

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 28
Annual/Business Meeting Minutes
February 5th, 2026

ATTENDANCE

Member	Position	Attendance
Quentin Mezetin	President	Present
Lauren Clavin	1st Vice President	Present
Jennifer Sobers	2nd Vice President	Present
Chantel Chambers	Recording Secretary	Present
Olessia Bauer	Treasurer	Present
Lu Zhao	Member	Present
Kenya Townsend	Member	Present
Annie Cok	Member	Present
Paquita Williams	Member	Present
Eric Gretch	Member	Present
Cecily Xu	Member	Present

NON-MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Dr. Eric Blake	Superintendent	Remote Present
Tameka Nurse-Carter	FACE Specialist	Present

Calendar Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Council Member Quentin Mezetin at 6:37pm
 Roll call was done by Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers and Quorum was met.

- President Quentin Mezetin opened the meeting, greeted and wished everyone a happy new year, and thanked everyone for attending. He asked Spanish Interpreters to provide instructions in Spanish. President Mezetin thanked all the members and A.A. for all the work they do behind the scenes. He pointed out that a lot is going on in the world that's affecting all of us. He voiced that if there's anything the council can do, and if there are resources that can be shared for the community, please share, and let's help each other. He asked the recording secretary to proceed with roll call. Council Member Jennifer Sobers and Member Eric Gretch arrived late for the calendar meeting.
- President Mezetin asked the newly elected member, Cecily Xu to introduce herself.
- Superintendent Dr. Eric Blake gave his report. He welcomed everyone and said his report would be short as it was the first month of the calendar year. He voiced that D28 celebrates all differences, racial differences, ethnic differences, language differences, and belief differences. He also voiced that his four priorities are still the same. Those priorities are to improve the outcome in math, literacy, and chronic absenteeism, and to continue increasing parent and family engagement and community partnership. He also touched upon the district non-

negotiable standards that every Principals are aware of. He spoke about Chancellor Kamar Samuels' visit to PS303. He thanked the Chancellor for spending time with scholars, families, and stakeholders. He spoke about the ICE situation in NYC. He said New York City Public Schools, the Mayor's Office, and District 28, take the safety and rights of all students extremely seriously, especially regarding non-local law enforcement, ICE in particular. He said DOE policy reiterates to the families and the community that schools remain protected spaces. He said ICE or other non-local agencies are not permitted to enter unless legally required with a valid judicial warrant. He acknowledged schools in the district are doing very well. He also said that District 28 is celebrating Black History Month. Elementary and middle schools are celebrating this by bringing Black Studies curriculum to life. He also said that his team remains committed to deepening engagement with MWBE-certified vendors by strengthening community partnerships. He thanked Former superintendent, Dr. Tammy Pate and her team for their steadfast leadership and support in this important work. He also thanked Queensborough President Donovan Richards for donating at least 100 brand new laptops to needy families.

- 1st Vice President reiterated the chat etiquette and instructions to sign up to speak during public comment
- President Mezetin went over February Month awarenesses
- Presentation by STEM Department - Mathematics Instructional Lead, Amanda Bueno-Rene, and Kathy Grandchamps.
- Presentation by PS 54Q Principal Hanley. He presented all the great things about her school.
- The Expansion of Student OMNY Access Presentation by August Hoyt and Charlie Hawn
- President Mezetin presented his resolution to ensure fair and reliable transit access for all NYC public school students
- President Mezetin asked the community to give feedback on the resolution
- President Mezetin asked the council members to give feedback on the resolution
- 1st Vice President asked for a sentence in the resolution to be revised
- President Mezetin agreed and revised the resolution as requested
- President Mezetin made a motion to approve the resolution
- Roll call by Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers
11 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 absent; 0 abstain
Resolution approved
- President Mezetin asked elected officials' offices to bring greetings.
- President Mezetin thanked Principals in attendance for their support
- President Mezetin thanked the entire school community and staff for their hard work
- President Mezetin thanked all the PCs for their hard work and all the school staff.

Public Comments

- Panel for Educational Policy – Queens Representative, Adriana Alicea provided important updates and shared upcoming meeting dates and information.

