



**Community Education Council for District 4**  
240 E 109 Street, Room 104, New York, NY 10029



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|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>President</b><br>Elizabeth Soto-Cardona – MBPA | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b><br>Mario Medina | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b><br>Lacey Jordan | <b>Recording Secretary</b><br>Vacant | <b>Treasurer</b><br>Vacant |
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**Council Members:**  
Evelis Galarza-Serrano  
Gloria Flaherty  
Jasmin Benitez  
Johanna Dominguez  
Niasia Nathaniel  
Rafael Lima – District 75 Rep  
Rosa G. Diaz – IEP  
Rosa Nagovich – MBPA

**District 4 Superintendent**  
Dr. Kristy De La Cruz

**High School Student Representatives**  
Vacant  
Vacant

## Calendar Meeting

### September 11th, 2024, Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, September 11th, 2024

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:06 pm

**Introduction of Spanish interpreters:** 6:07 pm

1. **Election of Council Officers- President Elizabeth Soto-Cardona:** 6:07 pm

She informed everyone that the elections cannot take place since we do not have a quorum. The elections of the council officers will be tabled for the next meeting.

2. **Report of District 4 Superintendent- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (6:08 pm – 6:41 pm)

- o She thanked the Tito Puente Educational Complex, Principals, parents, children, and the audience for joining the meeting.
- o She started with a moment to take a breath of remembering 9/11 Memorial. She shared that she had the opportunity to go to the 9/11 Memorial with all the superintendents of the city,

**She discussed:**

- o District 4 Community Norms
- o New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) Mission
- o District 4 mission
- o District Priorities
- o Success
- o Opportunities
- o Attendance Updates(s): 84.3% vs 87.6% (Citywide)

- NYC Read: Literacy is liberation!
- Class Size Legislation Updates: September 27th.
- Upcoming District Four Events
- October 10th a training for families that are interested in becoming a parent volunteer in their child's school.
- She introduced Jennifer Tagano as an Interim Acting Principal for The School of Authors and Tammy Rotto as an Interim Acting Principal at Lexington Academy and 3 new interim acting assistant principals. Dr. Nadine Sinclair at PS 108, Joseph Espinal at Lexington at James Weldon, Johnson at PS 57 and David Lithesba, who became an Assistant Principal at PS 96.
- Community Boutique is for all at PS 007 building.
- The swimming pool is opening this September, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony.
- Welcome back to School Festival is on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Free Jet Blue flights for raffle, 8 round trip tickets and more gifts.
- Free books and literacy hubs in some of our Bodegas or Delis. D4 is piloting that at 119<sup>th</sup> and Lexington, they have lots of books that they want to get in the hands of the community.

- **CEC4 Second Vice President-** (6:41 pm – 6:43 pm)

She informed everyone that at PS 146, they have lots of things for the community. It is not an official boutique, but they have a little pantry and have bins upon bins of clothes and supplies for anyone in need.

- 3. **Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan:** 6:43 pm

**Members Present:** Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Mario Medina, Lacey Jordan, Rafael Lima, Johanna Dominguez, Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Zoom), Gloria Flaherty, Niasia Nathaniel (Zoom).

**Member Absent:** Jasmin Benitez (Unexcused), Rosa G. Diaz (Excused) and Rosa Nagovich (Excused).

**Attendees:** 24

- 4. **D4 CEC President – Elizabeth Soto-Cardona:** (6:44 pm – 6:47 pm)

- She said the CEC4 elections of the council officers will be tabled for the next meeting. But we will continue with our calendar meeting to provide information to everyone.
- She said that we are continuing to finalize our liaison for schools, and we hope to be reaching out to principals soon to set up the visits, so we can start advocating for the needs of our schools this school year.
- She said that the CEC4 members will also be participating in the back-to-school event on September 21st.
- She introduced the CEC4's new council member Rosa Nagovich and she said we are still looking for one more member. She asked if anyone is interested in joining the CEC4, please reach out to us.
- She informed that in our next meeting on October 9th, we are planning to have the State of the District, she asked everyone to join us for that meeting.

- **Community Board 11- Vice Chair for Youth Education-Ashar Rodriguez:**  
(6:47 pm – 6:48 pm)

Asher talked about 3 events; the 1st event is Children's Aid on Saturday. Saturday program is for kids who are deaf and hard of hearing, also for CODAS, which are children that are deaf adults. It goes from 5 to about 16, and they are looking for families to sign up, they can contact either Asher or David Giordano if there are any questions.

Maggie's Magic Garden between 100th and 101st St and Lexington Ave, is having a 31st anniversary celebration, and they are always open to families. They are looking for families to bring their kids.

