



**CEC 31 Hybrid Business Meeting and Calendar  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday July 7th, 2025**

COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION  
COUNCIL  
DISTRICT 31

Dr. Roderick Palton  
*District Superintendent*

**OFFICERS**

Lucia Curatolo-Boylan  
*Acting Interim  
President*

Kristie Montalvan  
*D75 Representative*

Jessica Reyes  
*ELL Representative*

James Desiderato  
*IEP Representative*

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Joseph Bird  
Melissa Cosentino  
Andrew Guido  
Amanda Kelly  
Frank Marino  
Erin Ulitto

Daniella Caputo  
Teresa Circelli  
*Borough President  
Appointees*

**VACANT**  
Parliamentarian  
Student Members  
Administrative Assistant

**Business Meeting**

• **Call to Order** at 6:33 PM and welcomed by Acting Interim President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan

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

• **Roll call of Members**

***In-Person:** Joseph Bird, Daniella Caputo, Teresa Circelli, Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Andrew Guido, Amanda Kelly, Frank Marino, Erin Ulitto*

***Absent:** Melissa Cosentino Jessica Reyes, & Jimmy Desiderato*

• **Vote on Member Absences**

Unfortunately, since our Council does not hold our annual meeting, where we elect officers until September. I would ask for a motion from Council to postpone voting on member absences until September

**Motion 1st:** Andrew Guido

**Motion 2nd:** Erin Ulitto

• **Approval June 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:** Daniela Caputo

**Motion 2nd:** Andrew Guido

Meeting minutes were approved by all members

• **President's Report**

• **OATH OF OFFICE**

- This is a friendly reminder that all elected council members must submit an original, notarized Oath of Office to the Office of Family and Community Empowerment (FACE) by July 1, 2025, which is the official start of your 2-year term. Please note: You will NOT be permitted to vote or participate in official council decisions until your notarized oath has been submitted to FACE, officially recorded, and shared with your Administrative Assistant for documentation. If you've already completed and submitted your oath—thank you! No further action is needed at this time. If not, please refer to the attached Oath of Office form and instructions. You may either: Bring the notarized original to your first council meeting and give it to your



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FACE Governance Specialist, or Mail it to our office using the instructions provided. If you have any questions or need support, please don't hesitate to reach out.

• **IBO 3K/PRE-K TRENDS:**

- The Independent Budget Office explored changes in enrollment and capacity for 3-K and pre-K programs participating in the New York City Department of Education early childhood program. In this analysis, IBO found that usage rates broadly increased between the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years, and this increase was primarily driven by decreases in capacity for both 3-K and pre-K programs. "Utilization Up, Capacity Down: A Look at 3-K and Pre-K Trends in New York City" Translations are also available in Mandarin and Spanish. If you're interested in receiving a briefing on the report and its findings, please contact [info@ibo.nyc.gov](mailto:info@ibo.nyc.gov)

• **SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION:**

- Has been completed. Thank you to all Council members who provided feedback. It was included in the final report which can be found in the following link which Teresa will share. It was shared with the Superintendent on 6/25 and emailed to Division of School Leadership on 6/27

• **LEADERSHIP CHANGE**

- First Deputy Chancellor Dan Weisberg, whose involvement in major education initiatives earned him the nickname of "shadow chancellor," announced his last day is in August. "Dan was at the center of all our critical work," Aviles-Ramos said in a statement, focusing on his roles in standardizing curriculum and expanding college and career programs. "On behalf of our staff, students, and families, we offer him our deepest thanks and wish him all the best in his next chapter." The city's Department of Education did not immediately name Weisberg's replacement.

• **Committee Reports**

Reviewed current CEC31 committees including Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Parent Engagement, Special Education Committee, Construction and Facilities Committee, Health and Wellness Committee, Resolution Committee, Safety and Transportation Committee, Gifted and Talented programming, and Curriculum committee. Welcomed Council members to suggest additional committees if so inclined

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

None

• **Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion 1st:** *Teresa Cirelli*

**Motion 2nd:** *Andrew Guido*



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- Meeting Adjourned 7:01pm

## Calendar Meeting

- Call to Order at 7:31 PM and welcomed by Acting Interim President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan

- Welcomed interpretation services in Russian, Mandarin, and Spanish

- Roll call of Members

*In-Person: Joseph Bird, Daniella Caputo, Teresa Circelli, Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Andrew Guido, Amanda Kelly, Frank Marino, Erin Ulitto*

*Absent: Melissa Cosentino, Jessica Reyes, & James Desiderato*

- Vote on Member Absences

Unfortunately, since our Council does not hold our annual meeting, where we elect officers until September. I would ask for a motion from Council to postpone voting on member absences until September

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**Motion 2nd:** Daniella Caputo

