

February 9, 2026

CALENDAR | BUSINESS MEETING

Location: 28-11 Queens Plaza North, 5th Floor Conference Room, Long Island City (Hybrid)

Calendar Meeting

Call to Order: 6:38 PM

Call to Order: 6:34 PM

Roll Call:

Linda Chung-Leung: Present
Alexis Kaloyanides: Present
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Present
Victoria Medelius: Present
Estela Nguema: Present
Marlene Rossi: Present
Nadeea Saeed: Present
Laura Simpson: Present
Whitney Toussaint: Present
Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: Present
Kayla Spence: Present

Student representative Joshna Gurung was absent.

Resolution 199 – Declaration of a Vacant Seat

- Under New York State Education Law 2590, a council member who misses three meetings without excuse forfeits their seat. Council member Nahounha Alexandre: missed October 6, 2025, December 8, 2025, and January 12, 2026, Calendar/Business meetings and many committee meetings, without communicating with the council.
- The council warned Alexandre on December 11, 2025, that another absence would vacate her seat. She missed the January 12 meeting; members voted unanimously to declare her seat vacant and inform the Chancellor.

Linda Chung-Leung: In favor
Alexis Kaloyanides: In favor
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: In favor
Victoria Medelius: In favor

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Estela Nguema: In favor
Marlene Rossi: In favor
Nadeea Saeed: In favor
Laura Simpson: In favor
Whitney Toussaint: In favor
Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: In favor
Kayla Spence: In favor

First Public Agenda and Speaking Time

- Joanna Romanowska – PS 222 parent: A mother of a pre-K student and thanked the school for its welcoming environment. Romanowska urged the council to help secure an onsite, affordable after-school program at PS 222, noting that students currently walk to PS 69 or another site for after-school care.
- Celso Garcia – parent with children in Q300 and IS-141: Garcia said he has twins at IS-141 and raised concerns about a recent mayoral executive order requiring audits of city agencies for compliance with sanctuary laws. He called for training so that parents, staff and security personnel know how to respond if U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents appear at a school.
- Rose Shapiro – PS 222 PTA president: Shapiro, a parent of a first-grader at PS 222 and president of the PTA, followed up on Romanowska’s comments. She reported that a survey showed more than half of PS 222 families are interested in after school programs and that 95 % of responding families wanted programs ending at 5:30 or 6 PM. Shapiro noted that co-zoned PS 69 is receiving funding for an after-school program and asked the council to address the inequity.
- Amy Vigliotti – PS 122 parent and psychologist: Vigliotti, who has children in kindergarten and first grade at PS 122, spoke on behalf of parents. She warned that the new class-size reduction law could leave G&T classes with as many as 32 students and about 60% higher than the cap for general-education classes and create a two-tiered system. Vigliotti planned to send a letter with signatures from G&T families.
- William Jordan – parent and physician: A parent of a child at Middle School 429 in Sunnyside and a public-health physician, Jordan echoed earlier speakers’ concerns about immigration enforcement. He urged the district to adopt clear protocols to protect families from ICE operations, provide staff training and develop community programs like walking school buses so children can safely get to school.
- Cecilia Durbin – PS 69 parents said fears of parents and children being taken by federal agents create stress for students and educators. She urged the district to improve mental-health support, disseminate more information about immigrant rights and encourage parents to build mutual-aid networks.
- Vaughn Turner – SLT member and PTA treasurer: Turner, an SLT (School Leadership Team) member and parent of a 7th-grader at Lewis Armstrong Middle School

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(IS-227), raised concerns that the Department of Education’s Title I Parent Advisory Council guidelines are outdated. He noted that the most recent guidelines were marked “Draft,” leaving schools without clear rules for family-engagement activities.

- Anna – District 30 United Federation of Teachers (UFT) representative: Anna introduced herself as the district 30 UFT representative. She described attending a Voice Charter School meeting and contrasted the charter’s resources with neighboring PS 111. She argued that the charter, which shares a building with PS 111, takes up space needed for smaller class sizes and criticized the charter’s selective admissions and data practices.
- District 30 Book Club representative: The District 30 Book Club provided an update on membership growth and school participation, mentioning that State Senator Jessica Ramos recently served as a guest reader. The speaker invited council members to attend or read at future book-club events.

