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CEC 31 Hybrid Business Meeting and Calendar
Meeting Minutes
Monday February 3rd, 2025

Business Meeting

- **Call to Order** at 6:34 PM and welcomed by President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan

- **Welcomed interpretation services** in Russian, Mandarin, and Spanish

- **Roll call of Members**

In-Person: Teresa Cirelli, Melissa Cosentino, Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Andrew Guido, Frank Marino, Amanda Wolkowitz

Hybrid: James Desiderato

Absent: Joseph Bird, Daniella Caputo

- **Approval January Draft Business Meeting Minutes**

Motion to forgo reading minutes out loud in the interest of time as they were publicly circulated prior to the meeting and will be shared on screen

Motion 1st: Andrew Guido

Motion 2nd: Amanda Wolkowitz

Meeting Minutes from December were approved by all council members

- **Review of D31 Vacancy & Student Member Applicants**

Discussion of Student Member Candidate Applications:

Candidates: Mia Perez & Jordan Dale

Both applicants were approved by Superintendent's Office

Feedback from Council Members:

Andrew Guido:

Fully in support after meeting such excellent candidates in person

Lucia Curatolo-Boylan:

After meeting the candidates, I fully believe that they represent student advocacy and the power of student leadership. Their candidacy would only be of benefit to Council.

Next Steps: Motion to vote on their candidacy at our Calendar Meeting was approved by all Council Members

Discussion of D31 Candidate:

Candidate: Alicia Chao Bryant

Feedback from Council Members:

After tabling the motion to approve the candidate for a vote at our Calendar Meeting at our last meeting all Council members decided to not move forward with a motion and will keep application open for new candidates

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District Superintendent

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• **Review of Resolution to Amend Chancellor's Regulation A-663 to provide Multilingual Support and Communication in New York City Public Schools in 12 Languages**

Resolution was presented on screen and read publicly
Councilmembers had no corrections or suggested edits
Motion to Approve Resolution Draft

Motion 1st: *Frank Marino*

Motion 2nd: *Melissa Cosentino*

Motion to move Resolution to Calendar Meeting for Vote

Motion 1st: *Daniella Caputo*

Motion 2nd: *Andrew Guido*

• **President's Report**

CCEC Elections

- **A second CCEC Election Prospective Candidate Webinar is scheduled for February 4, 2025, at 6:00 PM via Zoom.**
- **The session will cover election procedures and include a Q&A segment, with translation services in Spanish, Mandarin, and Bangla.**
- **Interested participants must RSVP to receive the Zoom link.**
- **A recording of the first webinar is available on YouTube, and additional resources can be found on Instagram and the elections website.**

CEC President's Meeting with the Chancellor

- **Budget and Foundation Aid**
 - NYC Public Schools are advocating for foundation aid adjustments, particularly for transitory housing.
 - The governor's review resulted in a \$350M decrease in funding due to poverty calculation changes.
 - Calls for aid allocation to consider class size and NYC's high cost of living.
- **ICE and Student Welfare:**
 - Efforts with DHS & MOIA are ongoing to prevent children from being left alone if a parent is detained by ICE.
 - Updates to protocols, including emergency contact procedures and student tracking in temporary housing.
- **After-School Funding Concerns:**
 - District 20 lost 2,000 after-school program seats due to funding cuts.
 - No response yet from OCFS regarding the LEAPS program shortfall.
- **Public Advocate Appointee Applications:**

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- Discussion on how Public Advocate appointees can stay involved despite being ineligible for CEC elections.
- **D75 School Selection Process:**
 - Parents raised concerns about involvement in D75 school selection.
 - The Chancellor's office clarified that Superintendents must ensure early parent input in the process.
- **Co-Location Process:**
 - Concerns regarding protocol violations in co-location at the International School.
 - The Chancellor committed to improving transparency and rebuilding trust in the process.
- **Campaigning Guidelines:**
 - Information was shared on campaign guidelines and legal reviews to address candidate concerns.
- **High School Administration under Superintendency:**
 - Discussion on the effectiveness of high schools under Superintendency.
 - The Chancellor affirmed support for high school principals and professional development for Superintendents.
- **Harassment and Equity Officer:**
 - CEC autonomy was emphasized, with plans for a mediation facilitator to ensure a safe environment.
 - Potential modifications to D-210 are under review.
- **Academic Goals and NYC Reads:**
 - NYC Reads and NYC Solves have been in implementation since October.
 - Request for SMART goals to track academic progress, especially given concerns over declining reading scores.
- **NAEP (Nation's Report Card) Results**
 - NYC fourth graders showed recovery in math from 23% proficiency in 2022 to 33% in 2024, nearing pre-pandemic levels.
 - Despite improvements, disparities persist:
 - Black and Hispanic students (16% proficiency) lag behind White (53%) and Asian American (58%) students.
 - Economically disadvantaged students remain behind their peers.
 - Experts stress the need for targeted resources to address widening achievement gaps.
 - Other cities like Los Angeles and Washington D.C. have implemented successful strategies, which may serve as models for NYC.
- **Upcoming Event: NAEP Reading Panel**
 - February 4, 10:00-11:00 AM
 - Discussion on NAEP Reading Results with policymakers and researchers.

