

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 28
Calendar/Business Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2024

ATTENDANCE

Member	Position	Attendance
Vijah Ramjattan	President	Present
Lu Zhao	1st Vice President	Present
Nurun Swapna	2nd Vice President	Present
Nathifa Lewis	Recording Secretary	Present
Yutao Cheng	Treasurer	Present
Vacant Seat	Member	
Julie Suh	Member	Remote Present
G.K Kalyanaram	Member	Remote Present
Quentin Mezetin	Member	Present
Adriana Alicea	Member	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 6:45pm
Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis and Quorum was met.

- President Ramjattan opened the meeting and gave greetings thanked all the Council Members for their wonderful work for the first full year. He asked Spanish interpretation to give instructions. He also thanked the Principals, PC, Elected officials, stakeholders and community leaders who attended CEC28 Annual Breakfast.
- Contracts for Excellence Presentation by Superintendent Dr. Blake. Dragomira Koleva, Senior Grant Officer assisted with questions pertaining to presentation
- Caribbean Equality Project Presentation in support of pride month by Mohamed Q. Amin, Founder and Executive Director
- Education Director from QBP office gave greetings and provided a brief update
- Office of Sen. Leroy Comrie gave greetings and provided a brief update

Member Reports

- Council Member gave his feedback on the high school admissions reform resolution CCHS passed recently. He suggested the others members read it and voiced that he plans on writing a similar resolution.

- Council Member gave feedback on her recent school visits and relayed the principal's concerns such as migrant crises and migrant students who are not vaccinated. Schools are concern with a lot of health crises and suggested a mobile medical truck in front of the school. Also, some schools are still without AC and remodeled cafeteria, auditorium, playground and gym area. She's also concerned with rezoning of the school to D29 and then back to D28 as no funding was ever given to the school. She also said this particular school are for small class size.
- Council Member gave feedback on her recent school visits and voiced some schools are having some wonderful end of year celebration. She also voiced that some schools were concerned with the new class size mandate but some questions were answered during the Superintended presentation tonight.
- Council Member gave his feedback on his recent school visits. He also voiced concerns pertaining to mental health in our community. He voiced that PS 101 has a pilot program which is extremely beneficial to help students control and recognize their emotions. It's a social emotional program.
- The President officially announced that Member Jay Lin resigned and the CEC is currently accepting applications for the vacant seat. The deadline will be June 13th.
- Council Member spoke about his recent SLT/PTA meeting. He spoke about the different programs that Queens Gateway has to offered. He also sends his condolences to the Signal family.
- Council Member gave feedback on two public hearing she attended regarding charter schools. She voiced she doesn't have an issue with charter school but the timing to open schools in D28 is wrong as they aren't enough space and especially since there's a new class size law for smaller classrooms. She also commented on a few free programs that the community can benefit from. She also brought up some community events and provided the links in the chat.
- Council Member gave feedback on her recently attended SLT meeting for PS86. She provided an update on their attendance data. She also provided feedback on the recent charter hearings. She voiced that the process was rushed. She also gave feedback on the C4E Borough hearing and voiced that schools in D75 that are already overcrowded should avoid any co-location.
- Council Member gave feedback on her recent school visits, all the cultural programs and extra activities they offer. She also gave feedback on her recent SLT meeting. She also voiced concerns about safety and traffic around of her school she visited.
- Council Member gave his feedback on his recent school visit and commended the schools for their welcomeness and inclusivity. He commented that the schools were so clean and professional which all schools should be. He also commented that PS160 Principal has an open-door policy where students can just walk in her office and ask for a hug. He also voiced that the school has a new building extension. He wants the members to go to the opening of the school extension in September.

