



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
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Council Members:
Elizabeth Soto-Cardona
Adriana Tlacumulco
Vandana Bonilla– MBPA
Tia Jackson IEP
Kiera Jerez Alston

District 4 Superintendent:
Dr. Kristy De La Cruz

High School Student Representatives
Brooke Howard
Kanyasia Crute

Date: Wednesday, May 13th, 2026

Meeting Start Time: 6:03 pm

Introduction of Spanish interpreters: 6:03 pm

Attendees: 45

Calendar Meeting Minutes

May 13th, 2026

1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan- (6:06 pm – 6:07 pm)

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

2. The Blue-Ribbon Commission and the Portrait of the Graduate- Sheree Gibson- (6:07 pm – 7:06 pm)

She informed that the Blue-Ribbon Commission was formulated to look at what it means to graduate from a New York State high school, what should they do as a state to make sure, their students are graduating from high school, what are they going to do after high school? Whether that be college, or that be work, or into the workforce. Their commission was formed by Superintendents, from the state and the city, education experts, a 68-person commission, and 3 parents.

She discussed:

- What is the New York State Portrait of a Graduate.
- Stakeholders' perspective.
- CR- S at the Center
- 6 Attributes
- Academically Prepared
- Creations Innovator
- Critical Thinker
- Effective Communicator
- Global Citizen
- Reflective and Future Focused
- Our Vision for New Yorkers State Graduates
- Clear Connections
- From Vision to Action: Implementing the Portrait
- NY Inspires- Portrait of a Graduate
- Implementation Considerations
- Relevant Resources

3. **Resolution Urging Legislative Action to Require Community Education Council Approval for School Utilization Proposals:** (7:06 pm – 7:10 pm)
 Motion to vote for the Resolution Urging Legislative Action to Require Community Education Council Approval for School Utilization Proposals by Vandana Bonilla seconded by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona.
Resolution was approved unanimously by the members.
4. **Resolution to Establish Developmentally Appropriate Screen Time Limits, Data Transparency, and Student Privacy Protections in New York City Public Schools:** (7:10 pm – 7:32 pm)
 Motion to vote for the Resolution to Establish Developmentally Appropriate Screen Time Limits, Data Transparency, and Student Privacy Protections in New York City Public Schools by Tia Jackson seconded by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona.
Resolution was approved unanimously by the members.
5. **Statement by Community Education Council D4 East Harlem- Protecting All Our Children: A Call for Accountability, Safety, and Collective Care in East Harlem:** (7:33 pm – 7:34 pm)
 Motion to vote for the Statement by Community Education Council D4 East Harlem- Protecting All Our Children: A Call for Accountability, Safety, and Collective Care in East Harlem by Vandana Bonilla seconded by Kiera Jerez Alston.
Statement was approved unanimously by the members.
6. **Statement by Community Education Council D4 East Harlem- Thank you, Chancellor Samuels, for a Pause that Honors Community Voice and Creates Space to Help all Children Thrive:** (7:34 pm – 7:37 pm)
 Motion to vote for the Statement by Community Education Council D4 East Harlem- Thank you, Chancellor Samuels, for a Pause that Honors Community Voice and Creates Space to Help all Children Thrive by Lawanda Joyner seconded by Lacey Jordan.
Statement was approved unanimously by the members.
7. **Report of District 4 Superintendent- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (7:37 pm – 7:57 pm)
 She thanked the principals and all the participants for joining the meeting.
She discussed:
- ❖ District 4 Community Norms
 - ❖ New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) Mission
 - ❖ Chancellor Kamar Samuels- * Safety * Academically Rigorous * Truly Integrated
 - ❖ District 4 East Harlem Mission
 - ❖ District Priorities
 - ❖ Artificial Intelligence guidance & feedback
 - ❖ April Highlights
 - ❖ Important Updates & Events
 - ❖ Enrollment Updates
 - ❖ Summer Rising Sites
 - ❖ Summer Rising Reminders
 - ❖ Meeting the Moment- NYCPS Stands Against Hate
- **D4 CEC Treasurer- Citywide Council of English Languages Learners:** (7:58 pm – 7:59 pm)
 She informed that Citywide Council of English Languages Learners, CCELL meeting was on May 5th at 6:15 pm. The meetings are in person at 52 Chambers Street in New York and Hybrid. The presentation, FY2027 was for Student Funding, FSS, and the Contract for Excellence, CFE by Kyle McDonald, the Senior Director, and Office of Multilingual Learner, OML. The meetings on CCELL translate into 13 languages, you just need to

register, ask in the languages that you want. They still have two vacancies open, two members, and a student vacancy too. Their next meeting will be on June 2nd, 2026.

- **D4 CEC Council Member- Citywide Council for Special Education:** (7:59 pm – 8:02 pm)
She updated that the Citywide Council for Special Education meeting was held on April 16th. Some of the things that came out of the meeting were discussed, the support bill for EPP, they also had busing representation there to talk about busing and the upcoming, summer rising. They generated a survey that they are going to be sending out, and they also had a link to their webpage for parents, so that way, if there are any complaints about too hot of a bus, no AC, that parents can post on their site, and they can help escalate the issue. And uploading the recordings of meetings, because a lot of people were saying that they did not get the meeting notices, now calendars, and recordings will be uploaded to the YouTube channel, and on their website. And it will also include pictures of the newest member. They also have a student member. Then they broke into their groups, and they talked individually about the different subgroups they had, so the Health and Wellness talked about their new name, which will be Fitness for All.

