



Community Education Council for District 4

240 E 109 Street, Room 104, New York, NY 10029

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**A President & IEP**

Rosa G. Diaz

1st Vice President

Evelis Galarza

2nd Vice President

Lacey Jordan

Recording Sec

Rafael Lima – District 75 Rep

Treasurer

Johanna Dominguez

Council Members:

Jessica Baker

Jasmin Benitez

Elizabeth Soto-Cardona - MBPA

Niasia Nathaniel

District 4 Superintendent

Dr. Kristy De La Cruz

High School Student Representatives

Eliezer Talavera

Myah Restituyo

Calendar Meeting

January 10th, 2024

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 10th, 2024

Meeting Start Time: 6:18 pm

1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan 6:19 pm

Members Present: Rosa G. Diaz (Zoom- Excused), Evelis Galarza, Rafael Lima, Lacey Jordan, Johanna Dominguez, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Niasia Nathaniel, and Jessica Baker

Members Absent: Jasmin Benitez (Excused Absent), Eliezer Talavera (Unexcused Absent) and Myah Restituyo (Unexcused Absent)

Attendance done: 6:20 pm

Attendees: 41

2. Election of Council Officers: (6:20 pm- 6:30 pm)

D4 CEC member Johanna Dominguez volunteered to Chair the elections:

Ms. Elizabeth Soto-Cardona nominated herself and Ms. Rosa G. Diaz was nominated by Ms. Evelis Galarza for the President's position.

Roll call for the motion to elect President carried by Farah Khan:

Members voted, however no candidate received 7 votes.

Rosa G. Diaz will be the Acting President.

Election for the President will be the first item on the agenda for the February 14th, 2024, meeting.

Elected members for School Year 2023-2024:

Acting President: Rosa G. Diaz

1st Vice President: Evelis Galarza

2nd Vice President: Lacey Jordan

Recording Secretary: Rafael Lima

Treasurer: Johanna Dominguez

3. Report of Council Acting President Rosa G. Diaz- Read by Evelis Galarza:

(6:30 pm – 6:32 pm)

- She attended the Youth Townhall held at PS.72 on Dec 15th.
- CB11 – Youth and Education Committee and CEC meeting last month.
- Attended and presented updates at the DLT – District Leadership Team meeting held on January 4th.
- She thanked Evelis for joining the meeting and being engaged.
- She asked to save the date for January 17th to come together and build a stronger DCEP for our scholar's future.
- She joined District 4 Schools in marching at the 3 Kings Day Parade on January 5th, 2024, with El Museo Del Barrio and other community schools/organizations.
- Attended and Supported D4 Wonderland on Dec 18, 2023.
- She thanked to East Harlem Community Partnership for donating toys to the district.
- Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council – tomorrow, 1-11-24 at 9:30 AM via CPAC YouTube Live Channel
- She asked to join CPAC to hear updates and learn from Presidents Council from the 32 districts including High School Presidents Council.
- She informed about next meeting on February 8 at 9:30 AM. Recordings are in CPAC YouTube live.
- She asked to join Manhattan High Schools Presidents Council – 1/16/2024 at 7 pm.
- Presentation by Strive and the wonderful work they do to support our Youth/Adults
- She said she attended the Community Board 11 – Youth & Education via zoom due to weather on January 9th, 2024.
- Last week, at the EOSP meeting on 11/2/23, they discussed Earth Day, which is in April 2024, and they are planning together for another in person celebration/education day.
- She informed about Chancellor's Townhall will be on February 5th, 2024, at Tito Puente Education Complex.
- She provided the contact details for D4.

4. D4 Superintendent Report- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz: (6:32 pm- 6:58 pm)

She thanked everyone for joining.

