

# Community Education Council District 30

## November 2025 Meeting Minutes

**Date:** November 10, 2025

**Location:** IS 429 Sunnyside Middle School (Hybrid)

**Meeting Type:** Calendar Meeting, Business Meeting, and Committee of the Whole (November 17, 2025)

---

### NOVEMBER 10, 2025 - CALENDAR MEETING

**Called to Order:** 6:37 PM by Co-President Victoria Medelius

#### Roll Call

All 12 members present:

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

#### Public Comment (First Public Agenda)

**Venus (Louis Armstrong parent):** Advocated for increased parent participation in CEC meetings and shared experiences with parent advocacy.

**Daniel Leroc & Fredo Ruggiero (PS 148 Book Club Organizers):** Reported book club expansion to multiple schools including PS 148, 149, 151, 212, PS 2, IS 227, and homeschool

students, averaging ~80 participants. Announced special Thursday session on Ruby Bridges, pausing *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

**Christina Furlong (NY Coalition for Transportation Safety):** Announced PS 148 partnership with Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day at Langston Hughes Library, featuring Story Walk with *Am Ruby Bridges* and historical quotes about District 30's school desegregation pairing program (PS 148 paired with PS 127 East Elmhurst, PS 92 paired with PS 148).

**Becca Staley (D30 President's Council Co-President):** Trunk or Treat recap: 31 trunks/tables, 19 schools participated, 4 high schools, 2 SBOs, 3 elected officials. Next year's event scheduled for October 23rd.

---

## **School Spotlight: IS 429 Sunnyside Middle School**

**Student Presenters:** Lucia Lewis (7th grade president), Jasmine Perez (Vice President), Julie Lofey (treasurer), Zephy Connor (8th grade), Jaden Guardotto (8th grade VP)

### **Unique Features Presented:**

- Extensive club opportunities including student-created dance team
  - Regions Track program allowing 7th/8th graders to take Regents exams early
  - Strong student government (3 presidents, 3 VPs, 3 secretaries across grades 6-8)
  - Three academies: Arts (visual/performing), Young Explorers (debate), Design & Engineer (technology)
  - Beable online learning with Lexile assessment and personality quiz
  - Relief drive for Jamaica (Hurricane Melissa): clothing and canned food collection
  - First graduating class planning senior trip (Kalahari leading with 60/109 8th graders voting)
- 

## **Presentation: Office of Language Access**

**Presenter:** Robert Williams, External Outreach Specialist

### **NYC Public Schools Context:**

- 1M+ students, 1,600+ schools, 180+ languages
- 40% of households speak non-English language at home
- 12 covered languages: Albanian, Arabic, Bangla, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Uzbek (3 added this year)

### **Services Provided:**

- Free interpretation (in-person, virtual, over-the-phone in 200+ languages)
- Translation of critical communications
- Each school has language access coordinator (2-hour training)
- 5-7 business day response requirement

#### **Access Information:**

- Website: [schools.nyc.gov/hello](https://schools.nyc.gov/hello)
- Google Translate dropdown for full site translation
- Family brochure with cut-out language cards
- Translation/interpretation request form
- Feedback and complaint forms available
- Sign language services: separate office (OSLIS@schools.nyc.gov)

#### **Outreach Methods:**

- MTA subway/bus ads, print/digital ads
- Direct parent outreach: robocalls, emails, texts, annual mailers
- Parents must ensure contact information updated in school systems
- Over-the-phone interpretation available on-demand
- Schools should use Gamma for automatic translation

#### **Key Questions Addressed:**

- *Marlene Rossi*: School responsibility for equitable information access. **Response:** Principals notified, coordinators trained; Williams offers school presentations (visited 15 schools this year).
- *Whitney Toussaint*: Recommended communication cadence. **Response:** Every communication should use Gamma; Williams sent weekly reminders as parent coordinator.
- *Linda Chung-Leung*: Non-tech-savvy parent access. **Response:** Annual campaign via multiple channels; Williams available for all parent engagements.
- *Estela Nguema*: Adding languages. **Response:** Data team analyzes student populations; will email detailed algorithm explanation.

**Budget:** Schools receive separate interpretation budget (\$5,000-\$10,000 based on language needs). Costs vary by language.

---

## **Presentation: NYC Solves Math Teams**

**Presenters:** Dr. Bill Fahey (D30 Deputy Superintendent), Kathy Grandchamps & Amanda Bueno (Central Math Instructional Leads)

**Context:** High schools in year 3; District 30 middle schools beginning September 2026 (currently "year zero"); elementary schools future implementation.

