

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 28
Calendar/Business Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2024

ATTENDANCE

Member	Position	Attendance
Vijah Ramjattan	President	Present
Lu Zhao	1st Vice President	Present
Nurun Swapna	2nd Vice President	Excused Absent
Nathifa Lewis	Recording Secretary	Present
Yutao Cheng	Treasurer	Present
Jay Lin	Member	Remote Present
Julie Suh	Member	Remote Present
G.K Kalyanaram	Member	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. He shared a presentation that provided an overview of the CEC and March month awareness
- Superintendent Dr. Eric Blake presented on the Fair Student Funding Budget
- Budget Director Naomi Alexander provided some clarification and answers regarding FSF
- Principal David Marmor from Francis Lewis High School provided updates and insights regarding Class Size
- Ysmerlyn Murshed and Julie Suh showcased their organization which is the Center for Family Representation. CFR is holistic legal and social work advocacy organization that serves over 2,500 families per year

Member Reports

- Council Member stated that Principal Marmor addressed some of her concerns she had regarding class size and asked that the district extends the implantation time until CEC consider a resolution regarding this matter.
- Council Member voiced his concerns regarding school lunch and stated he will work on a resolution to urge responsible parties to take action towards a better and healthier school lunch

- Council Member provided feedback on his recent connection at Colombia college in regards to their ECE program
- Council Member spoke about his recent school visit Queens Gateway. He highlighted their great programs as well as what they are currently struggling with as far as security and safety agents. He also voiced Queens Gateway does not fall under Superintendent Dr. Blake's jurisdiction since it's a 6th to 12th grade school. They are under Superintendent Dr. Van Ess's jurisdiction.
- Council Member congratulated Dr. Blake on his role as D28 Superintendent and also his team.
- Council Member gave feedback on her recent school visits with fellow members. She also mentioned that her and another member are planning on having a committee meeting and will invite the Center of Family Representation to give a parental rights workshop
- Council Member gave feedback on her recently attended SLT meeting, class size law implantation hearing as well as webinar with the office of people transportation hosted by FACE.
- Council member gave feedback on his recent school visit to P.S174
- Council Member gave feedback on her recent SLT and school visits with fellow members
- Council Member Simone Dornbach presented the following resolutions:
 - Resolution opposing Islamophobia
 - Resolution in Support of Sustaining Key Education Programs
 - Resolution condemning Extremist Organizations in D28 and NYC

Public Comments

- Community Member expressed concerns around school safety in regards to MELS
- Community Activist from CB12 gave greetings and asked if CEC has a method to ensure SLT are functioning properly
- President Ramjattan answered the question in regards to the functioning of SLT. He stated that the first point of contact should be the school Principal and second would be District office
- Community member and activist voiced that the CEC Members should listen to the parents in the community and pass the resolution to condemn Extremist Organizations in D28 and NYC as resist as political groups such as Moms for Liberty challenges the financial principals of inclusivity, equity and respect
- Community Activist and a Rep from PS139 gave feedback on false alarm school shooting threat. She asked for the students to be fully educated on these types of issues so that they are better equip to react to real threats
- Community member asked the Superintendent and team to elaborate as to when will the funds come in to better train teachers in regards to students with dyslexia
- Deputy Superintendent answered the question regarding dyslexia

