

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 28
Annual/Calendar/Business Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2026

ANNUAL MEETING 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		Present
Kenya Townsend	Member	Present
Annie Cok	Member	Absent
Paquita Williams	Member	Present
Eric Gretch	Member	Present
Cecily Xu	Member	Absent
Lorin Perkins	Member	Present

NON-MEMBER ATTENDANCE

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

Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Council Member Quentin Mezetin at 6:51pm
Roll call was done by Council Member Chantel Chambers and Quorum was met.

- Council Member Quentin Mezetin opened the meeting, greeted everyone and asked Spanish Interpreters to provide instructions in Spanish.
- Quentin read from the annual script and asked for a chair protem nomination
- Council Member Lauren Clavin self-nominated as chair protem
Roll call by Council Member Chantel Chambers 10 yes; 0 opposed; 2 absent – Lauren Clavin proclaimed as chair protem
- The protem took over the meeting and read script
- The protem asked for a nomination for President
- Council Member Quentin Mezetin self-nominated for President
- Quentin Mezetin accepted and made a two-minute speech while the AA kept time
Roll call by protem Lauren Clavin 10 yes; 0 opposed; 2 absent – Quentin Mezetin proclaimed as President for 2026-2027
- President Mezetin took over the meeting and read the script
- President Mezetin announced that he will take nomination for 1st Vice President
- Council Member Lauren Clavin self-nominated for 1st Vice President
- Council Member accepted and made a two-minute speech while the AA kept time
- Roll call by President Mezetin 10 yes; 0 opposed; 2 absent – Lauren Clavin proclaimed as 1st Vice President for 2026-2027

- President Mezetin announced that he will take nomination for 2nd Vice President
- Council Member Jennifer Sobers self-nominated for 2nd Vice President
- Council Member Jennifer Sobers accepted and made a two-minute speech while the AA kept time
Roll call by President Mezetin 10 yes; 0 opposed; 2 absent – Jennifer Sobers proclaimed as 2nd Vice President for 2026-2027
- President Mezetin announced that he will take nomination for Recording Secretary
- Council Member Chantel Chambers self-nominated for Recording Secretary
- Chantel Chambers accepted and made a two-minute speech while the AA kept time
Roll call by President Mezetin 10 yes; 0 opposed; 2 absent – Chantel Chambers proclaimed as Recording Secretary for 2026-2027
- President Mezetin announced that he will take nomination for Treasurer
- Olessia Bauer self-nominated for Treasurer
- Council Member Olessia Bauer accepted and made a two-minute speech while the AA kept time
Roll call by President Mezetin 10 yes; 0 opposed; 2 absent Olessia Bauer proclaimed as for Treasurer for 2026-2027
- Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers read a statement from Council Member Cecily Xu was. Council Member Xu stated that, due to a pre-arranged family commitment and international travel, she was unable to attend the July 2, 2026, CEC28 meeting. She expressed her support for the current CEC28 leadership team to remain in their roles if officer elections or re-elections were held during the meeting, including the re-election of President Quintin Mezetin, First Vice President Lauren Clavin, Second Vice President Jennifer Sobers, Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers, and Treasurer Olessia Bauer. She requested that her support be noted in the record.
- President Mezetin congratulated everyone with new titles and announced that the election is completed.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:12pm

CALENDAR MEETING 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		Present
Kenya Townsend	Member	Present
Annie Cok	Member	Absent
Paquita Williams	Member	Present
Eric Gretch	Member	Present
Cecily Xu	Member	Absent
Lorin Perkins	Member	Present

Calendar Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Quentin Mezetin at 7:13pm

Roll call was done by Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers and Quorum was met.

- President Mezetin opened the meeting, greeted and thanked everyone for attending. He asked Spanish Interpreters to provide instructions in Spanish
- President announced that it will be a short meeting and proceeded with the next item on the agenda. He asked for the proposed amendments to the CEC28 bylaws to be shared on the screen. He voiced that the draft amendments had been emailed to all Council members and community as an attachment prior to the meeting. He explained that the amendments were developed following a bylaws committee meeting and that the purpose of the discussion was to allow Council members time to review the proposed changes, ask questions, and provide feedback before the voting in the August meeting. The members went over all the changes and discussed amongst themselves.
- Contracts for Excellence Presentation by Superintendent Dr. Eric Blake & Senior Grant Officer Dragomira Koleva was presented
- President Mezetin asked whether Council members had any questions regarding the C4E presentation. Several Council members indicated that they did. The President stated that Council members' questions would be addressed first, followed by the public comment period.
- Superintendent Dr. Blake, Deputy Superintendent and the Senior Grant Officer responded to the members' questions accordingly
- President Mezetin thanked the presenters for answering Council members' questions and for their willingness to remain available to provide additional clarification as members continued questions.
- The President then opened the public comment period for parents and announced that a two-minute timer would be implemented for each speaker as a trial. Council Member Kenya was assigned to monitor the timer, and First Vice President Lauren Clavin was assigned to call speakers from the list.