**Why Shift:**

- Traditional methods (memorization, mimicry) haven't served all students
- Majority of middle/high school students not meeting grade-level standards
- 2/3 of Black and Hispanic students struggling
- Math education crucial for political fairness, technological empowerment, economic equity

**District 30 Data (Beginning of Year, grades 3-8):**

- Economically disadvantaged students 20-30% below advantaged peers
- D30 generally outperforms citywide averages
- Achievement gaps for Black students and multilingual learners vs. city
- Notable: Significant Black student improvement in HS Algebra 1 Regents

**Four Math Shifts:**

1. From teacher modeling → students making sense of mathematical phenomena
2. From different tasks for different students → shared tasks with multiple entry points (low floor, high ceiling)
3. From discourse to demonstrate understanding → discourse to develop understanding
4. From deficit-based approach → asset-based approach
5. From various lesson materials → shared high-quality instructional materials

**Interactive Activity:** "How many squares on checkerboard?" demonstrated low-floor/high-ceiling task with multiple solution strategies.

**Key Clarifications:**

- Common Core = grade-level standards (unchanged)
- Shifts = teacher pedagogical moves
- Manipulatives remain (concrete → pictorial → algorithm progression)
- MTSS continues; shifts strengthen Tier 1 core instruction
- Teachers may substitute contextually relevant problems while maintaining standards
- All student strategies acceptable if they reach answer
- Curriculum is goalpost; ultimate goal is rewarding careers, economic security, positive force for change

**Parent Engagement:** December 11th meeting for School Leadership Teams to preview 3 curriculum options; potential webinar for broader parent community.

**Questions Addressed:**

- *Xochitl Garcia-Cohen*: MTSS/intervention alignment, teacher innovation flexibility
  - *Whitney Toussaint*: Manipulatives use
  - *Estela Nguema*: Geometry instruction (taught at all grades)
  - *Alexis Kaloyanides*: Homework complexity, parent communication
  - *Laura Simpson*: Shared high-quality materials definition
  - *Nadeea Saeed*: Number fluency vs. timed assessments
  - *Linda Chung-Leung*: Common Core vs. shifts difference
- 

## **Presentation: Office of District Planning**

**Presenter:** Julianne Bozzo

### **PS 384 (Hunters Point Elementary) Expansion Proposal:**

Current: K-5 at building Q375

#### **Timeline:**

- **2025-26:** Add 6th grade (K-6 + Pre-K)
- **2027-28:** New Parcel C building opens
  - K-3 + Pre-K move to Parcel C
  - Co-located D75 elementary (8 sections, 48-96 students, OT/PT resource rooms)
  - Grades 4-7 remain at Q375
- **2028-29:** Full K-8 split-site (K-3 at Parcel C, 4-8 at Q375)

#### **Process:**

- Posted October 31st
- Community engagement: SLT meeting, community meeting (strong support)
- **December 4th, 6 PM:** Joint public hearing (virtual)
- **February 25th:** PEP vote
- Email: [D30proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D30proposals@schools.nyc.gov)
- PS 384 on middle school application (pending PEP approval)

#### **Court Square Elementary:**

- Incubation site: Pre-K Center 1 (1111 40th Avenue), opens 2026-27
- Permanent building: Court Square, opens 2028-29
- Phase in to K-5
- Principal: Vinciana Espada (held October community meeting, more planned)

#### **Questions:**

- *Laura Simpson*: PEP process. **Response**: Proposal on agenda, public comments accepted (meeting + email), PEP receives public comment analysis, votes.
- 

## **Resolution 194: Fair and Reliable Transit Access for All NYC Students**

**Lead Author:** Laura Simpson

**Background:** Resolution proposed by Transportation Alternatives Youth Committee (presented September 2025)

### **Key Provisions:**

- Provide student Omni cards to ALL public school students (regardless of distance, yellow bus eligibility, alternative transportation)
- Amend Chancellor's Regulation A-801 (last updated 2000)
- Expand to unlimited rides all year
- Establish clear procedures for flagged card deactivation/replacement
- Produce durable plastic cards
- Reform fulfillment system to prevent school delays

### **Context:**

- Students within half-mile, yellow bus recipients, alternative DOE transportation currently ineligible
- Many students have after-school activities, jobs, family commitments requiring public transportation
- Omni cards flagged for misuse (unpublished MTA guidelines)
- Students with complex living situations unfairly flagged
- Cards easily damaged, limited school supply
- Students without cards may jump turnstiles (arrest risk, immigration status vulnerability)

### **Comments:**

- *Alexis Kaloyanides*: Commended TA students; noted East Elmhurst as transportation desert; resolution as equalizer for school, jobs, family access.