- Community member raised urgent concerns about the increase in ICE raids and activity across the city and country, including reported presence in Corona, Jamaica, and Richmond Hill within the district. While acknowledging the DOE's non-local law enforcement protocols for schools, she urged the CEC, DOE, and district leadership to go further in proactively preparing families, not only protecting students inside school buildings, but also addressing safety concerns on the way to and from school. She emphasized the need for more than Know Your Rights flyers, recommending family training, preparedness workshops, and open conversations to ensure families have the necessary tools and support during this time.
- UFT Rep gave greetings and thanked the presenters for their wonderful presentations. He gave feedback on the PS 303 visit with the Chancellor as well. He gave a brief update on paraprofessionals. He said UFT has two campaigns going on that are designed to try to attract people to the profession. One is to create a better pension benefit, and the other is to get a \$10,000 salary increase for the paraprofessionals. He said on March 16th, UFT will have their annual lobby day, where active UFT educators from their schools and parents go up to Albany and speak with legislators and advocate for funding for our schools.
- D28 parent voiced that she just wants to make sure that our schools have all the available resources to respond properly to ICE and other federal agents. She said she doesn't know if the CEC knows whether all schools are implementing the UFT resolution to establish school-based communities to support immigrant students and their families. She voiced that there are proactive steps that we can take, the CEC, district leadership can take, to protect students at drop-off and pickup, or provide them with any support that they may need after being in contact with federal agents.
- D28 Parent Request that the New York City Department of Education provide an update on plans regarding Gifted & Talented and advanced learning programs, and outline how honors or advanced pathways will be available in every school. She asked the district to clarify what resources, curriculum, and professional development are being provided to support rigorous instruction, and to ensure equitable access to enrichment and advanced coursework across North and South Queens. Request a follow-up presentation on districtwide academic advancement initiatives.
- Family Leadership Coordinator Sonia Rueda gave greetings and spoke about the workshops that she has already started and gave feedback on upcoming workshops. She spoke about the collaboration she does work with. She also touched upon mental wellness for all.
- Dr. Benoit from the district office gave greetings

Member Reports

- Council Member acknowledged the large volume of emails received from parents and community members across the district expressing shared concerns regarding ICE and affirmed that families are being heard. She thanked district leadership for addressing the issue and emphasized the importance of transparency about school actions and staff training, noting that council members may have more information than the public and that communication should be clearer. She stated that the district can do more to protect and support school communities. She committed to personally responding to families to collaborate as parents and leaders who share a deep commitment to their schools and children. She also recognized the leadership team at PS 86 for being proactive and responsive in addressing a parent's request for guidance and reassurance.
- Council Member gave feedback on her recently attended PS 121 SLT meeting. She also gave feedback on a meeting with Principal Pineda at the Young Women's Leadership School (a 6–12 school jointly served by district and high school superintendents), noting the need to identify and collaborate with appropriate stakeholders to address capital and building needs. She said that she will continue strategizing with council leadership on next steps. She voiced that she is reaching out to all liaison schools to encourage applications for ResoA funding for innovative and necessary projects not covered by SCA funding and flagged that additional SCA funding information will be shared. She acknowledges CEC limitations and the importance of compromise, but she urges her fellow CEC members to continue strong advocacy, ensure families and schools receive clear information, and push for regular updates from principals and the district on capital improvements, repairs, and funding projects. She also attended a recent class-size law meeting, supported parents' questions and concerns, and extended well wishes for midwinter break and Black History Month.
- Council Member gave feedback on her meeting met with Dr. Hazel Lewis from PS174 and representatives from Grace Meng's office to discuss ways to meet class size requirements and secure a science teacher for the school. She acknowledged the challenges parents faced during the recent snow day and remote learning, commending their patience and perseverance. She also highlighted the mid-year milestone, celebrating her son's 100% attendance award as an example of parental dedication, and encouraged parents to recognize their efforts and continue supporting their children. She emphasized the importance of overcoming challenges both within and outside of one's control and encouraged continued engagement and perseverance for the remainder of the school year
- The council member reported ongoing issues with the School Construction Authority (SCA), noting that none of CEC28's top 20 capital project recommendations were honored and that principals lack updates throughout construction projects. She proposed solutions that include drafting a resolution requiring SCA to follow CEC recommendations and creating a School Construction Projects Tracker for principals and CEC members. She provided updates from liaison school visits highlighted improvements at MS217, including kitchen floor repairs, a new mobile kitchen, and professional-quality student

