

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 28
Calendar/Business Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2024

ATTENDANCE

Member	Position	Attendance
Vijah Ramjattan	President	Present
Lu Zhao	1st Vice President	Present
Nurun Swapna	2nd Vice President	Remote Present
Nathifa Lewis	Recording Secretary	Present
Yutao Cheng	Treasurer	Present
Jay Lin	Member	Remote Present
Julie Suh	Member	Present
G.K Kalyanaram	Member	Present
Quentin Mezetin	Member	Present
Adriana Alicea	Member	Remote Present
Simone Dornbach	Member	Present
Tanya Wendt	Member	Present

NON-MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Dr. Eric Blake	Superintendent	Remote Present
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CALENDAR MEETING Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Ramjattan at 6:42pm
Roll call by 1st Vice President Lu Zhao and Quorum was met.

- President Ramjattan opened the meeting and gave greetings thanked all stakeholders and community leaders for their advocacy and work in the community.
- Deputy Superintendent Dr. Hall presented District 28 Superintendent report on behalf of Superintendent Dr. Blake
- Class Size Working Group Presentation by Member Johanna Bjorken & Co-Chair Johanna Garcia
- The Marathon School - 811Q, District 75 Presentation about D75 by Principal Nichole Avila
- Admission Results where to go from here by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis
- President Ramjattan presented Resolution Condemning Extremist Organizations and Affirming the Commitment to Inclusivity within District 28 and in the NYC Department of Education and asked the Council Members to comment if they choose to in regards to each resolution before they vote
- 1st Vice President Lu Zhao stated he is for the resolution but as said before, he is against labeling an organization. He also touched upon how to create an inclusive environment for all
- 2nd Vice President Nurun Swapna voted yes and voiced that she voted this way to create an inclusive environment for all children as students should be allowed to be the authentic version of themselves so that they can find their own unique identity within themselves.

- Treasurer Yutao Cheng stated he is for the resolution and agrees with his fellow Council Member, Nurun Swapna. He stated that we should set an example for our children and support diversity within our community.
- Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis voiced that she is for this revised resolution since she's against labeling organization
- Member Julie Suh voted yes and stated she's in agreement with her fellow Council Members as she's against hate in all form and children should be accepted for, they are
- Member G.K Kalyanaram voted yes for the resolution
- Member Simone Dornbach voiced that she's not happy with this water down version of the resolution and gave Council member Adriana Alicea credit for helping with the first version for resolution. She voted yes for the resolution.
- Member Quentin Mezetin voiced that he agrees with his fellow Council Members voted yes for the resolution
- Member Tanya Wendt voted yes for the resolution
- Member Jay Lin voted yes for the resolution and stated that he is appreciative for the team that put the second version of the resolution as he was against the first version
- Member Adriana Alicea voiced that this version of the resolution doesn't go far enough but it is better than nothing. She voted yes for the resolution
- President Ramjattan voted yes for the resolution
- Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis
12 in favor; **0** opposed; **0** absent; **0** abstained – Resolution Adopted
- 1st Vice President Lu Zhao presents Resolution on Improving the Class Size Reduction Law
- President Ramjattan asked the public for their feedback regarding the Resolution on Improving the Class Size Reduction Law
- UFT Queens Rep gave his feedback asked the Council Members to take more time to craft a resolution that is specific to District 28 as this resolution does not take many things in account that would be beneficial to D28
- Community member, class size working group member and activist stated that this resolution has a few factual errors. She addressed each accordingly
- Community member and activist voiced that this resolution is misguided as the Members and parents' job is to hold the DOE accountable
- Community member and disability activist voiced that she is perplexed at the time of this resolution as enrollment in D28 is down
- Community CEC member and activist from D20 stated that they passed a resolution similar to this resolution and he asked that the council members to vote yes for this resolution as the law needs to be amended
- Community CEC member and activist stated we should be speaking to families and schools in D28 and not outsider pertaining to this law
- Community CEC member and activist from D26 voiced that the class size law will not work in D28 and he pointed why it wouldn't in his opinion
- Community member voiced that the members should vote yes for the resolution as this law will not work as it could potentially cut a lot of school programs
- Community member voiced this law is here to stay and everyone should come together and find a way to make it work as the law is being implemented and not going anywhere

- President Ramjattan asked the Council Members to make a comment if they choose to in regards to this resolution before they vote
- 1st Vice President Lu Zhao voted yes for this resolution
- 2nd Vice President Nurun Swapna voted yes for this resolution
- Treasurer Yutao Cheng voted yes for this resolution
- Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis voted yes for this resolution
- Member Julie Suh voted yes for this resolution
- Member Jay Lin voted yes for the resolution
- Member Quentin Mezetin voted no for the resolution
- Member Simone Dornbach voted no for the resolution
- Member Adriana Alicea voted no for this resolution
- Member G.K Kalyanaram voted yes for the resolution
- Member Tanya Wendt voted no for the resolution
- President Ramjattan voted yes for the resolution
- Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis
8 in favor; **4** opposed; **0** absent; **0** abstained – Resolution Adopted
- Office of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr – Director of Education Katherine Zapata introduced herself and gave a brief update