Public Comments

- D28 Parent expressed concerns regarding the use of technology in schools. She described an incident in which her first-grade son accessed online content about kidnapping on his school-issued iPad during free time, stating that the matter had since been addressed by the school. She raised concerns about the lack of parental safeguards on school-issued devices, including access to the internet and YouTube. She also questioned the use of technology in the classroom, including screen time, the reported district-mandated use of i-Ready assessments, and the requirement for students to transport school-issued iPads between home and school. She expressed concerns about the educational value and accuracy of these assessments. She also raised concerns about the use of artificial intelligence in schools, including student access to AI tools and the use of AI-based software to monitor student device activity. She encouraged the

Council to consider policies like those adopted by other school districts that limit student screen time.

- D28 parent commented on curriculum and instructional materials, stating that neighboring school districts appeared to achieve stronger academic outcomes by relying less on certain district-approved instructional programs and more on alternative teaching resources. The parent asked whether the Council had discussed with the Central Office the possibility of reconsidering or replacing specific curriculum programs with alternatives they believed to be more effective. He noted that, although they were not District 28 resident, they were a graduate of M.S. 217.
- D28 parent shared concerns regarding the use of school-issued devices and requested information about the process for opting out of certain technology-based activities. She stated that they had previously submitted a letter to the principal requesting an opt-out for their first-grade child, which was signed by 13 additional parents, but were informed that an opt-out was not currently possible. She expressed concerns like those raised by another speaker regarding students' potential exposure to inappropriate online content through school-issued devices. She requested guidance on the opt-out process and stated that their family was considering alternative educational options due to these concerns. She also noted that many parents share similar concerns but may have difficulty attending meetings due to the timing and family responsibilities and young children's schedules.
- Council Member read a written public comment submitted by a parent, who was unable to remain for the meeting. The message expressed concerns that screen-based learning tools are replacing teacher-led instruction. She stated that her son uses i-Ready regularly at school and at home, but after completing lessons, neither the student nor teacher is able to review missed questions, limiting the instructional value of the program. She also raised concerns about internet-based homework being distracting for students and requiring additional supervision. She shared examples of technology use in classrooms, including the use of IXL, YouTube instructional videos, and Smart Board presentations, and questioned whether increased screen use is negatively affecting student learning. She requested that the Council consider whether technology use in schools is serving students effectively.
- D28 parent of two children expressed concerns about technology use in elementary classrooms. The parent urged the district to establish stricter limits on Chromebook use and AI tools in early grades, citing concerns about screen time, inappropriate content, and technology replacing hands-on instruction. The parent requested that teachers be provided with resources and alternatives to support more face-to-face learning.
- D28 parent shared three comments: requesting Summer Rising enrollment and placement data across the district; requesting updates on air conditioning at Russell Sage, particularly in the auditorium and gym; and raising concerns about student MetroCards expiring before the end of August. She suggested keeping cards active through the summer or reissuing them when needed in September. The parent also shared a positive experience attending an early childhood celebration at the New York Hall of Science and suggested creating a pre-K/3K parent council to help families learn about advocacy and prepare for future school years.