creations, while noting the need for daily trash pickup and addressing construction accessibility issues. Pending projects at MS217 and Halsey Junior High 157, such as HVAC, gym, restroom renovations, and classroom size compliance, were also discussed. Council member emphasized the importance of post-election parent leader training and plans with Sonia Rueda to implement comprehensive, timely training to empower parent leaders. Her report was shared on zoom with the community.

- Council Member thanked Principal Hanley for a wonderful presentation. He expressed concern about inequities in access to advanced academic programs across the district, noting that the north has more demand and opportunity for G&T programs while families in the south have limited options, sometimes turning to private schools. He talked about reinstating advanced or honors tracks in every school such as G&T or similar programs to ensure students receive individualized instruction. He emphasized that in lower-performing schools, students who are meeting or slightly above grade level may not be sufficiently challenged because instruction often focuses on students below grade level, which can prevent higher-performing students from reaching their potential. He suggested using localized peer comparisons and differentiated instruction providing both advanced and remedial support within schools, as a more equitable approach. He also raised concerns about the implementation of new math curriculum, questioning whether changes like the recently adopted program would meaningfully improve outcomes, and urged a more thoughtful, potentially transformative approach to innovation while recognizing that no single teaching method effectively serves every student.
- Council Member reflected on her recent school visits and what has been taking place behind the scenes at PS220. She shared that she and CEC President with many others, have been organizing and corresponding to support ongoing advocacy efforts and, in the end, found solutions to help the school. She said advocacy and prioritizing for the other projects continues. She emphasized the importance of long-term planning and sustainability in leadership, noting that principals often have limited time and that progress on major projects can span many years, requiring smooth transitions and clear handoffs between leaders. She underscored the need for accountability, responsibility, and a “pay it forward” mindset so that institutional knowledge and momentum are preserved. She also referenced the support and assistance from QBP Donovan Richards and his office, noting that they promised the school CASA funds. She gave feedback on her recent visit to PS99. She voiced that the principal is crossing students at the street since crossing guards kept quitting because they were not paid enough. She also said that the principal showed her two buildings that she took approximately 80 photos of. She said the bathrooms were deplorable. She confirmed that PS99 was one of their top 5 SCA priority schools. She highlighted conversations with school leaders, including a principal who is nearing retirement and is intentionally training staff to ensure a smooth transition and preserve the legacy and progress made under his leadership, emphasizing the importance of continuity rather than restarting initiatives every time leadership changes. She also shared that she is closely tracking the needs and progress of her liaison schools and plans to revisit them in the coming months to follow up.