School Spotlight – D30 Pre-K Centers

- Dr. Suzan Goldstein, principal of District 30’s four Pre-K centers, presented a spotlight on the program.
- Dr. Goldstein explained that although the centers operate at four sites in East Elmhurst, Astoria and Long Island City, they function as one school with the motto “together is better, together as one”. Staff plan curriculum collectively, and families are invited into classrooms through an open-door policy.
- Enrollment totals about 320 students across 20 classrooms. 3-K classes are capped at 15 students and Pre-K classes at 18, each with a certified teacher and paraprofessional. Dual-language classes in Spanish and English operate at certain sites.
- Dr. Goldstein urged families to complete the Pre-K application by February 27; even current 3-K students must reapply. The Department of Education makes placement offers; there is no half-day option and only one school assignment per child.

District 30 Respect for All Awards

- Abigail Ruby received a Respect for All award for her poster encouraging students to support classmates who feel unrepresented and to be a friend rather than a bystander.
- Christian Militia-Salazar won a second award after reading an essay about standing up for a classmate who was teased at lunch; he recounted confronting the bullies, sitting with the classmate and feeling proud when his teacher praised his actions.

Superintendent’s Report

Ms. Lisa Hidalgo

- Superintendent Lisa Hidalgo introduced herself and her leadership team—Deputy Superintendent Dr. Fahey and Executive Director Dr. Tanisha Rivera—and invited families to reach out if they needed assistance. She highlighted the district’s core values of honesty, excellence, accountability, respect and teamwork and the theme “Planting Seeds Together, Growing Futures as One”.
- Family engagement: A virtual session on test and academic anxiety drew about 240 parents.
- Student Activities: Director of Sports Jesse Sanchez organized elementary basketball tournaments. PS 84 won the District Cup; PS 85 claimed the Superintendent’s Cup and PS/IS 78 won the Community Cup. PS 152 took first place in a debate competition featuring more than 300 students. Schools celebrated World Read Aloud Day
- Professional development: Over 130 educators participated in a workshop with researcher Dr. Kate Kinsella on strategies for multilingual learners. During School Counseling Week, the district held a wellness retreat for counselors focusing on mental-health support.
- Immigration support: In response to community concerns about immigration enforcement, Hidalgo emphasized that schools and the district office will share clear information, distribute Know-Your-Rights flyers in multiple languages and train parent coordinators to support families.

Presentation: Office of District Planning

- **Christina, Emily and Julianne** from the Office of District Planning presented a capacity analysis for Long Island City. Most K-5 schools have seat deficits; PS/IS 78 (-71 seats), PS 112 (-53), PS 111 (-15) and Hunters Point Elementary (-49)—while PS 76 has a surplus of 215 seats.
- Two new buildings are planned: Parcel C (Q341) will open in September 2027 with 451 general-education seats and 96 District 75 seats, and Court Square (Q508) will open in September 2028 with the same capacity.
- The plan proposes expanding PS 384 to a K–8 school and moving its pre-K–3 grades to Parcel C when those building opens. A new school, PS 439Q, would launch in an unused pre-K center during the 2026–2027 school year and then relocate to Court Square when the facility opens in 2028–2029. The Panel for Educational Policy was scheduled to vote on these proposals on February 25, 2026.

Presentation: Committee on Special Education (CPSE)

Temi Fasoye Citywide CPSE Chairperson

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- Most preschoolers with Individualized Education Programs receive services in regular 3-K and Pre-K classrooms; students with greater needs attend 4410 community programs.
- Families should apply for 3-K and Pre-K regardless of IEP status. The application window runs from mid-January through February 27, 2026. Children born in 2023 are eligible for 3-K and those born in 2022 for Pre-K, with programs beginning September 2026.
- After the application period closes, waitlists open for families who did not receive their first choice. The CPSE process involves referrals, evaluations, and CPSE meetings; parents can contact the district office for assistance.

Presentation: Office of Food and Nutrition

- Stephanie Sze and Wendy Martinez described plant-forward initiatives such as Meatless Mondays and rotating Plant Power Days. Menus avoid processed deli meats and feature locally sourced granola and yogurt.
- Unlimited salad bars allow students to refill their plates, and menus accommodate vegetarian, vegan, halal and kosher diets. Schools encourage students to try new foods and emphasize plant-based options.
- Four schools—PS 111, PS 171, PS 234 and PS 152—participate in a Nutrition Collaborative Program providing nutrition education and grants. Staff receive ongoing professional development, including sessions on how food affects mood.
- The Department of Education follows USDA and New York City food standards, which limit low-calorie sweeteners and ban more than 60 additives.