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• **Councilmember Reports**

None

• **New Business for next month's agenda**

Cell Phone Ban Resolution

Resolution in Support of Migrant Students and changing policies regarding Immigration

• **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion 1st: *Melissa Cosentino*

Motion 2nd: *Frank Marino*

• **Meeting Adjourned 7:12 pm**

Calendar Meeting

• **Call to Order** at 7:33PM and welcomed by President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan

• **Welcomed interpretation services** in Russian, Mandarin, and Spanish

• **Roll call of Members**

In-Person: *Teresa Circelli, Melissa Cosentino, Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Andrew Guido, Frank Marino, Amanda Wolkowitz*

Hybrid: *James Desiderato*

Absent: *Joseph Bird, Daniella Caputo*

• **Approval of January Calendar Meeting Minutes**

Motion to forgo reading minutes out loud in the interest of time as they were publicly circulated prior to the meeting and will be shared on screen

Motion 1st: *Melissa Cosentino*

Motion 2nd: *Andrew Guido*

Meeting Minutes from December were approved by all council members

• **CEC31 Student Member Vacancy Vote**

Review of Student Member Candidate Applications Approved for Vote:

Candidates: Mia Perez & Jordan Dale

Both applicants were approved by Superintendent's Office and all Council Members agreed that candidates were best chosen to represent Student Voice on Council

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Roll Call Vote for Mia Perez: Unanimously approved
Roll Call Vote for Jordan Dale: Unanimously approved

• **Vote on Resolution to Amend Chancellor's Regulation A-663 to provide Multilingual Support and Communication in New York City Public Schools in 12 Languages**

Resolution was presented on screen and read publicly

Opened the floor for Public Comment

Cheryl McMilian voiced her support of the Resolution and thanked Council for the draft

Motion to vote on the Resolution

Motion 1st: Amanda Wolkowitz

Motion 2nd: Frank Marino

Roll Call Vote of Councilmembers

Resolution was unanimously approved

• **Presentations**

Stop Bullying Workshop: Steps to Stand Strong presented by Robert Laurenzano Manager at Office of Student Services

• **Overview**

- The meeting summarized a prior presentation given to parents regarding bullying in schools, including definitions, reporting protocols, and prevention strategies.
- The focus was on understanding the distinction between bullying and conflict, school responses, and parental roles in supporting students.

• **Definition of Bullying vs. Conflict**

- **Bullying** involves an imbalance of power (social, physical, or perceived) and intent to cause harm.
- **Conflict** occurs between individuals of equal power without intent to dominate or harm.
- Mediation is effective for resolving conflicts but **not for bullying**, as it can further victimize the targeted student.

• **Signs of Bullying**

- Unexplained injuries, emotional distress, changes in eating/sleeping habits, and academic decline.
- Students often hesitate to report due to fear of retaliation or social isolation.

School Prevention Measures

- Implementation of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) programs to foster positive relationships.
- Encouragement for students to identify and seek support from a trusted adult within the school.
- Promotion of bystander intervention by encouraging students to become upstanders who report bullying.

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Reporting and Investigation Process

- Students should report bullying to school administrators immediately.
- Schools follow strict timelines:
- Parents must be notified.
- Investigation should be completed within 10 days (or longer if necessary, with updates).
- Written communication on the outcome is provided.
- Retaliation against those who report bullying is strictly prohibited and addressed seriously.

Escalation Protocols

- If a parent is unsatisfied with the school's handling of a bullying case:
- Contact the Parent Coordinator as the first point of communication.
- Respect for All Liaison (trained in bullying prevention and response) should be consulted.
- School Principal should be contacted if further escalation is needed.
- If unresolved, report to the Superintendent's Office.
- Resources and escalation procedures are available on the NYC Public Schools website.

Bullying Victim Support & Transfer Policies

- Bullying Support Plans are created for victims, including adjustments like class/lunch changes or additional adult supervision.
- Voluntary Transfers:
- A bullied student may request a transfer through the Family Welcome Center.
- The bully may also transfer if their parent requests it.
- Involuntary Transfers:
- Schools work to resolve issues internally through restorative practices, such as guided restorative circles.
- Policy currently favors moving the victim for safety, though concerns were raised about fairness.

