

JANUARY 12, 2026

# CEC 30 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

### Roll Call:

Nahounha Alexandre: Unexcused Absent

Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Excused Absent

Linda Chung-Leung: Present

Alexis Kaloyanides: 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

### First Public Agenda and Speaking Time

Peter Argeris and Dr. Damien, teachers at P.S. 148, presented at the district 30 Book Club. The group recently completed reading *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. At least 115 students participated at least once, representing multiple District 30 schools including P.S. 148, P.S. 212, P.S. 449, P.S. 2, and P.S. 151, as well as P.S. 148 alumni. The presenters shared plans for a Winter Book Club series featuring short stories and invited CEC members and community participants to attend or serve as guest readers. Meetings are held Thursdays from 7:00–8:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Cecilia Durbin, a District 30 parent, shared information about a community screening of the documentary *Heightened Scrutiny*, which examines issues related to transgender rights and student inclusion. The screening is scheduled for January 31, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Jackson Heights. A suggested donation of \$10 was noted, with limited childcare available for an additional fee.

### School Spotlight – P.S. 234 – The School of Performing Arts & STEAM

Principal Dora Danner, Assistant Principal Papa Thomas, and school staff presented on P.S. 234's evolution into the School of Performing Arts & STEAM. Highlights included the school's rebranding history, arts integration, after-school clubs, sports teams, student leadership initiatives, the Leader in Me program, and extensive field trips under the 'Get Out and See the World' initiative. Emphasis was placed on the creation of a sensory room and the expansion of sensory areas in every classroom, supported by PTA fundraising and district leadership.

**Presentation: Office of District Planning**

Emily Gobin, Associate Director of Queens Planning, along with Julianne and Kristina, presented the annual district data consultation. The presentation reviewed enrollment, retention, and capacity trends across District 30, noting that the district continues to exceed citywide averages in both elementary and middle school retention. The team explained Chancellor's Regulation A-190, which governs major school utilization changes, and Regulation A-185, which governs rezoning proposals requiring CEC approval. Upcoming capital developments were discussed, including Q341 (Parcel C), anticipated to open in September 2027, and Q508 (Court Square), anticipated to open in September 2028. Continued collaboration with CEC District 30 on rezoning and utilization planning was emphasized.

**Presentation: School Construction Authority**

Julie, External Affairs Manager from the School Construction Authority (SCA), provided an overview of the New York City School Construction Authority's five-year capital plan, including the November amendment, which outlines planned new school construction, building replacements, and major system and accessibility upgrades citywide. The update highlighted the City's commitment to modernizing public school facilities, including the \$10.6 billion investment announced by Mayor Adams to address aging infrastructure and expand school capacity. Information was shared regarding capital improvement projects within District 30, including new school buildings, facility expansions, and infrastructure upgrades. It was noted that Building Condition Assessment Reports are completed annually for every school building to identify areas in need of repair or improvement and to help inform project prioritization. District 30 capital projects include a range of exterior, interior, and safety-related upgrades such as asbestos remediation, lead paint abatement, and exterior masonry repairs. Additional information was shared regarding Resolution A projects funded by elected officials, which complement the capital plan, and the SCA's ongoing efforts to increase participation by minority-owned and women-owned businesses in school construction and capital improvement projects.

**Ms. Lisa Hidalgo, District 30 Community Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Lisa Hidalgo provided a comprehensive district update highlighting instructional priorities, including strengthening literacy and numeracy outcomes, supporting arts education, and prioritizing social-emotional learning. She emphasized creating safe, inclusive, and supportive school environments and acknowledged the efforts of school leaders, educators, parent leaders, and community partners. Superintendent Hidalgo reaffirmed her commitment to

ongoing collaboration with Community Education Council 30 and engagement with District 30 families.

