



COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31

**CEC 31 Hybrid Business Meeting and Calendar
Meeting Minutes
Monday February 2nd, 2026**

Dr. Roderick Palton
District Superintendent

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James Desiderato
First Vice President
IEP Representative

Frank Marino
Second Vice President

Joseph Bird
Treasurer

Andrew Guido
Recording Secretary

Kristie Montalvan
D75 Representative

Jessica Reyes
ELL Representative

Daniella Caputo
Teresa Cirelli
Borough President
Appointees

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Melissa Cosentino
Amanda Kelly
Erin Ulitto

**STUDENT COUNCIL
MEMBERS**
Daphne Appiah
Peri Sgambelluri

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**
Lauren Richichi

Business Meeting

Call to Order at 6:42pm and welcomed by President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan

Welcome Remarks President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan

Interpretation services in Russian, Mandarin, and Spanish provided

Roll call of Members

In-Person: Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Frank Marino, Joseph Bird, Daniella Caputo, Teresa Cirelli, Jimmy Desiderato, Andrew Guido, Erin Ulitto, Melissa Cosentino, Kristie Montalvan, Daphne Appiah & Peri Scambelluri

Virtual: Amanda Kelly

Absent: Jessica Reyes

Approval of January Draft Business and Calendar 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: Andrew Guido

Motion 2nd: Erin Ulitto

Meeting minutes were approved by all members

Review Member Absences

- Following members were absent in January
 - Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
 - Frank Marino

Motion to Approve Absences as Excused or Unexcused

Motion 1st: Daphne Appiah

Motion 2nd: Erin Ulitto

Councilmembers unanimously approve the absences as excused and moved to vote at the Calendar Meeting



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President's Report

Governance Update

- A change in governance at the NYC Department of Education was announced. Director B.B. Matadin will be supporting other priorities within the office.
- Escalations may be directed to: Dr. Annmary Lopez, Deputy Executive for the Governance Team, Jesse Mojica, and Rebecca Rosado.

Reimbursements

- Members were reminded to complete monthly reimbursement forms and childcare logs at each meeting. Forms must be signed before submission.

Professional Development Opportunity for Councilmembers

FACE is offering professional development sessions, "Managing Difficult Conversations and Conflict Resolution" by Brian Dunn, Founder and President of Best Dunn Enterprises, Inc. The training provides practical tools to help turn conflict into collaboration while strengthening communication, empathy, and problem-solving skills.

Participants will learn how to:

- Apply practical frameworks for managing difficult conversations
- Use emotional intelligence strategies to reduce defensiveness
- Navigate sensitive issues with clarity and confidence
- Mediate conflict effectively using real-world scenarios and interactive exercises

Please follow this link to register for this session:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/qk69JnH-RmCpuhOCbpHFjg?_x_zm_rtaid=JrhkZq3OSuKGmvSqXhRAeA.1769194548716.0194f45669fe44cd192c8f62e1ffb3f5&_x_zm_rhtaid=674#/registration



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Chancellor Visit Requests

CEC members wishing to invite the Chancellor must complete the new Chancellor Meeting Event Request Form. [Chancellor Meeting/Event Request Form](#)

- Requests must be submitted at least four (4) weeks in advance.
- Submission does not guarantee attendance.

NYC Budget Resources

- Mayor Mamdani’s overview of the NYC budget
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DUIzG70EXXB/>
- NYC Council Finance Division Fiscal 2026–2029 November Plan. Relevant sections: DOE: Pages 28–29 and SCA: Pages 30–32
<https://council.nyc.gov/budget/wp-content/uploads/sites/54/2025/12/Fiscal-2026-November-Plan-Report.pdf>

Councilmember Reports

None

Old Business

None

New Business

- Office Printer Replacement & Budget Amendment: The Council office requires a new color printer following removal of the previous unit during renovations.
- Recommended model (per District Budget & Finance Office): \$978
- The current Office Supplies line does not have sufficient funds.
- Review the budget and vote on reallocating funds from unused line items to cover the printer purchase/necessary supplies (paper and ink)
- Time sensitivity was noted due to a February 4th Budget Office deadline.

Motion to Amend Calendar Agenda:

Motion 1st: Daniella Caputo

Motion 2nd: Teresa Cirelli

Motion to Adjourn

Motion 1st: Melissa Cosentino

Motion 2nd: Perri Sgambelluri

- **Meeting Adjourned:** 6:52pm



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Calendar Meeting

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

Welcome Remarks: President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan

Interpretation services in Russian, Mandarin, and Spanish provided

Roll call of Members

In-Person: Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Frank Marino, Joseph Bird, Daniella Caputo, Teresa Cirelli, Jimmy Desiderato, Andrew Guido, Erin Ulitto, Melissa Cosentino, Kristie Montalvan, Daphne Appiah & Peri Scambelluri

Virtual: Amanda Kelly

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Motion 2nd: Perri Sgambelluri

Meeting minutes were approved by all members

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Budget Amendment

The Council discussed a proposed amendment to the 2025–2026 CEC budget to address the purchase of a new color printer for the CEC office.

