



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

President Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez	1st Vice President Sophie Oulai	2nd Vice President Lacey Jordan– D75 Rep	Recording Secretary Lawanda Joyner– MBPA	Treasurer Johanna Domínguez– ELL
Council Members: Elizabeth Soto-Cardona Adriana Tlacomulco Vandana Bonilla– MBPA Tia Jackson IEP Kiera Jerez Alston				District 4 Superintendent: Dr. Kristy De La Cruz
				High School Student Representatives Brooke Howard Kanyisia Crute

Date: Wednesday, April 15th, 2026

Meeting Start Time: 6:03 pm

Introduction of Spanish interpreters: 6:03 pm

Attendees: 32

Calendar Meeting Minutes

April 15th, 2026

1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan- (6:06 pm – 7:00 pm)

Members Present: Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, Sophie Oulai (Zoom), Lacey Jordan, Lawanda Joyner, Johanna Dominguez, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Adriana Tlacomulco (Zoom), Vandana Bonilla, Tia Jackson (Zoom) and Kiera Jerez Alston.

2. FY 2027 Fair Student Funding and Contracts for Excellence Presentations- District 4 Superintendent- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz: (6:08 pm – 6:57 pm)

She spoke about School Budgets SY 2026-2027-

How New York City schools get their funding and how that money supports students, understand how the school system invests in children citywide, and, in our district, what drives school-level budgets, and where families and community members can find more information.

- ❖ New York City Public Schools and District 4 budget.
- ❖ Fair student funding
- ❖ Where you can find your school budget online.
- ❖ Where does our funding come from?
- ❖ New York City Public Schools have a \$46.1 billion budget for the fiscal year of 2027. That is about \$34,700 per student- The money comes from the city, the state, and the federal government. About 60% comes from the city.
- ❖ How funding is distributed within the system. About 43% of the total budget goes towards non-discretionary. These are expenses the school system must pay every year. It includes things like employee benefits, debt service, and charter school payments. These costs are essential to keeping the entire system operating schools, and schools do not make decisions about these costs. They are set at the system level.
- ❖ The remaining 57% is discretionary, meaning that the city can decide how to direct these dollars. Most of these funds directly support schools, including the \$20.3 billion for K-12 instruction and early childhood.
- ❖ This is the money that most directly affects students every single day, because it funds the people and programs that families interact with. For example, the teachers, paraprofessionals, school aids, after-school programs, arts and enrichment, and more. Then we have funding for school operations. School operations are food, transportation, and facilities, and the field support that we receive from central administration and the district, which together make up less than 1%.

- ❖ District 4 gets \$297 million. most of our funding, 58%, goes to Fair student funding. Then we have state and local, which is 32%. Then we have the State Contracts for Excellence, the Title 1 funding, which is very important for our community, as well as other federal funding.
- ❖ Who decides how money is being spent at the school level? Each principal, together with the school leadership team, decides how money is used in their school. The school leadership team works with the principal to set priorities based on student needs. Students, superintendents, and support teams help schools stay aligned with rules and policies.
- ❖ Fair Student funding. What does Fair student funding not cover? Some programs are funded separately and not through Fair student funding. These include Pre-K and 3K, mandated special ed services, like speech therapy or one-to-one paraprofessionals. District 75 programs. Charter school payments. These have separate and different funding models.
- ❖ How does Fair Student Funding work?
- ❖ SY 2026-2027 proposed fair student funding weights
- ❖ How the fair student funding weights work per student.
- ❖ How the fair student funding weight works per student. As per capita of \$4,262
- ❖ Budget webpages. It is simple to check your school's budget.
- ❖ The school budget at a glance
- ❖ We welcome your thoughts about the budget. Comments can be shared between March 9th and April 28th by email or phone. The email is BudgetPublicComments@schools.nyc.gov, or call at 212-374-6754.

3. Foundation Aid- Coalition for Equitable Education Funding- NYC Community Organizer- Kaiser: (7:01 pm – 7:26 pm)

She talked about:

- Important education programs that are now baseline:
- What is baselining?
- Why baseline?
- Programs at risk- Learning to Work \$31M- Sensory exploration, education & discovery \$12M- Infant & toddler (0-2) seats \$10M- Restoration justice \$6M- mental health Continuum \$5M- Early childhood education outreach \$5M- Immigration family outreach \$4M- Student success centers \$3.3M-
- CEEF Recommendation

4. Resolution Regarding the June 2026 Expiration Of Mayoral Control And The Future Of School Governance: (7:27 pm – 7:39 pm)

Motion to vote for Resolution Regarding the June 2026 Expiration Of Mayoral Control And The Future Of School Governance- by Johanna Dominguez seconded by Lawanda Joyner.