- D28 parent and speech-language pathologist raised concerns about increased technology use during the school day, including instructional screen time and the use of i-Ready. She stated that they have chosen not to consent to their child's use of i-Ready or a DOE-issued device at P.S. 101. The parent asked for clarification on why i-Ready and other technology-based assessments are required and requested information about the research supporting increased classroom technology use and its impact on student learning outcomes compared with teacher-led instruction.
- D28 parent raised concerns regarding school funding and grant opportunities. The speaker noted that schools continue to face budget shortfalls despite Fair Student Funding and asked how families can determine whether schools are actively pursuing available grants. She asked whether there is a centralized resource from New York City Public Schools showing available grants, school applications, and opportunities for parents with grant-writing experience to provide support. She also referenced previous involvement of parents in grant writing through SLTs and requested greater transparency and support for schools seeking additional resources. The speaker specifically raised concerns about the loss of after-school grant funding at P.S. 139, P.S. 220, and P.S. 206, and asked what steps school leaders and the district are taking to ensure families are not burdened with additional costs for after-school programs.
- D28 advocate representing Community Board 12's Education Committee and Council Member Ty Hankerson's office, congratulated District 28 and CEC 28 on a successful school year and congratulated the newly elected CEC28 officers and expressed interest in strengthening collaboration between Community Board 12, the Council Member's office, and CEC28. She raised concerns about the lack of apparent restrictions preventing students from accessing other websites on New York City Public Schools-issued devices and stated that she would bring the issue to the Council Member's attention for further discussion. She also provided contact information for her office and the Chief of Staff, particularly regarding future discussions with the School Construction Authority related to new developments and school planning within the district.
- Queens Representative on the Panel for Educational Policy representing Queens CECs, provided updates regarding upcoming meetings, including the next PEP meeting scheduled for July 29, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at High School of Fashion Industries in Manhattan. She noted that the meeting calendar was delayed due to scheduling matters and shared that the Utilization Committee would also meet in July and August, with additional details to follow. She invited members to reach out with utilization-related questions. She also addressed concerns regarding screen time in schools, noting her previous advocacy on the topic. She shared that she plans to have her son opt out of certain technology use in the upcoming school year and expressed support for families who wish to pursue similar options..
- President Quentin Mezetin thanked the parents for their input. He stated that the discussion was insightful and highlighted the concerns shared by parents in attendance and throughout the community. He emphasized that these concerns could be addressed through collaboration and with the support of the district. President Mezetin expressed confidence in the community's ability to work together and then moved the meeting forward to Councilmember Reports. President Mezetin noted that the two-minute speaking limit for parents appeared

to work well and clarified that the time limit was only a trial and not part of the bylaws or a formal requirement. He proposed testing a three-minute timer for Councilmember Reports during the meeting and asked Council Member Kenya Townsend to assist with timing.

Member Reports

- Council Member thanked all parents who spoke during the meeting and acknowledged those who may have been participating for the first time. She expressed appreciation for their willingness to share their perspectives and encouraged them to continue attending meetings and engaging with the community. She stated that she shares the concerns raised by parents and noted that many members of the Council are also parents who understand these issues personally. She shared that she has been contacted by numerous families across the district who were unable to attend the meeting but have expressed similar concerns. She emphasized the importance of addressing these concerns and thanked the community members for their participation.
- Council Member reported on attending graduations at PS 50 and MS 55, where she highlighted student performances, school community achievements, and recognition of parent leader Dr. Mustafa for her advocacy. She thanked families for their ongoing support of students and acknowledged the many responsibilities parents take on to help children succeed. She shared updates on collaboration between school facilities and the SCA, including new monthly meetings to address school concerns more effectively. She highlighted advocacy efforts at PS 55 that led to contractors visiting the school to review long-requested upgrades and expressed hope that these efforts will result in continued progress. She also recognized the principal of PS 144 for her years of service and encouraged community members to attend Council, PEP, and elected officials' meetings to stay engaged and support schools. She thanked attendees and wished everyone a happy holiday.
- Council Member reported that she had a brief update and shared that, during the upcoming term, she will focus on the Gifted and Talented program. She expressed interest in learning more about the eligibility criteria, curriculum oversight, and whether the program is consistent across schools within District 28. She noted that she looks forward to hearing more from schools offering the program and from the Superintendent.
- Council Member provided updates on MS 217 and facility concerns. She reported that the SCA met with Councilmembers on June 22 and that she spoke with SCA Vice President regarding the replacement of MS 217's 20+ year-old temporary T-building. She emphasized that an annex is needed to address the building's condition, classroom capacity, and Jamaica rezoning impacts. She shared that SCA VP stated there was not enough available land for an annex and that construction could take approximately 10 years. She requested an SCA feasibility study identifying the land requirements so she can pursue a potential land alienation process with NYC Parks but has not received a response. She continues to seek support from elected officials, including Congressman Grace Meng, Senator Liu, and Councilmember Gennaro's office. Councilmember highlighted ongoing facility concerns at MS 217, including deteriorating

conditions of the temporary building, peeling paint, and poor maintenance of surrounding areas. She requested an official SCA land survey and documentation supporting the determination that there is insufficient land for an annex. She also reported no updates from Emerson School after being unable to participate in its SLT meeting and recognized Halsey Junior High School 157 for its student performance of the national anthem at Mets Stadium.