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Meeting minutes were approved by all members

- Presentations

None

- President's Report

- PEP PARENT MEMBER VACANCY:

- The Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) is a 24-member, voting body overseeing New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) and is composed of community leaders across every neighborhood and borough of New York City. As codified in the Bylaws, the Panel believes that education is a fundamental human right, and that it is our duty to ensure that all students have equal access to the opportunity and resources needed to reach full potential. Its primary purpose is to approve and oversee educational policies, including school co-locations and closings, contracts over \$1 million, Gifted and Talented programs, and the citywide school budget. The



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PEP aims to ensure equitable access to high-quality education for all students in NYC. The Panel for Education Policy is currently seeking to fill a vacancy for the Staten Island representative, who is elected by the CEC President. If you are interested in serving in this role, please complete the application linked below and submit it to [PEPParentApplications@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:PEPParentApplications@schools.nyc.gov) by July 13, 2025.

- **ENROLLMENT UPDATES:**
  - Summer Rising: Programming started July 2 for students with accepted offers. Summer Rising ends August 8 for middle school students and August 15 for elementary school students. Waitlists are open through the last week of the program.
  - Elementary Admissions Virtual Information Sessions: All NYC families with children born in 2020, 2021, and 2022 are invited to join a virtual information session covering 3-K, pre-K, and kindergarten offers and waitlists. Visit the elementary events webpage for more information on how to join.
  - High School Virtual Information Sessions: Families of students entering 8th grade in the fall are invited. During these sessions families will learn how to prepare over the summer to participate in high school admissions. For information regarding session dates, please visit the website at [schools.nyc.gov/hs](https://schools.nyc.gov/hs).
  - Waitlists: Programs will use waitlists to fill open seats throughout the summer and into September. If your child does not have a seat for the fall or if you're interested in exploring other options, waitlists are your best next step! If a program extends a waitlist offer to your child, they will contact you directly. Waitlists are available for students eligible to participate in admissions for 3-K, pre-K, kindergarten, Gifted & Talented (G&T), middle and high school.
  - The last day waitlist offers can be made is September 12 for middle and high schools and September 19 for early childhood and elementary schools.
  - Tell Us What You Think! Visit our new Enrollment Feedback page at [schools.nyc.gov/enrollmentfeedback](https://schools.nyc.gov/enrollmentfeedback)! Here you can see family survey results, outcomes from focus groups, recent policy changes, and provide feedback regarding your experience applying or enrolling in school.
  - Have questions over the summer? Below are the email addresses you can contact for support!
    - High school admissions: [HSEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:HSEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov)
    - Middle school admissions: [MSEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:MSEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov)
    - 3-K, pre-K, kindergarten, and Gifted & Talented admissions: [SEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:SEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov)
    - Summer Rising admissions: [Summer@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Summer@schools.nyc.gov)
- **FEDERAL SHORTFALL:**
  - The Trump administration without notice has delayed nearly \$6.8 billion in federal K–12 education funding that was legally required to be distributed to states on July 1, without prior approval from Congress. Affected programs include:



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- Title I-C (migrant education – \$375M), Title II-A (teacher professional development – \$2.2B), Title III-A (English learner services – \$890M), Title IV-A (academic enrichment – \$1.3B) Title IV-B (before/after-school programs – \$1.4B) Adult basic and literacy education grants – \$729M
- These funds are critical for staff salaries, curriculum, and student services. State and district leaders, caught off guard, may now face cuts or seek alternative funding. The administration has cited an ongoing review and referred all inquiries to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), led by Russell Vought, who has questioned the constitutionality of limits on impoundment (withholding funds).
- Critics argue the delay is an unlawful attempt to preempt Congress's role in the budget process and advance Trump's 2026 budget priorities early. Legal challenges are expected, as similar funding impoundments earlier this year were also contested.
- Notably, Title I-A and IDEA funding streams (serving low-income and disabled students) remain untouched. Still, education leaders warn the delay will disrupt school staffing and programming for the current and upcoming school year.
- **SHSAT RESOURCES:**
  - SHSAT Registration and Admissions dates for the 2025-2026 School Year have not been finalized. Due to the move to a digital format, there are no more physical SHSAT practice books, since the resource material has moved to fully digital to align with the test taking experience. To prepare for the digital exam that will be administered (for the first time) in Fall 2025, students can view a tutorial <https://srt.testnav.com/ny-shsat/ny-shsat-srt.html> and two fully functional online practice tests <https://nycshsat.myassessmentsupport.com/practice-tests/> on the SHSAT webpage. Similar to the paper-based, full-length practice tests that have been available previously, these sample exams will provide students with an opportunity to take a practice version of the exam that mirrors the actual exam in both form and content. The tutorial and unique practice tests will be accessible every year directly through a web browser, so no special software is required to practice with the content or features of the exam. Families can now access the NYC SHSAT Portal, <https://nycshsat.myassessmentsupport.com/> which includes the Student Readiness Tool (SRT) tutorial, the How to Prepare for the SHSAT guide, practice tests, and explanations of correct answers on the practice test.
- **BOROUGH HALL SOUNDS OF SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**
  - July 10: The Black Ties -- Conference House Park at 7:00 p.m.
  - July 17: Liz Wojtal Next of Kin, The Paul Corn Jazztet -- Snug Harbor at 7:00 p.m.
  - July 24: Laura's Boys, Johnny Fish and the Fins -- Wolfe's Pond Park at 7:00 p.m.
  - July 31: Kizmet, JD & The Allstars -- Westerleigh Park at 7:00 p.m.
  - Aug. 7: 42nd Infantry Band -- Fort Wadsworth at 6:30 p.m.
  - Aug. 14: Arden Reign, Joan Caddell & the Midnight Choir -- Historic Richmond Town at 7:00 p.m.