- The previous printer was removed during a recent office renovation.
- Recommended model (per District Budget & Finance Office)
- Cost of new printer: **\$978**
- Current Office Supplies allocation: **\$500**
- Insufficient funds available in the Office Supplies budget line.
- Transfer **\$185** from the P-Card line item.
- Transfer **\$375** from the Member Reimbursements line item (due to unused funds resulting from member absences in July).
- The proposed transfers would allow for the printer purchase and retain limited funds for essential supplies (paper and ink) through the end of the fiscal year (June 30).

The floor was opened for Council discussion and public comment. No public comments were made.

Motion to Amend Budget:

Motion 1st: Melissa Cosentino

Motion 2nd: Erin Ulitto

The motion to amend the budget passed unanimously.



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President's Report

Upcoming Workshop

"In Their Shoes: Caregivers Understanding and Supporting Siblings of Children with Disabilities"

- Staten Island's District 75, will host a virtual interactive workshop titled "*In Their Shoes: Caregivers Understanding and Supporting Siblings of Children with Disabilities.*"
- The workshop will explore research and lived experiences to provide participants with a deeper understanding of the sibling experience and practical strategies to foster resilience and connection among family members.
- Audience: Parents, caregivers, educators, and professionals supporting families

Date: Wednesday, February 4

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/D75-SiblingSupport>

Class Size Law Update

- The mandate requires 80% of classes to meet class size limits by the next school year.
- Although the City met the current year's target—largely through exemptions and increased hiring—officials estimate significant additional resources will be required.
- Estimated resources include:
 - \$602 million annually to hire approximately 6,000 additional teachers.
 - Up to \$18 billion for new classroom construction.
- Officials expressed concerns about potential teacher shortages and the risk of exacerbating inequities in high-poverty schools.
- Concerns were also raised regarding changes to the state funding formula and its fiscal impact on the City.



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Appointment of New City Council Education Committee Chair

City Councilmember Eric Dinowitz has been appointed Chair of the City Council’s Education Committee. Councilmember Dinowitz:

- Former public school teacher and Bronx graduate.
- Intends to prioritize special education reform.
- Will closely monitor the phase-out of Regents exams as part of the “Passport to Graduation” initiative.
- Supports merging under-enrolled schools in response to declining enrollment.
- Supports school integration efforts with community input.
- Opposes changes to the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT).
- Supports the state’s class size mandate and advocates for additional funding and creative implementation solutions.

3-K and Pre-K Application Reminder

- Children born in 2022 (Pre-K) and 2023 (3-K) who reside in New York City are eligible for Fall 2026 enrollment.
- Application Deadline: Friday, February 27

Families may apply:

- Online <https://www.myschools.nyc/en/> (available in multiple languages).
- By phone at 718-935-2009 (interpretation available in over 200 languages).
- In person at a Family Welcome Center.

Offer Release Dates:

- Pre-K offer: Tuesday, May 12 and 3-K offers: Tuesday, May 18



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State Funding for Free Child Care Expansion

New York State will fund the first two years of New York City's new free child care program for two-year-olds.

- The program expansion is expected to cost approximately \$1 billion annually.
- Concerns have been raised by providers regarding:
 - The pace of implementation.
 - Compensation for home-based programs.
 - Services for children with disabilities.

City leadership has indicated that these concerns will be addressed through collaboration with child care providers.

School Safety Update

A recent decision by the Philadelphia School Board to approve a \$600,000 contract to equip school safety officers with bulletproof vests, handcuffs, and new uniforms. While noting this development occurred outside New York City, it was reiterated that there are ongoing concerns regarding staffing shortages of school safety agents in Staten Island schools.

CEC members have engaged in discussions with school principals regarding the limited number of safety agents assigned to buildings and have continued to advocate for increased staffing. The President suggested that enhanced equipment and support could potentially assist in recruitment efforts.

Superintendent's Report

Virtual Learning Day

- A virtual learning day was held due to inclement weather. Teachers and principals across the district were commended for their preparation and for effectively engaging students in the virtual environment.
- Classroom visits reflected strong student participation. Minor technical issues with Google platforms were reported in the morning but were resolved quickly.