And he informed that he is a member of the youth pride, which goes from 13 years old to 22 years old, and they are looking for new members. Their 1st rehearsal is next Saturday in downtown the LGBT Center. They will provide dinner and Metro Card.

- **Lauren:** (6:49 pm)

She asked that is there any meeting or training regarding how to best serve your school as a member of the SLT?

- **Dr. Kristy:** (6:50 pm)

She replied to Ms. Lauren that we had training this summer and there is also a Citywide Principals Conference on September 28th There will be another training on September 28th, and she can email the flyers and the information.

- **Education Coordinator at the Manhattan District Attorney Office: Tyari-** (6:51 pm – 6:54 pm)

She introduced herself as an education coordinator at the Manhattan district attorney's office, she informed that they work to increase costs between the law enforcement, provide awareness to public safety concerns through partnerships to prevent crime. In summer they had a new class of 77 Rookie, assistant district attorneys who joined the office, they are now being trained and going through rigorous programming. They also had 30 high school interns that came from all over the city, and they would love to get more interns from East Harlem. They have 27 college interns and about 12 law fellows and 4-gun violence prevention fellows. Last summer their office awarded 20,000 community-based organizations stipends to pay young New Yorkers enhance and beautify public spaces that are known for gun violence. She said it is important as well for the CBOs, they want to give that money to even more organizations. They also have a satellite office in Harlem.

- **CEC4 Council Member:** (6:55 pm – 6:57 pm)

She talked about every day that we do things with our family and our school, and we forget how much power we have with our families. And how we can encourage each other.

- **Dr. Kristy:** (6:57 pm – 7:13 pm)

She read a book named “Noticing”. The author of this book is Kobe Yamada, she has a lot of powerful books. The story was about noticing the little things, the grand big things, the imaginary and sometimes hidden things. It is about embracing what is possible. When we look with our imagination, we expand our vision, and when we take time to truly observe the beauty and the magic around us. Each day we begin to understand the promise and the potential that is available to us all this is a story to encourage you to pay attention, to make new discoveries and to explore the unknown. It is also an invitation to look within your own hopes and dreams and perhaps to discover even more.

- **CEC4 Second Vice President-** (7:14 pm)

She said that something that is easy as saying, hey, what a great idea that absolutely, and that could really make someone's day just reassuring them that what they thought about and what they brought to the table was important. Sometimes it is as easy as that.

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

She said that everyone here is special and extraordinary. And that she is thrilled for the New Year. She has hope that she can be the painter like an internal optimist, and she is always trying to take a challenge and turn it into an opportunity.

**Motion to adjourn the Calendar meeting by Lacey Jordan seconded by Mario Medina**  
(7:16 pm)

5. **Calendar meeting adjourned:** 7:10 pm

**Business Meeting**  
**September 11th, 2024**

**Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, September 11th, 2024

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:28 pm

**1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan:** 7:28 pm

**Members Present:** Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Mario Medina, Rafael Lima, Johanna Dominguez, Evelis Galarza-Serrano (Zoom), and Niasia Nathaniel (Zoom).

**Member Absent:** Gloria Flaherty (Unexcused), Jasmin Benitez (Unexcused), Lacey Jordan (Unexcused), Rosa G. Diaz (Excused) and Rosa Nagovich (Excused).

**Attendees:** 20

**2. CEC4 President-** (7:29 pm – 7:33 pm)

She thanked everyone for joining and said that we do not have quorum so we cannot go over our old business, the July and August meeting minutes, the budget and meeting locations will also table till next month.

She said that CEC4 is planning on having a website, that is a line item that we have to keep in the budget that is going to be \$2,300 for the CEC4 Website in addition, it is tabled next month.

She informed that she and other council members will be participating at the district 4 Welcome Back to School event on 21st September 2024.

She discussed with other members about the school's distribution for liaisons and informed that we need to include the new CEC4 council member as well so that we can reach out to the principals.

She said in next month's meeting Dr. Kristy De La Cruz will be presenting the State of the District.

- **CEC4 Council Members:** (7:33 - 7:37 pm)

- Council members revisited the liaison list to accommodate new member.

- **CEC4 Council Member-** (7:37 pm – 7:39 pm)

- She said she met a DOE vendor that gives financial training and she has her emails so we can invite her in our meeting, it will be good for our title 1 schools. The parents know that they can start saving for college as it is expensive, and it is hard to get the money on the scholarships.

**Motion to adjourn the business meeting by Mario Medina seconded by Johanna Dominguez (7:40 pm)**

**1. Business meeting adjourned:** 7:40 pm

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

*Next D4 CEC Calendar and Business Annual Meeting will be on October 9th, 2024.*