Member Reports

- Council Member gave his feedback about his monthly meeting at LaGuardia High School and how it could benefit the PC hiring process.
- Council Member greeted everyone and wished everyone a happy holiday. She gave feedback on her recent school visit. She also voiced some teachers can grow with professional development sessions and we need good quality teachers for our children
- Council Member voiced concerns about mid-term elections while students are in school which causes a security concerns. She also gave feedback on her recent school visit
- Council Member announced that she and her fellow Co-chair will be having an equity committee meeting on April 17
- Council Member spoke his about his recent SLT meeting.
- Council Member gave feedback on her recent school visits, SLT meetings with fellow members. She shared the proposed bus redesigned plan. She also voiced that she wasn't happy with the last CEC meeting and wants her fellow council members to be more mindful and to be more respectful to one another. She also stressed that they should not be shaming each other. She wants everyone to work their communication skills and proposed a mission statement.
- Council Member gave feedback on her recently attended SLT meeting, recent school visits with her fellow members. She also shared the NY survey and gave feedback on that. She also gave an update on STEM programs. She also shared a proposal from students who are working on a childhood pedestrian safety education plan

Public Comments

- Community Activist from CB12 gave greetings and voiced that the feedback surrounding the class size law was only regarding the schools in the northern side of the district and not southern side. She also said she heard many people commenting from outside the district but haven't heard from any of the schools and Principals and especially in the southern side.
- Office of Assembly Woman Hyman gave greetings and provided a brief update
- Community member and activist voiced concerns around summer rising and the implementation of it
- UFT Queens Rep gave greetings and provided more factual updates and answers to previous questions regarding the reducing class size. He stated that they are schools in D28 including in the southern side which were already reduced. He voiced that the CEC needs to the hard data from the Principals in D28.
- CEC Activist and Member mentioned that everyone wants a small class for their children but it's the way the law is written that is concerning. She also said for the CEC to speak to the principals directly regarding this topic.
- Community Activist and a Rep from PS139 voiced that overcrowding schools would not occur if the same academics and enrichments were available. Teachers are being stretched teaching ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Arts. School Leadership Teams (SLT) are not equitable across the schools regardless of Chancellor's Regulations. Her ask is for More micro accountability of the school budget will allow our children to see the fruits of the funding available without taxpayer dollars being wasted. Not every school administrator is as savvy in ensuring dollars are maximized for our children. She said they need more accountability and visibility.
- Community Activist and Member expressed that the process to get community feedback on resolution is not working as it's very confusing and the Members should make it clearer. He also mentioned again that CEC28 Members should be reporting on of their respective schools at each meeting as few members are not reporting their respective schools. He also wants the members to prioritize the speakers list as they are people from outside the district getting more time than D28 parents.
- CEC Activist and Member mentioned that the new class size implementation will cost tens of billions of dollars and will have disastrous ramification. It will not only affect D28 but the surrounding cities. He voiced for it to work; we will need some meaningful amendments.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:08pm

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Member	Position	Attendance
Vijah Ramjattan	President	Present
Lu Zhao	1st Vice President	Present
Nurun Swapna	2nd Vice President	Remote Present
Nathifa Lewis	Recording Secretary	Present
Yutao Cheng	Treasurer	Present
Jay Lin	Member	Remote Present
Julie Suh	Member	Present
G.K Kalyanaram	Member	Present
Quentin Mezetin	Member	Present
Adriana Alicea	Member	Remote Present
Simone Dornbach	Member	Present
Tanya Wendt	Member	Present

Meeting was called to order by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis at 10:09pm
Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis

Motion was made by President Ramjattan to adopt March's Meeting Minutes
Seconded by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis

1st Vice President Lu Zhao went over Member Jay Lin March in-person absence form
1st Vice President Lu Zhao made a motion to approve Member Jay Lin excused absent
for March Calendar and Business Meeting
Seconded by President Ramjattan

12 in favor; **0** opposed; 0 absent – Motion passed

1st Vice President Lu Zhao went over 2nd Vice President Nurun Swapna March in-person absence form
1st Vice President Lu Zhao made a motion to approve 2nd Vice President Nurun Swapna virtual attendance for March Calendar and Business Meeting
Seconded by President Ramjattan

12 in favor; **0** opposed; 0 absent – Motion passed

Council Members and A.A discussed CEC28 Principal Legislative Breakfast preparations amongst themselves. President Ramjattan announced what was already completed by the A.A, himself and district office. He assigned roles to each member to assist with the event.

Business Meeting Adjourned at [10:21pm]

Respectfully Adopted by

Nathifa Lewis
Recording Secretary