

May 11, 2026

CEC 30 Calendar and Business Meeting Minutes

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

Calendar Meeting

Call to Order: 6:37 PM

Roll Call:

Linda Chung-Leung: Present

Alexis Kaloyanides: Present

Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Present -Virtual

Victoria Medelius: Present

Estela Nguema: Present

Marlene Rossi: Present-Virtual

Nadeea Saeed: Present-Virtual

Laura Simpson: Present-Virtual

Whitney Toussaint: Present

Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: Present-Virtual

Kayla Spence: Present

***It was announced that the council did not meet the in-person quorum requirement. Members were informed that all items requiring formal votes, including Resolution 207 and Business Meeting action items, would need to be postponed until the June meeting. ***

First Public Agenda and Speaking Time

Peter Gutierrez and Daniel LaRock discussed growing student participation in district programs and shared plans for a future collaboration with bestselling author Micah Johnson that would include student book clubs and free books for students.

Anna Wanang, UFT District 30 Representative, discussed the annual Shoebox Project supporting women and families in shelters and transitional housing. She explained that this year's event would support families residing at the Courtyard Marriott shelter on Ditmars Boulevard and would take place June 13 at PS 151.

Cecilia Durbin invited families to the second annual Trans Kids Joy Fest scheduled for May 17 and highlighted activities including block printing, theater games, bracelet making, reading activities, and family programming supporting transgender children and families.

Vaughn Turner, PTA Treasurer and SLT member at Lewis Armstrong Middle School, discussed concerns regarding changing school uniform policies, financial burdens on families, and questions regarding School Leadership Team procedures.

Lanier Baldwin-Evans and additional Q300 parents (Dev Purkayastha) raised concerns regarding inaccurate and harmful Black History Month presentations shown to students, including concerns regarding anti-Black messaging and lack of administrative oversight.

Jacqueline Daly, a parent addressed overcrowding, delayed school construction projects, and kindergarten waitlists impacting Long Island City families. She requested guaranteed placement pathways for displaced families.

Mercedes Jennings, a community liaison for State Senator Michael Janneris office, publicly recognized Co-President Whitney Toussaint for receiving distinguished recognition from State Senator Michael Gianaris for advocacy work supporting District 30 families and students.

Office of District Planning Presentation

Julianne Cianciaruso, Kristina Chan, and Rhea Cumberbatch from the Office of District Planning presented school overcrowding, new school planning, and possible rezoning in the PS/IS 78 area. They reviewed K–5 seat data showing deficits at PS/IS 78, PS 111, PS 112, and Hunters Point Elementary, while PS 76 has a seat surplus.

The presenters discussed two planned school buildings: Parcel C, scheduled to open in September 2027, and Court Square, scheduled to open in September 2028. They also shared that PS 439Q is planned to open in an interim site for the 2026–2027 school year before moving to Court Square, pending approval. They explained that possible rezoning could take effect for the 2027–2028 admissions cycle, but no decisions have been made. Current students would not be impacted, and sibling priority would remain in place.

The Office of District Planning reviewed Chancellor’s Regulation A-185 and explained that rezoning can help address overcrowding, reduce waitlists, balance school utilization, and support access to schools. A community conversation is scheduled for May 20, 2026, and ODP plans to return to the CEC 30 meeting on June 8, 2026.

Whitney discussed the major residential growth in Long Island City and the need for community input. Alexis asked about coordination between new housing developments and school capacity planning. Jonathan Greenberg encouraged a broader review of Long Island City zoning, including PS 111, PS 112, and Queensbridge Houses. Rachel Birkin supported a shared or open zone model to give families more choice. Helen Williams asked about residency requirements, and ODP clarified that admissions are based on the

address used during the application process. Randi Dinh asked that Queens Plaza North families be considered for Court Square. Jacqueline Daley raised concerns about developer mitigation fees and asked for a priority pathway for students in temporary sites to move into permanent buildings. Other commenters emphasized the need for walkable schools and timely rezoning for the 2027–2028 school year.

D75 Superintendent Presentation – Dr. Keisha McCoy

Dr. Keisha McCoy, District 75 Superintendent, provided an overview of District 75 programs, services, and priorities for students with disabilities. She discussed the district’s continued enrollment growth, the importance of expanding co-located programs and seats closer to students’ homes, and efforts to increase inclusive opportunities and postsecondary pathways for students.

