



COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31

**CEC 31 Hybrid Business Meeting and Calendar
Meeting Minutes
Monday October 6th, 2025**

Dr. Roderick Palton
District Superintendent

OFFICERS

Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

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 Circelli
*Borough President
Appointees*

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Melissa Cosentino
Amanda Kelly
Erin Ulitto

**STUDENT COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

Daphne Appiah
Peri Sgambelluri

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Lauren Richichi

Business Meeting

- **Call to Order** at 5:03 PM and welcomed by President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan

- **Welcome Remarks:**

President Curatolo-Boylan reminded families that following our meeting we would be welcoming Chancellor Aviles-Ramos for our D31 Town Hall and invited the community to remain through the duration. Also welcomed our brand new student members to the Council, Peri Sgambelluri and Daphne Appiah

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

- **Roll call of Members**

In-Person: Joseph Bird, Daniella Caputo, Teresa Cirelli, Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Jimmy Desiderato, Andrew Guido, Amanda Kelly, Kristie Montalvan, Jessica Reyes & Erin Ulitto

Virtual: Melissa Cosentino

Absent: Frank Marino

- **Approval September 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: Jimmy Desiderato

Motion 2nd: Teresa Cirelli

Meeting minutes were approved by all members

- **Review Member Absences**

- Following members were absent in September
 - Joseph Bird

Motion to Approve Absences as Excused or Unexcused

Motion 1st: Amanda Kelly

Motion 2nd: Teresa Cirelli

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



• **President’s Report**

• **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

- The pathway to the placement of our Administrative Assistant Lauren Ricchici is moving along slowly but surely. Our hope is that HR will have a start date within the next week or two. She will then complete preliminary training at Tweed and then be available to us for continued training with the hopes that she will join us for our November Meeting

• **SCA WORKSHOP OFFERING:**

- In partnership with FACE, Division of School Facilities at NYCPS, the New York City School Construction Authority (SCA) is happy to provide a series of information sessions for council members this fall. These sessions will explore the SCA’s role in building, renovating and modernizing public school buildings in New York City. Presenters will talk about the Capital Plan, discuss building new schools, capital eligibility, the Reso A process, their work on existing buildings, and more. After the SCA presentation there will be ample time for questions and answers. The information for all the sessions will be consistent, so members are invited to attend any session that works for your schedule if you are unable to attend the borough session. Each session will begin at 6 PM and end at 7PM. Staten Island & Manhattan – October 9
- Zoom Link:
<https://zoom.us/j/96787641850?pwd=aiiVedSTSh4Na3OmITHB8uWo4TkGpg.1>
- Meeting ID: 967 8764 1850
- Passcode: 827496

• **NYCPS FAMILY CONNECTORS PROGRAM:**

- There are some upcoming dates for the NYCPS Family Connectors Program this Fall 2025! This program is all about helping families get the support they need—because strong families build strong communities. As a Family Connector you will:
 - ✓ Be a trusted resource for families in your community
 - ✓ Learn about important programs and services from NYC Public Schools, the City, and the State
 - ✓ Help families find tools and opportunities they need to thrive
- If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to reach out to FamilyConnectors@schools.nyc.gov.
- Sign Up to Join the Program: <https://forms.office.com/r/KybsF0jqde>

**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31**

Dr. Roderick Palton
District Superintendent

OFFICERS

Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

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 Circelli
Borough President
Appointees

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Melissa Cosentino
Amanda Kelly
Erin Ulitto

**STUDENT COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

Daphne Appiah
Peri Sgambelluri

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Lauren Richichi



**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31**

Dr. Roderick Palton
District Superintendent

OFFICERS

Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

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 Circelli
Borough President
Appointees

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Melissa Cosentino
Amanda Kelly
Erin Ulitto

**STUDENT COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

Daphne Appiah
Peri Sgambelluri

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Lauren Richichi

- Fall 2025 Family Connectors Calendar:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EvGTFuFzi2RZGkym8FRVMhflVtLgM1Sv/vi?usp=drive_link
- You can view previous sessions on Parent University:
<https://parentu.schools.nyc/>
- Week # 3
 - Day one
 - Training Session #5
 - Wednesday, October 8th at 12:00 PM Join Here
 - Wednesday, October 8th at 6:00 PM Join Here
 - Day Two
 - Training Session #6
 - Thursday, October 9th at 12:00 PM Join Here
 - Thursday, October 9th at 6:00 PM Join Here