- Council Member acknowledged Black History Month and shared that she is six months into her role, focusing on learning and getting grounded despite a steep learning curve. She reported visiting all her assigned schools, noted that she still plans to attend remaining SLT meetings, and stated that overall operations are running smoothly. She expressed positive feelings about her progress and looks forward to continuing the work in the spring with consistency and care.
- Council Member reported that she was unable to visit her school this month due to inclement weather, which caused several planned events to be postponed. She shared that she plans to meet with Principal Branker, Principal Mack, and Dr. Louissaint in March to continue collaboration and follow up on outstanding matters. She also acknowledged that some incorrect information had been circulated regarding a particular issue and stressed the need for ongoing meetings, transparency, and open communication moving forward. Additionally, she reminded families that the deadline to apply for Pre-K and 3K is the 27th of February, as announced by the mayor, encouraging parents to enroll their children before the deadline. She concluded by extending well wishes for Black History Month, Valentine's Day, and February birthdays.
- Council Member gave his feedback on his discussions with parents, highlighting several key challenges. He said snow and winter weather have caused commuting difficulties, traffic congestion, and safety concerns for students walking to school, particularly in Forest Hills, suggesting opportunities for CEC coordination to improve these conditions across schools like PS96 and PS303. Sanitation issues, including garbage collection and the negative impact on local parks, were also noted. Remote learning experiences were challenging, with curricula seen as flexible but unstructured, leaving students in flux, indicating a need for consistent practices and preparation. Ice and weather readiness was emphasized, with a focus on educating children about safety and preparedness, drawing lessons from experiences in Minnesota and St. Paul. He also said parents raised concerns about attendance notices for pre-K and kindergarten students during periods of illness, highlighting the need for clear guidance and education on managing absences.
- Council Member voiced she hasn't been introduced with her schools, yet so she doesn't have any school reports. She expressed encouragement by highlighting August and Charlie's leadership and initiative, and suggested the CEC explore ways to support similar projects. She also noted the absence of AI in the curriculum discussions and emphasized the importance of incorporating AI and social-emotional learning to prepare students for future careers. Overall, she found the meeting informative and expressed interest in developing new initiatives for the CEC.
- Council Member provided updates on class size and D75 initiatives. He welcomed Jessica Zillow as a new member of the class size committee and emphasized the committee's commitment to transparency. He reported that District 28 has the highest number of D75 co-locations in Queens and described her outreach to these sites, highlighting the need to educate the community

about D75 to correct misconceptions and showcase the positive partnerships between co-located schools and D75 students. He stressed that decisions should prioritize keeping D75 families in-district whenever possible and ensuring that proposals are fully transparent and well-informed. He also highlighted a recent stakeholder meeting organized by the district office with SCA and DSF, noting it was an unprecedented opportunity to connect with multiple stakeholders, understand processes, and address community concerns effectively. He thanked council members, the district office, Carmine, Yvette, and others for their engagement and insightful questions, which contributed to accountability and improved communication with schools and principals. He concluded with a brief birthday acknowledgment for CEC28 A.A.

- President Mezetin asked the Spanish interpreters if they had any questions from the Spanish room. He wished everyone a happy holiday season. He made a motion to adjourn the calendar meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25pm

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES **ATTENDANCE**

Member	Position	Attendance
Quentin Mezetin	President	Present
Lauren Clavin	1st Vice President	Present
Jennifer Sobers	2nd Vice President	Present
Chantel Chambers	Recording Secretary	Present
Olessia Bauer	Treasurer	Present
Lu Zhao	Member	Present
Kenya Townsend	Member	Present
Annie Cok	Member	Present
Paquita Williams	Member	Present
Eric Gretch	Member	Present
Cecily Xu	Member	Present

The meeting was called to order by President Mezetin at 9:44pm
Roll call was done by Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers, and a quorum was met.

1st Vice President Lauren Clavin announced that she had no absences to report

A.A shared the December Calendar and Business Meeting Minutes

Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers made a motion to accept the December Calendar and Business Meeting Minutes to be approved
Seconded by President Mezetin

A.A shared the January Calendar and Business Meeting Minutes

Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers made a motion to accept the January Calendar and Business Meeting Minutes to be approved

Seconded by President Mezetin

Treasurer Olessia Bauer shared her screen and explained the new allocation for CEC28 Budget. She said that the council has a vacant seat and funds for that vacant seat will be allocated to the Pcard. Vacant seats are \$125 for December, \$125 January and \$125 for February, which will be allocated to the Pcard so that A.A can use it for purchases even after the deadline once the budget is closed. She also said that the second vacant seat for December in the amount of \$125 and January in the amount of \$125 will be allocated to the certificate line. The total in the certificate line should be \$1,250 after the allocations. She said that Eric Gretch had notified her that he would not accept any of his reimbursements. She announced that Eric's total reimbursement for 7 months from December through June in the amount of \$875 will be allocated to the Pcard. She confirmed that the amount on Pcard should now have added \$1,250 after the allocations and the legislative breakfast should have \$4,525 in total after allocations. She asked that everyone submit their reimbursements as soon as possible. Treasurer Olessia Bauer made a motion to approve this budget with all the changes discussed.