Q&A and Closing Remarks

- Discussion on the fairness of victim relocation vs. removing the bully.
- Confirmation that non-IEP students can be involuntarily transferred under certain circumstances.
- Acknowledgment of the effectiveness of restorative approaches.
- Plans to hold another similar presentation in the future.

Fair Student Funding NYC Public Schools Office of Budget & Finance

Presenter: Acting Superintendent Rodrick Polton

Opening Remarks

Acting Superintendent Rodrick Polton introduced himself and acknowledged the presence of budget representatives Lisa Teixeira and Sansa Spearman.

The purpose of the presentation was to review the NYC Public Schools budget and the Fair Student Funding (FSF) formula for Fiscal Year 2026 (aligned with the 2025-26 school year).

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The goal was to increase transparency and ensure community stakeholders understand how schools are funded and the resources available to them.

Agenda Overview

The presentation covered three main topics:

Overview of NYC Public Schools Budget: Including citywide and district-specific budgets.

Explanation of the Fair Student Funding Formula: How funds are allocated based on student needs.

New Web Pages for Budget Transparency: Tools to help stakeholders understand school budgets.

NYC Public Schools Budget Overview

Total Budget for FY 2025: 41.2 billion (32,284 per student).

Funding Sources:

City Funding (59%): \$24 billion, primarily from local taxes (property, sales, and income taxes).

State Funding (36%): \$15 billion, based on student enrollment and types.

Federal Funding (5%): \$2 billion, governed by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Budget Allocation:

Employee benefits, pensions, and debt: \$12.1 billion.

Charter schools: \$3.4 billion (mandated by state law).

Nonpublic and contract schools: \$2.3 billion.

School operations (e.g., meals, transportation): \$5.2 billion.

Early childhood programs: \$1.9 billion.

K-12 instruction and support: \$15.8 billion (38% of the budget).

District 31 Budget

Total Budget: \$1.2 billion for 74 elementary and middle schools serving 53,904 students.

Funding Sources: Mix of FSF and other funding streams.

School Budgets: Principals, in partnership with School Leadership Teams (SLTs), allocate funds based on school-specific needs outlined in the Comprehensive Educational Plan (CEP).

Fair Student Funding (FSF) Formula

Purpose: Allocates funds based on student enrollment and needs.

Key Components:

Base Amount: Covers per-school overhead costs (e.g., principal, secretary).

Per-Student Allocation: Adjusted for grade level (K-5, 6-8, 9-12).

Weights: Additional funding for students with specific needs (e.g., poverty, special education, English Language Learners).

Proposed Weights for FY 2026: Unchanged from FY 2025.

Student-Specific Funding Example

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Ava: (2nd Grader)
Grade weight: 1.0.
Special education weight: 1.74 (full-time ICT services).
English Language Learner weight: 0.13.
Academic Intervention Services (AIS) weight: 0.12.
Temporary housing weight: 0.12.
Concentration of needs weight: 0.12.
Total Weight: 3.23 (~\$13,744).

Miles: (6th Grader)
Grade weight: 1.08.
Special education weight: 0.56 (low-intensity services).
Bilingual program weight: 0.55.
AIS weight: 0.35.
Temporary housing weight: 0.12.
Total Weight: 2.66 (~\$11,318).

New Budget Transparency Tools

School Budget at a Glance: A new webpage providing a streamlined view of school budgets, including enrollment, demographics, and funding allocations.
Financial Data and Reports: Available on the NYC Public Schools InfoHub, including School Allocation Memorandum (SAMs) and detailed budget summaries.

Public Comments and Feedback

Stakeholders were encouraged to submit feedback on the FSF formula weights by April 20, 2025, via email (budgetpubliccomments@schools.nyc.gov) or phone (212-374-6754).
Questions and comments will be reviewed by the NYC Public Schools team and addressed before the Panel for Educational Policy vote on April 23, 2025.

