

July 13, 2026

CEC 30 Annual, Calendar, & Business Meeting Minutes

Location: The Hector Figueroa School located at 69-01 34th Avenue, Queens, NY 11377 (Hybrid)

Annual Meeting

Call to Order: 6:10 PM

Roll Call:

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

***A quorum was confirmed. ***

Selection of Chairman pro Tem to preside during CDEC Officers' Election

A roll-call vote was conducted, and Laura Simpson was elected Chair Pro Tem. Laura Simpson was nominated to serve as Chair Pro Tem.

Roll Call:

Linda Chung-Leung: In Favor
Alexis Kaloyanides: In Favor
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Absent
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 -Virtual
Kayla Spence: Present

Laura reviewed the election procedures and the council members confirmed that the procedures were understood.

Election of Officers of the Council for One-Year Term, July 2026– June 2027

President and Co-President:

The floor was opened for nominations for the office of President or Co-Presidents. Whitney Toussaint and Victoria Medelius were nominated to continue serving as Co-Presidents. No additional nominations were received.

Candidate Statements

Victoria Medelius introduced herself and stated that serving CEC 30 was particularly meaningful to her because she grew up in District 30, attended district schools and had children who attended District 30 schools.

Victoria emphasized the importance of collaborating with principals, teachers, students and families to advocate for the resources students need to have successful school experiences. She stated that she was not afraid to speak up or request changes from the New York City Department of Education when necessary.

Victoria described her partnership with Whitney Toussaint as collaborative and acknowledged that the work could be demanding. She stated that the Council had seen the results of its efforts and meaningful progress throughout the district. She thanked the Council members, including its newer members, for their work and perspectives and expressed her desire to continue working alongside them.

Whitney Toussaint echoed Victoria's remarks and expressed appreciation for serving with her as Co-President and working with the Council members.

Whitney stated that she hoped to continue strengthening the Council and developing more leaders who felt comfortable advocating for every child in District 30.

She reflected on the Council's progress since her first term in 2021, noting that more parents now attended Council meetings and felt welcome speaking publicly about their concerns.

Whitney reaffirmed her commitment to advocating for every student and school in District 30. She encouraged members to continue attending Panel for Educational Policy meetings, communicating with elected officials and participating in advocacy efforts. She also noted that the Council continued to have an open parent member position and was seeking another parent to join.

Following the candidate's statements, a roll-call vote was conducted.

Roll Call:

Linda Chung-Leung: In Favor
Alexis Kaloyanides: In Favor

Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Absent
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 -Virtual

Whitney Toussaint and Victoria Medelius were elected Co-Presidents.
Following their election, the Co-Presidents assumed responsibility for conducting the remainder of the officer elections.

Election of Vice President:

The Co-Presidents explained that because the Council had elected Co-Presidents, the bylaws did not provide for a Second Vice President. The Council would therefore elect one Vice President.

Linda Chung-Liang was nominated for Vice President and accepted the nomination.

Alexis Calyanides was also nominated but declined the nomination.

No additional nominations were received.

Candidate Statement

Linda Chung-Liang introduced herself and stated that she was currently serving as Vice President.

Linda described it as an honor to have served in the position during the previous year. She stated that she had learned a great deal from the other Council members, including Whitney Toussaint and Victoria Medelius.

She acknowledged that the role involved a significant amount of information and work but stated that she enjoyed serving District 30 children.

A roll-call vote was conducted.

Roll Call:

Linda Chung-Leung: In Favor
Alexis Kaloyanides: In Favor
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Absent
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 -Virtual

Linda Chung-Liang was elected Vice President.

Election of Treasurer:

Marlene Rossi was nominated and accepted the nomination.

No additional nominations were received, and nominations were closed.

Candidate Statement

Marlene Rossi thanked the Council for the nomination.

She stated that she genuinely enjoyed working with the Council and with the parents and families throughout District 30. She expressed her willingness and appreciation for the opportunity to continue serving the district.

A roll-call vote was conducted.

Roll Call:

Linda Chung-Leung: In Favor

Alexis Kaloyanides: In Favor

Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Absent

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 -Virtual

Marlene Rossi was elected Treasurer.

Election of Secretary

Laura Simpson was nominated to continue serving as Secretary and accepted the nomination.

No additional nominations were received, and nominations were closed.

Candidate Statement

Laura Simpson reflected on her first year serving on the Council and described the experience as transformative.

She stated that when she began serving, she had ambitious goals but was uncertain about how to accomplish them. Over the course of the year, she gained a clearer understanding of how she could use her talents and skills to support the Council and work collaboratively with the other members.

Laura thanked the Council members for their support and collaboration.

A roll-call vote was conducted.