- Council Member reported on ongoing review of school budgets following a recent PS303 report projecting the upcoming school year. He shared that she has spoken with parents and conducted additional research, and she plans to continue monitoring the issue. He encouraged members to pay close attention to school budgets, particularly regarding the DOE's commitment to continue the "hold harmless" funding policy for another year. Council Member noted that while the hold harmless policy provides stability, the lack of clarity around potential mid-year budget adjustments could create challenges for some schools. He added that enrollment trends will continue to impact school funding, as student populations are declining both nationally and in New York City. He highlighted that even schools previously experiencing high enrollment, such as Forrest Hill High School, may face enrollment-related challenges in the future.
- Council Member yielded her time
- Council Member yielded her time
- Councilmember reported that he will meet with schools in July to begin planning for September. He shared updates on screen time discussions in the Forest Hills and Rego Park areas, noting that her children's school, 10-196, has adjusted its screen time policies in response to parent feedback, with noticeable changes already taking place. He expressed interest in hearing more from teachers about their perspectives, instructional needs, and technology use, noting the importance of including teacher feedback alongside parent and administrator input. He wished everyone a great summer and Fourth of July.
- Council Member introduced herself as parent and founder of Autism Out Loud Incorporated shared concerns about student technology use, noting the impact of excessive screen time on attention, learning, and student behavior. She shared that teachers she has spoken with feel they need more support and training in managing classrooms with increased technology use. She also raised concerns about large class sizes, staff training for students with behavioral and special needs, and the need for stronger de-escalation and emotional intelligence practices among teachers, paraprofessionals, and school staff. She emphasized the importance of increasing parent engagement, noting that families may face barriers due to stress, lack of information, or limited access to resources. She suggested expanding outreach through culturally responsive communication and social media to help families better understand school processes and increase participation. She shared that Autism Out Loud Incorporated provides caregiver support groups and sensory-inclusive, screen-free spaces for children and families. She invited the community to upcoming events on July 17 and August 30 at Rochdale Village Community Center and expressed her willingness to serve.
- Council Member shared highlights from recent school events, including graduations at PS 140 and a District 75 school. He encouraged members to attend D75 graduations, noting the unique and meaningful experiences they provide. He shared an example of successful advocacy after a parent at Halsey

raised concerns about air conditioning. He contacted school facilities, and the issue was addressed with air conditioning installed in the auditorium. Council Member also attended the PS 80 D75 open house, highlighting the collaboration between District 75 staff, school leadership, and stakeholders. He reported attending the FACE Parent Awards Ceremony and shared that Deputy Chancellor Flavia has committed to attending a future Council meeting. He thanked the community for a successful school year and wished everyone a happy Fourth of July.

- President Mezetin asked the Spanish interpreters if they had any questions from the Spanish line. No questions were asked on Spanish line.
- President Mezetin thanked the principals in attendance for showing up even though schools were out of session
- Family Leadership Coordinator Sonia Rueda gave greetings and provided upcoming meetings and important announcements.
- Dr. Benoit from district office congratulated everyone on their titles and gave greetings
- President Mezetin reminded attendees to stay cool during the hot weather and advised those in need of air conditioning to check available city resources. He wished everyone a happy Fourth of July and a safe weekend.
- Spanish interpreters were dismissed at 9:19pm

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20pm

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		Present
Kenya Townsend	Member	Present
Annie Cok	Member	Absent
Paquita Williams	Member	Present
Eric Gretch	Member	Present
Cecily Xu	Member	Absent
Lorin Perkins	Member	Present

Meeting was called to order by President Mezetin at 9:26pm

Roll call by Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers and Quorum was met

Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers made a motion to table the June meeting minutes until the August meeting, as the administrative assistant was occupied with processing financial items before the deadline and subsequently went on vacation, and was unable to complete the minutes.

Seconded by President Mezetin

Motion passed

Treasurer Olessia Bauer shared her screen and explained the CEC28 new budget. She presented the following budget items: food and beverages for meetings (\$296), copy lease (\$1,644), CEC website (\$2,610), graduation certificates (\$1,250), and reimbursement to Quentin Mezetin for event expenses paid out of pocket (\$250). She noted that the total annual budget is \$25,000 and made a motion to approve the budget as presented.

Seconded by Council Member Eric Gretch
Motion passed without any objection

Council Members discussed having a social media account and discussed amongst themselves.

FACE Rep provided guidance pertaining to a social media account

Business Meeting Adjourned at [9:39pm]

Respectfully Adopted by

Chantel Chambers
CEC 28 Recording Secretary