



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



Acting President
Rosa G. Diaz

1st Vice President
Vacant

2nd Vice President
Lacey Jordan

Recording Sec
Vacant

Treasurer
Johanna Dominguez

Council Members:

Niasia Nathaniel
Evelis Galarza
Elizabeth Soto-Cardona
Jasmin Benitez
Jessica Baker
Rafael Lima
Khaliyah Prosper Martin

District 4 Superintendent

Dr. Kristy De La Cruz

Student Members

Eliezer Talavera
Myah Restituyo

Calendar Meeting

October 11th, 2023

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 11th, 2023

Meeting Start Time: 6:07 pm

Introduction of Spanish interpreters: 6:08 pm

Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan 6:10 pm

Members Present: Rosa G. Diaz, Evelis Galarza, Lacey Jordan (Late), Johanna Dominguez (Zoom, in-person excused), Niasia Nathaniel, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Jasmin Benitez, Jessica Baker, Rafael Lima, Eliezer Talavera (Late -Zoom)

Members absent: Khaliyah Prosper Martin (Unexcused Absent) and Myah Restituyo (Unexcused Absent)

Attendance done: 6:12 pm

Attendees: 45

1. Election of Council Officers: (6:13 pm- 6:26 pm)

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

Ms. Niasia Nathaniel and Mr. Rafael Lima nominated themselves for the President's position. Mr. Rafael Lima resigned from the nomination. 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 November 8th, 2023, meeting.

Roll call for motion to elect First Vice President: **Evelis** Galarza nominated herself seconded by Rosa G. Diaz

Roll call and call to order to vote for First Vice President: Rosa G. Diaz, Evelis Galarza, Lacey Jordan, Johanna Dominguez (Zoom, in-person excused), Niasia Nathaniel, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Jasmin Benitez, Jessica Baker, Rafael Lima **(09 voted)**

Evelis Galarza elected as First Vice President – Congratulations

Roll Call for motion to elect Recording Secretary: Ms. Jasmin Benitez was nominated by Ms. Rosa G. Diaz and Ms. Elizabeth Soto-Cardona was nominated by Ms. Johanna Dominguez for the Recording Secretary position but they both respectfully declined. Election for the Recording Secretary will be held in the November 8th, 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

2. Report of Council Acting President Rosa G. Diaz: (6:26 pm- 6:30 pm)

She mentioned that the CEC4 members did the parent coordinator consultation last month for BBMS and in October for PS.112. She asked everyone to join PS.102 for Hispanic Heritage this Friday and tomorrow at the Chancellor Parent Advisory Council at 9 30 am, she asked everyone to join so they can learn and educate yourself how to advocate for our children. She informed that the Manhattan High School Presidents Council, will be having a meeting on October 17th, at 7 pm, She attended Community Board 11 Youth and Education committee meeting yesterday. She specially thanked to Lacey Jordan, and Evelyn Galarza for attending and being engaged in the meeting. Firehouses and EMS locations will open their doors to the community for their 2023 FDNY Open house on Saturday or Sunday depending on the location. Firefighters, EMTs, Paramedics will be educating the community about fire and life safety, conducting demonstration, and offering tours. And the ECC is going to do a workshop on November 27th, at 12:30 and 6 pm via Zoom.

We are currently waiting for Department of Education to do the process for the second Manhattan Borough appointee for CEC4. She informed that there are available seats in

CEC4. In CEC4 we advocate for better facilities and more school buildings through capital planning process.

- **D4 CEC Council Member Elizabeth Soto- Cardona: School visitation report-**
(6:31 pm- 6:32 pm)

She said that she had the pleasure of visiting PS.102, and meeting Principal O'Connor Ms. Yvonne, the CBO, and Ms. Delgado, the PC. She had great conversations about everything that has been going on in the school. These are dual language schools. They talked about updates needed in the school, and what they would like to see done for their vessel and recent updates that they had done in their yard. They have a beautiful yard and beautiful first floor. Everyone has beautiful offices. They have lots of space for students. If anyone is interested in a dual language program to serve out to learn Arabic. They also have a gifted and talented program. They are working on active school programs that should be initiated soon.

