



**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31**

CEC 31 Virtual Business Meeting and Virtual Calendar Meeting
December 4th, 2023

Dr. Marion Wilson
*District
Superintendent*

OFFICERS

Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

James Desiderato
Vice President

Frank Marino
2nd Vice President

Yekaterina Slobodkin
Recording Secretary

Joseph Bird
*Treasurer
IEP Representative*

**Daniella Caputo
Teresa Cirelli**
*Borough President's
Appointees*

COUNCIL MEMBERS
**Melissa Cosentino
Andrew Guido**

VACANT
*D75 Representative
ELL Representative
D31 Representative*

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**
Leah Stumpf

Business Minutes

- **Call to Order** at 6:38PM and welcomed by President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
- **Welcomed interpretation services** in Russian, Mandarin, and Spanish
- **Roll call of Members** - *In-Person: Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Joseph Bird, Frank Marino, Daniella Caputo, Teresa Cirelli, Andrew Guido, Melissa Cosentino Remote: Yekaterina Slobodkin Absent: James Desiderato*

• **Approval of November Business Meeting Minutes**

• **Review of Member Vacancy Applications**

• **President's Report:**

Welcomed newly appointed student member of the CEC Princes Sheila Abomeli - Regarding the new ELA curriculum selection for the District we were invited by our Superintendent and the District 31 Team and all stakeholders in this process to join Queens Superintendent Giunta to tour two District schools that are successfully utilizing HMH. Visited Alley Pond Elementary and MS 216 thank you to the staff and administration at both buildings for their partnership. Councilmembers Curatolo-Boylan and Bird related positive experiences in seeing HMH implemented throughout garde bands and expressed budgetary and staff development concerns regarding HMH with District Team.

Recent engagement of CEC President's with the Chancellor. The New York City public school system is under investigation over discrimination complaints amid an uptick in antisemitism and Islamophobia on campuses. Addressed issue in D14 CEC President in D14 regarding promotion and participation in a student-led protest over the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Calls to remove them from Council. Clarified policies regarding your Council member responsibilities, personal agendas and social media platforms. No member can speak towards any issue as a member of or on behalf of the Council without formal consent from the Council as a whole. We're subject to the Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy set forth by Chancellor's Regulation D210

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/d-210>

Approx 2,700 families have received notices since Oct. 27 that they'll either have to reapply for shelter or find alternative housing within 60 days. Families will have to leave their shelters as early as Dec. 27. Federal law requires school districts to provide transportation for homeless students so they can remain in their schools. The city Education Department offers school buses for homeless students in kindergarten to sixth grade, and MetroCards for older kids. Personal thanks to our Family Welcome Center Staff, especially Director of Enrollment Paul Helfman for their tireless efforts in ensuring our asylum seeking families get the help that they need



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Chancellor Banks reversed a decision that would calculate funding allocations based on homeless student populations as of Dec. 31, 2022. Funding will be allocated as per student enrollment as of October 31st.

• Councilmember Report

Glenn Gotha from CCHS provided information regarding safety concerns due to our Staten Island public schools during early voting. Help in one of 3 ways:

1. Sign the Petition by clicking here: Visit the petition page, read articles about the negative impact on schools, and see how using schools violates NY and DOE regulations. (Enlace de petición en español, 中文请愿链接, ссылка на петицию по-русски)
2. Write to Local Elected Officials: Express your concerns urging them to prioritize our children's safety. (Template Letter and Elected Officials) List Click here for a letter template you can use as a starting point, as well as a list of elected officials and their contact information.
3. Share the Informational Flyer (Suggest sharing the flyer on social media

The 2024 Presidential elections will likely be contentious and see record voter turnout, posing a heightened risk to our schools. We cannot wait for something more serious to occur. Your support can make a difference. Any questions to:
NoEarlyVotingAtSchools@gmail.com

- No Council Member Reports
- No New Business
- Thanks to all our special guest Glenn Gotha. Thank you for joining us.
- Motion to Adjourn and Adjournment at 7:17PM

Calendar Minutes

- **Call to Order** at 7:27 and welcomed by President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
- **Welcomed interpretation services** in Russian, Mandarin, and Spanish
- **Roll call of Members** - *In-Person: Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Joseph Bird, Frank Marino, Daniella Caputo, Teresa Cirelli, Andrew Guido, Melissa Cosentino, Princess Abomeli*
Remote: Yekaterina Slobodkin *Absent: James Desiderato*
- **Approval of November Calendar minutes**
- **Presentations:**

Parent to Parent with Haya Doleh: Raised awareness about Special Education Day and International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Haya Doleh hdoleh@ptopnys.org shared vital information and resources. <http://parenttoparentnys.org/site/form-regional-list/>

• President's Report:

Welcome to our newly appointed student member of the CEC Princes Sheila Abomeli

City teens, ages 13-17, can text, call, or video chat with licensed therapists through the free online platform Talkspace without insurance information or referrals.