She started with:

- D4 Gratitude
- D4 DCEP Priorities

- All students
- All students are physically and emotionally safe
- All students have a high quality education
- College & career ready pathways to economic security
- Families choose NYC Public Schools
- Chronic Absenteeism
- D4 Attendance
- Community Voice: East Harlem Aquatics Center, a/c in public shared spaces, accessibility (elevations), Cafeteria enhancement, bathroom updates/cleanliness.
- Upcoming events:

Savvas Math PD series on January 11th, 2024, FY 25 RESO A projects and CD8 Information Sessions January 16th 2024 & January 17th, 2024, DCEP Planning, Mayoral Control hearing January 18th, 2024, January President's Council meeting January 19th, 2024, Spanish Spelling Bee January 23rd, 2024, Give Kids A Smile: Raising Dental Awareness January 25th, 2024, English Spelling Bee January 30th, 2024, and CEC Chancellors' Town Hall February 5th, 2024.

- **Parent- Ms. Stephanie:** (6:58 pm – 6:59 pm)

She said there are families being mistreated in the shelters. They are hungry, and the parents need more help.

- **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (7:00 pm – 7:10 pm)

She replied that we do have a community boutique. The parent coordinator Ms. Crystal she knows the process. Whenever there is an emergency, we can accommodate. We have systems and structures to help our families, and we have people advocating for them. We welcomed our newest New Yorkers.

- **Community Board 11- Vice Chair for Youth Education-Ashar Rodriguez:** (7:10 pm – 7:11 pm)

Ashar said the playgrounds for PS 112 and PS 206, needs a lot of repairs.

- **Dr. Kristy** (7:11 pm – 7:15 pm)

She replied that the repair is happening.

5. Office of Safety and Prevention Partnerships- Dr. Jay Findling:

(7:16 pm- 7:28 pm)

- He talked about Safer access door locking system, is an initiative designed to enhance safety and security of our school buildings. The door locking system is meant to keep harm out of our schools. Pre-K. and kindergarten through 5 buildings across the city they are installing and should be completed within the next few months. They are prioritizing the urgent need to put additional safety measures in place in these

buildings, especially because these are the buildings that mostly find one school safety agent to sign. Many of our schools already have a doorbell system there, and if they do, it will be replaced with this modern state of the art system, so that it is all synced together, and it allows our school safety agents and staff assigned to the main desk the ability to see who is there. Once the doorbell rings, a video panel will pop up where the individual, whether it be the agent or a staff member at the desk, can interact and communicate. Non-English-speaking visitors are not denied entry to the building. They are provided additional help so that they can get in and be brought to their destination.

- **Johanna Dominguez:** (7:28 pm – 7:29 pm)
She asked that what will be the cost for this because right now we do not have an A/C in schools auditoriums and places that is more important. And now we are talking about spending a lot of money on the doors security when we have a security person on the door. How much that would be for every school and for the whole district.
- **Dr. Jay Findling:** (7:29 pm – 7:30 pm)
He replied that he is not a financial expert. But this is not anything where a single penny comes from any of our schools, from any of our districts from any of our superintendents, budgets, not from any of the existing funding sources that exist in the New York City public schools. This is a city-wide initiative that the mayor has led. It is coming from the term's capital funds, and in no way, shape or form is this project, which is rather costly, in no way, shape, or form. Is it taking a single cent from anything that goes to our schools with 100% certainty.
- **D4 CEC Council member- Jessica Baker:** (7:30 pm - 7:31 pm)
She said the way you just framed it is correct, the funding will not be taken from individual school budgets. This contract was passed by the PEP, as all school budgets which has majority mayoral 20s. Because we are still under mayor of control, and the answer that Joanna was looking for the price. tag is 93 million dollars.
- **Mario Medina (Zoom):** (7:31 pm)
He asked that how many D4 schools are in this phase?
- **Dr. Jay Findling:** (7:31 pm – 7:32 pm) He said they are more cautious to share the numbers at certain times, the common reasons is because when they share that sometimes they say, X number of schools or specific schools are scheduled, and then there is a reason for delay. Perhaps there is a survey or other technological issues. Everybody is aware of the specific number of either Pre-K. or K through 5 buildings in District 4, then those are all included within phase one, which is ongoing at this point.
- **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (7:33 pm – 7:34 pm) She said PS 83 and PS182 and PS146 are the ones that have completed it. When you go there you have to ring, they see your face, and you go in.