3. D4 Superintendent Report- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz: (6:33 pm – 6:36 pm)

She expressed gratitude for the amazing host PS 112 and PS 206, the way our young people embraced us, and the love and warmth that we feel coming here is a true testament of this campus. It is national principals' month. She acknowledged the hard work and commitment that all our D 4 leaders do daily. She added that at this building is the first bilingual nest program in all of New York City, and that she honored and respect to Angelica Infante-Green, who is now the Commissioner of Rhode Island. Thanked for being instrumental in helping getting A/C and elevators.

- **Principal Lisa Velazquez:** (6:37 pm - 6:41 pm)

She shared the great news that the staff parking has been extended and they have one additional parking spot at their school.

- **D4 Superintendent Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (6:41 pm – 6:43 pm)

She honored and acknowledged Principal Camille Forbes. She mentioned, there is a distinction across the entire country, called the Con Fellows. Principal Camille Forbes is a Con Fellow, with leaders from across the country. Principal Camille Forbes has not only her impact in our entire community. She has been a Principal lead in our PLC's. She has helped bring in different work from success in motion to our community.

- **Principal Camille Forbes:** (6:44 pm – 6:45 pm)

She said that she had the opportunity to attend the first day, she was able to see the cohort last year and saw all the work that they have done over the course of last year with their presentations. And went to Gettysburg, and they got the opportunity to visit the different battlefields. The leadership back and from President Lincoln to the different Generals and the Lieutenants that served in the Civil War, and that reflects on our leadership skills and strategies that made them successful and some aspects that we can take back and incorporate into our leadership skills and structures and systems. It was an amazing experience. She is looking

forward to continuing learning the Principals from West County, from LA and Dallas and Virginia.

▪ **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (6:51 pm– 7:30 pm)

She talked about:

- District 4 Community Norms
- Our Mission
 - Session Goals
 - NYC Reads & Literacy Shifts
 - Rationale and Research behind NYC Reads
 - The why behind NYC Reads
 - 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.
 - The NYC Reads: Literacy shifts.
 - 6 Shifts
 - Upcoming events: District 4
- **D4 CEC Treasurer Johanna Dominguez:** (7:31 pm – 7:33 pm)

She asked a question on behalf of many parents that what is the process for the therapy from the school occupational setup speech therapy, setup, the physical setup. What is the process? Are they DOE employees? Principals have set up this on their school, we need more therapies. Our schools with the new, New Yorkers, with doubled capacity, and those kids need evaluation need more setup.

○ **Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (7:33 pm – 7:37 pm)

She said it depends on the site. Some of our schools have school-based support, some have clinics. Some of them don't have clinics. And then also depends on whether the child has an individualized education plan. She encouraged families to reach out to their parent coordinator, the school leader, so that we can investigate it more deeply because each case is different. She thanked Johanna for lifting this concern.

She talked about community boutique, it is not just for our newest New Yorkers, any family in need can come and we want to make sure that everyone feels valued and appreciated. There is so much occurring in the world and in our own community. Friday was a really hard day in New York City public schools. She wants us to continue to keep ourselves grounded in humanity. Keep us grounded in making sure that everyone feels valued and supported.

- **D4 CEC Member Rafael Lima, spoke in Spanish- Translated in English by Acting President Rosa G. Diaz:** (7:37 pm – 7:39 pm)

He said that he wants parents to participate in your child's school, we need more parents' involvement. He also referred to children that are new to the district and we need to help them as we do to our children in the district. He thanked PS112 Principal, he said that she is truly amazing and helps all children and he thanked all principals for supporting all our children.

- **Lexington Academy, Assistant Principal Tami Ratto:** (7:43 pm – 7:45 pm)

She said if anyone needs support, they have some good agencies that she reached out to for pediatrics all different neurology. Anyone can feel free to give her a call or email at t.rado@schools.nyc.gov.