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• **Discussion & Vote to Rename P.S. 26 The Carteret School to PS/IS26 The Janice Blanchard School**

Speakers: Stephanie Bassett (Principal), Roderick Palton, D31 CEC31 Members, Blanchard Family, and Community Members

Presentation by Principal Stephanie Bassett

- **Principal Bassett expressed gratitude for the opportunity to present the proposal to rename PS 26 (The Carteret School) to PS 26, The Janice Blanchard School. She highlighted Janice Blanchard's contributions to the Travis community, including:**
 - Preserving and celebrating Travis's rich history, including renaming a section of Victory Boulevard to Independence Way.
 - Revitalizing Independence Park and Sylvan Grove Cemetery. Leading the Travis 4th of July Parade for over a decade.
 - Restoring the World War I monument on Cannon Avenue.
 - Recognized for her dedication to community service, earning the Borough President's Award in 2013.
 - Principal Bassett emphasized that renaming the school would honor Janice's legacy of pride, patriotism, and perseverance.
- **Support from Acting Interim Superintendent Dr. Roderick Palton**
 - Dr. Palton commended Principal Bassett for her leadership and efficiency in advancing the proposal.
 - He expressed his full support for renaming the school in honor of Janice Blanchard.
- **Comments from the Blanchard Family**
 - Nick Blanchard, Janice's husband, spoke on behalf of the family, expressing gratitude for the honor.
 - He shared personal anecdotes about Janice's dedication to the community, her work with veterans, and her ability to balance family, work, and volunteerism.
 - Nick emphasized that Janice's legacy serves as an inspiration for future generations.
- **Public Comments and Questions**
 - No additional public comments or questions were raised.
- **Vote on the Proposal**
 - The D31 CEC31 members unanimously voted in favor of renaming PS 26 to the Janice Blanchard School.
 - Members also suggested incorporating an educational component to teach students about Janice Blanchard's contributions.
- **Outcome:**
 - The proposal to rename PS 26 to the Janice Blanchard School was approved unanimously.
 - The decision will move forward, pending final recommendations and Panel for Education Policy (PEP) approvals.

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• **President's Report**

• **CEC Vacancies and Elections**

- Three District 31 parent representative seats and one ELL parent representative seat are currently available.
- Applications are open for March–June 2024. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply.
- CEC elections for the 2025–2027 term are ongoing. A prospective candidate webinar will be held on February 4th at 6 PM via Zoom. Translation services will be available in Spanish, Mandarin, and Bangla.

• **UFT Advocacy for Paraprofessionals**

- The United Federation of Teachers (UFT) is advocating for a \$10,000 annual pay increase for paraprofessionals (classroom aides supporting students with disabilities).
- The current starting salary is under \$32,000, leading to a shortage of over 1,600 positions.
- Legislation is being proposed to address this issue, as traditional contract negotiations have faced resistance.

• **Budget Hearing Testimony by Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos**

- New York City schools may lose \$350 million under Governor Kathy Hochul's proposed changes to the state school funding formula.
- The Chancellor urged adjustments to account for regional costs and students in temporary housing.
- Concerns were raised about compliance with the state's class size law and the safety of immigrant students.

• **Special Education and Pre-K Update**

- Delays in providing legally mandated preschool placements for children with disabilities persist, with 450 children still awaiting placement.
- Non-profit organizations face bureaucratic hurdles, and transportation issues further hinder access to services.

• **Statewide Cell Phone Ban Proposal**

- Governor Hochul proposed a statewide ban on student cell phone use during school hours to create a distraction-free learning environment.
- Schools would need to implement the ban by the 2025–2026 school year, with exceptions for students with disabilities or medical needs.
- \$13.5 million has been proposed to cover storage solutions and implementation costs.

• **Mayor's Preliminary Budget and Summer Rising Program**

- The Mayor's budget includes
 - 100 million for the Summer Rising Program
 - 31 million for Learning to Work.
- However, funding for 3-K, preschool programs for students with disabilities, arts education, restorative justice programs, and teacher recruitment was not renewed.
- Advocacy efforts will continue to restore funding for these critical programs.

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- **Fair Housing Rights Resources**
 - A resource for fair housing rights is available at fairhousingjustice.org. Fact sheets are available in multiple languages.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Democracy and Schools: A Reckoning on Mayoral Control – February 8th, 12–3 PM at 320 West 37th Street, Manhattan.
 - School Funding Teach-In – February 5th, 6:30 PM, hosted by the Coalition for Equitable Education Funding.
- **Superintendent's Report**
 - **Introduction and Welcome**
 - Acknowledgment and appreciation for the Borough Student Advisory Council (BSAC) members, Jordan and Mia.
 - Special mention of their contributions to schools and communities.
 - Reminder for everyone to stay healthy and safe, with an emphasis on washing hands and avoiding the transmission of viruses like the flu, COVID-19, and norovirus.
 - **Survey Announcement**
 - Annual surveys are now available in Nixa accounts and are encouraged for all families to complete.
 - Survey results are taken seriously, especially those related to health, safety, school culture, and climate.
 - The survey closes on **April 4, 2025**.
 - **CEC 2025 Elections**
 - Call for individuals to apply for consideration to join the CEC (Community Education Council).
 - Application deadline: **February 16, 2025**.
 - Recognition of Respect for All Week (February 10–14), promoting kindness, respect, and anti-bullying efforts.
 - **School Leadership Teams and Training**
 - School Leadership Teams (SLT) play a key role in guiding policy and budget decisions.
 - Two training sessions are available for SLT members:
 - **February 13, 2025:** 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at UFT Center.
 - **February 24, 2025:** 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Borough Hall, Staten Island.
 - Light meals will be provided at each session.
 - **Valentine's Day Math Workshop**