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Sibling Support Project (Sibshops)

The District recently attended a two-day Sibling Support Project training at Staten Island Technical High School. The training focused on supporting siblings of students with developmental, health, or mental health needs.

The initiative aims to build local capacity by preparing staff and community partners to facilitate “Sibshops,” structured peer support groups for siblings ages 8–13. The Superintendent noted that hosting these workshops locally allows for consistent support across District 31 and District 75.

The Superintendent thanked:

- Principal Mark Erlenwein for bringing the program to the district’s attention.
- Lindsay Hyland (IS 34) for her leadership and advocacy.
- The District 31 Special Education Team and Central Office partners for organizing the training.
- Deputy Chancellor Foti for attending and supporting the initiative.

State Accountability Designations

- District 31 has 71 schools rated by the State.
- Last year, 7 schools were identified as Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) or Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools.
- This year, the number has been reduced to 2 schools.
- The remaining schools identified are: PS 44 and PS 46

The Superintendent acknowledged the leadership teams at both schools and affirmed the district’s commitment to supporting continued improvement. The following schools were removed from the State’s identification list:

- PS 16 , PS 20, PS 31 , IS 49, The Michael J. Petrides School (Waverly Campus)



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Respect for All Week

Respect for All Week will begin next week. District 31 promotes respect, inclusion, and kindness year-round. The winners of the annual Bullying Prevention Poster Contest were from the following schools:

- PS 41, PS 29, PS 22, PS 54, PS 46, PS 58, IS 75, PS 19, PS/IS 26, Tottenville High School

The district will also partner with District Attorney McMahon's Office for the annual "Stand Up and Stop Bullying" event, launching at PS/IS 48.

Arts Funding and Student Opportunities

The district received \$80,000 from the DOE to support arts programming and enrichment opportunities. Recent and upcoming activities include:

- A district-sponsored trip for kindergarten and second-grade students to attend *Disney on Ice* at Barclays Center.
- An upcoming trip for middle and high school students to attend *Buena Vista Social Club* on February 7.
- Additional local arts events across the borough.

The Superintendent encouraged families to contact their schools for information, as all schools were notified of available opportunities. Dr. Jessica Garofalo-Englehart, Borough Director of the Arts, was thanked for coordinating these experiences.

World Read Aloud Day

On Wednesday, February 4, elementary schools across the district will participate in World Read Aloud Day. Guest readers from high schools, middle schools, the DOE, and the broader community will visit classrooms. Featured books include:

- *I Am Enough* by Grace Byers and *Be Kind* by Pat Zietlow Miller



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Black History Month

The district will celebrate Black History Month with a joint MBK, MSK, and BSAC meeting and celebration focused on African American pioneers in medicine.

Date: Thursday, February 5

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Petrides Campus

Leadership Updates

- Principal Greg Jaenicke, Curtis High School, will retire after more than 30 years in education and 10 years as principal of Curtis High School.
- Mr. Nick Mele, former Principal of IS 51, has been appointed Principal of Curtis High School. A C-30 process will begin to identify a new principal for IS 51.
- Assistant Principal Demetra Stoupakis will serve as Interim Acting Principal at IS 51.
- Kristen Fusaro- Pizzo will serve as the new District Achievement Instructional Specialist for District 31.

UFT Teacher Centers

The district recently opened two new UFT Teacher Centers:

- PS 54 and PS 84

District 31 now has the highest proportional number of UFT Teacher Centers in New York City. The Superintendent acknowledged the partnership and collaboration with the UFT.



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Chancellor's Family Conversation Event

Date: Tuesday, February 10

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: New Dorp High School

NYC Solves Initiative

NYC Solves initiative has been launched in middle schools this year, with plans to expand implementation into high schools.

Presentation on New York City Solves

Presenter: Christine Loughlin, District 31 Executive Director of School Support and Operations

New York City Solves initiative focuses on:

- High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) (research-based curriculum)
- Coherent math instruction, particularly for students with disabilities and English Language Learners (ELL)
- Professional development and job-embedded coaching

Implementation in District 31

2024–2025

- Two high schools (Port Richmond and Curtis) selected Illustrative Mathematics (IM) to support Algebra instruction.

2025–2026

- All 17 middle schools implemented a unified curriculum: Amplify Desmos.
- Teachers engaged in collaborative planning and curriculum unpacking sessions.



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2026–2027

- All high schools will select and implement a HQIM curriculum.
- Principals and teachers are currently reviewing curriculum options (Amplify Desmos and IM).