- CEC Activist and Member mentioned that he is a member of the class size group and wants to point out that the implementation of the new law will cause unnecessary disruption in D28 as it is impossible to build new school in a short amount of time.
- UFT Queens Rep gave greetings and provided updates regarding Dial a teacher parent workshop. He also stated that reducing class size is the one area where research always shows the increases in academics achievements, social and emotional. Teachers are able to spend more time with individual children. He voiced concerns as to why should D28 be treated differently than surrounding districts where lower class size already exists.
- Community Activist and Member expressed that each CEC28 Members should be reporting on of their respective schools at each meeting. He also asked that the CEC members vote in favor of the resolution to condemn Extremist Organizations in D28 and NYC, specifically in regards to Moms for liberty whom he believes present a clear danger in the community including denying the existence of trans people. He asked the CEC members to support the resolution.
- 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.
- Community member and activist voiced that the CEC Members should vote in favor of the resolution to condemn Extremist Organizations in D28 and NYC as we should resist political groups with hateful rhetoric such as Moms for Liberty.
- PEP Member thanked the CEC members for putting forth a resolution opposing islamophobia and asked that they pass it. She pointed out that 1 of 8 students in the public schools identify as Muslim. She wants to commend the board for recognizing the importance of creating a safe and inclusive space for all students.
- President Ramjattan asked the Council Members to comment if they choose to in regards to each resolution before they vote.
- President Ramjattan made a motion to vote on the Resolution in Support of Sustaining Key Education Programs
Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis
11 in favor; **0** opposed; **1** absent; **0** abstained – Resolution Adopted
- President Ramjattan made a motion to vote on the Resolution opposing Islamophobia
Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis
11 in favor; **0** opposed; **1** absent; **0** abstained – Resolution Adopted
- President Ramjattan made a motion to vote on the Resolution condemning Extremist Organizations in D28 and NYC
- Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis voiced that she is opposes the mission of Moms for Liberty bases on the various information shared multiple times. She stated that she is pro right to choose, and pro education but anti-censorship. She is not in favor of naming a specific organization in the resolution when a generic one was already passed, nor being forcibly bullied into voting for a resolution nor being attacked for her choice. She is voting against the resolution.

- Treasurer Yutao Cheng stated that this is not the right forum to state our political views. He voted against the resolution and would like to see an amended form of the resolution
- Member Jay Lin voiced that he wants to see an amended version of the resolution but will have to vote against this resolution
- Member Julie Suh voiced that she does not support Moms for Liberty and she understand the harm that they stand for but she is against calling out a specific group. She voted against the resolution but wants to see an amended version of the resolution.
- Member Quentin Mezetin stated he read the resolution and he gets the resolution and votes in favor of it
- Member Simone Dornbach stated that the community asked the CEC members to write the resolution and pointed out that more than 14 parents have emailed and asked the Members to write and vote in favor of this resolution. She voted in favor of the resolution
- Member Adriana Alicea stated that everything is political so she is in favor of the resolution
- Member G.K Kalyanaram voiced that he agrees with some of the sentiments expressed in the resolution but do have some level of discomfort. He wants to see an amended version of the resolution. He abstained
- Member Tanya Wendt voiced that CEC28 in the past have called out specific groups and still passed those specific resolutions. She stated that she is against any groups that would ban books and make students feel as if they're not ok in their own bodies. She also stated that she understands the concerns of parents who feel that school is not the place to educate their children on certain topic but she is against extremist groups who spread hate. She votes in favor of this resolution.
- President Ramjattan stated he is against any group that spreads hate. He stated he asked Member Simone Dornbach to revise the resolution so everyone is on board. He mentioned that he is not in favor of calling out any specific group. He provided feedback on the past diversity planning. He voiced that he is voting in favor of the resolution because he is against hate of all kind.
- Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis
- **5** in favor; **5** opposed; **1** absent; **1** abstained – Failed Resolution

Meeting Adjourned at 9:17pm

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
ATTENDANCE

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

Meeting was called to order by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis at 9:27pm
Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis

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

Council Members discussed CEC28 Chancellor's Town Hall final preparations amongst themselves

Council Members discussed CEC28 Calendar meeting preparations and implementation amongst themselves

1st Vice President Lu Zhao went over President Member Julie Suh February in-person absence form

1st Vice President Lu Zhao made a motion to approve Member Julie Suh virtual attendance for February Calendar and Business Meeting

Seconded by President Ramjattan

11 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 absent – Motion passed

1st Vice President Lu Zhao went over Member Jay Lin February in-person absence form

1st Vice President Lu Zhao made a motion to approve Member Jay Lin excused absent for February Calendar and Business Meeting

Seconded by President Ramjattan

11 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 absent – Motion passed

1st Vice President Lu Zhao went over 2nd Vice President Nurun Swapna February in-person absence form

1st Vice President Lu Zhao made a motion to approve 2nd Vice President Nurun Swapna virtual attendance for February Calendar and Business Meeting
Seconded by Member Quentin Mezetin

11 in favor; **0** opposed; 1 absent – Motion passed

Council Members and A.A discussed CEC28 Principal Legislative Breakfast preparations amongst themselves

Business Meeting Adjourned at [10:05pm]

Respectfully Adopted by

Nathifa Lewis
Recording Secretary