



COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31

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Daphne Appiah
Peri Sgambelluri

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Lauren Richichi

**CEC 31 Hybrid Business Meeting and Calendar
Meeting Minutes
Monday December 1st, 2025**

BUSINESS MEETING

- **Call to Order** 6:47pm at and welcomed by President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan

- **Welcome Remarks:**

Thank you for making the time to join us this evening. Our Council values accessibility, and so this evening's meeting will be translated in Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish.

- **Interpretation services in Russian, Mandarin, and Spanish provided**

- **Roll call of Members**

In-Person: Daphne Appiah, Joseph Bird, Daniella Caputo, Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Amanda Kelly, Frank Marino, Kristie Montalvan, Peri Sgambelluri & Erin Ulitto

Absent: Melissa Cosentino
Jessica Reyes
Jimmy Desiderato
Teresa Cirelli
Andrew Guido

- **Approval November Draft Business Meeting Minutes**

Motion to forgo reading minutes aloud in the interest of time. Minutes were distributed to the public prior to the meeting and presented on screen during the meeting.

Motion 1st: Amanda Kelly

Motion 2nd: Daniella Caputo

Meeting minutes were approved by all members in attendance

- **Review Member Absences**

- Following members were absent in November
 - Daniella Caputo

Motion to Approve Absence as Excused or Unexcused

Motion 1st: Frank Marino

Motion 2nd: Joseph Bird

- Councilmembers unanimously approved the absence as excused and moved to vote at the Calendar Meeting



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• **President's Report**

• **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**

- Our Administrative Assistant Lauren Richichi is here! Everyone, let's give her the warmest welcome. We are truly so happy to have you join the team. Take a moment to introduce yourself Lauren.

• **REIMBURSEMENTS:**

- A reminder for all Councilmembers to complete their monthly reimbursement forms and child care expense logs. Lauren will be asking you to fill out some blank forms this evening to ensure that you are reimbursed quickly and easily. Please make sure you stop in to see her before you leave this evening.

• **Chancellor's Regulation D-210 AMENDMENT**

- Following engagement in October 2025, the proposed amendments to Chancellor's Regulation D-210 have been posted for public comment and review.
- You can find the public notice and proposed amendments on the PEP's SharePoint site: [Amendments to Chancellor's Regulation D-210](#)
- To have your voices heard, written comments may be submitted via the e-mail address listed below. Oral comments may be submitted via the phone number listed below.
 - Nina S. Mickens, Equity Compliance Officer
 - Office: Office of Family and Community Empowerment
 - Address: 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007
 - Email: RegulationD-210@schools.nyc.gov
 - Phone: 212-374-5031
- The PEP meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 6:00pm (EST) at the Evander Childs Educational Campus (800 East Gun Hill Road, Bronx, New York 10467).

• **MAMDANI'S TRANSITION TEAM:**

- Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani has appointed more than 400 New Yorkers to serve on 17 transition committees that will guide his incoming administration on staffing, policy development, and agency best practices. The appointees—leaders from government,



nonprofits, labor, academia, and business—will help shape the administration’s efforts to tackle the city’s affordability crisis,

focusing on housing, childcare, transportation, and core government functions. The committees will be overseen by transition co-chairs Lina Khan, Grace Bonilla, Maria Torres-Springer, and Melanie Hartzog.

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- **RENAME of PS78**
 - PS78 has begun the renaming process for their school in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Chancellor’s Regulation A-860 (Section F-10). Principal Contento has submitted a request to change the name of P.S. 78 to The Stapleton Lighthouse Community School and has met her SLT and led community engagement around the rename. We will add it to our January Agenda to be out to vote as per the Chancellor’s Regs.
- **CEC PRESIDENT’s MEETING with the CHANCELLOR:**
 - Questions on policies regarding rideshare, students with disabilities omni cards, after school, weekend and summer transportation. What will DOE implement in this 3 year period of the new bus contracts - Kevin Moran discussed the VIA New York City School Bus Program to help with tracking, and using that system to help route optimization in future especially for kids with disabilities. They are training bus attendants and drivers.
 - Class Size Implementation - Questioned why DOE did not request a pause and what the plan is around FSF to account for the change in class size caps . No pause because they are in compliance and plan to meet the 80% mark. Exemptions were made with UFT and SCA in order to maintain cluster spaces specialty classrooms and not take away enrollment. SCA cannot deliver large scale projects in 21 months.