5. District 4 Presidents Council Report- Co-President- Rasheeda Harris-Brown:

(7:35 pm – 7:38 pm)

She introduced herself and said she is grateful to be in community this evening with district 4 Community Education Council. She informed about the next President's council meeting will be on next Friday, January 19. It will be a virtual via zoom at 12 noon. She said we need to be on a united front, so we can do it together to better strengthen our community and we will share our resources.

- **D4 CEC Second Vice President- Lacey Jordan:** (7:39 pm – 7:40 pm)

She said she has attended the live before, and at one point she was not able to use the chat and voice their concerns. Parents do not like when they cannot voice their concerns right there. Shutting off the chat was an effect that caused parents to join anymore, and she said if they can open the chat and let parents be able to communicate and voice their concerns right there.

- **Rasheeda Harris-Brown:** (7:40 pm – 7:41 pm)

She replied to Lacey's concern that CPAC voted to have a live chat coordinator unfortunately, they have one, and if that coordinator is unavailable for the meeting, and they shut it down.

6. Public Comments:

- **District Leader- William Smith:** (7:42 pm – 7:44 pm)

He introduced himself as a district leader in East Harlem. He said he is a high school graduate from Philip Randol. He wants to increase engagement with education issues that represent a certain part of East Harlem as a district leader. They have few events happening, a resource fair happening at PS 108 on 108th and Madison on Thursday, January 18th, anyone can come. They will also be hosting a community visit to the Family Courthouse on Wednesday, January 17th, at 8 30. Their initiative is to include everyone more in the community to know what is happening and energize our civic participation.

- **Tamika Mapp:** (7:45 pm – 7:46 pm)

She said she want to be able to recognize all of our youth in our community. They will be getting certificates, and they will be getting a party in the community for the chance to get to know each other inside of the community as well. On January 31st they are going to Albany to talk about the open-air drug use that is in our community. She said if anyone would like to contact her about some advocacy days about open-air drug use, anyone can call her for any questions.

- **UFT District Representative - Servia Silva:** (7:46 pm – 7:47 pm)

She introduced herself as the UFT district representative. They have several lawsuits that they have filed, but they need people to sign on to them. They have a right to shelter. They are asking every parent to please sign on to the right to shelter also in terms of the budget January 18th. There is also going to be the mayor control panel, and they are urging all parents to please sign up, come and speak. It is an in-person

meeting. The people from the State will have the meeting. They are going to meet in all 5 boroughs, and in Manhattan is January 18th, at 6 pm at Fashion High School. Speak, now, let your voices be heard.

- **CSA representative- Wanda Soto:** (7:48 pm – 7:49 pm)
She said in CSA they support their administrators, and when they have concerns, they are there to provide the support that they need. Everyone is looking for the reduced class size. They are urging the administrators to make sure that they complete the survey that is due on Friday, making sure that they make into account the reduced class size. They are going to need more classes, more teachers, and going to need more money. They are advocating for administrators to put what they need, and they will support them in every way, shape, or form, that they possibly can.

7. **Motion to adjourn the calendar meeting by:** Johanna Dominguez
seconded by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona. (7:50 pm)

Business Meeting

January 10th, 2023

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 10th, 2024

Meeting Start Time: 8:05 pm

Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan

Present: Rosa G. Diaz (Zoom- Excused) , Evelis Galarza, Lacey Jordan, Rafael Lima, Johanna Dominguez, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Niasia Nathaniel, and Jessica Baker.

Members absent: Jasmin Benitez (Excused Absent), Eliezer Talavera (Unexcused Absent) and Myah Restituyo (Unexcused Absent)

Attendance done: 8:06 pm

Attendees: 12

1. **Treasury Report by D4 CEC Treasurer- Johnna Dominguez:** (8:06 pm – 8:14 pm)
She spoke about the socks, caps, and gloves that we wanted to order but Sunny refused the purchase order for that, so CEC4 will try to request again the PO for the same items. She said she wants to have text chat for all members as sometimes not everyone can check their emails, so the text chat we can communicate well and easily. She read the expenditure report that had the \$800 for the food, second line \$750 for workshop that members had yesterday, it is paid, the third line is the Members Reimbursement & Childcare had \$13,250 now remaining amount is \$8,175, Fourth line CEC4 supplies, we ordered trophies for D4 Science fair event for \$170.90, now we have \$4, 682.79 remaining, and from the P-Card we bought food for workshop remaining is amount is \$4,830. This month we spent \$1,586.80, now the total remaining amount in the budget is \$18,491.89 from \$25,000.