Roll Call:

Linda Chung-Leung: In Favor
Alexis Kaloyanides: In Favor
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Absent
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 -Virtual

Laura Simpson was elected Secretary.

Adjournment of Annual Meeting

Following the election of all officers, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Annual Meeting.

A roll-call vote was conducted. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously by the members present.

Adjournment: 6:30 PM

Calendar Meeting

Call to Order: 6:31 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-Virtual
Kayla Spence: Present

First Public Agenda and Speaking Time

Jesse Duffy-Rose, parent of students in District 30 and a member of the I.S. 126 PTA, spoke regarding difficulties experienced by divorced parents in accessing student information. He explained that although he shares joint educational decision making authority, he was unable to receive school communications or consistently access the MySchools parent portal after moving out of the household. As a result, he missed important information regarding his child's eighth-grade graduation and other school updates. He requested that the Department of Education address the issue for families in similar situations.

Community Superintendent Lisa Hidalgo responded that her office would follow up directly with Mr. Duffy-Rose to review the matter and determine why he was experiencing access issues, noting that MySchools is managed centrally by the Department of Education.

Irene Robles, Co-Founder of Wonder Girls USA, introduced the nonprofit organization and announced that it would be partnering with I.S. 10 Horace Greeley Middle School. She described Wonder Girls as an after-school girls' empowerment program focused on personal and professional development, community service, mentorship, and scholarships. Ms. Robles shared that the organization currently serves schools throughout New York and New Jersey, is an approved DOE vendor, and welcomes opportunities to collaborate with District 30 schools and community members.

Lisa Donlan, President of the District 30 Presidents' Council, congratulated the newly elected Council officers and reminded Parent Associations (PAs) and Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) to submit their election certification forms. She also announced that the first Presidents' Council meeting, executive board elections, and training for incoming and current PA/PTA officers would be held on September 29, 2026, 9:30 am at the district 30 Office.

School Spotlight Presentation – PS 398

Principal Jordan Fitzgerald presented an overview of P.S. 398, highlighting the school's academic priorities, instructional programs, student supports, and family engagement initiatives.

Principal Fitzgerald explained that the school's instructional approach is driven by student performance data to provide differentiated instruction aligned with the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards. Since becoming principal in December 2023, the school has strengthened literacy instruction through teacher training in the Science of Reading, classroom book clubs, and implementation of New York Solves to support mathematics instruction.

The school offers a Dual Language Program from Pre-K through Grade 5, three Bridge intervention classes, and a departmentalized instructional model in Grades 4 and 5 to

better prepare students for middle school. Principal Fitzgerald shared that the school continues to see positive academic outcomes through these instructional practices.

He also discussed the implementation of the school's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), which includes dedicated Academic Intervention Services (AIS) periods, targeted Tier II and Tier III interventions, and book clubs that provide enrichment opportunities for students meeting grade level expectations. English Language Learner services were also expanded through dedicated grade-band teachers to better support students' language development.

Principal Fitzgerald highlighted several student leadership and enrichment opportunities, including Leader in Me, Student Government, Debate Team, Project Soapbox, Urban Advantage, Green Team, Drama Club, Spanish Club, Newspaper Club, and the CHAMPS athletics program. He also shared that the school received approximately \$94,000 through Participatory Budgeting to install new Promethean interactive panels throughout the building.

To strengthen family engagement, the school offers workshops based on parent feedback, partners with community organizations, and hosts "Fridays with Mr. Fitzgerald," a monthly opportunity for families to meet with school leadership and discuss school initiatives.

Council members thanked Principal Fitzgerald for his presentation and recognized the school's commitment to academic achievement, student leadership, and family engagement.

C4E Public Hearing

D30 Superintendent Lisa Hidalgo, accompanied by Yelena Nagdimov, presented the Fiscal Year 2027 Contracts for Excellence (C4E) Plan and conducted the annual public hearing. The presentation provided an overview of the Contracts for Excellence program and its purpose of improving student achievement through targeted investments in Class Size Reduction, Academic Intervention Services, programs for English Language Learners, programs for students with disabilities, and Community Schools.

The proposed District 30 C4E allocation totaled approximately \$65.5 million, as part of the city's overall Contracts for Excellence funding of approximately \$1.358 billion.

New York State's Class Size Reduction Law, including the phased implementation timeline requiring 70% compliance in 2026–2027, 80% in 2027–2028, 90% in 2028–2029, and full compliance by 2029–2030. Required class size caps for each grade band were also reviewed.

The Council noted that written comments could be submitted to the New York City Department of Education through July 29, 2026.

