



**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, June 11th, 2025

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:01 pm

**Introduction of Spanish interpreters:** 6:02 pm

**Attendees:** 22

**Calendar Meeting**

**June 11th, 2025**

**Minutes**

- **D4 CEC President welcomed everyone for joining the meeting. She read the meeting ground rules.**  
(6:01 pm - 6:04 pm)

**1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan:** (6:05 pm – 6:06 pm)

**Members Present:** Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Mario Medina, Lacey Jordan (Zoom), Rosa Nagovich, and Gloria Flaherty.

**Member Absent:** Johanna Dominguez (Excused), Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Excused), Jasmin Benitez (Unexcused), Rafael Lima (Excused), and Rosa G. Diaz (Unexcused)

**2. Contracts for Excellence (C4E) funding from the State- by Lisa Rieter- Deputy Superintendent, District 4 Superintendent Office:** (6:07 pm – 6:20 pm)

She informed that District 4 Community Superintendent Dr. Kristy De La Cruz has received an award today.

She discussed the C4E.

- Contracts for Excellence (C4E) Background.
- Contract for Excellence (C4E) for FY 2026
- Proposed Allocation of Funds District\_04
- Public Comment for Contracts for Excellence
- Class Size Reduction Plan
- Summary of Draft Class Size Reduction Plan
- Public Comment for Class Size Reduction Plan

She said that in terms of our superintendent updates, we wanted to share the contract for excellence. And we are wrapping up the 24/25 school year. We are still in the process of ensuring. We have another successful summer rising and if anyone has any questions about summer rising, they can contact your parent coordinator,

your principal, or any of us. We are always willing and able to help as much as possible, and we again are just thrilled that as the year wraps up, we have celebrations and graduations.

She wished a very happy summer and thanked for a great school year.

**3. Scholar Readiness- Avery Mak: (6:20 pm – 6:35 pm)**

Introduction to Scholars Readiness

- Our Story: They Started in PS 171
- Our Foundation
- Our Mission
- High School Preparedness Program Results
- Special Programs: Resume Review
- Special Programs: Planner Workshop
- Special Programs: Student Opportunities
- Special Programs: Internship Partnership

**3. D4 CEC President informed that as we do not have quorum today our resolutions will be tabled. 6:35 pm**

**4. Superintendent Evaluation Community Feedback for FY 2023 to 2024: (6:36 pm – 6:55 pm)**

D4 CEC President said that this is an opportunity for us to evaluate our superintendent.

Members discussed and filled the evaluation form.

**5. NYC African Burial Ground- William Allan: (6:55 pm – 7:11 pm)**

He thanked the council members and the staff for helping the community.

He talked about NYC African burial ground city wide convening. The Harlem African burial ground was discovered beneath the former MTA regional bus depot on 126<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in 2015. The burial ground land was sold in the mid-1800s. Those buried in the European cemetery were relocated to new plots while those at the Harlem African burial ground were left behind, increasing urbanization caused severe displacement and desecration to the burial ground. The bus depot that stands on the site today was built in 1947.

The Harlem African burial ground task force (now called the Harlem African burial ground Initiative) was founded in 2009 to advocate for the creation of a memorial that would restore honor, dignity, and respect to those buried at the site.

He invited all to the HABG Juneteenth Citywide Convening, taking place on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. This citywide panel brings together leaders from across the five boroughs to discuss the cultural and historical significance of African burial grounds and the critical role of community partnerships in preservation efforts.

**6. Report of D4 CEC President – Elizabeth Soto-Cardona: (7:12 pm – 7:13 pm)**

She thanked the community and the council for the wonderful academic year. She said that the term ends today, and we should be hearing back if we were chosen to serve in the CEC4 for the next term.

She thanked all the members of the Council that have worked hard these last 2 years to move the community forward, for all the support, standing in your commitment to what we do. It has been a pleasure. Keep on fighting for our community.

**7. Calendar meeting adjourned: 7:13 pm**

## Business Meeting

June 11th, 2025

### Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, June 11th, 2025

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:13 pm

**1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan:** (7:13 pm)

**Members Present:** Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Mario Medina, Lacey Jordan (Zoom), Rosa Nagovich, and Gloria Flaherty.

**Member Absent:** Johanna Dominguez (Excused), Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Excused), Jasmin Benitez (Unexcused), Rafael Lima (Excused), and Rosa G. Diaz (Unexcused)

**2. D4 CEC President:** (7:14 pm)

She informed that as we do not have quorum, so we will not be conducting any business today. She said that we can order swags for the remaining amount from the P-Card as discussed with the members earlier.

**3. Business meeting adjourned:** 7:14 pm

Prepared & submitted by:  
Farah Khan  
Administrative Assistant

*Next D4 CEC Calendar and Business Annual Meeting will be on July 09th, 2025*