**Presentation: Reso A Funding Queens Borough President’s Office**

Fannie Lynn, Queensborough President’s Budget Director, presented Reso capital funding, which provides annual discretionary capital allocations for school projects managed by the School Construction Authority (SCA). Only a school principal or assistant principal may submit the application; this cycle requires a letter of support from the BTA/PTA, a minimum grant of \$50,000, and SCA cost estimates for construction projects. Eligible projects include athletic field, gymnasium, auditorium, and lab renovations, technology upgrades, and HVAC improvements; ineligible items include library books, loose furniture, consumables, software, and staffing or after-school program costs.

- December 22: Application shared
- February 2–3: Borough board budget hearings (10:00 AM–5:00 PM, hybrid)
- February 27: Reso application deadline
- September–October: Expected award or non-funding notifications

**Second Public Agenda and Speaking Time**

No comments

**Announcements**

- Next Calendar and Business Meeting will be held hybrid at 6:30pm.
- Educational Policy Meeting on Wednesday January 28, 2026 at 6pm  
Location: The Michael J. Petrides School High school in Staten Island, NY  
715 Ocean Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301

**Adjournment** -9:08PM

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# **Business Meeting**

**Call to Order:** 9:26PM

**Roll Call:**

- Nahounha Alexandre: Unexcused Absent
- Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Excused Absent
- Linda Chung-Leung: Present
- Alexis Kaloyanides: 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 December 2025 Minutes**

The December 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by council members. Consensus on the minutes presented.

**SCA Capital Projects Discussion**

Council members continued discussion regarding the School Construction Authority for capital projects and coordination with district planning efforts. Council Members completed a form to decide their top 5 schools that will move forward with the Capital Project. Information is sent to the SCA.



**Speaker Series**

Council discussed plans to continue the CEC 30 Speaker Series with a focus on timely topics relevant to District 30 families, including student rights, school governance, and community resources.

- **AQE - Mayoral Control – the council discussed the history and current status of mayoral control of New York City schools**, including governance prior to mayoral control when elected school boards were in place. Since the Bloomberg administration, mayoral control has shaped school governance, funding mechanisms, and accountability structures. It was noted that mayoral control is expected to continue in the near future, and if changes occur, they are anticipated to be implemented through a phased approach. Community confusion regarding funding structures and policy decisions tied to the current governance model was acknowledged.

- **Literacy Partners** - An overview was shared regarding Literacy Partners programming focused on the Science of Reading. The workshops support families across a range of reading development needs, including students who experience reading challenges. Literacy Partners offers sessions in both English and Spanish, including fully Spanish-language workshops. The first Academic Advancement Speaker Series will feature Literacy Partners and will be held virtually at 6:30 p.m. to accommodate families' Schedules.
- **INCLUDEnyc** - INCLUDEnyc programming was discussed, with emphasis on informational workshops designed to support families navigating special education services. Spanish interpretation will be available. These sessions are intended to refresh knowledge and provide updated resources for families and school communities.

### **Know Your Rights Series – Community Events and Resource Toolbox**

Updates were provided on the recent Rapid Response Training held at the Museum of the Moving Image, which was well attended. Partner organizations included elected officials' offices and advocacy groups. Additional trainings are being planned, including court-watching workshops. Space has been secured at CUNY Law, and a facilitator is currently being identified. The District 30 OPEN ARMS webpage continues to receive significant engagement and will be updated as new resources become available

### **February Meeting Speakers/Presentations**

Preliminary agenda items for the February meeting were discussed, including Food and Nutrition Services, AFN, bylaws revisions for public comment, and potential presentations related to Pre-K enrollment, class size, and school admissions processes.

### **Member Reports**

Council members shared individual updates, observations from school visits, and issues raised by constituents, including enrollment trends, special education supports, and family engagement.

**Committee Reports** - Committee updates included scheduling upcoming meetings, compliance with public notice requirements, and planning for future programming. Consensus was reached to allocate \$1,200 for food expenses for an upcoming District 30 event.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Consensus was reached to support promotion of a community screening of the documentary Heightened Scrutiny through the council's social media platforms. Attendance concerns regarding a council member's third unexcused absence were addressed, and the council agreed to proceed in accordance with applicable policy and regulations while expressing concern for the individual's well-being.

**Adjournment- 10:51PM**

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