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Our Council demanded telehealth service in the aftermath of trauma from the Pandemic and a shortage of providers. Sign-up page asks students for a birthday and address before going through a series of questions about their current mental health. Parental consent is required. Talk with licensed therapists by text, phone, or video chat, students can also take self-guided courses. Texting is unlimited, but live sessions are limited to once a month. Kids will see the same therapist for each session. For kids in acute crisis, Teenspace providers will refer them to psychiatric care or an in-person counselor, officials said.

Access to the benefits known as the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer, or P-EBT that went out to all public school families and others in New York City, with several installments issued since 2020 is closing. Expiration after December if the funds continue to go unspent. The state maintains detailed P-EBT information on its website and operates a phone helpline at 1-833-452-0096.. Replacement P-EBT Food Benefit cards should only be requested when the previously issued card has been lost, stolen or damaged. Food benefits will be issued between April 2023 and December 2023. Ordering a replacement card will not result in receiving your child's P-EBT food benefits faster and, in some cases, may delay access to your child's benefits. You can order a replacement P-EBT Food Benefit card by calling 1-888-328-6399. Please be prepared to provide security information, including the 19-digit card number that was printed on the front of the P-EBT Food Benefit card you are replacing. If you do not have that number, you will be asked for the cardholder's Social Security number; however, when ordering a replacement P-EBT Food Benefit card (and only when ordering a P-EBT Food Benefit card), you must enter 999-99 and then the 2-digit month and 2-digit day (MM/DD) of the cardholder's birthday. For example, if your child's date of birth is July 4, you would enter 999-99-0704 when asked for the child's Social Security number. You will then be asked to verify the cardholder's 8-digit birthday (MM/DD/YYYY) and to enter the 4-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) you selected for the P-EBT Food Benefit card that you are replacing. If you did not previously create a PIN, you will still be able to order a replacement card by following the prompts.

<https://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Pandemic-EBT.asp>

New York City's Education Department will cut \$547 million from its budget With some cuts taking effect immediately. From free pre-k & 3K programming (Starting next fiscal year, the department will cut \$120 million from the Universal Pre-K program with currently 37,000 vacant seats,), community schools that support families with out-of-school needs will be cut by \$10 million this year, and the Summer Rising program will face nearly \$20 million in funding cuts. A hiring freeze and slowdown will create a bulk of the savings and the elimination of 432 vacant non-classroom positions



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will lead to a combined \$157 million in savings. No cuts to central offices and other roles that support schools. A hiring freeze has been in place but has not applied to teaching positions. A mandate to rein in spending on “supplemental pay for administrative staff” is expected to save another \$86 million this year. In addition to being concerned about is the \$7.7 billion in one-time pandemic aid from the federal government that has padded the Education Department’s budget in recent years and helped to expand preschool and summer enrichment programs will cease next September. The DOE also took money back from schools with lower than expected enrollment for the first time in four years, However as enrollment went up overall across the city, the majority of schools didn’t have to return money, and instead got extra funding because of higher-than projected enrollment. But there were still more than 650 schools that saw a total of \$109 million in midyear cuts, according to the United Federation of Teachers

Educational Awareness: National Handwashing Awareness Week is Dec 5th - 11th Together, we can accelerate action to prevent infections and antimicrobial resistance in health care and build a culture of safety and quality in which hand hygiene improvement is given high priority.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Br4sQmiJ1jU> and

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/hand-hygiene.html>

• **Superintendent’s Report:**

Dept. of Ed has provided schools with Israeli-Hamas resources to support instruction

In D31 our priority is safety, health and welfare of the students . We have met with the building Principals to ensure that safe spaces are provided for students to express their thoughts and concerns

Worked with Administrations and Guidance staff to have open door policy RFA liaison and COSA of High schools have met with student support services for additional resources

In response to the current situation and the information shared a the Chancellor's Town Hall meeting we are collaborating with the District Attorney's Office to highlight their resources and stomp out bullying

• **Committee Report:**

Glenn Gotha from CCHS provided information regarding safety concerns due to our Staten Island public schools during early voting. See Business Minutes for detail and links

The School Construction and Facilities Committee will be meeting at the beginning of the new year in order to discuss the order in which projects requested by



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our District Principals in school k-8 will be added to the FY 2025-2029 School Construction Authority's Capital Plan

- Public Speaking - no one registered for Public Speaking
- New Business for Next Month's Agenda - re-address Budget Cuts
- Thanks to all our Special Guests and Thank you for joining us.
- **HAPPY HOLIDAYS** As we reflect on the past year we want to assure our community that we will continue to advocate and enthusiastically work to create exceptional educational opportunities for children across Staten Island as we approach the new year. On behalf of the CEC31 I would like to share holiday wishes for all our students, parents, staff, administrators, District team and our communities. May you all rest and enjoy time well spent with all those you love this festive holiday season. May the warmth of this season fill your heart with joy!
- Motion to Adjourn and Adjournment at 8:35PM