● **CEC PRESIDENT'S CHANCELLOR MEETING:**

- The Chancellor addressed kids having access to Laptops during the school day to work on research or school work. That the law attempts to create distraction free zones but in no way is meant to hamper educational use of technology and that NYCPS will have to do research on where this is happening. NYCPS wants to ensure that all students have access to an internet enabled Chromebook for educational use.
- They addressed CEC's having access to the Office of the First Deputy Chancellor. Isabelle DiMola said she would in good faith continue the previous approach to her office.
- Currently logging on the Bus App is at 86% and the goal is to have it at 100%. They are working diligently to ensure drivers are all turning on the tracking app every trip and encouraging families to download the app. NYCPS Bus app has been great in improving communication to families, and for our families with students with disabilities it's best to place them in schools close to home. Foti is focused on working with every Sup and District to ensure that's happening to reduce travel times.
- And speaking of transportation, Kevin Moran has said they are evaluating the cost of an express bus OMNY fare and surveying Citywide how many students would benefit
- Joe Lazarus has been hired as Senior Executive Director of School Facilities and will manage projects back and forth with SCA to provide real time updates to families
- CEC's were looking at the results of the Biology regents and addressed the rumor that students were not given all the necessary materials to be prepared NYCPS denies that but does acknowledge that students need additional preparation time in order to be more successful.



**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31**

Dr. Roderick Palton
District Superintendent

OFFICERS

Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Melissa Cosentino
Amanda Kelly
Erin Ulitto

**STUDENT COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

Daphne Appiah
Peri Sgambelluri

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Lauren Richichi

- Mark Rampersant addressed NYCPS commitment & NYPD expectations amidst ICE raids to arrest aversion for students and committed training for safety officers Tier 1 & Tier 2
- CECs thanked NYCPS for including more in the D75 co-location guides and added resources, appendixes and best practices to ensure students with special needs don't feel like outsiders in their buildings. But addressed the inability to meet state mandated services at the beginning of the year due to a lack of service providers. The City currently relies on contracted agencies to conduct most preschool evaluations and provide the vast majority of preschool special education services, but when these agencies are unable to meet the need, the City has a legal obligation to fill the gap. They are working diligently to find new providers and remain committed to ensuring all students receive their mandated services.

• Councilmember Reports

None

• Old Business

None

• New Business

None

• Motion to Adjourn

Motion 1st: *Erin Ulitto*

Motion 2nd: *Teresa Cirelli*

• Meeting Adjourned 5:24pm

Calendar Meeting

- **Call to Order** at 5:31 PM and welcomed by President Lucia Curatolo-Boylan

• Welcome Remarks:

President Curatolo-Boylan reminded families that following our meeting we would be welcoming Chancellor Avilles-Ramos for our D31 Town Hall and invited the community to remain through the duration. Also welcomed our brand new student members to the Council, Peri Sgambelluri and Daphne Appiah

• Interpretation services in Russian, Mandarin, and Spanish provided

• Roll call of Members

In-Person: Joseph Bird, Daniella Caputo, Teresa Cirelli, Melissa Cosentino,



*Lucia Curatolo-Boylan, Jimmy Desiderato, Andrew Guido, Amanda Kelly,
Kristie Montalvan, Jessica Reyes & Erin Ulitto*
Absent: Frank Marino

**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31**

Dr. Roderick Palton
District Superintendent

OFFICERS
Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

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 Circelli
*Borough President
Appointees*

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Melissa Cosentino
Amanda Kelly
Erin Ulitto

**STUDENT COUNCIL
MEMBERS**
Daphne Appiah
Peri Sgambelluri

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**
Lauren Richichi

• **Approval September 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: *Daniella Caputo*

Motion 2nd: *Andrew Guido*

Meeting minutes were approved by all members

• **Vote on Excused Member Absences**

- Councilmember Joseph Bird was absent in September
- Councilmembers unanimously voted the absence as excused

• **President's Report**

• **MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS:**

- The Office of Student Enrollment manages admissions for NYC Public Schools here is some key information about currently opening admission sessions:
- 🎓 High School Admissions
 - Eligibility: Students currently in 8th grade or first-time 9th graders.
 - Application opens: October 7
- Learn more about high school admissions » <https://schools.nyc.gov/hs>
- 🏫 Middle School Admissions
 - Eligibility: Students currently in 5th grade—or 6th grade if their elementary school ends in 6th grade.
 - Application opens: October 15
- Learn more about middle school admissions
» <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/middle-school>
- Learn More about our Open House Sessions are ongoing for all our District MS & HS Fair:
 - October 8th from 5 to 8 at Susan E Wagner HS
 - Register:
 - [Middle & High School Fair
https://share.google/PdQMc2Vy5KKOrXfqA](https://share.google/PdQMc2Vy5KKOrXfqA)