Key Implementation Supports

- Job-embedded classroom coaching
- Four collaborative professional development sessions
- Curriculum unpacking sessions
- Implementation walkthroughs conducted by District and Central staff
- Feedback provided to school leaders and teachers

Rationale for the Shift

- Many middle and high school students are not meeting grade-level math proficiency.
- District proficiency rates for students with IEPs (Grades 3–8) are 33.8%.
- ELL student proficiency rates remain significantly lower than their English-speaking peers.
- A historical drop in proficiency is observed in Grade 6.
- Algebra Regents data (June 2025) reflects ongoing challenges.

The data presented was drawn from New York State assessments (Grades 3–8 and Algebra Regents). The goal of unified curriculum implementation is to ensure coherence, reduce variability across schools, and improve outcomes, particularly for historically underserved student groups.

Links to DEMO Accounts to explore platforms:

Amplify

learning.amplify.com

log in: t.nycadmsample-district31@tryamplify.net

password: AmplifyNumber1



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Curriculum Demo Access

<https://doe1nyc.ilclassroom.com/login>

Click Log in with your email address

Email: ilcnyce@example.com

Password: bigapple

Question: What explains the drop in proficiency in Grade 6?

- Christine acknowledged the drop in proficiency in Grade 6 is a historical trend and noted the transition to middle school as a potential factor.
- It is anticipated that improved curriculum implementation and familiarity will positively impact future outcomes.

Question: How are high-performing schools that created their own math programs being supported?

- Elementary schools are not currently part of the unified HQIM initiative.
- The District continues to share best practices across schools through site visits and professional learning.

Question: Was underperformance due to curriculum, instruction, or both?

- Previously, schools used multiple curricula without unified professional learning or coaching support. The new approach integrates curriculum, coaching, and structured professional development.
- Research from 2018–2022 pilot implementations showed improved student outcomes with HQIM.

Concerns Raised:

- Anticipating family and teacher concerns during implementation, similar to previous curriculum rollouts.
- Ensuring data will reflect measurable improvements.



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Christine and District leadership emphasized:

- Weekly collaboration with central partners.
- Continuous feedback collection from teachers.
- Adjustments to professional development based on teacher needs.
- Expanded coaching support through K–12 Coalition.

Committee Reports

District 31 Arts Event

Council member recognized the success of the recent District 31 arts event.

- Approximately 9–10 schools participated in the event.
- The District 31 Family Support Staff were commended for their exceptional planning and execution.
- The event provided students with an engaging opportunity to experience and participate in arts and performance activities integrated into the curriculum.
- Council member noted the enthusiasm of the students and expressed appreciation to District 31 leadership for organizing a meaningful and successful event.
- The Council extended its gratitude to all staff and schools involved for supporting arts education across the district.

Safety Meeting

Council member provided an update regarding safety initiatives.

- Currently working on organizing a district-wide safety meeting in collaboration with local elected officials.
- The meeting is tentatively planned for the end of April.



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Peri Sgambelluri

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Lauren Richichi

Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) Report

In the absence of PEP Parent Member Deborah Altman, President Curatolo-Boylan provided a summary of the most recent PEP meeting.

Key Updates:

- The first Chancellor's PEP meeting for Kamar Samuels was held.
- Kitchen renovations were approved for 1,600 schools citywide, including schools on Staten Island.
- Kiddom AI was approved for the District; however, all AI interface features were removed in response to concerns raised during the PEP review process.
- The AI playbook policy, YIS, is currently being worked on, and a tentative reveal will be set up in February.

President's Council Report

Presenter: Melissa Paradis, District 31 Presidents' Council President

- Reminder issued to all PTA Presidents regarding submission of the Interim Financial Report, which was due by January 31.
- Upcoming District Monthly Meeting scheduled for February 24th.
- A joint meeting for PTA Presidents and Parent Coordinators will be held at the UFT building on February, 25th 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM to discuss planning and groundwork for the remainder of the school year.

Public Speaking

Council member inquired where New York City's new free child care program for two year olds, 2-Care, programs will be held. According to Mayor Mamdani, they will be looking to local community based providers that are already in place.

Cheryl McMillan inquired about an AI component to the New York City Solves program. There will not be an AI component to this program.



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EDUCATION
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DISTRICT 31**

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District Superintendent

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First Vice President
IEP Representative

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COUNCIL MEMBERS
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Amanda Kelly
Erin Ulitto

**STUDENT COUNCIL
MEMBERS**
Daphne Appiah
Peri Sgambelluri

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**
Lauren Richichi

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Closing Remarks

Thank you to all the wonderful District Team for attending tonight, all our District Principals, our representatives from our local elected offices, including Vito Fossella's office, Adrienne Stallone, UFT and FACE. We are grateful for your continued partnership and support. 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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion 1st: Andrew Guido

Motion 2nd: Melissa Cosentino

Meeting Adjourned 8:30PM