

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 28**  
**Calendar/Business Meeting Minutes**  
**May 2, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Vijah Ramjattan	President	Present
Lu Zhao	1st Vice President	Present
Nurun Swapna	2nd Vice President	Remote Present
Nathifa Lewis	Recording Secretary	Excused Absent
Yutao Cheng	Treasurer	Present
Jay Lin	Member	Excused Absent
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 6:43pm  
Roll call by 1<sup>st</sup> 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 briefly touched on the Class Size Mandate. He also voiced concerns regarding the funding for the class size law and is requesting answers from the DOE. He also touched on the migrant crisis. He also reminded the Principals, PC, stakeholders and community leaders about CEC28 Annual Breakfast
- Superintendent Dr. Blake presented District 28 Superintendent report
- Office of Assembly Woman Hyman gave greetings and provided a brief update
- Office of Sen. Leroy Comrie gave greetings and provided a brief update
- Community member and activist voiced concerns around summer rising and the implementation of it
- The Department of Consumer and Worker Protection Presentation by Director Heather Joseph
- Child Mind Institute Presentation by Dr. Janine Domingues - Senior Psychologist, Senior Director of Professional Training, School and Community Programs

## **Member Reports**

- Council Member gave his feedback about an email he received from PS139 PTA President in regards to their school budget, she's asking for more micro accountability of the school budget. She has been asking for more accountability and visibility. Member also announced that G&T deadline ends in one week.
- Council Member asked Dr. Janine Domingues a question pertaining to mental health. Dr. Janine Domingues answered the member question accordingly and gave some tips.
- Council Member also voiced concerns pertaining to mental health in our community. He also touched on the summer rising deadline and CEC28 Annual Breakfast. He also gave feedback on his recent school visit
- Council Member spoke about his recent SLT meeting. He also voiced concerns about the lack of crossing guards in the schools he liaises with.
- Council Member gave feedback on her recent school visit and relaying the principal's concerns regarding the new class size law. She also gave feedback on her recent equity committee meeting. She also proposed a new class size equity meeting for the future. She also thanked Dr. Janine Domingues as she feels mental health has a big impact on children. She noted that children and adults should be able to be their authentic self, they should be able to speak and be themselves without fear.
- Council Member announced the different heritages in the month of May for everyone's awareness and also thanked Dr. Janine Domingues for her presentation. She asked the district office to advise on the mandatory computer NY state test. She would like to know how will the students be prepared as they are still so young. She also gave feedback on her recently attended CB meeting and encourage families to attend. She also commented on a few free programs that the community can benefit from.
- The district office answered the council member previous question and confirmed that they did roll out the pilot program to have NY state test done via computer and it went well. The district office also confirmed that they are trainings and they do plan on implementing NY state test to be done via computer by all grades in the future
- Council Member asked the district office to have a report from the schools on this at our next meeting so everyone is aware of the process, results and preparedness.
- Council Member voiced that an anchor from channel 7 news read to some of the students at PS349 as part of the NYC Reads initiative. She voiced her and a fellow council member looks forward to bringing more NYC reads events to D28. She also thanked fellow Council Member for bringing up the consistent budget issues in NYC public schools and gave her own insights on it.
- Council member gave feedback on his recent school visits and announced some important events that his schools are having.
- Council Member gave feedback on her recent school visits, all the 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.
- **Public Comments**
  - CEC 29 Member and Activist thanked the CEC28 Members for their heartfelt work and enthusiasm. She voiced all of her accolades and all the organizations that she's apart of.
  - Community Activist from CB12 gave greetings and thanked a couple of the council members for attending their meetings and be a part of the CB12. She provided an update on the free programs York college offers grades 7 through 12. She voiced that CEC should bring concerns to CB12 and they help to find solutions.
  - 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 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.
  - 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.
  - Community Activist and a Rep from PS139 voiced that she is concern with the school safety protocols and how it's not being enforced accordingly.
  - Community Member expressed concerns surrounding PS80 and asked that CEC liaison visits the school and come back with a report at the next meeting.
  - Community Member thanked the CEC members for all the work. She wanted to voice the rise of antisemitic events at school campuses. She voiced that the CEC and district must promote understanding, empathy and inclusivity 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.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:54pm**

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Vijah Ramjattan	President	Present
Lu Zhao	1st Vice President	Present
Nurun Swapna	2nd Vice President	Remote Present
Nathifa Lewis	Recording Secretary	Excused Absent
Yutao Cheng	Treasurer	Present
Jay Lin	Member	Excused Absent
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 President Ramjattan at 9:03pm  
 Roll call by President Ramjattan and Quorum was met

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

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

10 in favor; **0** opposed; 2 absent – Motion passed

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lu Zhao went over Member Jay Lin May in-person absence  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lu Zhao made a motion to approve Member Jay Lin excused absent  
 for Amay Calendar and Business Meeting  
 Seconded by President Ramjattan

10 in favor; **0** opposed; 2 absent – Motion passed

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lu Zhao went over Council Member Adriana Alicea April in-person  
 absence form  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lu Zhao made a motion to approve Council Member Adriana Alicea  
 April virtual attendance for April Calendar and Business Meeting  
 Seconded by President Ramjattan

10 in favor; **0** opposed; 2 absent – Motion passed

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lu Zhao went over Council Member Adriana Alicea May in-person  
 absence form

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lu Zhao made a motion to approve Council Member Adriana Alicea April virtual attendance for May Calendar and Business Meeting  
Seconded by President Ramjattan

10 in favor; **0** opposed; 2 absent – Motion passed

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lu Zhao went over 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Nurun Swapna April in-person absence form

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lu Zhao made a motion to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Nurun Swapna virtual attendance for April Calendar and Business Meeting  
Seconded by President Ramjattan

10 in favor; **0** opposed; 2 absent – Motion passed

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lu Zhao went over 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Nurun Swapna May in-person absence form

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lu Zhao made a motion to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Nurun Swapna virtual attendance for May Calendar and Business Meeting  
Seconded by President Ramjattan

10 in favor; **0** opposed; 2 absent – Motion passed

President Ramjattan asked Administrative Assistant, Dorinda Seemangal to provide an update and feedback regarding the CEC D28 website.

Dorinda Seemangal provided an update and gave feedback regarding her daily/weekly collaboration with the website specialist.

Council Members and A.A discussed CEC28 Principal Legislative Breakfast and last-minute preparations and logistics amongst themselves. President Ramjattan asked the Members to make sure that their plus 1 and 2 are registered for the event and confirmed headcount. He also provided the new council members with a briefed description for CEC Principal Legislative Breakfast. He also announced confirmed sponsors and key note speaker.

**Business Meeting Adjourned at [ 9:45pm]**

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**Respectfully Adopted by**

Nathifa Lewis  
Recording Secretary