▪ **Public Comments**

- Community Activist from CB12 gave greetings and thanked the CEC28 Members for their heartfelt hard work, also thanked a couple of the council members for attending their meetings and be a part of the CB12. She wished everyone who's celebrating a happy Juneteenth. She provided an update on the free programs. She also encouraged D28 Principals to collaborate with CB12 more.
- Student recruitment intern from First Tech Fund gave greetings and provided resourceful information about First Tech Fund that the community can benefit from.
- Community member asked that the CEC and district office provides an update as soon as possible about the new implantation of the new class size law. She wants a list of schools that will have to undertake more specious measures to conform to the law. She mentioned that some schools may have to go remote because of the law so she's asking for transparency.
- PTA President for Queens Gateway asked questions pertaining to the C4E presentation on how funds are being allocated. She wants to know if Principals and SLT are involved. She also wants to know who decides where the new enrolled HS students will go if their schools are affected in the new class size law.
- The Superintendent office responded to Queens Gateway PTA president and mentioned that her concerns will be escalated and they will get back to her
- Senior Grant Officer responded to Queens Gateway PTA president in regards to her question about allocation
- Council Member voiced concerns that has noticed for the past couple years regarding SLT and school members. He voiced that parent leaders needs more transparency as some are being ignore. He would like to see Principals and Schools cooperating more with parent leaders as they do a lot of work.
- Community Activist and a Rep from PS55 voiced concerns about the lack of funding the school was promised but never received. She voiced that CEC28 liaison visited and can attest to all the many violations they currently have. They are in desperate need of funding she claims.
- PTA President for PS55 started off with thanking CEC28 liaison for visiting their school. She voiced that she wants to piggy back off her PS55 colleague that relayed all of their concerns. She voiced concerns surrounding school safety, especially the school gate. She also commented on the sink holes that is preventing students from outdoor activities. She also voiced that they have no speed bumps which is very concerning. She also voiced that the schools do not have any lighting around the school.
- 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 some charter schools that are again seeking co-location so he's asking everyone to keep an eye out.
- Parent expressed concerns surrounding PS139. She voiced that her son came home with a vote for trump flyer. She expressed that giving out political flyers

does not represent a safe place for students as we have a very diverse community. She said she reached out the school and district office but was not given an apology and no one got back to her. She also mentioned that PS139 former PTA president may have applied to become a CEC member, she wants to point out that it will be a mistake if the board votes for her as she comes with many grievances.

- Community Member thanked the CEC members for all the work. He voiced that in couple weeks Speaker Adams will have a forum in regards to the new budget. He requested that the Speaker attends the meeting and enlighten the community on the new budget and what it means for our students. He also congratulated CEC28 Member Adriana Alicea on becoming the new Queens PEP Representative.
- Community Member thanked the CEC members for all the work. She voiced that last week she witnessed the Chancellor addressed the rise of antisemitism in Schools. She voiced that the Chancellor did a great job and for those who missed it, it's online. She voiced that it's disappointing that someone who demonstrated antisemitic remarks in the past was elected to become the new Queens PEP Representative. She was also disappointed that CCHS was not part of the PEP election. She voiced we should work towards inclusivity and to promote understanding, empathy through education. She voiced that educational institutions must be a safe haven where diversity is embraced and every student feels safe regardless of their background.
- CEC Member congratulated his fellow Member on becoming the Queens PEP Rep. He wants to point out that Adriana Alicea is always doing something great in the community to represent all students.
- Council Member voiced that if anyone is not sure how the PEP election is carried out to reach out to him and he would be more than happy to explain to them. He also congratulated Adriana Alicea and wants to point out that once she resigns and move on to her new role that the CEC will have another vacant seat. He also thanked the previous PEP Rep for all the hard work he has done in D28.
- Council Member also congratulated her fellow member and briefly touched upon the voting process from previous years to present.
- District team member thanked CEC members for offering a platform to share concerns and questions and accomplishments. She shared the Big Apple winners.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
ATTENDANCE

Member	Position	Attendance
Vijah Ramjattan	President	Present

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

Meeting was called to order by President Ramjattan at 9:06pm
Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis and Quorum was met

Council Members discussed the Annual Superintendent Evaluation 2023-2024 amongst themselves and agreed on the evaluation form
Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis

1st Vice President Lu Zhao went over Member GK Kalyanaram June in-person absence
1st Vice President Lu Zhao made a motion to approve Member GK Kalyanaram virtual attendance for June Calendar and Business Meeting
Seconded by President Ramjattan

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

1st Vice President Lu Zhao went over Council Member Nathifa Lewis May in-person absence form
1st Vice President Lu Zhao made a motion to approve Council Member Nathifa Lewis May virtual attendance for May Calendar and Business Meeting
Seconded by President Ramjattan

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

1st Vice President Lu Zhao went over Council Member Julie Suh June in-person absence form
1st Vice President Lu Zhao made a motion to approve Council Member Julie Suh June virtual attendance for June Calendar and Business Meeting
Seconded by President Ramjattan

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

Motion was made by President Ramjattan to adopt May's Meeting Minutes
Seconded by Member Quentin Mezetin

Council Members and A.A recapped on the CEC28 Principal Legislative Breakfast and gave their feedback.

President Ramjattan suggested that our End of year celebration should be end of each Council two-year term. He also suggested that our annual breakfast should be every two years instead of every year. This way our budget will be better for one big event every two years. All the members agreed.

FACE Survey was discussed and completed amongst the Council Members.

Business Meeting Adjourned at [10:16pm]

Respectfully Adopted by

Nathifa Lewis
Recording Secretary