



Community Education Council for District 4

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

Phone: 212-360- 4777 Email: cec4@schools.nyc.gov

**A President & IEP**

Rosa G. Diaz

1st Vice President

Evelis Galarza

2nd Vice President

Lacey Jordan

Recording Sec

Vacant

Treasurer

Johanna Dominguez

Council Members:

Jessica Baker

Jasmin Benitez

Rafael Lima – District 75 Rep

Niasia Nathaniel

Elizabeth Soto-Cardona - MBPA

District 4 Superintendent

Dr. Kristy De La Cruz

High School Student Representatives

Eliezer Talavera

Myah Restituyo

Calendar Meeting

November 8th, 2023

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, November 8th, 2023

Meeting Start Time: 6:05 pm

Acting President Rosa G. Diaz asked Spanish interpreters for introduction and announcements and thanked Principal Gabriel Feldberg for hosting the meeting. 6:07 pm

Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan 6:07 pm

Members Present: Rosa G. Diaz, Evelis Galarza, Lacey Jordan, Johanna Dominguez, Niasia Nathaniel, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Jasmin Benitez, Jessica Baker, Rafael Lima

Members absent: Eliezer Talavera (Unexcused Absent) and Myah Restituyo (Unexcused Absent)

Attendance done: 6:10 pm

Attendees: 48

1. Election of Council Officers: (6:10 pm- 6:16 pm)

D4 CEC member Elizabeth Soto-Cardona volunteered to Chair the elections:

Ms. Rosa G. Diaz was nominated by Ms. Evelis Galarza and Ms. Niasia Nathaniel nominated herself for the President's position.

Roll call for the motion to elect President carried by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona:

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 December 13th, 2023, meeting.

No one was nominated for the Recording Secretary position. Election for the Recording Secretary will be the second item on the agenda for the December 13th, 2023, 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: Vacant

Treasurer: Johanna Dominguez

❖ **Acting President Rosa G. Diaz:** (6:17 pm – 6:18 pm)

She thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She started with being grateful for life. She said Thanksgiving is in two weeks and continue to work for our children.

2. Office of District Planning-

❖ **Assistant Director of Manhattan Planning Office- Caitlin Whittemore:** (6:18 pm-6:26 pm)

She introduced herself and gave a brief overview about their office and what they have supported with in the past. Highlights from the district 4 data summary.

- Agenda.
- District Planning Levers. District Planning Process. District Data and Strategic Planning. Community Engagement. Chancellor's Regimentation. A-190. Public Review Process for Significant School Changes. Discussed D4 Summary.

❖ **Kristina Chan:** (6:27 pm-6:36 pm)

She spoke about - District 4 data summary- Citywide enrollment in past 4 years.

Questions: (6:37 pm – 7:05 pm)

- **Asalmah George:** She asked, the students who are leaving 3 K and going to other districts for those students that were enrolled in District 4, 3 K's, the schools that they were going to?
- **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** She answered that the nuances of 3 k and pre-k but then the other thing that in the district and other district schools. We have pre-k programs that are in community-based partnerships. They are not actually in DOE buildings but they are operated by the DOE. So right now, we have a partnership with the early childhood, we have instructional coordinators and social workers that support all the sites, because they are DOE supported, even though they are not in a DOE building. We have had 11.4% increase in enrollment, and that doesn't even include our 3 K students. It only includes our Pre- K. So, we have increased 850 students. Parents do have choices..

- **D4 CEC Treasurer- Johanna Dominguez:** She asked, early childhood registration, is there any way to control the double enrollment because we know daycares affecting all the double enrollment.
- **Caitlin Whittemore:** She said that the numbers on the page we are looking at are only for students who are enrolled in a district for district early childhood site or a community-based organization site. So, when it says, District 4 schools at the top, that means, District 4, pre, K, 3 K or NYCEEC or a community-based organization.
- **PEP- Dr. Kalaris:** She asked that she wanted to be clear about the topic of video conversation yesterday, where Chancellor talked about the Law school and the merging of the schools.
- **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** She replied that right now, as a district, there are no mergers.

3. Office of Energy & Sustainability – Communications Coordinator – Elizabeth Schad: (7:05 pm – 7:18 pm)

She was excited to share about a brand-new initiative that they are launching in every single New York City public school this year called Climate Action Days. The Chancellor announced these earlier this fall. There are 4 days for every single school to do something for climate action. She said their goal is just to embed sustainability in all aspects of the school system, they work across a lot of different areas, both in the buildings and with students and educators and staff and engaging them in programming and education. Today, they all did plastic free lunch day. That means that their school cafeteria staff prepared and served that meal without any plastic.