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• Councilmember Reports

None

• Old Business

None

• New Business

None

• Motion to Adjourn

Motion 1st: *Daniella Caputo*

Motion 2nd: *Amanda Kelly*

• Meeting Adjourned 7:00pm

CALENDAR MEETING

- Call to Order** at 7:34 PM and welcomed by President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan

• Welcome Remarks:

Thank you for making the time to join us this evening. Our Council values accessibility, and so this evening's meeting will be translated in Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish.

• Roll call of Members

In-Person: *Daphne Appiah, Joseph Bird, Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Jimmy Desiderato, Andrew Guido, Amanda Kelly, Kristie Montalvan,, Peri Sgambelluri, Frank Marino, Daniella Caputo & Erin Ulitto*

Absent: *Teresa Cirelli*

Jessica Reyes

Melissa Cosentino



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Motion to forgo reading minutes aloud in the interest of time. Minutes were distributed to the public prior to the meeting and presented on screen during the meeting.

Motion 1st: Frank Marino

Motion 2nd: Amanda Kelly

Meeting minutes were approved by all members in attendance

• **Vote on Excused Member Absences**

- Councilmember Daniella Caputo was absent in November
- Councilmembers unanimously voted the absence as excused

• **President's Report**

NYCPS ADMISSIONS:

Some reminders:

- Wednesday, December 3, 2025: High School and LaGuardia Applications Close
- Friday, December 12, 2025: Middle School Application Closes
- Tuesday, December 9, 2025: Kindergarten Application Opens

Every five-year-old New York City resident is guaranteed a seat in a public school kindergarten program beginning in September the calendar year they turn five. Children born in 2021 will be eligible for kindergarten in September 2026.

How To Apply

When the application period is open:

Choose as many choices you'd like your child to attend. Add these programs to their kindergarten application. Order these school choices in the application in your order of preference, with your favorite school at the top as #1.



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Your child will get an offer to your highest possible choice considering the factors discussed in the “Learn How Students Get Offers” section above.

Please note: Some elementary schools also offer Dual Language program or program(s) and/or Gifted & Talented programs. To apply to a Dual Language program, add it to your child’s application.

If you’d like your child to attend your zoned school, be sure to add it to your application; however, you don’t have to place it as your first choice if you prefer other schools ahead of your zoned school.

Submit only one application per child.

You can submit your kindergarten application one of three ways:

Online with MySchools(Open external link) in English, Spanish, Chinese, Bengali, Russian, Arabic, Urdu, Haitian Creole, Korean, or French. We’ll let you know when the application opens and you can apply online!

By phone at 718-935-2009. If you are applying by phone, interpretation services are available in more than 200 languages.

By visiting a Family Welcome Center. To learn more, please visit our Family Welcome Center webpage.

Kindergarten admissions is not first come, first served—all applications submitted online, by phone, or in person by the deadline will be treated the same based on admissions priorities.

LEARN MORE

- Visit <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/kindergarten>
- Questions? Get support from a Family Welcome Center, or call 718-935-2009.



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- **PRESENTATION ON STUDENT DATA PRIVACY:**

Please find attached the deck as well as the Privacy 101 Flyer and Privacy Packet for Families that are also available in translated versions on the student privacy webpage. We're also sharing the recording from the session held on Monday, November 17, 2025, for anyone who may have missed it.

- <https://zoom.us/rec/share/NLLcbWCjaYcKFpt6yQAdBzlzjaQhURxR531xMHU163YrV70KwzChIZmiq3cmeWNm.-Jx0fzxZEzmxwxUL?startTime=1763420976000> Passcode: Cu7*uj.#
- <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1rKCnKRds6Z3qZJdekb2DgkolJts6r9tg/edit?usp=sharing&oid=116937083225195278968&rtmpof=true&sd=true>
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HEmFeE6qImcjk1exFa-WZ8loS0TjJk9G/view?usp=sharinQ>
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xh2K00keJvGMfaAKQOnBT0om3oh6QS02/view?usp=sharing>
- **CITYWIDE MULTICULTURAL STUDENT COALITION**
- We're excited to announce that we've launched applications for our brand-new Citywide Multicultural Student Coalition.
- This alliance of high schoolers from across the five boroughs will discuss their identities and backgrounds, build bridges across cultures, and serve as ambassadors to their peers in promoting inclusion, acceptance, and appreciation for diversity.
- High school students can apply now through December 3, 2025 at: schools.nyc.gov/StudentCoalition