Resolution 200 – Resolution Calling on Mayor Mamdani and the New York State Legislature to Codify Meaningful School Governance Reforms in the 2026 Mayoral Control Renewal

Authored: Laura Simpson

Co-sponsored: Victoria Medelius, Xochitl Cohen Garcia and Alexis Kaloyanides, Marlene Rossi

- The Council considered Resolution 200 regarding codifying school governance reforms in the 2026 mayoral control renewal.
- The resolution references CEC District 30's prior Resolution 178 (January 8, 2024) and findings from the April 2024 NYSED mayoral control report indicating concerns about limited community voice and concentration of power with the Mayor.
- The resolution notes statements by then-candidate and now Mayor Zohran Mamdani opposing mayoral control and supporting strengthened co-governance and community involvement.
- The resolution calls for codifying reforms in state law, including:

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- o Restructuring the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) to remove a mayoral majority and/or add citywide council representation.
- o Requiring that at least half of mayoral PEP appointees be current public school parents.
- o Establishing an annual Chancellor evaluation with formal input from Community and Citywide Education Councils.
- o Expanding and codifying Community Education Council authority over zoning, charter approvals, school closures, phase-outs, and co-locations.
- o Requiring advance demographic and capacity analyses for proposed zoning changes and timely written responses to CEC resolutions.

The resolution states CEC District 30's opposition to including mayoral control renewal in the state budget and to any extension longer than two years. The resolution calls on State legislative leadership to include these reforms in any 2026 mayoral control extension legislation. The resolution directs that the adopted resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, Chancellor, Governor, Queens Borough President, relevant state legislators, and members of the Queens State Legislative delegation, and invites other councils to pass similar resolutions.

Linda Chung-Leung: In favor

Alexis Kaloyanides: In favor

Danielle Lopresti-Lee: In favor

Victoria Medelius: In favor

Estela Nguema: In favor

Marlene Rossi: In favor

Nadeea Saeed: In favor

Laura Simpson: In favor

Whitney Toussaint: In favor

Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: In favor

Kayla Spence: In favor

Resolution 201 – Protecting the Rights of Students with Disabilities Opposing Federal Funding Cuts and Staff Layoffs

Author: Estela Naguma

Co-sponsored: Victoria Medelius, Kayla Spence, Alexis Kaloyanides and Daniela Presti Lee

- CEC 30 opposed the Trump Administration's proposed 2026 federal budget changes to special education, including consolidation of IDEA programs and block grant funding.
- Concerns were raised that proposed U.S. Department of Education staff layoffs would increase caseloads, reduce services, and jeopardize the provision of FAPE for students with disabilities.

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- The resolution noted proposed \$4.5 billion cuts to K–12 programs and a \$49 million reduction to the Office of Civil Rights, potentially weakening student support and civil rights enforcement.
- Members highlighted the growing population of students with disabilities in NYCPS and the increased need for resources and services.
- CEC 30 called on New York’s Congressional delegation to oppose any legislation weakening IDEA and to support full federal funding, including passage of the IDEA Full Funding Act (H.R. 2598).
- CEC 30 urged restoration of U.S. Department of Education staffing levels.
- The Council committed to advocating for increased federal, state, and city funding for special education and urged NYCPS and other government partners to develop solutions to address the funding and staffing crisis.
- CEC 30 called for NYCPS to take all necessary actions to protect the rights of students with disabilities and for transparency and accountability in budget decisions.

Linda Chung-Leung: In favor

Alexis Kaloyanides: In favor

Danielle Lopresti-Lee: In favor

Victoria Medelius: In favor

Estela Nguema: In favor

Marlene Rossi: In favor

Nadeea Saeed: In favor

Laura Simpson: In favor

Whitney Toussaint: In favor

Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: In favor

Kayla Spence: In favor

Resolution 202: In Support of the PS 199Q community opposing harmful shelter transfers for families of New York City Public School Students

Authored: Whitney Toussaint

The resolution discussed aims to support PS 199Q and District 24 CC due to the city's 60-day shelter limit affecting families with children, which disrupts their education. The resolution highlights the McKinney-Vento Act, which ensures homeless students' educational rights, and criticizes the 60-day rule for causing chronic absenteeism and decreased test scores. It cites a 2016-17 study showing that homeless students with instability factors performed worse academically. The resolution urges the Department of Social Services and Mayor Adams to revise shelter policies and provide alternative housing to prevent educational disruption.