Resolution was approved unanimously by all the CEC4 members.

5. Report of District 4 Superintendent- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz: (7:40 pm – 7:52 pm)

She thanked everyone for joining the meeting, Principal Castillo and Principal Dr. Perez, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Lisa Ryder, all the educators, leaders and interpreters.

She discussed:

- ❖ District 4 Community Norms
- ❖ New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) Mission
- ❖ District 4 East Harlem Mission
- ❖ District Priorities
- ❖ Important Updates & Events
- ❖ Summer Rising Sites
- ❖ Summer Rising Reminders
- ❖ Enrollment Updates
- ❖ Meeting the Moment- NYCPS Stands Against Hate

• D4 CEC Council Member & President of the President's Council: (7:52 pm – 7:53 pm)

She informed that the President Council's meeting is on Friday, April 24th, via Zoom at 12 noon. She asked

everyone to join, and to make sure that every PTA and PA has new parent association team before school ends as they want to make sure that every school in our district has a PA team.

She asked to reach out if anyone needs help as they are there to help and support.

- **D4 CEC President:** (7:53 pm – 7:54 pm)
She informed that FLC posted nominating committee training that will be happening, to support those elections, moving forward, and the district will provide support.
- **D4 CEC Treasurer- Citywide Council of English Languages Learners:** (7:55 pm – 7:57 pm)
She informed that Citywide Council of English Languages Learners, CCELL meeting was on April 14th at 6:15 pm. The presentation was about Know Your Rights by Natasha Quiroga, the Director of Education Policy. They still have 3 vacancies open for the council. The meeting is translated into 13 different languages. The next meeting will be on May 5th, at 6:15 p.m. It is hybrid, in person venue is 52 Chambers Street, on the second floor.

The Office of Multilingual Learners, OML, is hosting an annual family conference on April 22nd from 10 am to 12 pm, at Fordham University.

- **D4 CEC Council Member- Citywide Council for Special Education:** (7:58 pm – 7:59 pm)
She updated that the Citywide Council for Special Education meeting was held on March 23rd at the Tweed Building, and on Zoom. They talked about English Language Learners program and talked about having related services such as those that are provided outside of school with agencies such as YAI and having a special town hall with OPWDD.

The parents were complaining that they are not aware of the services that exist outside of what they get in school. But we have agencies such as OPWDD Center here that help with those things. They are looking to have OPWDD come in and provide training, to parents' needs, and how to sign up for the actual services, which is called Through the Front Door. Their next meeting will be tomorrow, April 16th at 6:30 pm.

- **D4 CEC Council Member- Community Board Youth and Education Committee:** (7:59 pm – 8:01 pm)
CB11 meeting was yesterday, Central PR came and gave the rundown of things that are going on. They are also wrapping up the budget for this year. Earth Day will be on April 22nd at the Museum of the City of New York from 12 noon to 3 pm. All ages are welcome.
6. **Report of D4 CEC President –Kaliris Salas:** (8:02 pm – 8:04 pm)
She mentioned that if you are co-located with a charter school and if that charter school gets any capital improvements, then the city must provide the public school with matching funds. To create similar capital improvements in their space.
- **Chair of the Education Committee of Community Board 11- Ashar Rodriguez:** (8:04 pm – 8:06 pm)
He spoke about opportunities for schools to come visit, the community boards. They will be doing writing workshops in June, July, and August, based around community, there will be a different theme for every workshop, but the whole idea is, what is East Harlem to you? As it is very important to hear the stories of everyone, and just the intergenerational aspect of it.

The participatory budgeting, the city councilwoman, Elsie Encarnacion, has, offered \$2 million, but the special for this year is \$1 million for East Harlem, and 1 million for the Bronx, before it was East Harlem and the Bronx competing for the million dollars. Now it is \$2 million. They have 5 schools on the ballot. They have a voting site at Lexington Academy, and they have been paying some of the middle schoolers to be poll workers. Tomorrow they will go to Mount Sinai, and a group will go to the 125th Street Library. Anyone aged 11 and up can vote. Voters must either live, work, or have a student in East Harlem. They also have community board hiring, they have been speaking to the chair of economic development committee, Xavier Santiago, he was the former chair of the board, and there will be youth internships at this hiring fair at Lexington Academy.

