



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, November 13th, 2024

Meeting Start Time: 6:02 pm

Introduction of Spanish interpreters: 6:03 pm

Attendees: 98

Calendar Meeting

November 13th, 2024

Minutes

- **D4 CEC President welcomed everyone for joining the meeting and introduced the doctors for the presentation on Asthma. 6:05 pm**

1. The Management of Pediatric Asthma and What to do in an Emergency
Speakers– Kalliope Tsirilakis, M.D and Zenna Solomon, M.D. (6:06 pm – 6:19 pm)

- **Dr. Kalliope Tsirilakis:** She spoke about asthma symptoms and how we can best control asthma in our communities. She talked about, what is asthma, triggers, asthma warning signs, rescue medicine, asthma emergency, asthma control, controller medicines, respiratory treatments, asthma action plan, spacers, why use a Spacer with an Inhaler, NYC school medication administration form, few tips to try to help keep your children healthy, and to keep yourselves healthy, especially if you have asthma.

She informed that if you feel like your child, needs an asthma evaluation, you can feel free to contact their office in Manhattan or in Queens.

- **Ashar: (6:19 pm – 6:20 pm)**
Ashar said that he thought the spacers were only for young kids.
- **Dr. Kalliope Tsirilakis: (6:20 pm – 6:21 pm)**
She replied that they recommend that everyone use spacers, not just kids.

2. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan- (6:22 pm – 6:23 pm)

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

Member Absent: Rosa Nagovich (Excused).

3. NYC Public School Name Modification- 04M372 Esperanza Preparatory Academy- Principal Luisa Morales. (6:24 pm – 6:27 pm)

Principal Luisa Morales and two students Genesis Gay and Leslie Galan explained the purpose for the name modification, with a little background and a little bit of history of Esperanza.

Roll call for motion to vote for NYC Public School name modification- 04M372 Esperanza Preparatory Academy to 04M372 Esperanza Preparatory Magnet School by Mario Medina seconded by Johanna Dominguez.

Roll call and call to order to vote for NYC Public School name modification- 04M372 Esperanza Preparatory Academy to 04M372 Esperanza Preparatory Magnet School: Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Mario Medina (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Yes), Gloria Flaherty (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes), Rafael Lima (Yes), and Rosa G. Diaz (Yes- Zoom).

04M372 Esperanza Preparatory Magnet NYC Public School name modification approved by 9 votes.

4. Report of District 4 Superintendent- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz: (6:30 pm – 6:51 pm)

She thanked and appreciated everyone for joining the meeting. She said that one of the hardest norms for her, is accepting and expecting non-closure. One of the norms can resonate with your ones that connect with her is sometimes someone else's truth can cause us discomfort but being open to letting everyone speak their truth. She said she want to acknowledge that because we all our experiences, all our perceptions, are real, so allowing people to be able to speak their truth.

She discussed:

- District 4 Community Norms
 - New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) Mission
 - District 4 mission
 - District priorities
 - Attendance updates(s): 89.2% vs 91.3% (Citywide)
 - Office of enrollment
 - Meeting the moment (NYCPS) Stands against hate
 - Upcoming District Four Event
- Class size legislature update, D4 preparing title 1 proposal (Virtual), Thursday, November 14th, 2024 @ 10 am, D4 presidents Council (Virtual): Friday, November 15th, 2024 @ 12 pm, D4 Turkey giveaway: Monday, November 18th, 2024 @ 12 pm, D4 DLT (Virtual): Thursday, December 5th, 2024 @ 3:30 pm, D4 SLT Refresher (Virtual): Thursday, December 12th, 2024 @ 4:30 pm, D4 Winter Wonderland: Monday, December 16th, 2024 at 4M009 @ 4 :00 pm.

5. Report of D4 CEC President – Elizabeth Soto-Cardona: (6:52 pm – 6:54 pm)

She thanked the community and the council. She informed that CEC4 will be reporting our school improvement report in the coming months, so we would like to schedule time to visit the schools. If there is any APs, Principals, Parent Coordinators, CEC4 will be reaching out, and hopefully we can coordinate a time to visit your school so that you can share with us what you would like us to prioritize in our report in the coming months in January.

6. Introduction of the new CEC4 member: (6:54 pm – 6:58 pm)

CEC4 President introduced new candidate for CEC4, Valerie Varela-Lopez. Valerie Varela-Lopez will be voted in the next meeting.

7. Resolution 2024-2025-1 End Discriminatory Eligibility Policy for Students with Disabilities in Accessing Student OMNY Cards for Transportation. (6:59 pm – 7:08 pm)

Resolution read by CEC4 President Elizabeth Soto-Cardona.