**Vote:** Unanimous 12-0

---

## **Resolution 195: Better School Bus Services for NYC Students**

**Proposed by:** Laura Simpson

### **Key Statistics:**

- 150,000 students receive DOE busing annually
- First weeks 2025-26: 4,476 no-shows, 8,068 delays/breakdowns (7,629 delays, 439 breakdowns September alone)
- 2024-25: 74% buses delayed, 94% of hour+ delays on disability routes
- GPS app: 25% drivers not enrolled (January 2024); doesn't show actual arrival/boarding times
- Many buses lack functional AC
- 65% yellow bus users are students with disabilities
- Some routes over 2 hours each way
- Current 46-year-old contracts exclude after-school, limit summer to 3 PM departures
- 100% District 75 schools cite lack of bus transportation as after-school barrier

### **Legislative Support:**

- Senate Bill S1018 (Senator Robert Jackson)
- Assembly Bill A8440 (Assemblymember Tony Simone)
- Preserve EPP (Employee Protection Provisions) wages/benefits for school bus workers

### **Resolved:**

- NY Legislature pass S1018/A8440; Governor sign
- PEP not extend contracts beyond August 2026
- Negotiate shortest extensions to allow re-bidding and modernization

### **Comments:**

- *Alexis Kaloyanides*: Commended September PEP speakers; unacceptable students lost 1-2 hours; acknowledged driver job protection importance while ensuring student safety.
- *Whitney Toussaint*: Detailed October PEP account: high tension, drivers believing job loss if contract not signed; PEP members/Chancellor clarified process; bus company representatives' behavior; Laura Simpson's PIX11-featured comments; contract allows 15-year-old buses; outdated terminology; doesn't address GPS, AC, modern safety; one-month extensions being signed; need updated contracts supporting driver protections AND student safety.
- *Victoria Medelius*: Praised Laura's PEP testimony; parents sending month-long delay logs.

**Vote:** Unanimous 12-0

Both resolutions sent to DOE and District 30 elected officials.

---

## **Superintendent's Report**

**Presenter:** Superintendent Lisa Hidalgo (with Deputy Superintendent Dr. Bill Fahey)

**Leadership Team:** Dr. Bill Fahey, Aracelly Talisha Rivera (Executive Director), Vandana Sharma (Family Leadership Coordinator), Marco Dominguez (Family Support Coordinator)

**Core Values (HEART):** Honesty, Excellence, Accountability, Respect, Teamwork

**Four C's:** Coherence, Collaboration, Capacity Building, Collective Accountability

**Theme:** "Planting Seeds Together, Growing Futures as One"

**Celebrations:**

- Middle School Fair: 300+ families at IS 145
- Fourth Annual Trunk or Treat (President's Council)

**Beginning of Year Assessment Data:**

**Acadience (K-2 reading):**

- 2025: 55% at/above benchmark (highest in several years)
- Historical: 48% (2023) → 50% (2024) → 55% (2025)
- Green increasing, red decreasing

**Multilingual Learners/ELLs:**

- Fluctuating, larger "well below" population
- Support: Spanish diagnostic tools added (iReady Evaluación Diagnóstica en Lectura, M-Class Lectura, ROLL)
- Asset-based approach: assess home language skills for English transfer
- Progress: single digits → double digits (not yet at goal)

**Students with IEPs:**

- 2021: 25% at/above benchmark
- 2025: 36% at/above benchmark
- Red category decreasing

**iReady Reading:**

- 31% (2023) → 37% (2025) over 3 years
- Current: 37% (up from 35% previous year)

**iReady Math:**

- 21% → 25% over 2 years
- Current: 25% (up 2% from previous year)

**MTSS:** Students at/below 40th percentile receiving targeted support

**Family Literacy Guide:** 6 tenets; workshops planned in accessible language for all families, supporting all levels including high achievers.

**Civics for All:** Continuing year-end review; age-appropriate lessons on fairness, responsibility, community service, leadership, current events; IS 429 highlighted as example.