This Friday, they have a Stop the Hate event Midge Costanza the Manhattan Borough President will be there. He mentioned that the teens have been working very hard on this anti-violence workshop that will be at 131 East 104th Street from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

- **D4 CEC President –Kaliris Salas:** (8:07 pm – 8:18 pm)

She said part of the rights for opting out is not that understanding that you can opt your child out of any of the state tests or other assessments, but even if a principal does ask you to come into a meeting you do not have to take that meeting, as long as you notify the principal that you are opting your child out of the state test.

She said we have been involved as a council on several things, and our voices have been elevated, because we have been signing on and reaching out to our elected officials about several things.

Tomorrow at noon, there will be an action at City Hall Park against the law that was just been introduced, law number 1755B. The current speaker of City Council, Speaker Julie Menon, has a five-point plan to combat antisemitism. It has increased in our public schools, particularly after October 7th. Chair Dinowitz has introduced as a law that, around the perimeter of our public schools, they are going to create Buffer Zones. These buffer zones are meant under the guise of anti-Semitism, that people can go into a school building, without supposedly being harassed. The principal chooses to, or the school safety agents choose to, they can call the NYPD on you if they think that you are within the perimeter, protesting or trying to harass anybody.

And we also want people to reach out to our mayor Mamdani to veto this law, and the council cannot overturn his veto. Tomorrow at noon, there will be an action, but you can contact the mayor, you can contact your city councilperson, because this bill can be vetoed, and we can ask for effective practices that will protect our children as they are going into their school communities.

April 29th is a big day for our public schools at 1pm, Chair Dinowitz will be having a hearing about public safety. He has heard, and he knows that the Chancellor has as a priority safety, and that we as parents are concerned about safety in our schools. The metal detectors are used to gatekeep our kids out of school buildings and to impact their educational experience.

April 29th the Panel for Educational Policy will have a utilization proposal that will be presented about a co-location that will occur in the PS38 building. There are also utilization proposals for District 3, District 2, and District 1.

As a president of the CEC, she has opportunity to meet with the chancellor at least once a month, they been in active conversation around AI guidance that was released two weeks ago by the Department of Education, Councilmember, Tia Jackson and herself participated in one focus group yesterday, and they have an opportunity as a Council to participate in the second conversation on April 21st.

Councilmember Vandana Bonilla will also be participating in a conversation with Presidents of the President's Council around the AI guidance. We as a community could also give input by May 8th. In addition to that, CEC4 is going to host a virtual town hall on April 22nd at 5:30 pm. We were one of the first councils to pass a resolution on a moratorium for artificial intelligence in our schools.

Tomorrow there will be an action demanding at 4 pm in City Hall Park, the AI moratorium from the mayor, and the mayor's office is coming outside to receive a petition of over 2,000 signatures of New York City residents that are asking for a moratorium of AI in our schools.

- **Motion to adjourn the Calendar meeting by Lawanda Joyner seconded by Lacey Jordan (8:18 pm)**

7. **Calendar meeting adjourned: 8:18 pm**

Business Meeting Minutes

April 15th, 2026

Date: Wednesday, April 15th, 2026

Meeting Start Time: 8:23 pm

Attendees: 31

1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan 8:23 pm

Members Present: Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, Sophie Oulai, Lacey Jordan, Lawanda Joyner, Johanna Dominguez, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Vandana Bonilla, Tia Jackson (Zoom) and Kiera Jerez Alston.

Member Absent: Adriana Tlacomulco (Excused),

2. Treasury Report by D4 CEC Treasurer- Johanna Dominguez: (8:25 pm – 8:32 pm)
She talked about the CEC4 expenditure report for the month of April.

3. Approval of D4 CEC- Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes, for March 11, 2026: (8:45 pm – 8:46 pm)

Motion to approve CEC4 meeting minutes by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona seconded by Lawanda Joyner.

CEC4 meeting minutes were approved unanimously by the members.

- **Motion to adjourn the business meeting by Vandana Bonilla seconded by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona. (8:32 pm)**

5. Business meeting adjourned: 8:32 pm

Prepared & submitted by:
Farah Khan
Administrative Assistant

Next D4 CEC Calendar and Business Meeting will be on May 13th, 2026.