Dr. McCoy also highlighted vocational and work-based learning programs that help students build independence and employment skills. A video from PS 226M was shown featuring a District 75 student participating in vocational and independent living training.

Following the presentation, Christi Angel, President of the Citywide Council for District 75, thanked CEC 30 member Estela for their advocacy and support of District 75 students. She discussed the importance of co-locations, inclusion, and ensuring District 75 students have equal access to school facilities and resources. Christy also shared that the council has developed resolutions and anonymous surveys to support families and address concerns related to co-located schools.

Helen Pinella from Louis Armstrong Middle School shared positive feedback about her school’s collaboration with District 75.

Ms. Lisa Hidalgo, District 30 Community Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Lisa Hidalgo addressed concerns raised by Q300 families regarding Black History Month materials that may have contained historically inaccurate content. She stated that District 30 values family feedback and would follow up with the school regarding the materials presented.

Superintendent Hidalgo highlighted District 30 events and initiatives, including Citi Field events, NYC Kids RISE scholarship efforts, the district 30 Attendance All-Star celebration with New York City Football Club, and a district hiring fair at IS 145 with over 200 aspiring educators.

She shared updates regarding state assessments, reminded families that schools would be closed on May 25 for Memorial Day, and discussed NYCPS’ ongoing AI initiative and upcoming AI guidance for families and schools. She also introduced the “Portrait of a Graduate” initiative focused on academic, social, and emotional development.

Summer Rising updates were provided, including 18 District 30 sites and 15 participating CBOs, with the program running from July 1 through August 14.

Upcoming events included a family leadership session on May 13, Family Fun Day on May 16, and the Crystal Cup Championship on May 30.

Public comments were also made regarding public school funding and proposed federal tax credit scholarship programs, requesting CEC 30 to write a letter.

Ebony M. raised concerns regarding the Q300 Black History Month presentation and communication from school leadership. Superintendent Hidalgo offered to continue the conversation offline. Co-President Whitney confirmed that the council had addressed the matter with District leadership in February and thanked families for returning with additional feedback.

School Spotlight Presentation – PS/IS 127Q

Principal Monica Montas presented a spotlight on PS/IS 127Q in East Elmhurst, which serves approximately 1,025 students from 3-K through eighth grade. She highlighted the school's diverse community, dual language program in English and Spanish, and support for English Language Learners and students in temporary housing.

Principal Montas discussed the school's focus on specialized high school preparation through the DREAM program, sharing that four students were accepted to specialized high schools this year and one student was accepted to Townsend Harris High School. She also announced the school's upcoming 100th anniversary celebration next year.

The presentation highlighted arts and extracurricular programming, including flamenco, Bollywood, and African dance programs, music partnerships with Carnegie Hall, and expanded sports opportunities such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, and cheerleading. Principal Montas shared that the school was selected to partner with New York City Football Club for student soccer clinics and will also receive a new soccer pitch.

Following the presentation members praised the school's welcoming environment, strong programming, and community support. Marlene also shared positive remarks about her daughter's experience participating in the school's volleyball program.

Resolution 207 – Accessible Transportation for All: Prioritizing Equity for Students with Disabilities – A Resolution for Change

Due to lack of in-person quorum, Resolution 207 could not be formally voted on and was postponed until the June meeting.

Estela Nguema presented an overview of the resolution focused on transportation equity, accommodation, accessibility, and transportation services for students with disabilities, particularly District 75 students.

Members discussed future amendments and noted that any proposed revisions would need to be publicly discussed during a future meeting in accordance with Open Meetings Law requirements.

CEC 30 Member Vacancy Announcement & Appointment Timeline Discussion

Members discussed reopening the vacancy application process after the remaining candidate from the prior cycle did not receive the required seven votes. FACE granted permission for the application process to be reopened. Because the council lacked quorum, members could not formally vote regarding the future application timeline or closing date.

Announced May 11, 2026 – 60 days to fill position -July 10, 2026

Second Public Agenda and Speaking Time

No comments.

Announcements

Upcoming Office of District Planning community conversation scheduled for May 20 at 6:30 pm.

The next CEC 30 Calendar and Business Meeting will take place June 8 via Zoom.