**Student Programs:**

- **Soapbox NYC:** 25 D30 schools; submissions due December 10th; virtual preliminaries January 23rd (elementary), January 28th (middle); citywide showcase March 26, 2026
- **Participatory Budgeting:** 33 D30 schools

**NYC Updates:**

- **Beyond Access Series:** November 17th, 7-8 PM (Zoom) - "Helping Students Stay Focused and Manage Big Emotions"
- **Student Privacy Rights:** 9-pager distributed; all DOE employees completed training/testing

**D30 Events:**

- November 12th, 6-7 PM: "Communicating to Connect with Your Children"
- November 18th, 6-7 PM: Math workshop - "Partnering with Families for iReady"

**Question:**

- *Whitney Toussaint:* Requested workshop graphics/flyers for CEC social media.  
**Response:** Ms. Castillo and Vandana will provide.
- 

**Announcements**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Next CEC 30: December 8th, 6:30 PM, District Office (28-11 Queens Plaza North)
- PEP: November 19th, 6 PM, Prospect Heights Campus (883 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn)
- PS 384 Joint Public Hearing: December 4th (virtual, details forthcoming)

**Participatory Budgeting:** Three Council Members opening process for capital improvements:

- Councilmember Tiffany Caban (proposal gathering ends November 28th)
- Councilmember Julie Won
- Councilmember Shekar Krishnan

**RESO A Funding:** Kayla Spence reported Borough President Donovan Richards' office meeting: capital improvement funding opens January/February. **New requirement:** PTA letter of support required for project consideration. Timeline details forthcoming for liaison visits.

**Adjourned:** 9:31 PM

---

## **NOVEMBER 10, 2025 - BUSINESS MEETING**

**Called to Order:** 9:51 PM by Co-President Victoria Medelius

**Attendance:** 12 members present

Nahounha Alexandre: Present

Linda Chung-Leung: Present

Xochitl Garcia-Cohen: Present

Alexis Kaloyanides: Present

Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Present

Victoria Medelius: Present

Estela Nguema: Present

Marlene Rossi: Present

Nadeea Saeed: Present

Laura Simpson: Present

Kayla Spence: Present

Whitney Toussaint: Present

### **Minutes Acceptance**

October calendar/business meeting minutes accepted with amendments from Victoria Medelius (to be emailed to Secretary). Minutes to be posted on CEC30 website.

### **Speaker Series Discussion**

## **Completed:**

- *Know Your Rights (October 30th)*: Victoria Medelius reported successful Make the Road workshop with attorney; well-attended; has follow-up ICE information to distribute; format flexible for future (district-wide or school-specific).

## **In Progress:**

- *Literacy Partners*: Laura Simpson coordinating, timeline TBD
- *AQE - Mayoral Control*: Alexis Kaloyanides coordinating 1-hour speaker series (not calendar presentation); December TBD; requires scheduling to avoid calendar/committee meetings; minimum 1.5 weeks promotion runway

## **December Meeting Planning**

### **Confirmed Agenda Items:**

**School Spotlight:** Hunters Point Community Middle School (IS 291) + co-located D75 elementary

- Joint presentation by both principals
- Coordination: Estela Nguema, Whitney Toussaint

**Fun and Function:** 15-minute presentation

- Coordination: Linda Chung-Leung

**School Construction Authority:** Capital requests process presentation

- Critical timing: liaison visits November-December, January vote on top 5 proposals
- Schools respond by mid-to-late December
- Will explain qualifications, current project status
- Leslie to send email template to principals/parent coordinators

**President's Council:** Quarterly checkpoint

**Office of Food and Nutrition Services:** December or January (pending response to Victoria's survey)

**Superintendent's Report:** Monthly standing item

**Resolutions:** Open for proposals

**Motion to Continue as Committee of the Whole**

Due to time (10:10 PM) and building temperature, Whitney Toussaint moved to continue remaining items (Member Reports, Committee Reports, New Business) at virtual Committee of the Whole meeting Monday, November 17th, 6:30 PM. Seconded, approved by consensus.

**Adjourned:** 10:11 PM

---

## **NOVEMBER 17, 2025 - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Called to Order:** 6:35 PM by Co-President Whitney Toussaint (virtual)

**Attendance:** 11 members present (Danielle Lopresti-Lee absent; Nahounha Alexandre joined during meeting)

Nahounha Alexandre: Present

Linda Chung-Leung: Present

Xochitl Garcia-Cohen: Present

Alexis Kaloyanides: Present

Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Absent

Victoria Medelius: Present

Estela Nguema: Present

Marlene Rossi: Present

Nadeea Saeed: Present

Laura Simpson: Present

Kayla Spence: Present

Whitney Toussaint: Present

### **Individual Member Reports**

**Victoria Medelius:**

- PS 384 SLT meeting: strong support; 5th grade parents inquired about 6th grade rollout