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

Superintendent Lisa Hidalgo reported that Summer Rising 2026 was successfully underway across 18 District 30 sites, serving more than 5,000 students in grades K–8. She shared that the program was operating smoothly, with students actively participating in both academic and enrichment activities and commended the collaboration between school staff and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in supporting the program. The Superintendent also addressed recent concerns regarding Meta AI and the potential use of publicly available images from social media. She informed the Council that all District 30 schools had been instructed to opt out of Meta AI features on their public social media accounts to help ensure that photos, videos, and audio shared by schools would not be used for artificial intelligence training. Superintendent Hidalgo emphasized that protecting student and family privacy remains a district priority and noted that private social media accounts were not affected.

Superintendent Hidalgo concluded her report by announcing that the District's Back-to-School Community Event was scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2026. While the location had not yet been finalized, she encouraged families and community members to save the date and participate in the event.

Council Member Alexis Kaloyanides thanked Superintendent Hidalgo for addressing the Meta AI issue and noted that Meta had reportedly begun rolling back some of the features following concerns raised by school districts. She expressed appreciation that District 30 had taken proactive steps to protect student privacy.

Second Public Agenda and Speaking Time

No comments.

Announcements

- Victoria noted reaching out to Office of District Planning regarding their presence at the August Calendar meeting.
- The District's Back-to-School Community Event is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2026.
- Next PEP Meeting is on Wednesday July 29th at 6pm at High School for Fashion Industries.

Adjournment: 7:53 PM

Business Meeting

Call to Order: 8:16 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-Virtual
Kayla Spence: Present

Reading and Approval of the June 2026 Minutes

Edits were sent to Lesley and Whitney noted one additional spelling correction for the name Shirley Aubin. No further comments were raised.

Meeting Schedule 2026-2027

Whitney requested Victoria Medelius pull up the DOE calendar, Nadia Saeed the PEP calendar, and Lesley locate the meeting schedule in OneDrive. Members agreed to continue Monday meetings. The Queens High School Presidents' Council had moved to Tuesdays, eliminating the scheduling conflict. The Council reviewed August 10, September 14, and October 19, 2026. Members agreed to continue meeting on the second Monday, moving to the third (or fourth if necessary) when holidays or school breaks conflicted. Meetings would continue at 6:30 p.m. Whitney instructed Lesley to update the schedule and place a motion on the floor. Consensus was reached.

Approval Proposed Budget for 2026-2027

Whitney explained the initial budget would allow expenditures while remaining subject to amendment. Operational expenses discussed included an iPad stand, toner, ink, Zoom, website maintenance, meeting refreshments/food, and office supplies. Whitney recommended allocating \$500 for the back-to-school supply drive and discussed the Council's \$25,000 budget, reimbursements, parent engagement, District Day, in-kind donations, discretionary funding, DOE vendors, and providing prior District Day expenditures for planning. Whitney noted the budget categories were being approved to release funds and that future amendments could be brought to the Council.

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
CEC30 Meeting Expenses	451	451	\$1,300
Data Processing	613	613	\$45
Zoom	400	489A	\$1,080
Website Maintenance - Non-Contractual Services	400	489A	\$2,640
TOTALS			\$25,000

The Council unanimously approved the proposed budget categories to allow the release of funds with the understanding that amendments could be made at future meetings.

Liaison Assignment Discussion

Whitney explained the Council currently had one vacancy and reviewed liaison assignments. Newport Square School was added and Kayla Spence agreed to continue serving as liaison. Whitney volunteered as temporary liaison for PS 17 because of its co-location with PS 300. Alexis Calyanides proposed adding CEC email addresses to the liaison spreadsheet, which received consensus. Members also discussed standardizing CEC email addresses, and Whitney agreed to speak with Bill regarding available options.

Committee Assignment Discussion

The Council discussed committee participation, encouraging members to continue committee work, develop recommendations, and bring proposals back to the full Council. Email Whitney, Victoria, or Lesley regarding what committee you would like to join and co-chairs. All requests will be sent by August 1st.

Vote to Enter Executive Session for Personnel Matters

Council has voted and entered Executive Session to discuss Superintendent.

Roll Call:

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

NEW BUSINESS

Laura Simpson announced that a prototype of the new CEC 30 website should be ready the following week for member review. Victoria Medelius reminded members to seek discretionary funding for the back-to-school initiative. Whitney reminded Lesley to include the previously approved \$500 allocation for back-to-school supplies in the minutes. Members discussed in kind donations, outreach to elected officials. Whitney introduced an email from Crystal Cleveland regarding District 30 Parents for Ed Over Tech and a request for clarification about YouTube use in District 30 schools. The discussion transitioned into AI, technology, and screen time in schools. PEP Meeting on July 29 the AIM Coalition is holding a PEP rally.

Adjournment: 9:50 pm