Roll call for motion to vote for the Resolution 2024-2025-1 End Discriminatory Eligibility Policy for Students with Disabilities in Accessing Student OMNY Cards for Transportation - by Jasmin Benitez seconded by Evelis Galarza-Serrano.

Roll call and call to order to vote for the Resolution 2024-2025-1 End Discriminatory Eligibility Policy for Students with Disabilities in Accessing Student OMNY Cards for Transportation: Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Mario Medina (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Yes), Gloria Flaherty (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes), Rafael Lima (Yes), and Rosa G. Diaz (Yes- Zoom).

Resolution approved by 9 votes.

8. Resolution Opposing Mayoral Control of New York City Public Schools and Supporting Community Control of Schools. (7:09 pm – 7:13 pm)

Resolution read by CEC4 Member Evelis Galarza-Serrano.

Roll call for motion to vote for the Resolution Opposing Mayoral Control of New York City Public Schools and Supporting Community Control of Schools by Lacey Jordan seconded by Gloria Flaherty.

Roll call and call to order to vote for the Resolution Opposing Mayoral Control of New York City Public Schools and Supporting Community Control of Schools: Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Mario Medina (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Yes), Gloria Flaherty (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes), Rafael Lima (Yes), and Rosa G. Diaz (Yes- Zoom).

Resolution approved by 9 votes.

9. Resolution Providing Dedicated Bussing Transportation for 3K and Pre-K Students in NYC Public Schools for Educational Field Trips During the School Year. (7:14 pm – 7:19 pm)

Resolution read by CEC4 1st Vice President Mario Medina.

Roll call for motion to vote for the Resolution Providing Dedicated Bussing Transportation for 3K and Pre-K Students in NYC Public Schools for Educational Field Trips During the School Year by Evelis Galarza-Serrano seconded by Gloria Flaherty.

Roll call and call to order to vote for the Resolution Providing Dedicated Bussing Transportation for 3K and Pre-K Students in NYC Public Schools for Educational Field Trips During the School Year : Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Mario Medina (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Yes), Gloria Flaherty (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes), Rafael Lima (Yes), and Rosa G. Diaz (Yes- Zoom).

Resolution approved by 9 votes.

10. Public Comment:

- **Parent:** (7:20 pm – 7:20 pm)
She spoke about the issue for the air conditioners, gym and the elevators and the ramps in the schools.
- **Michael Siciliano:** (7:20pm – 7:21 pm)
He said that they are working on the concerns.
- **Parent:** (7:231pm – 7:22 pm)
She inquired who is the liaison for PS007.
- **CEC4 President:** (7:22 pm – 7:23 pm)
She replied that the liaison for that school has just resigned today for some personal reasons and CEC4 president can be reached out for any concerns until the new member is assigned for that school.
- **Parent:** (7:23 pm – 7:24 pm)
She asked about the school bus issues.
- **Dr. Kristy:** (7:23 pm – 7:27 pm)
She informed that right now we do have a busing and bus driver shortage and she is glad to hear that the CEC4 is advocating the issues and she wants to encourage everyone to keep lifting their voices. She asked the parent to email her the complaint ticket numbers, that it will help her be able to lift and escalate the concerns.
- **Parent:** (7:28 pm – 7:32 pm)
She said they have also been having a busing nightmare since the beginning of the school year.
- **Dr. Kristy:** (7:33 pm – 7:35 pm)
She replied that it is 2 different schools, but they now have 2 different times, and she can have a conversation later because she does not want to disclose personal information of the students in public.

- **CEC4 Treasurer:** (7:36 pm – 7:37 pm)
She said even though the parents, they are doing their best to take their kids with their jobs and bring them to school.
- **CEC4 2nd Vice President:** (7:38 pm – 7:38 pm)
She asked that does the principal have an answer on how we can rectify this to the parents. Can she come into the school? How can we do to help with this issue?
- **Principal Lisa Velasquez:** (7:38 pm – 7:39 pm)
She replied that she and the parent are in constant communication and we have been trying our best to rectify the situation, they meet and are on the phone all the time about these issues.
- **Dr. Kristy:** (7:39 pm – 7:43 pm)
She said transportation is an issue in this city, she apologizes for it. She said the CEC4 members are continuing to advocate for the needs of the community as much as possible as we have seen in the resolutions, they are helping the community, and we will lift and escalate the concerns.
- **CEC4 Member:** (7:44 pm – 7:45 pm)
He said we must work together that is the priority. It is the children we are here for.
- **Dr. Kristy:** (7:46 pm – 7:48 pm)
She informed that she has already escalated this matter to Christina Foti, who is the Deputy Chancellor for Special Ed. and to the Chancellor's office. So, everyone is aware of this case, tonight she will escalate it again. So, when can we have a meeting with the parent and which times are better, then we can have it, and we can include the principal, whoever the parent wants to be there, so that they feel supported.
- **Dr. Kaliris Ramirez:** (7:49 pm – 7:55 pm)
She introduced herself and spoke about that busing has been an issue in New York for New York City Public School students for a long time. The public school buses do not just support public school students, but also charter school students as well as private school students but the busing system in New York City has over 10,000 routes across the city for students, which means that there are a lot of students that end up with not the best routes and or not the opportunity to get busing. She said she wants to uplift that these decisions are made at the level of the Department of Education at Tweed.