Linda Chung-Leung: In favor

Alexis Kaloyanides: In favor

Danielle Lopresti-Lee: In favor

Victoria Medelius: In favor

Estela Nguema: In favor
Marlene Rossi: In favor
Nadeea Saeed: In favor
Laura Simpson: In favor
Whitney Toussaint: In favor
Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: In favor
Kayla Spence: In favor

Second Public Agenda and Speaking Time

- No comments

Announcements

- CEC 30 announced that the next Committee-of-the-Whole meeting is scheduled for February 18at 6 PM.
- **Next Calendar and Business Meeting on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 6:30pm.
Ps.171 Peter G Van Alst 14-14 29 Avenue, Queens, NY 11102.**

Adjournment -10:35PM.

Business Meeting

Call to Order: 10:38 PM

Roll Call:

Linda Chung-Leung: Present
Alexis Kaloyanides: Present
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Present
Victoria Medelius: Present
Estela Nguema: Present
Marlene Rossi: Present
Nadeea Saeed: Present
Laura Simpson: Present
Whitney Toussaint: Present
Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: Present

Kayla Spence: Present

Motion on Meeting Schedule

- Move Business Meeting to Committee-of-the-Whole meeting on February 18 6pm. Expect budget modification. The original date (February 17 at 6 PM) conflicted with the Lunar New Year. Members agreed to move the meeting to February 18.

Linda Chung-Leung: In favor
 Alexis Kaloyanides: In favor
 Danielle Lopresti-Lee: In favor
 Victoria Medelius: In favor
 Estela Nguema: In favor
 Marlene Rossi: In favor
 Nadeea Saeed: In favor
 Laura Simpson: In favor
 Whitney Toussaint: In favor
 Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: In favor
 Kayla Spence: In favor

Budget Modification

- The council needs to purchase a new iPad for council business. Only \$150 remained in the general supplies budget, so members proposed reallocating \$405 from other budget categories and adding a \$45 processing fee to cover vendor costs.
- The modification ensures funds for the tablet and a three-year warranty. Members agreed that the purchase was necessary for council work.

Updated Budget:

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	OBJECT CODE FOR BUDGETING PURPOSES	OBJECT CODE FOR EXPENDITURE PURPOSES	AMOUNT SCHEDULED
General Supplies	100	198	\$1,550
Equipment	300	332	\$405
Procurement Card (supplies and meeting expenses)	100	179	\$0
CEC30 Member Reimbursements & Parent Engagement	400	496 & 489A	\$18,000

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CEC30 Meeting Expenses	451	451	\$1,300
Data Processing	613	613	\$45
Zoom	400	489A	\$1,060
Website Maintenance - <i>Non-Contractual Services</i>	400	489A	\$2,640
TOTALS			\$25,000

Linda Chung-Leung: In favor
Alexis Kaloyanides: In favor
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: In favor
Victoria Medelius: In favor
Estela Nguema: In favor
Marlene Rossi: In favor
Nadeea Saeed: In favor
Laura Simpson: In favor
Whitney Toussaint: In favor
Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: In favor
Kayla Spence: In favor

Adjournment: 10:42 PM

Business Meeting Cont'd

Call to Order: Feb. 03-18-2025 -5:38 PM

Roll Call:

Linda Chung-Leung: Present

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Alexis Kaloyanides: Present
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Present
Victoria Medelius: Present
Estela Nguema: Present
Marlene Rossi: Present
Nadeea Saeed: Present
Laura Simpson: Present
Whitney Toussaint: Present
Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: Present
Kayla Spence: Present

Reading and Approval of the January 2026 Minutes

- The Council reviewed January 2026 minutes. A motion was made to move forward to the next agenda item; the Council proceeded.