PEP Meeting May 20 at 6:00pm at the Michael J. Petriti School

Adjournment: 9:18pm

Business Meeting

Call to Order: 9:41 PM

Roll Call:

Linda Chung-Leung: Present

Alexis Kaloyanides: Present

Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Present -Virtual

Victoria Medelius: Present

Estela Nguema: Present

Marlene Rossi: Present-Virtual

Nadeea Saeed: Present-Virtual

Laura Simpson: Present-Virtual

Whitney Toussaint: Present

Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: Present-Virtual

Kayla Spence: Present

***Following the conclusion of the Calendar Meeting, the council proceeded with the Business Meeting. Due to lack of in-person quorum, all voting items were discussed but postponed until the June meeting. ***

Reading and Approval of April 2026 Minutes

Members reviewed the April 2026 meeting minutes. Whitney Toussaint explained that corrections primarily involved spelling updates for names of speakers and presenters as well as clarifications regarding the council member vacancy process. She noted that the minutes needed to accurately reflect the vacancy discussion because they were submitted to FACE in order to receive permission to reopen the application process and make the announcement during the current meeting.

Speaker Series

Members discussed moving forward with a presentation by Tanisha Grant, Executive Director of Parent Supporting Parents, focused on Family Miranda Rights. The presentation would likely take place virtually either later in May or during June.

Whitney reminded members that Speaker Series events are separate from regular council meetings and are always held virtually. She encouraged council members to continue proposing Speaker Series topics and presenters during Business Meetings and asked members to continue sharing flyers and announcements with families and community members.

Know Your Rights Series – Community Events and Resource Toolbox

Victoria Medelius shared updates regarding ongoing conversations with community organizations connected to the Know Your Rights Series. Members discussed plans for a possible Minority Rights Workshop during May and another workshop during June.

The council also discussed continued outreach efforts, educational workshops, and resource-sharing opportunities available through the Know Your Rights Series and Resource Toolbox initiatives.

June Meeting Speakers/Presentations

- New York City Kids Rise scholarship presentation about college savings plans and matching funds for families.
- Student Awards Presentation for the Scholarly Strides for Success Awards and School Community Service Awards. Student names will be read aloud and certificates prepared for awardees - Council members were encouraged to contact liaison schools that had not yet submitted student names because certificates would be created for all recognized students.
- The Office of District Planning will return for another presentation.

- Resolutions 207
- The business meeting will also include discussion and voting preparation for the July Annual Meeting calendar.
- President's Council

Member Reports

Victoria Medelius shared that she would be visiting I.S. 429 and attending the school's inaugural graduating class celebration. She also reported that long awaited capital improvements were underway at P.S. 70, including bathroom renovations and painting projects, which students and staff were excited to finally see completed after years of requests. Victoria also noted that P.S. 152 had recently received building repairs and painting updates that improved conditions for students and staff.

Linda Chung-Leung reported attending meetings with the New York City School Construction Authority regarding ongoing school construction and auditorium issues. She discussed concerns raised by parents about technology access and opportunities for students, particularly around equitable access to educational resources and programming.

Estela Nguema attended the Neurodiversity Walk at P277Q and the Autism Resource Fair at P255Q.

Alexis Kaloyanides, along with Linda and Nadia, participated in the P.S. 122 resource fair where they tabled on behalf of the council and connected with community organizations and potential partners despite limited attendance. Alexis also participated in an interview with Principal Bandajar for a parent coordinator position and shared that a bilingual candidate was being considered. She further reported attending meetings with Council Member Krishnan's office regarding the education budget and the Ed Warriors program, noting that the final Ed Warriors session would take place the following week. Additionally, Alexis attended a lengthy Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) meeting where discussions included co-locations and artificial intelligence guidance.

Kayla Spence provided an update regarding the council's CPSE resolution and reported that there had been small progress related to services for district families. Updates were also shared regarding the OneLIC task force and ongoing planning connected to school development and educational advocacy in Long Island City.

Nadeea Saeed reported attending an advocacy committee meeting at The Baccalaureate School for Global Education regarding the school's future relocation needs due to its leased building situation. She discussed advocacy efforts connected to the Long Island City development plans and concerns about moving forward with a proposed hydroponics lab project. Nadia also raised concerns about the environmental and educational impacts of artificial intelligence in schools and requested broader opportunities for parent feedback regarding District 30 AI guidance.