She discussed, about office of energy and sustainability, waste reduction and recycling, energy management and clean energy, climate and sustainability education, indoor and outdoor green space, food and wellness, green teams and community, resources for schools, resources for students and families, flyers, and books. Every school has a designated sustainability coordinator. It is part of the Chancellor's regulation A-850. Climate action days, on these four days, every school in the NYC will engage in climate action to build a better future, for our students and our planet. Each day has a different theme, health, wellness, and green space and water. Sustainability@schools.nyc.gov

- **Mereedith McDermott:** (7:19 pm – 7:21 pm)
She said they have the annual sustainability project grant program that will be open until November 13th.
- **David Giordano:** (7:21 pm – 7:22 pm)
He said that he is from Community board 11 and doing a presentation this year, where they will be discussing and doing the project. It was mentioned that we should also expand it to the other schools in the district. So, we are doing it at PS72 with the children, it will be on November 14th at 6:30 pm but we should open it up to other schools that do present on Earth.

4. **D4 Superintendent Report- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (7:23 pm- 7:56 pm)

She introduced the staff and thanked everyone.

She started with gratitude, from the legislative breakfast to the youth participatory budget to school visits.

She talked about:

- District 4 Community Norms
- Our Mission
- District 4 Priorities
- D4 Attendance
 - Our District 4 ELA data
 - Our District 4 Math Data
 - Our District 4 Data
 - What behind NYC Reads: The Science of Reading
 - The how behind NYC Reads: What support you can expect in Citywide.
 - The how behind NYC Reads: Our D4 journey.
 - NYC Reads Overview
 - NYC Kids rise save for college program 2023-2024
 - Upcoming events: District 4
 - She praised Michael Siciliano, as he is in all the schools, high schools, everywhere he works, he supervises all the custodial engineers, the custodial teams, anything, and everything, but he has also been a huge advocate for grant and writing capital plan funding. He has been a partner in this work. He came to our legislative breakfast, CEC4 meetings, even throughout the pandemic, she acknowledged Mike for being always there.
- **Deputy of School Facilities- Michael Siciliano:** (7:57 pm – 7:57 pm)
He informed that they are upgrading boilers, and all electric heating systems in the buildings, working on building the pool and cafeteria enhancement project.
- **D4 CEC Member Rafael Lima:** (7:57 pm – 7:58 pm)
He talked about the water testing and that the drinking water should be provided to the students in the schools.
- **Deputy of School Facilities- Michael Siciliano:** (7:59 pm – 8:01 pm)
He explained the water cleansing process.

5.Report of Council Acting President Rosa G. Diaz:(8:02 pm – 8:10 pm)

She informed that she attended the legislative breakfast/lunch and Safety townhall Event on October 26th, and was able to reconnect with the principals, parent coordinators, parent leaders. She thanked the D4 CEC members for being there.

She wanted to uplift some of the concerns from the principals and their community for the pending school repairs and thanked the deputy director of facilities, Michael Siciliano for acting on these concerns. Connected elected officials/designees to the principals for support on grant/budget questions. She also attended district 4/5 Math Family Workshop on October 26th, solving, and figuring out problems from elementary to middle school. There next workshop will be on November 16th. Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council will be on November 9th at 9:30 am via CPAC YouTube live channel. DIIT & parent leaders' email, deputy chancellor of learning and teaching, office of school enrollment, title I.C.O.I.P.S updates, FACE updates, settles not so secret gems, NYCPS Chancellor David C Bank's next meeting will be on December 14th, 2023. Anyone can come. Attended the D4 DLT on November 2nd, she specially thanked, Evelis Galarza, Johanna Dominguez, and Lacey Jordan for being there.

She asked to join the Manhattan High Schools President's Council on November 21st, at 7 pm, where you can get the chance to hear directly from High School Superintendents, Districts 1 to 6. HS Parent Leader representatives, HS students' voices, the guest speaker will be Senior Director of School Facilities, Joseph Lazarus. She will attend the Community Board 11 – Youth & Education on November 14th at 6 pm in-person. Anyone can come to attend in-person or zoom. They are reviewing the Mission Statement. She has an initiative to be open to all D4 schools including HS for Earth Day. Last week, at the EOSP meeting on November 2nd, they discussed Earth Day, which is in April 2024, and they are planning together for another in-person celebration/education day. She also wants more youth engagement at this event. Any school with interest in highlighting Earth Day with your students, can email her. She provided the contact details.