The Panel for Educational Policy is the one that revises the contracts and approves contracts with busing vendors, Marielle is here in the meeting, the current Manhattan Borough President, appointee, and these conversations that are currently being had at the level of the Panel for Educational Policy. There are also hearings through the New York City Council that addresses busing for the city, because we do understand that it is a significant need for our students.

She shared the email for Glenn Risbroke, who is in the Department of Pupil Transportation to address any sort of busing issues. She added that there are not enough drivers for the buses, and that is also an issue. In addition to the fact that these contracts with these different providers are being renewed this year. And so there is going to be a lot of information sessions in different spaces where you can uplift the need for busing for all of our students.

She shared that there is an advocacy group called PIST that basically focuses on transportation issues was founded about 3 years ago.

- **Community Board 11: Chair of the Youth and Education Committee- Ashar Rodriguez:**
(7:56 pm – 7:57 pm)
Ashar also spoke about the school bus issues. And informed about their meeting agenda item that in the past they have collaborated with Environmental Space and Arts Committee on an Earth Day event, this year they will have some more concrete ideas by December, January. An event is either in May or during the summer.

Ashar asked for the suggestions that community would like to see in the community and events.

Motion to adjourn the Calendar meeting by Evelis Galarza-Serrano seconded by Johanna Dominguez (7:57 pm)

11. Calendar meeting adjourned: 7:57 pm

Business Meeting

November 13th, 2024

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, November 13th, 2024

Meeting Start Time: 8:06 pm

1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan 8:06 pm

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

Member Absent: Rosa Nagovich (Excused)

Attendance done: 8:07 pm

Attendees: 55

2. Treasury Report by D4 CEC Treasurer- Johanna Dominguez: (8:08 pm – 8:21 pm)

Johanna read the D4 CEC expenditure report.

CEC4 members line 1 had \$17,400 for members reimbursement now remaining amount is \$13,725, CEC4 general supplies line 2, had \$2,300, we did not spend any amount so remaining amount is the same as \$2,300, CEC4 Website line 3, had \$2,300, the remaining amount is the same \$2,300, and from the P-Card, line 4, we had \$3,000, we spent this month, \$103.99, for the meeting food, the remaining amount is \$2,896.01 in P-Card.

This month we spent \$3,778.99, now the total remaining amount in the budget is \$21,221.01 from \$25,000.

CEC4 Members agreed on getting from budget educational games and trophies.

3. D4 CEC- Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes, from July 10th, August 14th, September 11th, and October 13th, 2024, were approved by the D4 CEC members. (8:22 pm)

Roll call for motion to vote to approve D4 CEC- Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes, from July 10th, August 14th, September 11th, and October 13th, 2024, by Lacey Jordan seconded Jasmin Benitez

Roll call and call to order to vote to approve D4 CEC- Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes, from July 10th, August 14th, September 11th, and October 13th, 2024: Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Mario Medina (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Yes), Gloria Flaherty (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes), and Rafael Lima (Yes).

Rosa G. Diaz (Abstained- Zoom)

Minutes approved by 8 votes.

4. D4 CEC Meeting Locations Approved. (8:23 pm)

The CEC4 members discussed to visit the school earlier with the principal, get the approval and permission before the meeting. Members need to arrive little earlier than the meeting so that they could possibly get a tour and see what the school's needs are.

Motion to adjourn the business meeting by Gloria Flaherty seconded by Evelis Galarza-Serrano (8:32 pm)

5. Business meeting adjourned: 8:32 pm

Prepared & submitted by:

Farah Khan

Administrative Assistant

Next D4 CEC Calendar and Business Annual Meeting will be on December 11th, 2024.