- **D4 CEC, Acting President Rosa G. Diaz:** (7:45 pm – 7:47 pm)

She answered to Johanna's question with regards to the service CEC members, they will also support families. She informed that she has been supporting a lot of IEP services and guidance and if any parent needs support, for how to obtain the services, what to do if your child is having problems or any type of questions with regards to special education, let us know how we can best support you.

- **Assistant to Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, NYC, Council- Ashlie Aviles:** (7:47 pm – 7:49 pm)

She introduced herself. She spoke regarding 2 upcoming events. Halloween it is a family friendly event, all are welcome. Please bring your best costumes. There will be candy, apples, music, activities, decorations, pumpkins and all the good stuff. So please, if you all are looking for a safe, controlled environment to bring your kids and your students share this information with families, and everyone is welcome. And anyone who is experiencing EBT skimming or theft for their public assistance, which is their food stamps. There will be an event this Monday, October 16th, at Union Settlement on 104th Street, between Second and Third Avenue. One on one HR will be there, assisting to get all these claims and all these claims addressed expeditiously.

- **Assemblymember, Edward Gibb's Office- Jennifer Rosado-** (7:49 pm - 7:50 pm)

She informed that they are having a sneaker drive, new to fairly new sneakers. Because of their new neighbor situation, a lot of organizations are not able to provide them with donations of toys this year. So, they have found an alternative. And for every 50 pairs of sneakers, they will get funds for this year to provide to their communities' children. If anyone is interested to help. And to make sure these kids get gifts this year, please reach out their office Their contact number is (212) 828-3953.

- **Panel for Educational Policy - Naveed Hassan:** (7:51 pm – 7:55 pm)

He highlighted a few things that were happening in this district, the Civic Engagement Commission, is running the youth-oriented idea generation events. It's one of the new office's

downtown mayors' new initiatives. He said if any staff who is interested in learning more about multilingualism from an international perspective, the professors will be visiting on Monday at 3 pm. The most critical thing coming up is the unfortunate budget related issues. He wanted to raise the fact that we need to make sure kids learn how to read so they can read. Anyone can email him by going to the PEP page.

○ **Deputy of School Facilities Michael Siciliano:** (7:57 pm – 7:58 pm)

He thanked everyone for their support. All the administrators and the community. It is a great place to work. It is the best place he has worked at within the DOE. The amount of support he has received by Dr. Kristy, Lisa, all the administrators throughout the district and by far District 4 is the best.

○ **District 4 Presidents Council, Co-President Rasheeda Harris Brown:** (7:58 pm – 7:59 pm)

She informed that the district for President's counsel had their elections. And she and Magdalene Moran were re-elected. They have some newly elected members of the Executive Board as well, and they have a position that is needed to revote on for next one. Tomorrow will be the CPAC meeting, Chancellor's Parent Advisory Committee.

4. Report of Council President Rosa G. Diaz: (8:00 pm- 8:10 pm)

She informed that the elections for the recording secretary in Presidents Council will be on October 20th, at 12 pm. She said there is a news about class size working group, the President's Council presented a proposal remotely on September 26th, and 27th, and in person on October 2nd at the High School in Martha Luther King High School. They presented preliminary proposals to everyone who attended remotely or in person. They met on October 5th, to reconvene and debrief on older community engagement. She specially thanked Councilmember Gail Brewer, and Senator Jackson for attending in person and speaking up in support of the class size reduction law.

5. D4 CEC- Resolution to Declare a Seat Vacant: (8:11 pm – 8:15pm)

Acting President Rosa G. Diaz shared the resolution to vacant seat. She then read aloud the resolution and reviewed it with all Council members and the public for feedback. As Ms. Khaliyah Prosper Martin without providing in writing a good and valid excuse, missed 4 meetings, July 12th, August 9th, September 13th, including today, October 11th, 2023. The District 4 CEC hereby declares to the Chancellor that a vacancy exists on the Council duly adopted today by District 4 Community Education Council.