6.CEC4 Council Members School Visitation Report –

▪ D4 CEC Treasurer- Johanna Dominguez: (8:11 pm – 8:14 pm)

She thanked the parent coordinator Ms. Diana King and said it was a pleasure to visit PS 375 school. They treated her with great respect, and she feels that it is great to support principals and staff and they understand that we are working together. Her concerns are that in the same school building they share with a district D75 school and in the same building they have private school on one floor and then on the other floors the school struggles with the playgrounds and open space.

▪ Acting President Rosa G. Diaz:(8:14 pm – 8:15 pm)

She visited CPE 2 and met Principal Naomi and the other staff. Their main concern is technology, laptops for the students.

▪ D4 Superintendent- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz: (8:15 pm- 8:20 pm)

She informed that they are following up with all the schools, they have partnership with NAACP who is also giving the devices as well and they have partnerships with Verizon, they have the NAACP Verizon connect. They have a team, Renato De Silva, Lennys Patino, David Lethesba and Lori Ferguson, and any of our school leaders who say that they are struggling with devices. They should reach out to one of the team members.

- **CEC4 1st Vice President- Evelis Galarza:** (8: 20 pm – 8:21 pm)

She said in covid many families got laptops from the schools and some do not work anymore, and kids need laptops to work.

- **D4 Family Support Coordinator- Lennys Patino:** (8:21 pm – 8:32 pm)

They get replaced. The school will get a new one. Exclusive iPad is no longer available device. When a child is assigned a device, when they move on a lot of times the price goes on with them. School purchase device is going with the child. The school loses out on those devices and then that is where the devices get shorter and shorter, and it becomes very difficult. A lot of schools are now facing challenges where they do apply for resale. There is no more LTE service. Now all devices can be only connected to Wi-Fi.

- **Roll call for motion to move the “School visit report” to business meeting, by Lacey Jordan seconded by Jasmin Benitez.** (8:33 pm – 8:34 pm)

Roll call and call to order to vote to move the “School visit report” to business meeting: Rosa G. Diaz (Yes), Evelis Galarza (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Niasia Nathaniel (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes), Jessica Baker (Yes), Rafael Lima (Yes).

Motion passed unanimously.

7. District 4 Presidents Council, Co-President Rasheeda Harris Brown: (8:35 pm – 8:35 pm)

She informed that the D4 Presidents Council’s next meeting will be on next Friday, November 17th, and now they have full executive board.

- **Panel for Educational Policy Member– Dr. Kaliris Salas Ramirez:** (8:36 pm – 8:38 pm)

She updated regarding the panel for education policy that they are going to vote to change the Chancellor’s regulations on December 15th meeting and the budget has just dropped they will be voting on the capital plan in the next meeting, schools, remodeling accessibility, etc. With the school construction authority that will have been there have been cuts to that budget as well, roughly, about 500 million dollars, and there will be 2 additional times this school year, for a total of \$2.1 billion cuts to the budget to the Department of Education.

8. Resolution in support of OMBP – Legislative Initiative on Indoor Air Quality in Schools – Read by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona: (8:38 pm – 8:43 pm)

- **Roll call for motion to vote in support of OMBP – Legislative Initiative on Indoor Air Quality in Schools, by Johanna Dominguez seconded by Niasia Nathaniel.**

Roll call and call to order to vote in support of OMBP – Legislative Initiative on Indoor Air Quality in Schools: Rosa G. Diaz (Yes), Evelis Galarza (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Niasia Nathaniel (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes), Jessica Baker (Yes), Rafael Lima (Yes).

Motion passed unanimously.

9. Public Speaking: (8:44pm – 8:46 pm)

○ **District Leader, 68th AD, Part D State Committee Woman 68th AD- Tanika Mapp-**

She said she is the district leader for the 68 Assembly District party and the State Committee of woman. They have 3 days character creation class coming up on November 24th. They have 15 students from ages of 8 to 13, the students will learn how to create characters using artificial intelligence. And then on December 28th, they are going to 6 flags for holiday in the park. Her phone number is 347-523-4410 and email: Tmapp@cc68ad.com website: www.ehcfgg.info

Motion to adjourn the calendar meeting by: Elizabeth Soto-Cardona seconded by Niasia Nathaniel.

