

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 28**  
**Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes**  
**March 5th, 2026**

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
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 6:37 pm  
 Roll call was done by Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers, and quorum was met.

- President Quentin Mezetin opened the meeting, greeted and thanked everyone for attending. He asked Spanish Interpreters to provide instructions in Spanish.
- Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers announced that member Eric Gretch is not at the calendar meeting yet, but in transit.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President provided chat etiquette and instructions to sign up to speak during public comment
- President Mezetin went over March Month awarenesses
- President Mezetin congratulated the Chancellor and the Chancellor's cabinet on all the new positions and mentioned that he is looking forward to working with them. He also announced that the meeting will be short to pay respect for the Muslim community during Ramadan.
- Superintendent Dr. Eric Blake gave his report. He welcomed everyone. He voiced that D28 celebrates all differences, racial differences, ethnic differences, language differences, and belief differences. He presented an overview of the district's mission and vision, emphasizing a commitment to fostering critical thinking through conceptual understanding, creative problem-solving, and the integration of technology, while promoting limitless opportunities for student growth and a strong dedication to the humanities. He also voiced that his four

priorities are still the same. 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 principal is aware of. He highlighted the diversity of District 28 as a key strength, recognizing the rich cultural tapestry within the community. Dr. Blake also introduced five district non-negotiables guiding instruction: standards-aligned teaching, small group instruction, explicit teaching with gradual release, active student engagement over passive compliance, and data-informed decision-making. He provided an update on the NYC Reads/NYC Solves initiative, particularly the middle school curriculum selection process that began in the 2024–2025 school year. The process was described as thorough and collaborative, involving classroom observations across District 28 and other districts such as Districts 25 and 26, feedback from educators and leaders, and engagement with curriculum providers. He announced the D28 Chancellor’s Town Hall on March 16<sup>th</sup> at MS 217 and asked everyone to show up. He also provided additional updates, including upcoming opportunities for family engagement

- Presentation by Office of Food and Nutrition Services, Aaron Baptista, District Supervisor & Shane Nugent, Assistant Supervisor.
- Questions, feedback, and concerns were brought by council members and the public to OFNS.
- OFNS team answered the questions accordingly
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lauren Clavin presented her resolution, “Reaffirming our Support of All Students Regardless of Immigration Status and Ensuring Further Protections from ICE In Our Schools”.
- President Mezetin asked the community to give feedback on the resolution
- A community member asked the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President to rewrite the word security in the last paragraph and put school safety guard instead.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President agreed and revised the resolution as requested
- President Mezetin asked the council members to give feedback on the resolution
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President 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

### **Public Comments**

- Representative from the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs introduced herself and described her team as an on-the-ground outreach and community engagement group that provides “Know Your Rights” presentations, tabling, and multilingual resource distribution. They connect individuals and families to vetted, safe organizations offering legal and financial support, including assistance for detained individuals and their families. They offer workshops such as an Immigrant Rights Workshop focused on ICE and another on city programs, and are available to present at PTA meetings. Resources shared include a legal support hotline, IDNYC enrollment (free city ID), English classes, and referrals to

city agencies, like the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection for filing complaints—available regardless of immigration status.

- President Mezetin asked elected officials' offices to bring greetings.
- Representative from Sen. Leroy Comrie gave greetings, provided updates, and announced upcoming events to the community
- Raj Jimenez-Jailall from the district office gave greetings and a brief update on summer rising
- Dr. Benoit from the district office gave greetings
- Engagement Coordinator, Vanessa Sparks, from Councilman Ty Hankerson's office gave greetings and provided updates and upcoming events to the community
- Family Leadership Coordinator Sonia Rueda gave greetings and spoke about the workshops that she just wrapped up and the upcoming ones. She also urges parents to step up and apply for roles in their children's school community and get involved in advocacy work. She spoke about students' working opportunities.
- President Mezetin thanked Principals in attendance for their support
- President Mezetin thanked the entire school community and staff for their hard work
- Community Member said she would like to bring up school safety concerns, including traffic and pedestrian issues, particularly near Russell Sage, despite recent \$600,000 improvements. There was a request for the CEC to work with community boards to identify where crossing guards are most needed and to develop comprehensive district-wide crossing plans. The school shared results from a bus survey and a petition highlighting inconsistencies with routes 23 and 54, noting long delays that affect students after school. Suggestions were made to improve parent coordinators' ability to arrange school-specific or MTA transportation for after-school programs.
- President Mezetin asked the community to make sure all parents attend the D28 town hall to voice their concerns in person to our chancellor and his cabinet. He said it is so important because the CEC doesn't have many chancellor's town halls. It is done once every two years. He provided the information about the town hall once more.
- Community Member commended Principal Greggo and the SAGE admin team for their transparency, commitment, and focus on student needs, noting SLT parents feel heard and valued. She highlighted ongoing issues: delayed locker installations by SCA, insufficient lighting at the main entrance, creating safety concerns, and the lack of a safety agent despite proximity to 112. She shared that only 5% of PS139 students advance to SAGE's Honors Program and requested strategies to improve preparation and outcomes. For PS139, she emphasized the need for a Beacon after-school program due to financial constraints, noting Common Point has lapsed and the school petition has 304 signatures despite the principal's opposition. She requested Dr. Blake's support in bringing Beacon to the school and a parent's roundtable discussion. She also encouraged participation in DPAC to secure a Title I recording secretary.
- Community Member, a former parent and local business owner (35MDE), offered his services to DOE schools for quick-response, minor problem-solving, emphasizing their proximity in Brownwood. He highlighted his ability to assist students and partner with schools for practical, hands-on support. He was