Roll call for motion to Declare a Seat Vacant by Johanna Dominguez (Zoom, in-person excused) **Seconded by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona**

Roll call and call to order to vote to Declare a Seat Vacant: Rosa G. Diaz, Evelis Galarza, Lacey Jordan, Johanna Dominguez (Zoom, in-person excused), Niasia Nathaniel, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Jasmin Benitez, Jessica Baker, Rafael Lima (09 voted)

6. Public Speaking:

- **The community liaison for the connect program at Housing Works- Antonia**

James: (8:15 pm- 8:18 pm)

She announced to the community that they have a free, therapy program for anyone who is 18 and over, the immigration status does not matter, and if they are adults, their case managers and therapists can do everything off site, they will come to them. If family members feel more comfortable having a meeting at a school, library, park, or at their home, wherever people feel safe and comfortable. They just want to make sure that community members know that they are here to help them thrive. Their clinic is located on 122 and Park at Bailey House. The contact number is (315) 832-1784.

- **Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine Office- Tara Basu:** (8:18 pm – 8:20 pm)

She spoke about the indoor air quality in schools, COVID-19, and the public health crisis. Focusing on creating a real time dashboard for families to understand, like common spaces, classrooms, auditoriums, cafeterias, and gems, and the quality of the air, and the impact it has on attendance of the students, their academic success, and on healthcare costs in the greater community. She shared that she would like our support for the indoor air quality in Schools.

Motion to adjourn the calendar meeting by: Elizabeth Soto-Cardona seconded by Johanna Dominguez (Zoom, in-person excused)

7. Calendar meeting adjourned: (8:21 pm)

Business Meeting

October 11th, 2023

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 11th, 2023

Meeting Start Time: 8:39 pm

Meeting to order & Roll Call by: Elizabeth Soto-Cardona

Present: Rosa G. Diaz, Evelis Galarza, Lacey Jordan, Johanna Dominguez (Zoom, in-person excused), Niasia Nathaniel, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Jasmin Benitez, Jessica Baker, Rafael Lima, Eliezer Talavera (Late- Zoom)

Members absent: Khaliyah Prosper Martin (Unexcused Absent) and Myah Restituyo (Unexcused Absent)

Attendance done: 8:40 pm

Attendees: 35

1. Treasury Report by D4 CEC Treasurer Johnna Dominguez: (8:40 pm – 8:44 pm)

The total amount spent till now is \$2,225 for the members reimbursement. She said we did not receive the P-Card yet. We can buy snacks for the D4 CEC meetings, even we can use the P-Card to buy items as we did last year. We can use P-Card to buy stress balls, pens, and pencils etc. Now we have our own printer. We need members ideas, for how to spend the budget amount. What kind of supplies do we need and what things do you think we should buy? For members reimbursement and childcare, the budget is \$13,250 and \$2,225 is used, and remaining amount is \$11,025. In general supplies, we have \$6,750, and for P-Card we have \$5,000 in CEC budget. Right now, we have the total of \$22,775 remaining as of October 11th, 2023, from \$25,000.

2. Liaison Assignments: (8:50 pm- 9:00 pm)

As one of D4 CEC member **Jessenia Pena** has resigned due to her family emergency reasons, the members who were assigned one or 2 schools, will be assigned her assigned schools.