- PS 384 Parent Coordinator interview: candidate is current school aide
- PS 384 community meeting (with Whitney): very positive feedback
- PS 152 liaison visit: bathroom upgrades needed; awarded capital funds but project not started (SCA follow-up needed)
- IS 429 liaison visit: graduation at Motion Tech High School (former incubation site)
- Partnering for Student Success event (LaGuardia Community College)
- Know Your Rights workshop (October 30th): successful; has follow-up ICE information
- Data privacy presentation (FACE)
- Community Board 3 presentation (with Whitney): introduced CEC role, D30 schools in CB3 area

#### **Alexis Kaloyanides:**

- Playground 90 (behind PS 148) advocacy: meetings with Parks Department, Councilmember Krishnan, Borough President's office re: funding
- Partnering for Student Success event
- AQE Ed Warriors: weekly sessions through end of calendar year, transitioning to less frequent schedule for Albany lobbying prep
- PS 148 Book Club: weekly family participation, well-attended
- PS 122 liaison visit scheduled

#### **Estela Nguema:**

- Four liaison visits completed:
  - **PS 4:** Innovation school construction proposal discussion; needs follow-up on renovation (proposal exists, requires PEP approval December 4th)
  - **PS 255:** Needs renovation; determining proposal support process
  - Positive Know Your Rights feedback from principals/parents
- PS 148 Book Club: virtual attendance, impressed by engagement
- Interest in Zoning Committee
- Question: D75 principals asking about liaison vs. D75 representative role differences

#### **Laura Simpson:**

- PTAC (Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee) meeting
- PEP meetings (September, October)
- Communication and Outreach Committee meeting (co-chair with Linda)
- Events Committee (Triple E) meeting
- AQE Ed Warriors
- IS 10 liaison visit: first visit, impressed, preparing highlights

#### **Whitney Toussaint:**

- Full board achieved; finalizing liaison assignments
- Temporary assignments transitioning to Xochitl Garcia-Cohen and Kayla Spence

## **Committee Reports**

### **District 30 Events Committee (Co-chairs: Linda Chung-Leung, Whitney Toussaint):**

- Meeting being scheduled (Doodle poll sent: Thursday/Friday/Monday options)
- **Legislative Brunch:** January 27th, PS 361 (Woodside Community School)
- **District Fund Day:** May 16th (tentative; all hands needed)
- Update elected official list: add Councilmember Chanel Thomas Henry (replaced Francisco Moya, District 26)
- Save-the-dates to elected officials
- Budget planning for both events

### **Special Education Committee (Chair: Estela Nguema):**

- Next meeting: Tuesday, November 25th, 10-11 AM (Zoom)
- Flyer/link forthcoming
- Open to all members (panelist link or public attendance)

### **Zoning Committee (Co-chairs: Victoria Medelius, Whitney Toussaint):**

- Next meeting after December 4th PS 384 joint public hearing
- Will discuss PS 384 zoning (pending PEP approval), IS 429 zoning (not yet zoned)
- Office of District Planning will assist with rules/regulations/timeline
- Committee members/interested parties encouraged to attend joint public hearing for context

### **Workshops/Member Training:**

- Mauro (FACE liaison) offering bi-weekly touchpoints/workshops
- Topics: liaison visits, capital requests, Council responsibilities
- Doodle poll for day/time preference
- Goal: support new members, answer questions, improve effectiveness
- Open to all; 4 returning members available for questions/support

### **Committee Membership Reminder:**

- All members can join any committee anytime
- Can attend any committee meeting (public or panelist with advance notice)

## **New Business**

### **Committee Member Solicitation:**

- Flyer to be updated and distributed to parents
- Five committees open to parents: Communication and Outreach, District 30 Events, Special Education, Academic Advancement, Triple E

- Zoning and Bylaws: Council members only (per bylaws/regulatory guidance)
- Committee chairs decide parent member selection

**School Construction Authority:**

- Invite to December meeting
- Present on capital request process/requirements/timelines
- Council members can inquire about current projects at liaison schools

**Laura Simpson:**

- Working on resolution for January Albany advocacy (will circulate for feedback)

**Alexis Kaloyanides:**

- AQE speaker series on mayoral control: organization interested, December TBD, will coordinate with Leslie to avoid conflicts

**Adjourned:** 7:11 PM

---

**New Member Welcome:** Xochitl Garcia-Cohen (Borough President appointee, PS 398 parent/PTA member with Victoria, kindergartner parent)

**Liaison School Assignments:** Being finalized; temporary assignments transitioning to new members; support available from returning members and district office for school visit coordination.

---

*Minutes prepared by Secretary Laura Simpson*

*Next CEC 30 Meeting: December 8, 2025, 6:30 PM, District Office*