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- **UFT Shanker Scholarship**

- Encourage your child to apply for a \$5,000 scholarship
- Starting Monday, Nov. 17, high school seniors are invited to apply for an Albert Shanker Scholarship. The process is easier than ever with our new online portal.
- Candidates must be financially eligible and be accepted in a full-time, matriculated, degree-granting program at an accredited college or university. The deadline to apply for a \$5,000 scholarship is Saturday, Feb. 28.
- Encourage your graduating students to apply!
- How to apply
- Go to the [UFT Shanker Scholarship webpage](#).
- Scroll down and click on "apply now"
- The username must be in email format
- The password must be at least eight characters and include alpha, numeric and special characters.
- Complete an online application.
- Bookmark the login page for the application website in case you need to come back to the website to complete your application or find additional information.

- **SUSPENSION DATA:**

- New York City issued 27,143 suspensions in the 2024–25 school year, a 2% drop and the lowest level since the pandemic. The decline was driven by a 10% decrease in long-term superintendent suspensions, while short-term principal suspensions remained roughly flat. The reason for the drop is unclear, and no major policy changes were reported.
- Despite the overall decline, significant disparities persist: Black students and students with disabilities each received about 39% of suspensions, far above their share of enrollment; children in foster care were suspended at least four times as often as peers. Advocates welcomed the drop but called for deeper reforms and stronger mental health support. The Education Department credited schools for using less punitive approaches, while debates continue over the role of suspensions and alternatives like restorative justice.



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• **AFTERSCHOOL SCHOOL SEAT ADDITION:**

- Mayor Eric Adams announced 10,000 new after-school seats for fall 2026 as part of a \$331 million plan to make after-school programs universal by 2028. The expansion—guided by a commission of experts—targets areas with the greatest need and follows a recent addition of 5,000 seats. By 2027, the city will invest \$775 million annually and offer 184,000 total seats.

Staten Island:

P.S. 38 George Cromwell
421 Lincoln Ave.
Neighborhood: New Dorp-Midland Beach

P.S. 11 Thomas Dongan School
85 Garretson Ave.
Neighborhood: Grasmere-Arrochar-South Beach-Dongan Hills

Port Richmond School for Visionary Learning
1625 Forest Ave.
Neighborhood: Port Richmond

Staten Island School of Civic Leadership
280 Regis Drive
Neighborhood: Mariner's Harbor-Arlington-Graniteville

The Harbor View School
300 Richmond Terrace
Neighborhood: St. George-New Brighton

The Waverly Academy of Empowered Learners
45 Waverly Place
Neighborhood: Tompkinsville-Stapleton-Clifton-Fox Hills



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- **CLASS SIZE UPDATE:**

Mayor Eric Adams announced that New York City met the state’s requirement for 60% of classrooms to fall under new class size limits — but only because the city exempted about 10,500 classes. Without those exemptions, compliance would have been 59.5%, putting state aid at risk. Many principals and parents said they hadn’t requested or even known about the exemptions, which were granted by city and union leaders under a clause allowing exceptions for issues like overcrowding, limited space, or financial distress.

The move has sparked criticism from advocates who say the city lacks a credible plan to meet upcoming, stricter targets and is avoiding community input. Some schools receiving exemptions also have no confirmed construction plans, deepening concerns that overcrowded campuses will remain out of compliance for years. Meanwhile, much of the spending to reduce class sizes is flowing to more affluent schools, prompting equity worries. City officials, however, say they are making enough progress that they chose not to request a pause in the law.

Advocates are urging New York City to request a pause in the state’s class size reduction mandate, arguing it will divert teachers, funding, and space away from the highest-need schools and toward more affluent ones. They say a pause would let incoming Mayor Zohran Mamdani pursue a more equitable approach. Supporters, including the teachers union, insist the law is already helping low-income students and shouldn’t be delayed. The city officials say they are making enough progress that they chose not to request a pause in the law.