recently approached by the Success Via Apprenticeship Program (SBA), a trade program providing teachers with real-world experience in areas like electrical work and plumbing.

- Community Member raised concerns regarding PS139 after school program. She said the principal vetoed the request and she's asking for help from the district.
- UFT Rep gave greetings and thanked the presenters for their wonderful presentations. 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 raised concerns regarding PS139 after school program. She said that she has to drop her daughter to a different location for after school which is a financial burden and struggle to take her out of the neighborhood.
- Panel for Educational Policy – Queens Representative, Adriana Alicea provided important updates and shared upcoming meeting dates and information. She urged people to attend the Albany lobby day. She also announced the CEC28 town hall and announced another opportunity to meet the chancellor and his cabinet. She provided the details.
- D28 Parent, community advocate and ex cec28 member gave greetings and brought up the six parochial schools that are being closed. She wanted to see if the district office has connected with SCA or with the Queensborough President's Office regarding the schools. She also request a class size committee meeting.

### **Member Reports**

- Council Member reported discussing the new appointments with the Chief of FACE, noting some confusion around the announcements. She raised concerns about recent incidents of hate speech in parent leader spaces, including a current PEP member's ableist comment on social media, and questioned why the individual remains in their position despite an insufficient apology. She emphasized that hate speech is unacceptable, particularly in educational and community spaces where children are present, and that leadership responses are often too slow or inadequate. Council Member called for stronger, swift, and consistent action to prevent future incidents and ensure inclusive, respectful spaces in schools and community leadership.
- Council Member noted that high school offers were sent out and encouraged families that everything will work out, sharing that her own daughter is happy with her school. She urged parents to complete school surveys, acknowledging their length but emphasizing that feedback is taken seriously by principals. She reported that her schools are progressing in ELA and math percentages and suggested streamlining surveys to make them more manageable. Lastly, she

prioritized meeting with parents and PTAs in addition to SLT meetings and encouraged ongoing parent engagement.

- Council Member thanked FLC Sonia Rueda and Dr. Blake for assisting a PS48 family in making progress on a longstanding issue regarding bus service for their child. She reported a serious incident in which a bus driver used offensive, bullying language toward her own daughter, noting that the driver was still operating the bus a week later. The member emphasized that such language is unacceptable from adults toward students and highlighted the risk to all children riding the bus. She stated that the concern has been elevated to OPT, but they have not received a clear response regarding next steps. Council Member urged that serious action be taken, stressing that contractors serving children should be held to the same standards as students regarding bullying language. She concluded by thanking attendees and yielding her time.
- Council Member thanked attendees and acknowledged Sonia Rueda for responding to a parent question about training for new members, noting discussions about providing ongoing training with support from FACE and senior parent leaders. She highlighted upcoming MS217 events, including the Chancellor's Town Hall on March 16th and the summer site program application window from March 3–27, encouraging parent participation. She noted the school's STEM Fair was postponed for better planning and reminded parents that surveys have closed, though individual feedback can still be submitted via email. The member addressed ongoing bus stop concerns at Parsons Boulevard and 84th Drive, emphasizing the need to restore stops used by multiple schools. They concluded by reflecting on educational and immigrant experiences, celebrating the resilience of students and the international community, and thanking all scholars and attendees for their engagement.
- Council Member thanked the parents who brought up the after-school issues. He discussed ongoing challenges with after-school programs and summer programs at schools in D28. He pointed out that PS303 had the same issues. He also noted that some schools, such as 144, have struggled for multiple years to meet parent needs. He emphasized that current programs do not fully cover childcare needs for working families, particularly when children leave school early or require supervision over the summer. He highlighted the importance of affordability and noted that initiatives from the current mayor, such as expanded free childcare, are promising steps. The member suggested that the council consider developing a resolution or systemized solution to better support after-school and summer childcare programs. He encouraged discussion with parents to learn from past experiences and ensure that programs are accessible and effective. Overall, he stressed the need to address these gaps to reduce the economic burden on families and improve program availability
- Council Member shared that she has been reviewing ongoing conversations in WhatsApp chats and other communication channels to better understand parent concerns and school issues. She reflected on attending a seminar that emphasized leadership, self-awareness, and checking themselves before engaging in challenging conversations, focusing on protecting students and