Updated members assignment list:

Rosa G. Diaz – P.S 964 Central Part East II- 433 E 100th St, New York, NY 10029
P.S 146 Ann M. Short School- 421 E 106th St, New York, NY 10029
P.S 224 Manhattan East School of Arts & Academics- 410 E 100th St, New York, NY 10029

Evelis Galarza- P.S 38 Roberto Clemente School- 232 E 103rd St, New York, NY 10029
P.S 825 Isaac Newton School- 260 Pleasant Ave, New York, NY 10029
P.S 171 Patrick Henry School- 19 E 103rd St, New York, NY 10029

Lacey Jordan- P.S 372 Esperanza Preparatory Academy- 240 East 109th, New York, NY 10029
P.S 12 Talented & Gifted School for Young Scholars- 240 East 109 Street, Manhattan, NY 10029
P.S 83 Luis Munoz Rivera School- 219 E 109th St, New York, NY 10029

Johanna Dominguez- P.S 155 William Paca School- 319 E 117th St, New York, NY 10035
P.S 375 Mosaic Preparatory Academy-141 E 111th St, New York, NY 10029
P.S 96 Joseph C. Lanzetta School- 216 East 120 Street, Manhattan, NY 10035

Niasia Nathaniel- P.S 007 Samuel Stern-160 E 120th St, New York, NY 10035
P.S 57 James Weldon Johnson School- 176 E 115th St, New York, NY 10029
P.S 108 Assemblyman Angel Del Toro School- 1615 Madison Ave #3513, New York, NY

Elizabeth Soto-Cardona – P.S 102 Jacques Cartier School- 315 E 113th St, New York, NY 10029
PS112 – Jose Celso Barbosa School, IS224 – Manhattan East School Arts & Academy

Jessica Baker – P.S 377 Renaissance School of the Arts- 319 E 117th St, New York, NY 10035
P.S 37 River East School- 2351 1st Ave, New York, NY 10035

Jasmin Benitez – PS182 - The Bilingual Bicultural School, PS206 – Jose Celso Barbosa School

P.S 72 The Lexington Academy- 131 E 104th St, New York, NY 10029

Rafael Lima- P.S 206 Jose Celso Barbosa School-508 E 120th St, New York, NY 10035

P.S 497 Central Park East I- 1573 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10029

Roll call for motion to approve the liaison assignments: Niasia Nathaniel, seconded by Jasmin Benitez

Roll call and call to order to vote to approve the liaison assignments: Rosa G. Diaz, Evelis Galarza, Lacey Jordan, Johanna Dominguez (Zoom, in-person excused), Niasia Nathaniel, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Jasmin Benitez, Jessica Baker, Rafael Lima (09 voted)

○ **Acting President Rosa G. Diaz:** (9:00 pm- 9:01 pm)

The capital planning was supposed to present tonight. But we reschedule it for next month, due to the elections. So, it will happen next month. November new five-year plan, or annual amendments are released. December, solicit capital projects, requests from schools. She said, we submit the Rank Projects request which we did this year, January 11th, 2023, February revised capital Plan amendments are going to be released in March. They vote on the capital plan that we submit in June the City Council vote on the capital plan. She will be doing a presentation on this, it will be a public meeting on October 17th, anyone can come.

3. D4 CEC Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes for May, June, July, August, and September 2023: (9:01 pm- 9:02 pm)

Roll call for motion to approve the May, June, July, August, and September 2023 D4 CEC Calendar & Business meeting minutes by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, seconded by Niasia Nathaniel.

Roll call and call to order to vote to approve the minutes: Rosa G. Diaz, Evelis Galarza, Lacey Jordan, Johanna Dominguez (Zoom, in-person excused), Niasia Nathaniel, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Jasmin Benitez, Jessica Baker, Rafael Lima (09 voted)

4. New Business: (9:02 pm - 9:03 pm)

Acting President Rosa G. Diaz informed that the next Calendar and Business Meeting will be on November 8th, 2023, at P.S 497 Central Park East I, 1573 Madison Avenue New York NY 10029

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

Roll call and call to order to adjourn the Business meeting: Rosa G. Diaz, Evelis Galarza, Lacey Jordan, Johanna Dominguez (Zoom, in-person excused), Niasia Nathaniel, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Jasmin Benitez, Jessica Baker, Rafael Lima

5. Business meeting adjourned: (9:04 pm)

Prepared & submitted by:

Farah Khan

Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by:

Acting President Rosa G. Diaz

Next Calendar and Business Meeting will be on November 8th, 2023.