2. D4 CEC- Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes, from December 13th, 2023, were approved by the CEC4 members. (8:15 pm)

- **Johnna Dominguez:** (8:15 pm – 8:15 pm)
She said that even we have the top 5 priorities, she thinks we can relocate in a few schools. For example, PS 007, one of our summer schools, on the sixth place and she thinks we need to put them on the top 5. We need to characterize those schools. The summer is unbelievable, and those are the school who provide the summer classes for our students, and our parents, who need to have the kids in the school because they are working, and they do not have another place to let the kids go.
- **D4 CEC Member- Elizabeth Soto-Cardona:** (8:15 pm – 8:16 pm)
She asked Dr. Kristy that the top 5 schools mentioned are not those already in process.
- **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (8:16 pm – 8:25 pm)
She replied that PS 007 and PS 72 does not have A/C in the public spaces. Those schools are in motion for elevators not A/C. In PS 117 they will get money, but it is never enough. Tito Puente supposed to get A/C and all the spaces, but they still do not have it. The summer rising sites based on the experiences that we had. It is unbearable in those places. Most of our schools are going to be closed this summer.
- **D4 CEC member- Niasia Nathaniel:** (8:26 pm – 8:27 pm)
She visited PS 108 and she found that they pause when the train is passing. The train sound disturbs the classroom teaching. There is absolutely no reason a school or teachers have to stop teaching. That is how test scores are dropping and how students are failing.
- **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (8:27 pm – 8:38 pm) All of our schools have spoken to the elected officials, but it is not just PS 108. It is all the schools that are along that line of the Metro North. She encourages to partner with all the other districts as well. The elected officials are aware. She said you can put in the request in writing resume grants capital fund planning grants, because just you put in this request does not mean it is going to be granted. So, you must write they need soundproof.
- **Community Board 11- Vice Chair for Youth Education-Ashar Rodriguez:** (8:39 pm – 8:40 pm)
The cafeteria gets very hot the kids who, if they are prone to getting bloody noses. He had one kid who he had to literally walk around tissues because he would get bloody nose. He wants to reiterate how hot it gets in there and it is stuffy.
- **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (8:40 pm – 8:44 pm)
She said Lexington Academy is an old building. If we will prioritize these 2 for the soundproofing, that leaves 3 schools, thinking about which schools you want to prioritize for other reasons. Lexington Academy needs love and care. Community Board 11 gave them some new doors. We have been putting in more work orders.

- **David Giordano:** (8:45 pm – 8:46 pm)
He said we had 7 schools in summer and now we got 5 schools. That means the conditions when we have 300 kids, now we will have 400 or 500 kids, so we only increase the need for. If we are getting the funding for everything.
- **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (8:47 pm – 8:48 pm)
Dr. Kristy and CEC4 members discussed the top five facility priorities for the schools.

3. **Roll Call for Motion for the top five facility priorities to provide Soundproofing in the schools, at 4M108 and 4M375 (housed in 101) and 4M007, 4M072 and AC in Public spaces in the schools at 4M112/4M206, by Johanna Dominguez and seconded by Niasia Nathaniel.** (8:49 pm)

Roll Call and Call to Order for the top five facility priorities to provide Soundproofing in the schools, at 4M108 and 4M375 (housed in 101) and AC in Public spaces in the schools at 4M007, 4M072 and 4M112/4M206: Rosa G. Diaz (Yes) (Zoom- Excused), Evelis Galarza (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Rafael Lima (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Niasia Nathaniel (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), and Jessica Baker (Yes).

Motion passed by 8 votes.

Absent: Jasmin Benitez (Unexcused)

Motion to adjourn business meeting by Evelis Galarza seconded by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona.

4. **Business meeting adjourned:** 8:50 pm

Prepared & submitted by:

Farah Khan

Administrative Assistant

Next Calendar and Business Meeting will be on February 14th, 2024.