<https://infohub.nyced.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2025-26-average-class-size-summary---november.pdf>

Detailed Data: <https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/government-reports/class-size-reports>

- **SHSAT UPDATE:**
- New York City’s Specialized High School Admissions Test went digital for the first time this year, and Education Department officials said the rollout was largely smooth for the roughly 19,500 eighth graders who took it in their schools. Only four students so far will need make-up tests due to technical issues involving extended-time accommodations.
- Thursday, March 5, 2026: High School Offer Release



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SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY:

Tomorrow is Special Education Day. It's celebrated on December 2 to commemorate the signing of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act into law on this day in 1975 (IDEA). IDEA granted access to children with special needs to free and quality public education. The act has been revised several times but the crux of it remains the same, and is the foundation for special education in the U.S. In support of this act, many organizations pledge to provide good education to students with special needs. In 1990, the name of this landmark act changed to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA. Over the years, clauses have been added to address issues and ensure that the standards of education for special children are on par with the overall educational system. IDEA not only established the rights of children with learning disabilities, but laid the groundwork for teachers and families to work together, and ensure there are services and resources available for support. Special Education Day started in 2005 — on IDEA's 30th

D31 Special Education Inclusion Fair Tuesday, December 8th @10AM to 1PM here at the BP Hall of Science in Bldg A of the Petrides Educational Complex 715 Ocean Terrace SI, NY 10301

Discover how D31 is empowering individuals with disabilities through equal access, opportunity, and community engagement. Come here how district leaders, principals, teachers and families are working together to ensure truly inclusive practices in our schools, where every student belongs, participates, and thrives!

• Superintendent's Report

- Welcome and Opening Remarks from Dr. Roderick Palton, Superintendent
- Welcomed Mr. Nicholas Frangella, newly appointed Deputy Superintendent (formerly of District 22).
- Mr. Frangella introduced himself and shared his professional background (18 years in education, former teacher, coach, AP, and principal; founded a school in District 22).



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- District Highlights and Recent Events
 - Petrides School (K–12): Recognized for an undefeated football season; winners of the PSAL 1A Championship, defeating East Harlem Prep.
 - Tottenville High School: Acknowledged for advancing to the 4A Championship finals with an undefeated regular season.

- **Class Size Regulation Update**
 - Principals required to submit class size surveys by December 3; completion currently at 67%.
 - Principals must:
 - Submit the survey (mandatory for all schools).
 - Consult with their School Leadership Teams (SLTs) prior to submission.
 - Staten Island continues to face unique space and enrollment constraints.
 - Updates provided on discussions regarding:
 - Abington Avenue project (pending follow-up).
 - Proposed new building between McKee and Curtis High School; limited information currently available.

- Superintendent reiterated that arts and specials must not be sacrificed to meet class size mandates.

- **Instructional Updates & CEC Engagement**

- Superintendent encouraged increased school visits by CEC members.

- Announced upcoming presentations to help CEC and families better understand instructional initiatives including MTSS, MAP Growth data, special education supports, and behavior frameworks.



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Presentation: Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) in Literacy

Presenter: Deputy Superintendent Christine Chavez

Overview

- MTSS in D31 is framed as the District 31 Literacy Roadmap.
- Focus areas include: Literacy, Academics, Behavior, Attendance, and SEL.

MTSS Tier Breakdown

- **Tier 1 (Universal Support):**
80% of students; high-quality core instruction.
- **Tier 2 (Targeted Support):**
15% of students; supplemental instruction for below-grade-level skills.
- **Tier 3 (Intensive Support):**
Students significantly below benchmarks; designed to reduce unnecessary special education referrals.

Universal Screening

- All students tested three times per year (BOY, MOY, EOY).
- Assessments:
 - **K–2:** Acadians
 - **Grades 3–12:** MAP Growth
- This year, **44,355** students screened.
 - **9,172** far below benchmark (Tier 3)
 - **7,321** below benchmark (Tier 2)

Core Instruction

- District-wide reading curriculum: HMH
- Foundational program options per school: Really Great Reading, Foundations, Orton-Gillingham

Tier 2 & 3 Intervention Structures

- **Grades 2–5:** WIN (“What I Need”) periods; targeted small groups based on secondary diagnostics.



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- **Grades 6–12:** Scheduled “Strategic Reading” period.
- Secondary diagnostics determine specific intervention programs (e.g., ISPIRE, Wilson Reading System).

Progress Monitoring

- Tier 2: Every 3–6 weeks
- Tier 3: Every 1–4 weeks
- Adjustments made based on student progress.