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- Aug. 16: Vito Picone & The Elegants & Friends -- Midland Beach Plaza at 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 21: Cause & The Effects -- Fresh Kills North Park at 6:30 p.m
- All concerts begin at 7 p.m. with the exception of August 7, 16, and 21, which begin at 6:30 p.m.
- Please note that concerts will be cancelled in the event of extreme weather for safety reasons.
- For more information or concert cancellations, visit our website, Facebook and Instagram pages or call 718-816-2133. Sounds of Summer Concert Series
- **HEALTH & WELLNESS:**
  - Free Summer Meals from June 27-August 29. Everyone 18 years old and under, can grab a free meal at over 300 sites across the city! Please note that the Office of Food and Nutrition Services (OFNS) does provide service for all students who are enrolled in year-round educational programs, including students at special need sites. Check out the attached flyer.
  - Encourage all to subscribe to the School Wellness Weekly digital newsletter and follow @nycpswellness on Instagram to stay up to date on school health and Empowering Strong and Healthy Students: NYCPS School Wellness Policy-related opportunities, grants, resources, and news.

● **Superintendent's Report**

- Deputy Superintendent Christine Chavez represented Superintendent Dr. Roderck Palton and welcomed new and the existing members of CEC31. She thanked them for their commitment and all that they will continue to do throughout the coming year.
- **Summer Rising**
  - District 31 has 26 summarizing sites and 6 additional extended year service schools, schools that service students with extended year schooling
  - Provides free classes and activities to kindergarten through 8th grade students all summer long. In District 31 we have 26 summarizing sites and 6 additional extended year service schools, schools that service students with extended year schooling
- **Citywide Reading Scores Released**
  - City officials recently announced reading scores for students in elementary schools. There was an increase of 2.5% on average, and the math scores, there was an improvement of 3.2% citywide. The scores are embargoed, but we look forward to sharing the D 31 results. Once we are able to.
- **NYC Bell to Bell cell phone or personal Internet capable device ban**
  - All NYC public Schools K through 12 students will have no use of smartphones or Internet, enabled personal devices during the school day. This ban, which takes effect this fall applies to all public and charter schools across the State.
  - The new cell phone guidance is going to be in place. Starting in September. Schools will be sharing their individual building policies next month with families
  - The goal of this ban is to create a distraction. Free learning, environment, and address concerns about the negative impact of social media on students.
  - Mental health. We asked families and students to please, you know, be involved with your schools in developing this policy so that we can make sure that it is successful and supportive of students.



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- **Expansion of NYC Reads and NYC Solves**
  - Schools will now be expecting, expanding the reading and math curriculums otherwise known as New York city reads, and New York City solves additional schools in this coming year.
  - In District 31 middle school teachers are receiving training this summer to support the New York City solves initiative.
- **District 31 Parent Engagement Goals**
  - Working to increase family involvement this school year, we will be offering an array of workshops and activities around the citywide and district-wide initiatives.
  - Developing a survey that will be sent out to families in September so that we can hear from you what you want to learn more about, but also what is the best way for us to engage and interact with families in the district. You know what times of day, in person or virtual. So please look out for that survey that will be coming out in September, so that we can hear from you and plan accordingly.

● **Committee Reports - None**

● **Public Speaking -**

**Speaker: Cheryl McMillan**

Asked if there was anything CEC31 requires. We shared that we are still in the process of hiring an Administrative Assistant

● **New Business**

**None**

● **Old Business**

**None**

● **Closing Remarks**

● **Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion 1st: Andrew Guido**

**Motion 2nd: Daniela Caputo**

● **Meeting Adjourned 8:11 pm**