Laura Simpson reported attending the school utilization PEP meeting alongside Whitney where they advocated for District 30 schools and supported District 75 co-location efforts. Laura spoke publicly about overcrowding throughout District 30 and emphasized the district's need for additional school space and stronger collaboration with the School Construction Authority. She also noted that she planned to attend an upcoming committee meeting to continue advocating for expanded school capacity.

Marlene Rossi testified at the New York City Council regarding school safety and crossing guard concerns. She discussed ongoing advocacy efforts related to student safety, school walkthroughs, and the need for stronger city responses to longstanding crossing guard and security concerns throughout the district.

Whitney Toussaint reported attending the April 29 PEP meeting and advocating about overcrowding issues across District 30 schools, including schools in Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, and other rapidly growing neighborhoods. She shared that discussions with PEP representatives and School Construction Authority officials were productive and encouraged additional council participation in future advocacy meetings. Whitney also shared updates regarding community concerns connected to shelter placements and upcoming Community Board 1 discussions. She reminded members that co-presidents would be attending an upcoming Chancellor meeting and encouraged members to submit questions or concerns for discussion.

Committee Reports

Linda provided updates regarding the upcoming District Family Fun Day event and stated that additional volunteers were needed to support event operations. Council members were asked to arrive between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. to assist with setting up, table staffing, performances, and help participating in schools unloading materials. Members were encouraged to wear their CEC District 30 shirts during the event.

Linda also reported that event materials, including giveaways and supplies, had been organized in advance. Members discussed transportation and parking challenges near the event location and recommended using public transportation due to limited parking availability.

Estela stated last workshop with Include NYC will be on June 11.

Additional updates were shared regarding the district survey, including that the survey had already been distributed publicly on district 30 website and would remain open for additional responses throughout the remainder of the month.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Resolution – CEC Approval for School Utilization Proposals

Members discussed a recently passed resolution by Community Education Council 16 in Brooklyn related to school utilization proposals and the importance of ensuring utilization proposals receive proper CEC review and feedback before advancing through the PEP process. Any future school utilization proposal should include opportunities for community feedback and CEC involvement. Members also discussed the possibility of future resolutions related to district concerns, including artificial intelligence guidance and school utilization matters.

b. CEC PEP Member Representative Process/Vote

Co-President Whitney reviewed the process for selecting the Community Education Council representative to the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP). She explained that each borough has a CEC representative on the PEP and that District 30 is currently represented by Adriana Alicea, who has served in the role for approximately two years. Whitney stated that representatives must reapply annually and noted that a candidate forum would take place on Thursday, May 14. Council members would receive the link to observe the forum, but only the Co-Presidents are permitted to ask questions on behalf of CEC 30. Whitney shared that members previously submitted suggested questions and that she and Victoria selected three questions to ask the candidates.

Whitney explained that two candidates would be interviewed and their names would be shared once received from the nominating committee. She clarified that Queens is represented by CECs 24 through 30 and that each council receives one vote, meaning the Co-Presidents collectively cast one vote for District 30 after considering feedback from council members. Whitney encouraged members to observe the forum either live or through the recording before the May 31 voting deadline. She also reminded members that observers should not participate in the chat during the forum and stated that the nomination committee forum would be facilitated by representatives from CEC 25 and CEC 29.

c. Comptroller Survey – School Construction Authority

Whitney informed members that the Comptroller's Office was conducting a survey regarding experiences with the School Construction Authority (SCA). She encouraged all current and former CEC members to participate and provide feedback, regardless of how limited their experiences may have been. Whitney explained that the Comptroller's Office uses survey responses and reports to evaluate city agencies and shared examples of past reports that contributed to discussions around Fair Student Funding and poverty concentration funding. Members discussed whether such reports lead to meaningful change, and Whitney responded that some reports have influenced policy conversations and improvements.

d. Proposed Amendments – Chancellor’s Regulation A-655

Whitney reminded members to review and comment on the proposed amendments to Chancellor’s Regulation A-655 regarding School Leadership Teams (SLTs). She encouraged members to search their email for the proposal, review the redlined revisions, and submit comments even if they were brief or informal. Whitney referenced concerns raised during public comments regarding SLT consensus and participation and noted that CEC members have previously heard concerns from parents about SLT processes within the district. She encouraged members to support one another in drafting responses and emphasized the importance of submitting community feedback.

Adjournment: 10:20 p.m.