Family Support and Upcoming Events

- Training underway with Parent Coordinators to improve family understanding of MTSS and reading screeners.
- Families encouraged to review student assessment data in the NYC Student Account (NYCSA).
- **January CEC Meeting:**
 - MAP Growth representative to present on interpreting parent reports.
 - Literacy team will review Acadians screener understanding.

● **Committee Reports**

None

● **Public Speaking**

None

● **Old Business**

None

● **New Business**

None



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District Superintendent

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First Vice President
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Daphne Appiah
Peri Sgambelluri

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**
Lauren Richichi

Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) Report

Presenter: *Debra Altman, PEP Representative*

Ms. Altman provided updates from recent PEP meetings, including:

Overview of PEP Responsibilities

- Approval of vendor contracts
- Oversight of school utilization projects
- Approval/changes to Chancellor's Regulations
- Approval of the aggregate DOE budget

Bus Contract Renewal

- Renewal covered 99 bus companies, largely controlled by six owners.
- PEP was limited in changing terms due to the nature of a renewal vs. a re-bid.
- Key outcomes included:
 - Shortened contract term to 3 years (approx. 2.5 years) to increase urgency around passing the EPP bill.
 - Commitment to two in-person town halls annually for families to meet bus vendors.
 - Increased training requirements for drivers and staff: 1 day → 2 days → 3 days over the course of the contract.
 - System-wide restoration of previous route assignments to improve consistency.
 - 90% GPS compliance requirement with financial penalties for noncompliance.
 - Strengthened customer service standards, particularly for special education routes (doubling customer liaisons).
 - Biannual reports on customer service metrics.



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Artificial Intelligence Vendor Contract

- Vendors will contact students directly via phone/text with resources on summer youth programs, college information, etc.
- Parents and students may opt out at any time.
- Ms. Altman voted no, citing concerns regarding direct student contact without parent mediation; however, the contract was approved.

Class Size Reduction

- Concerns were raised regarding facility limitations as NYC approaches mandated class size caps.
- PEP emphasized the need for additional buildings and avoiding the repurposing of IEP/services rooms.
- DOE affirmed it is seeking additional facilities and will maintain school choice.

Budget Update

- District 31 will receive a 10.9% funding increase for fiscal year 2026—the largest increase citywide.

Presidents' Council Report

Presenter: *Melissa Paradis, District 31 Presidents' Council President*

Key updates:

- Reminder that December 12 is the deadline for school lunch forms.
 - 100% completion is strongly encouraged as it impacts school funding, including Title I.
 - Parents may opt not to disclose income by selecting the designated checkbox.
- Schools and PTAs were reminded to follow Chancellor's Regulation A-660 and the new fundraising waiver, allowing up to 14 additional snack sales contingent on school approval.



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- The Presidents' Council will meet again on December 16 to prepare for the new school year, including interim reporting and financial guidance.

Public Comment

Speaker: Cheryl McMillan

- Ms. McMillan urged the Council to ensure that Staten Island retains an **on-island suspension site**, noting the hardship created when students are required to travel off-island.
- Council leadership confirmed the issue will be raised in future discussions with DOE.

No additional speakers registered.

• Closing Remarks

It's hard to believe we've already reached the midpoint of the school year. To all of our District Team members, administrators, faculty, staff, and families, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation for all the dedication, effort, and care you have invested in our schools so far this year. Every day, each of us contributes in ways that often go unseen, yet are essential to the success and well-being of our students.

We know that educating and supporting our children comes with its own unique pressures and unpredictable challenges. Many of us go above and beyond—rushing, improvising, and giving reassurance even when energy and patience run low—because we genuinely care. This holiday season, we want to encourage our District community to pause, rest, and enjoy this well-deserved time with your loved ones.

Let us take this time to celebrate the relationships and connections that make our community so special. May this season remind us of the joy of family, the comfort of friends, and the importance of supporting one another. As we reflect on the past months, let's remember that we are united by a shared commitment to the growth, happiness, and success of every child in our care.



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From all of us, we wish you a holiday filled with love, laughter, and warmth. Thank you for everything you do. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year! CEC31 is always here to listen and support you. If you need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out via email at CEC31@schools.nyc.gov or visit our website at www.CEC31.org

Happy Holidays everyone, and we'll see you next year!

• **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion 1st: *Andrew Guido*

Motion 2nd: *Daphne Appiah*

• **Meeting Adjourned 9:36 pm**