• **G&T AND MAMDANI:**

- NYC mayoral frontrunner Zohran Mamdani proposes eliminating kindergarten gifted programs, calling them inequitable and segregated. The plan reignites debate over racial disparities, as these programs enroll mostly white and Asian students. Critics, including Andrew Cuomo and Curtis Sliwa, oppose the move and call for expansion instead. Mamdani's proposal aligns with past efforts under de Blasio but raises tensions with



his push for more democratic school governance. He now says he will keep the SHSAT, despite previously opposing it.

- **SCHOOL SURVEY:**
 - School Survey (2024–25) – Key Takeaways:
 - High school teachers are the least satisfied; 37% don't trust Chancellor Aviles-Ramos, though her approval is up from her predecessor.
 - Early childhood teachers are the most positive; nearly 90% feel the DOE prioritizes students.
 - 78% of students feel bored, and engagement with challenging work is down since the pandemic.
 - Nonbinary students report the highest stress and lowest sense of support and safety.
- **FEDERAL FUNDING CUT:**
 - The Trump administration canceled \$36 million in NYC magnet school funding after the city refused to change policies supporting transgender students. Federal officials claimed the policies violated Title IX. Mayor Eric Adams faced backlash for criticizing the city's stance, while education leaders warned the loss would hurt 8,500 underserved students. NYC is considering legal action.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY DASHBOARD:**
 - NYC Schools Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos unveiled a new accountability dashboard during her first "State of Our Schools" address to boost transparency. It tracks key data on curriculum, student well-being, teacher support, and more.
 - Highlights:
 - New support for English language learners
 - A vague but forthcoming AI strategy
 - Expanded programs for homeless students
 - Most schools have launched anti-bullying efforts, though safety meetings lag
- **SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK:**
 - Hosted by Sandy Hook Promise, National SAVE Day celebrates the work of SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Promise Clubs. in promoting school safety, student empowerment, and violence prevention. It takes place during America's Safe Schools Week (October 19–25, 2025). This annual event aims to raise awareness about school violence and promote safety education through activities organized by participating National SAVE Day – October 22, 2025
 - How to Participate:
 - Wear Orange to honor Alex Orange, a student whose death in 1989 inspired the creation of SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere).
 - Share photos/selfies on social media using #NationalSAVEDay and #SAVEPromiseClub.
 - Use the Social Media Action Kit for graphics, posts, and signs.
 - Safe Schools Week Anchor Activities that students can encourage their school to participate in:
 - Monday – Start With Hello: Announce your club and its mission.
 - Tuesday – Say Something: Promote the three steps for reporting warning signs.

**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31**

Dr. Roderick Palton
District Superintendent

OFFICERS
Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

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 Circelli
Borough President
Appointees

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Melissa Cosentino
Amanda Kelly
Erin Ulitto

**STUDENT COUNCIL
MEMBERS**
Daphne Appiah
Peri Sgambelluri

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**
Lauren Richichi



**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31**

Dr. Roderick Palton
District Superintendent

OFFICERS

Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

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 Circelli
Borough President
Appointees

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Melissa Cosentino
Amanda Kelly
Erin Ulitto

**STUDENT COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

Daphne Appiah
Peri Sgambelluri

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Lauren Richichi

- Wednesday – National SAVE Day: Wear orange, honor Alex Orange, share your club’s work.
- Thursday – Talk It Up Thursday: Host booths, roundtables, or town halls on safety
- Friday – Stars for a Cause: Create and display stars in SAVE colors to honor victims of violence.

• Superintendent’s Report

- New District Mission Vision Statement
 - The district has launched a new mission and vision statement, which will be posted on the website today and was shared last week with the District Leadership Team.
 - The development of these statements incorporated feedback from principals and community partners, emphasizing the district’s ongoing commitment to continuous improvement and equity across all schools.
 - The core values guiding the district’s work are equity, empathy, and excellence.
 - Vision Statement:
 - Community School District 31 champions equity, empathy, and excellence by cultivating inclusive, academically rigorous, and supportive learning environments that empower every student to thrive, grow, and lead with purpose—fully prepared for success in college, career, and life.
 - Mission Statement:
 - To realize this vision, CSD31 fosters inclusive, student-centered learning communities through culturally responsive teaching, data-informed decision-making, and a comprehensive, whole-child approach. The district is committed to partnering with families and equipping staff with the resources and support needed to ensure every student succeeds academically, socially, and emotionally.
 - A definition guide for key terms in the mission and vision has been created to ensure clarity and shared understanding across the district.
 - These statements will guide all district initiatives moving forward.
- Personnel Update:
 - The district officially introduced Lynn Baldisano as the new Family Leadership Coordinator. She was warmly welcomed and recognized for her positive impact and collaboration with Stacey Magnus.
 - A few district vacancies remain, but leadership expressed optimism about progress toward a complete team.
- Concluded with appreciation for staff contributions and a commitment to leading with the new mission and vision at the forefront of all district efforts.