10. Calendar meeting adjourned: (8:46 pm)

Business Meeting

November 8th, 2023

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, November 8th, 2023

Meeting Start Time: 9:02 pm

Meeting to order & Roll Call by: Farah Khan

Present: Rosa G. Diaz, Evelis Galarza, Lacey Jordan, Johanna Dominguez, Niasia Nathaniel, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Jasmin Benitez, Jessica Baker, Rafael Lima

Members absent: Eliezer Talavera (Unexcused Absent) and Myah Restituyo (Unexcused Absent)

Attendance done: 9:04 pm

Attendees: 35

1. Treasury Report by D4 CEC Treasurer Johnna Dominguez: (9:04 pm – 9:18 pm)

She said the CEC4 member had \$13,250 in reimbursement and childcare. The total amount spent till now is \$3,225 for the members reimbursement and childcare. The next line supplies \$6,750, we did not spend any amount from here and from the P-Card we

have \$5,000 in CEC4 budget. She said we had not received the P-Card yet. We can order swags, to give out in the community, at events, for example, umbrellas, mugs, and gloves etc. We can buy the swags from the general supplies line.

And the P-Card is to buy the things in emergency. The food for the meetings should be bought from the food suppliers and for that we need to vote to add an extra line for food supplies.

- 2. Roll call for motion to add an extra line in the D4 CEC budget for food supplies and move \$800 from the general supplies line 2 to food supplies line 4 by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, seconded by Lacey Jordan. (9:19 pm- 9:19 pm)**

Roll call and call to order to vote to add an extra line in the D4 CEC budget for food supplies and move \$800 from the general supplies line 2 to food supplies line 4: Rosa G. Diaz (Yes), Evelis Galarza (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Niasia Nathaniel (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes), Jessica Baker (Yes), Rafael Lima (Yes).

Motion passed unanimously.

- **Acting President Rosa G. Diaz:** (9:19 pm)
She thanked Dr. Kristy De La Cruz for providing the food and Mr. Craig from Baked Cravings for the cupcakes for the D4 CEC meeting.

- 3. D4 CEC Calendar & Business Meeting October 11th, 2023, Minutes approval:** (9:20 pm- 9:22 pm)

Roll call for motion to approve the October 2023 D4 CEC Calendar & Business meeting minutes by, Niasia Nathaniel, seconded by Evelis Galarza.

Roll call and call to order to vote to approve the October 11th, 2023, D4 CEC Calendar & Business meeting minutes: Rosa G. Diaz (Yes), Evelis Galarza (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Niasia Nathaniel (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes), Jessica Baker (Yes), Rafael Lima (Yes).

Motion passed unanimously.

- 4. Roll call for motion to vote for the D4 CEC member, Raphael Lima, picking a different school as a school liaison by,** Niasia Nathaniel, seconded by Jessica Baker. (9:32 pm- 9:33 pm)

Roll call and call to order to vote for the D4 CEC member, Raphael Lima, picking a different school as a school liaison: Rosa G. Diaz (No), Evelis Galarza, (No) Lacey Jordan (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Niasia Nathaniel (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes), Jessica Baker (Yes), Rafael Lima (No)

Motion was not passed.

5. **Roll call for motion to vote for D4 CEC motion to create a bylaws committee to be compliance with the Chancellor by**, Niasia Nathaniel, seconded by Jessica Baker (9:33 pm- 9:36 pm)

Roll call and call to order to vote to create a bylaws committee to be compliance with the Chancellor: Rosa G. Diaz (Yes), Evelis Galarza (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Niasia Nathaniel (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes), Jessica Baker (Yes), Rafael Lima (Yes).

Motion passed unanimously.

6. **Roll call for motion to vote to accept PS 372 Esperanza Preparatory Academy to be the location for the Chancellor's townhall in-person, by** Rosa G. Diaz, seconded by Niasia Nathaniel. (9:37 pm- 9:38 pm)

Roll call and call to order to vote to accept PS 372 Esperanza Preparatory Academy to be the location for the Chancellor's townhall in-person: Rosa G. Diaz (Yes), Evelis Galarza (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Niasia Nathaniel (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Jasmin Benitez (Yes), Jessica Baker (Yes), Rafael Lima (Yes).

Motion passed unanimously.

- **D4 Superintendent- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (9:38 pm- 9:41 pm)
She said they will meet tomorrow on zoom for planning a healing circle for the community, she said they will meet with Azeen Karamati, she is the supervisor of social worker.

Motion to adjourn business meeting by Johanna Dominguez seconded by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona.

7. **Business meeting adjourned:** (9:42 pm)

Prepared & submitted by:

Farah Khan

Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by:

Acting President Rosa G. Diaz

Next Calendar and Business Meeting will be on December 13th, 2023.