

Meeting Start Time: 8:47 pm

1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan 8:47 pm

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

Member Absent: Rafael Lima

Attendees: 25

2. Treasury Report by D4 CEC Treasurer- Johanna Dominguez: (8:48 pm – 8:49 pm)

Johanna talked about the D4 CEC expenditure report and spoke about the reimbursement process. She talked about how to spend the amount we have in line 2 to buy the swags. She asked the administrative assistant to explain how the budget will be modified.

- **CEC4 Administrative Assistant:** (8:50 pm –9:03 pm)
She explained the budget in detail.

CEC4 members reimbursement line 1 had \$17,400 remaining amount was \$10,125 - \$3,000= \$7,125 left, \$3000 moved to line 2, now remaining is \$7,125. CEC4 general supplies line 2, had \$2,300, the remaining amount was \$1,621.05, \$3,000 moved from line 1 and \$900 moved from line 3, so now the remaining amount is \$5,521.05, CEC4 Website line 3, had \$2,300, paid \$1,400 for the website the remaining amount was \$900, moved to Line 2, now remaining amount is \$0, and the P-Card, line 4, had \$2,539.97 remaining from \$3000, spent this month, \$129.82, for the meeting food, and now the remaining amount is \$2,539.97 in P-Card. This month's expenditure is \$3,429.82, now the total remaining amount in the budget is \$15,186.02 from \$25,000.

- **CEC4 Treasurer:** (9:04 pm – 9:07 pm)
She talked about the budget deadlines for spending the amount and what can we buy for swags for the community giveaways.
- **CEC4 Members:** (9:08 pm –9:08 pm)
The member said she does not want her reimbursement amount and wants it to be moved to line 2 in supplies general.
- **CEC4 Treasurer:** (9:09 pm – 9:12 pm)
She asked the member to send this in an email that she does not want to submit for her reimbursement and as she said she wants to donate that amount for supply general line 2 of the CEC4 budget.

3. CEC4 Budget Modification: (9:13 pm – 9:28 pm)

Members discussed the CEC4 budget and the CEC4 website and voted on the budget modification.

Roll call for motion to vote for the CEC4 Budget Modification- by Rosa Nagovich seconded by Evelis Galarza-Serrano.

Roll call and call to order to vote for the CEC4 Budget Modification: Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Mario Medina (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Rosa Nagovich (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Yes), Gloria Flaherty (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes), and Rosa G. Diaz (Yes).

CEC4 Budget Modification approved by 9 votes.

Absent- 1 (Rafael Lima)

4. D4 CEC- Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes, January 8th, 2025: (9:29 pm – 9:30 pm)

Roll call for motion to vote to approve D4 CEC- Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes, from January 8th, 2025, by Gloria Flaherty seconded Rosa Nagovich

Roll call and call to order to vote to approve D4 CEC- Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes, from January 8th, 2025: Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Mario Medina (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Rosa Nagovich (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Yes), Gloria Flaherty (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes), and Rosa G. Diaz (Yes).

Minutes approved by 9 votes

Absent- 1 (Rafael Lima)

- **Motion to adjourn the business meeting by Gloria Flaherty seconded by Johanna Dominguez.** (9:30 pm)

5. Business meeting adjourned: 9:30 pm

**Prepared & submitted by
Farah Khan
Administrative Assistant**

Next D4 CEC Calendar and Business Annual Meeting will be on March 12th, 2025.