Speakers Series

Make the Road

- Victoria provided an update on the virtual session, noting strong attendance (approximately 60–100 participants).
- Outreach extended beyond District 30, including attendees from the Bronx and CEC/District 24.
- Spanish interpretation was used and supported participant questions.
- Next Make your Road -March 5, 2026

IncludeNYC

- The presentation was successful; over 33 people attended.

Math Kangaroo

- Two sessions are coming up Feb. 26 for Elementary and March 10 for Middle School.
- Math kangaroo would like to offer a raffle of prizes such as Math Kangaroo books or plushies. The Council discussed that raffles/prizes may be offered, but the Council cannot share registrant information with third parties. The Council must handle it.

Know Your Rights – Community Events & Resource Toolbox

- Added additional InfoHub resources to the D30 Open Arms webpage.

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- Continued efforts to arrange court appointments/accompaniment training, with plans to open registration once confirmed.
- Progress in identifying space for in-person training and events.

- Alexis reported:
 - A potential partnership with Emerald Isle Legal Services Clinic (Woodside) for a workshop on completing standby guardian forms
 - Emerald Isle is exploring language access/translation possibilities.
 - PS 149 (Beacon school) was identified as a potential space for future events (evenings and weekends) through a connection with Queens Community House.

March Meeting Speakers

Quarterly Presidents' Council Check-In

- The Council confirmed the March calendar meeting will include the quarterly Presidents' Council check-in.

UFT Presentation

- The Council discussed an outreach email from UFT regarding a potential presentation.
- Members shared concerns that UFT may not be the best fit to deliver a “Know Your Rights” workshop due to limits on answering detailed questions and the need for content expertise.
- Consensus:
 - If UFT is presenting how educators/teachers are being supported and prepared, the Council is open to it.
 - If UFT intends to deliver a Know Your Rights workshop, the Council will decline and pursue other presenters.

Bylaws Update

- The Council noted the bylaws update item and that it must be included on the Calendar Meeting agenda.

Additional March speaker ideas

- Members discussed inviting a DOE office/presenter, including a suggestion to feature ASD programming due to the March meeting location and community interest.
- Proposed topic: differences between programs (ex: Horizon/NEST) and application pathways.
- Add any resolutions in progress to the agenda.

Member Reports

Linda – 222 is facing significant budget cuts and projected low enrollment. The school is considering gradually expanding from 2nd through 5th grade to stabilize enrollment. Zoning issues are causing students transition between District 24 (PS 89) and District 30 (IS 230). PS 234 is reviewing how to repurpose previously awarded grant funds.

Danielle – Visited the District 30 Pre-K Center in East Elmhurst. Observed strong family engagement, spacious classrooms, and a welcoming learning environment. Cont'd: Laura – Highlighted dual language programming and strong monthly parent engagement at the Pre-K Center. Expressed interest in Council support for early childhood programming.

Marlene – Conducted a visit to PS 329, which continues to face space constraints. Despite limitations, the school offers strong community programming. Working on a resolution regarding continued ELL parent representation on Citywide Councils.

Estela – Attended liaison visit and Chancellor town hall. Drafting a resolution in response to CEC 26's proposal regarding Borough President appointments and quorum changes.

Laura – Testified at City Council regarding Mayoral Control. Assisted IS 10 with Borough President capital funding guidance and suggested creating a districtwide application guide.

Victoria – Addressed safety concern at PS 212 (playground wiring). Following up on outstanding funding issues. Provided updates on the D75 program sitting at Bryant High School and emphasized the need for improved community education. Encouraged family and student participation regarding PS 384 grade expansion.

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Kayla – Conducted liaison visit (3K–5 school, approx. 372 students). School raised concerns regarding 2019 capital funding not received. Reviewing SCA Capital Progress Report for clarity.

Victoria– Attended CEC 24 emergency meeting regarding shelter relocations. Engaged in Albany advocacy and drafting Legislative Priorities document.

Committee Reports

Legislative Brunch Committee – Caterer secured; event to be held at PS 361. The majority elected officials confirmed some RSVPs pending. Seating chart and student participation planning underway.

Estela’s Survey approved awaiting final distribution email language before release.

New Business

- The Council must select a date for a virtual introductory meeting with the new FACE leadership: Dr. Ann Lopez, Chief of Family and Community Engagement (FACE).

Adjournment –6:40PM.