families while minimizing conflict. She discussed her commitment to staying honest, reflective, and curious, using personal experience and self-created professional development resources when formal resources were lacking. She highlighted learning from historical and current public-school experiences in Brooklyn and Queens, including via podcasts, to better support parents and students. She emphasized the importance of proactive problem-solving, collaboration, and being prepared for future parent interactions. Overall, she stressed the need for continuous learning, self-reflection, and initiative to strengthen their advocacy and leadership within the council.

- Council Member introduced herself and noted she is still adjusting to her new role. She plans to visit more schools and attend SLT meetings to become familiar with district operations. She expressed enthusiasm for working alongside the Chancellor and mentioned attending the Beach Channel event this Saturday in preparation for the March 16th district event. She concluded by emphasizing her commitment to engaging with schools and thanked everyone for their time.
- Council Member reported that she has nothing to share and that she will be visiting more of her schools in the coming weeks. She yielded her time.
- Council Member thanked attendees and reflected on his fourth month in the role, emphasizing the importance of completing school surveys to provide meaningful feedback. He shared observations from two recent snowstorms, noting differences in approach but similar outcomes, and expressed interest in improving future responses. He praised Annie and Lauren for proposing ICE protection measures for schools, highlighting concerns for vulnerable families who may fear using police, fire, or other safety services. Council Member discussed keeping children engaged during the summer and suggested creating linkages between public schools and local libraries to encourage continued learning when schools are closed. He mentioned plans to meet with schools next week and attend the SLT at PS117 on Monday. Overall, they expressed commitment to staying involved, learning from their experiences, and sharing insights with the council.
- Council Member introduced herself as the newest member, noting she was assigned to PS82, PS182, and MS332. She and A.A. have reached out to the principals and school teams to schedule visits. Council Member thanked Principals Topol and Rodriguez for their prompt responses, while looking forward to coordinating with Principal Katan Brown. She emphasized the importance of completing these visits in March to better understand the work these schools are doing for students. She also discussed exploring AI-related topics for future CEC discussions and welcomed community input on practical tools or ideas that would benefit families and student learning. She shared a personal example of using AI to create short, educational videos for her 6-year-old to support social-emotional learning, helping him navigate feelings of being left out. Overall, she highlighted her commitment to learning from schools, engaging with families, and centering initiatives on student needs.

- Council Member thanked everyone for their consistent, behind-the-scenes work, noting the dedication and effort volunteers contribute to make the system run smoothly. He congratulated Queens High School for the Sciences on securing their new Hillside location for the 2026–2027 school year, co-located with D75 High School, celebrating the positive impact for students. He also highlighted the approval of the PS80 co-location, allowing D75 children to remain in their neighborhood instead of traveling long distances. Council Member expressed excitement about future positive developments in the district. They reminded everyone to attend the Chancellor’s Town Hall on March 16th at 6:30 p.m. at MS217 to engage directly with the Chancellor and his cabinet. The report concluded with holiday greetings and encouragement for continued community participation.
- 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 8:58pm

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
**ATTENDANCE**

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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 9:12pm  
Roll call was done by Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers, and a quorum was met.

Council Members and A.A discussed CEC28 Chancellor’s Town Hall amongst themselves

A.A shared the February Calendar and Business Meeting Minutes

Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers made a motion to accept the February Calendar and Business Meeting Minutes to be approved  
Seconded by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lauren Clavin

President Mezetin asked members if they would like to have one of their school principals present in May or June to please let him know and email the cec inbox before the 15th of the month.

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

President Mezetin made a motion to adjourn meeting.

**Business Meeting Adjourned at [9:15pm]**

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**Respectfully Adopted by**

Chantel Chambers  
Recording Secretary

APPROVED