

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

ATTENDANCE

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

NON-MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Dr. Eric Blake	Acting Superintendent	Present
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CALENDAR MEETING Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Ramjattan at 6:44pm
Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis and Quorum was met.

- President Ramjattan opened the meeting and gave greetings and also made a statement in regards to two resolutions that will be presented at the meeting.
- Acting Superintendent Dr. Eric Blake gave his report and presented various topic/data. One of the topics was on a pivot to remote instructions for certain circumstances as the DOE asked all schools to have in place by January 12th, 2024.
- President Ramjattan presented an Antisemitism resolution and asked the Council Members to give their feedback:
 - 1st Vice President Lu Zhao wanted to point out that the first paragraph of the resolution is internationally recognized
 - 2nd Vice President Nurun Swapna voiced that she's American and believes that everyone should be protected in our border despite any religious differences. All families in our district should be protected
 - Treasurer Yutao Cheng stated that he did not have a lot of time to review the resolution but like the general direction it represent. He voiced that some of the commentaries should be removed and we should emphasize on keeping the community together and reject violence.
 - Member Julie Suh voiced that this was the first time she is seeing this version of the resolution as many versions were shared previously. She declined to comment on this version

- Member Quentin Mezetin stated that he is in support of anti-hate but has seen many versions of the resolutions and he has not read through the current version. He asked for it to be tabled so everyone can have time to read it and be on the same page
- President Ramjattan disagreed with tabling the resolution and stated the emails were shared on beforehand
- Member Simone Dornbach thanked President Ramjattan for giving her a chance to slightly edit the Antisemitism resolution
- Member Adrianna Alicea had no comment
- Member Tanya Wendt had no comment
- G.K Kalyanaram voiced that he is in support of the resolution but would like it to be revised
- Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis voiced that she is in against all form of antisemitism, Islamophobia, Anti-black racism, Anti-Asian hate and all manner of bias. However, she has some concerns with the resolutions. She is not in favor of how the Hillcrest High School incident was portrayed in the resolution and stated that she is satisfied the way the Chancellor and Administration handled it. She stated she is not against the resolution but against the way it was written and will have to abstain at this time.
- President Ramjattan voiced that he would like to move forward with the resolution and made a motion to vote on the resolution
Seconded by Member Simone Dornbach
Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis
7 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 absent; 4 abstained – Resolution Adopted
- President Ramjattan asked for the chat feature to be disabled and explained the reason behind it.
- NYS Division of Consumer Protection Presentation by Consumer Education Community Liaison, Rohan Narine, MPA – important information on how to protect children's identity was discussed
- School Emergency Response Presentation by Borough Safety Director, Sami Abbassi - important information on the roles of parent, principals and school administration in case of an emergency during school hours was discussed
- ACS Presentation by Deputy Director Queens Borough Office zone, Mietta Pearson
- Member Simone Dornbach presented a Resolution on Dealing with Hatred, Conflict and Violence by Honoring, Protecting and Respecting Human Dignity Resolution
- Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis asked the Council Members for their feedback:
 - No comment was made by any one of the Council Members

Member Reports

- Council Member gave his feedback on an SLT meeting he attended

- Council Member gave feedback on her school visit and confirmed that a couple of her schools finally got their front door locked
- Council Member reminded everyone about capital planning projects and touched a little on budget cut
- Council Member voiced that she has been reaching out to her schools in regards to capital planning and received feedback that some are in desperate need for funding and haven't received any in many years
- Council Member gave feedback on her school visit and confirmed that some of her schools are in desperate need for funding in regards basic dignity for students and staff as well as funding for safety
- Council Member thanked the Principal Signal, Superintendent Blake and District staff for their immediate action to address all his issues after his December report
- Council Member gave feedback on her recent school visit. She stated that her school needs funding in regards to their gym, cooling system, cafeteria and many more as it's a co-located school.
- Council Member wanted to highlight the beautiful work that was done by CEC28 students across the district. They organized toy drives, food drives, pajama's drives and much more. She also gave important dates and updates of upcoming meetings/events
- Council Member gave feedback on her recent SLT meeting and voiced concerns regarding speed bumps and illegal dumping
- Council Member acknowledged all Elected office officials and staff

Public Comments

- UFT Queens Rep gave greetings and provided updates
- Community Activist from CB12 gave greetings and thank Dr. Blake for meeting the CB12. She also invited Members whose school sit in CB12 to attend the meetings
- Community Activist and Member voiced concerns about safety and changes with MTA routes.
- Community Activist and Member asked all CEC members for a robust report and school visit updates. Also, asked for public comments to be throughout the meeting as it's unfair to wait two hours to speak
- Office of Speaker Adams gave greetings and updated the community
- Community Member and Activist expressed thanked the CEC members for passing the resolutions and coming together to represent
- Community Member thanked CEC28 President for sponsoring the antisemitism resolution and thanking those who voted it for it
- Office of Sen. Leroy Comrie gave greetings and provided updates
- Community member Community Member thanked thank Members for passing both resolutions and also for bringing speakers to educate or communities with important information

- Community Activist and Member expressed concerns with her school having transparency with the budget
- Community Activist and Member expressed his disappointment in the procedure of the antisemitism resolution. He voiced that a few of the Council Members were not informed enough to vote which resulted in an abstain vote. He claimed the vote was pushed through without public comments. He also touched upon the mayoral control and is also disappointed that it was not brought up at the meeting.
- Community Member gave her feedback on the anti-hate resolution and asked for another resolution that mentions different cultures and ethnicities so that all students feel represented
- Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis made a motion to vote on the Resolution on Dealing with Hatred, Conflict and Violence by Honoring, Protecting and Respecting Human Dignity Resolution
 - Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis
 - 11 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 absent; 0 abstained – Resolution Adopted
- Family Leadership Coordinator Sonia Rueda gave greetings and updated the community

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20pm

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
ATTENDANCE

Member	Position	Attendance
Vijah Ramjattan	President	Absent0
Lu Zhao	1st Vice President	Remote Present
Nurun Swapna	2nd Vice President	Present
Nathifa Lewis	Recording Secretary	Present
Yutao Cheng	Treasurer	Present
Jay Lin	Member	Absent
Julie Suh	Member	Present
G.K Kalyanaram	Member	Present
Quentin Mezetin	Member	Present
Adrianna Alicea	Member	Present
Simone Dornbach	Member	Present
Tanya Wendt	Member	Present

Meeting was called to order by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis at 9:30pm
 Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis

Council Members discussed and ranked the school capital planning projects accordingly
 Council Members discussed continuing the capital planning discussion via a virtual committee meeting on 1/8/24.

Council Members tabled former Council Member reimbursement, November meeting minutes, December meeting minutes, Absentee's forms and Chancellor's Town Hall discussion

Business Meeting Adjourned at [10:06pm]

Respectfully Adopted by

Nathifa Lewis
Recording Secretary

APPROVED