• Committee Reports

None

• Public Speaking

- Cheryl McMillan
 - Requested that School Info on the Website be updated
- CEC31 Response:



**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31**

Dr. Roderick Palton
District Superintendent

OFFICERS

Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

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 Circelli
Borough President
Appointees

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Melissa Cosentino
Amanda Kelly
Erin Ulitto

**STUDENT COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

Daphne Appiah
Peri Sgambelluri

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Lauren Richichi

- President Curatolo-Boylan explained that website could not be updated until Budget passed so that Council could pay for website services and that updates would be made this month

● **Old Business**

- Election Cycle and School Voting Sites
 - Andrew Guido noted that the city is entering another election cycle and highlighted that early voting continues to take place in some schools.
 - Specifically, Staten Island hosts an early voting site, while Queens does not, and Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Manhattan do.
 - Guido emphasized the importance of awareness and coordination during this period given the current politically divided climate.
- Transparency and School Leadership Teams (SLTs)
 - Guido raised ongoing concerns about transparency among certain schools, referencing survey feedback that indicated a lack of communication or openness in some SLTs.
 - The council reiterated that New York State Open Meetings Law requires SLT meetings to be public, advertised, and transparent.
 - It was noted that many schools fail to post meeting notices or hold meetings in person, in violation of these requirements.
 - The District Leadership Team (DLT) conducts SLT training sessions for all Staten Island schools to clarify expectations and promote transparency.
 - Invitees include principals, PTA presidents, UFT chapter leaders, Title I representatives, and parents.
 - Participation in the training is strongly encouraged but not mandatory, which limits full compliance.
 - The DLT observed that schools who attend the training show marked improvement in communication and SLT function.
- School Safety Concerns
 - Jimmy Desiderato reported that a loaded firearm was found at East Brooklyn High School, marking the third such incident this year.
 - He expressed serious concern about escalating safety risks in schools, emphasizing that safety is not currently referenced in the district's mission and vision statements.
 - Desiderato urged the council to reconsider including safety as a core district value or focus area, reflecting its importance to families and staff.
 - He also highlighted the need for greater parental involvement in school decision-making, suggesting that current structures—such as mayoral control and union leadership—often overshadow family voices.
 - Discussion followed acknowledging that social-emotional learning (SEL) and empathy in the new mission statement are connected to student well-being and safety, though Desiderato maintained that explicit recognition of safety is necessary given recent incidents.
- Action Items / Follow-Ups:



**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31**

Dr. Roderick Palton
District Superintendent

OFFICERS

Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

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 Circelli
Borough President
Appointees

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Melissa Cosentino
Amanda Kelly
Erin Ulitto

**STUDENT COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

Daphne Appiah
Peri Sgambelluri

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Lauren Richichi

- District leadership to monitor school compliance with SLT transparency requirements and address violations as reported by council liaisons.
- Consider adding or emphasizing school safety in the district's mission and vision framework.
- Continue promoting DLT-led SLT training and encourage full participation across schools.
- Maintain ongoing dialogue regarding family engagement and transparency in decision-making.

• New Business

None

• Closing Remarks

We were so glad to see you here and hope that you'll join us for our Townhall Event with Chancellor Avilles-Ramos. Join us in person at Borough President's Hall of Science at the Petrides Educational Complex Building A or catch us on the livestream

<https://learndoe.org/cec/>

Thank you to all the wonderful District Team for attending tonight, all our District Principals, our representatives from our local elected offices, UFT and FACE. We are grateful for your continued partnership and support.

CEC31 is always here listening and ready to help. Should you need us don't hesitate to reach out via our email at CEC31@schools.nyc.gov or at our website at www.CEC31.org Thank you everyone. See you in November!

• Motion to Adjourn

Motion 1st: *Joseph Bird*

Motion 2nd: *Melissa Cosentino*

• Meeting Adjourned 5:55 pm