Seconded by President Mezetin
Motion passed with no objections

President Mezetin thanked Olessia Bauer for a great job and for all the work she and the A.A does behind the scenes.

Council Members discussed the logistics for CEC28 Chancellor's Town Hall amongst themselves.

President Mezetin asked members if they would like to discuss any new business.

2nd Vice President answered and said she would like to discuss the time allotted for members' reports and bylaws. She requested that timers be removed for all member reports, noting that the bylaws do not impose time limits on members or guest presentations, including the superintendent report. She voiced that members should continue to provide succinct updates, but timing will not be formally enforced. The committee will allow flexibility in report length, acknowledging that some months may have more to share than others, while ensuring all important information is communicated to both members and the public.

QBP Appointee responded, stating that the history and purpose of using timers during meetings, noting that timers were introduced to help speakers stay on track and does agree with keeping time in general to ensure people are staying within their timeframe. She acknowledged the concern about timers not being in the bylaws and emphasized the importance of respecting one another's time during meetings. She also pointed out not everything the council does currently is in the bylaws, as the bylaws are not set in stone; they are guidance and suggestions for the council to follow. She suggested that the use of timers could be reviewed in relation to the bylaws and that discussion among members could determine whether a formal policy should be established.

Recording Secretary responded and said while all contributions are important, having a timer can help speakers be aware of the time they are taking. They suggested that

instead of a countdown, a count-up timer might be preferable, allowing members to monitor their speaking time without strict enforcement, given the general need to be mindful of meeting length. She pointed out that they have the space for a limited time.

Council Member emphasized the importance of being mindful of meeting length to respect the community and public attendees. While acknowledging that all contributions are valuable, they suggested that long meetings can discourage public participation and recommended keeping discussions concise to ensure meetings remain accessible and engaging for the audience. She also noted that the bylaws can be amended if needed to support better meeting practices.

Council Member agreed that formal timers are unnecessary, noting that the bylaws do not set time limits for member reports. She emphasized that everyone is already striving to be succinct and suggested tabling the discussion about timers until a full review of the bylaws can take place, possibly during the summer when meetings are less busy. She also highlighted that attendees could choose when to join or leave meetings, ensuring flexibility for constituents while maintaining meaningful participation.

Treasurer acknowledged that everyone has become more conscious of meeting length and efforts are being made to communicate efficiently without feeling rushed. They expressed concern that strict time limits or set end times could reduce the quality of information shared with constituents, highlighting the importance of fully conveying critical updates, such as commuting and safety challenges faced by school staff. They suggested that, while formal timers or meeting end times are not necessary now, the committee could consider developing a time-related guideline in the future based on experience from this year.

1st Vice President emphasized that any changes regarding timers or time limits should be addressed through a formal review of the bylaws to ensure fairness and consistency. She expressed discomfort with countdown timers, preferring a personal count-up method to monitor time without curtailing presentations. She highlighted the importance of allowing members to speak fully, respond to issues as they arise, and maintain flexibility during meetings. She expressed confidence that the committee can work together to develop clear guidance on timing through the bylaws while preserving the quality and responsiveness of discussions.

The president noted that meeting length is constrained by the facility permit and security, so meetings cannot extend indefinitely. He emphasized that the bylaws are intended as guidance to help maintain order and structure, rather than strict rules, and that the use of time limits is considered a best practice to keep meetings on track. He encouraged members to be intentional in preparing and delivering reports, using tools like bullets and structured summaries to manage time effectively, while still allowing all important updates to be shared. The president reiterated as chair of the bylaws committee, the bylaws meeting is planned in the coming months, where timing and procedural guidance can be formally addressed, ensuring clarity and preventing similar issues in the future. He also stressed that all members' voices are valued and that the agenda should continue to highlight district activities without unnecessary cuts.

The president asked FACE representative to share some guidance. FACE Representative provided guidance and suggested the members post their reports on the CEC website as well.

President Mezetin made a motion to adjourn meeting

Business Meeting Adjourned at [10:20pm]

Respectfully Adopted by

Chantel Chambers
CEC 28 Recording Secretary

APPROVED