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- Invitation to families for a Zoom math workshop on **February 14, 2025** from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
- Discussion on New York City math initiatives and pilot programs for middle schools (for the 2025-2026 school year).
- Registration details will be shared.
- **Summer Rising Program**
 - Summer programs will be held from **July 2 to August 15, 2025** for elementary schools and **July 2 to August 8, 2025** for middle schools.
 - Applications open from **March 4 to March 28, 2025** via the My Schools account or DOE NYC Public Schools website.
- **Pre-K and 3-K Enrollment**
 - Reminder to encourage families to apply for available seats in 3-K and Pre-K programs, especially on the North Shore.
 - Special event: **February 19, 2025** from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Carter Center at Stapleton.
- **Financial Literacy Workshop**
 - Announcement of the first Financial Literacy workshop for families, to be held on **February 25, 2025** from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.
 - The workshop will focus on generational wealth and financial empowerment. This is the first of an 8-part series, sponsored by My Brother's Keeper.
- **New District Website**
 - The new district website is live: www.district31nyc.org.
 - The website includes contact information, school maps, resources, and upcoming events. It will continue to be updated.
- **Black History Month**
 - Recognition of Black History Month with several schools hosting events to honor African American contributions.
 - Encouragement for families to reach out to their school principals for more information about local events.
- **Literacy Family Engagement Workshop**
 - The workshop will feature experts from **Map Growth** and **HMH Curriculum Writers**.
 - Goal: Help parents understand how to use **Map Growth** data, **HMH resources**, and daily classroom learning to ensure students are prepared for the **New York State ELA Exam**.
 - **Two sessions** offered:
 - **Monday Morning Session:** 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM (via Zoom)
 - **Monday Evening Session:** 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM (via Zoom)
 - Registration via QR code for both sessions.
 - Provide parents with useful tools and resources to help children succeed on the exam.

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- Highlight free tools provided by New York City Public Schools for parents to work with their children.

• **Committee Reports**

The 9-11 Flag Football Foundation, wants to do an Inter District Flag Football League, so he's asking to be an approved vendor for the DOE so that Staten Island schools could participate in a special spring School League. They would like to donate back to each school as well. As a nonprofit organization they would like to get a field that he could solely use for this purpose.

• **Public Speaking**

Melissa Thomas Community Outreach Coordinator for Councilmember

Kamillah Hanks

• **Black History Month Events**

- February 13, 2025: Partnership with Senator Scarcella-Spanton to celebrate Black History Excellence in Education, honoring educators.
- February 20, 2025: Event at the College of Staten Island honoring Black coaches who have made a significant impact in youth engagement and mentorship.

• **Public Transportation Improvement**

- Focus on improving public transportation on Staten Island.
- Public feedback is being gathered to help address issues with the MTA. Visit the website for more information on transportation initiatives.

• **Discretionary Funding**

- February 19, 2025: Deadline for submitting applications for discretionary funding.
- Interested parties can apply by emailing District49@council.nyc.gov.
- Over the past three years, \$76 million has been brought to the district with \$11.6 million allocated specifically for schools.

Cherly McMillan IEP Meeting Representation Issue

- **Concern Raised:** A parent was told they could not have representation at their IEP meeting at PS 39.
- **Response:** This is not accurate. Parents are entitled to have representation at IEP meetings.
- **Action Plan:** The district will reach out to PS 39 to address the issue and ensure the parent's rights are respected.
- **Superintendent Appointment Update:** Inquiring about the finalization of the superintendent appointment.

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Dr. Roderick Palton
District Superintendent

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STUDENT MEMBERS
Jordan Dale
Mia Perez

VACANT
ELL Representative
D31 Representative
D31 Representative
Parliamentarian
Administrative Assistant



- **Response:** The final decision is still pending, and everyone is waiting for confirmation.

• **New Business**

Cell Phone Ban Resolution

Resolution in Support of Migrant Students and changing policies regarding Immigration

• **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion 1st: *Andrew Guido*

Motion 2nd: *Teresa Circelli*

• **Meeting Adjourned 8:21 pm**