Their meeting was on April 27th at 7pm. The legislative committee also talked, and their meeting will now be on May 18th, June 1st and June 15th, and they have few resolutions that they need to discuss, and one thing they are waiting to finalize or hear of is the final budget from Albany. Budget, programs like SEED may not be renewed, they are trying to find out what is going to be in the budget. Is that going to be included? Is it going to be extended?

The other thing that they talked about was The PEP meeting, which was very important. Discussed voting on the budget, concerns about money being spent on technology for education, the use of how it is, the negative impact. They also discussed something that we have been talking about, AI moratorium, it was also mentioned that AI and IEP is a red flag issue by the Chancellor, and even though that it is been stated that AI is not being utilized in IEPs, there has been multiple articles published where DOE employees were quoted as having used AI on IEPs and how teachers and DOE employees will be utilizing AI, and if it should be useful, or if they should be using them to help write their IEPs.

- **D4 CEC 2nd Vice President -D75:** (8:02 pm – 8:03 pm)
She updated that the D75 meeting was held on the busing committee on May 19th at 5 pm, if anyone has any issues or questions about the busing can join. The annual report meeting will be on May 19th at 12 noon. It will be the section of report topics, survey distribution updates, and writer needs. On May 20th at 12 noon, there will be Understanding FBA & BIP which are Functional Behavioral Assessments, and BIP, Behavioral Intervention Plans. It will be a 2-hour meeting, and on June 9th at 11:30 am Neural talk, Understanding Neuropsychological Evaluations.
- **D4 CEC Council Member & President of the President's Council:** (8:03 pm – 8:05 pm)
She informed that the President Council's work in this school is a labor of love, and their goal is to make sure no leader ever feels they are doing this alone. If any PA or PTA needs a hand with their elections, please reach out. They are here to support one another and share a gentle thought about their bylaws, these are such special documents because they belong to all of us. She asked to share them with their families this coming September. Since they are public documents, sharing them is a beautiful way to say to our parents and our fellow board members, we trust you, and we are all on the same team. There is so much magic in leading with an open heart and ensuring everyone has the information they need to succeed. When we keep things transparent, our children are the ones who truly shine.

Their next President Council's meeting will be on May 22nd at 12 noon via Zoom.

- **Chair of the Education Committee of Community Board 11- Ashar Rodriguez:** (8:05 pm – 8:28 pm)
He informed that they had a presentation from, Children's Aid Saturday program. A program that they are based out of Lexington Academy, it was primarily a program for deaf. It is one of the two last Explorer programs left in the city for vulnerable youth. The other one is the LGBT Center Youth Space, the Saturday program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing on Children's Day, and the LGBT Center Youth Space. They have students from Lexington learning sign language on Saturdays, learning to interact with different populations. They spoke about prepping for district budget consultations, in July. He is setting up meetings with DOE, school construction authority facilities, which have been very helpful for the two capital projects that they put in this year, one was for the bathrooms and at 146 for the electricity.

On June 24th there will be an executive meeting, they would love to have a representative from the CEC4. Next year, they want the schools to join every month in their meetings.

8. Report of D4 CEC President –Kaliris Salas: (8:29 pm – 8:33 pm)

She updated that we are still waiting to hear what is going to happen with mayoral control, maybe it will be a two-year extension of mayoral control with no significant revisions of 2590, those are still in conversations. But the mayor did release their preliminary budget. Without cutting social services, it is a very different experience than with former mayor Eric Adams.

Early childhood and universal childcare got \$40 million across the board for CBO workers operating 3K and pre-K programs. Class size reduction got \$1.5 billion capital investment, which we must do to build new buildings, and renovate schools for space and \$122 million to hire 1,000 new teachers, although there has been an ask to extend the class size implement- class size law implementation for another 2 years.

Summer Rising was baselined at \$106 million, special education, there was a shift, \$86 million toward direct services, and \$67 million toward pre-K seats to ensure support in early childhood. There have been some cuts to the funding for the Charter cases. And Promise NYC, or Every Child and Family is Known, which was an initiative that was started with the last administration has been expanded, and it is baselined at \$2.8 million. This is to help students that are in temporary housing have support in all the different schools that they are in.

There is also a conversation about these affinity districts potentially losing their contracts as well.

The last thing that some of the council members participated in a meeting with Councilwoman Encarnacion. This council has been very vocal about the fact that we do not support Intro 175B that was drafted by Chair Dinowitz, that could potentially impact on our first amendment rights to protest, and educational settings. Councilmember Encarnacion voted in favor of this law, and we were able to meet with her, and it seems like she will vote in favor of overriding Mayor Zoran Mamdani's veto. If anyone is concerned about this, they can contact our City Councilwoman and let her know that as a constituent, you do not agree with this vote. She does represent us and our community, and so we should let our voices be heard.

She informed that we have one more calendar meeting before the end of the school year.

She said CEC4 was able to provide some recommendations for renovating bathrooms across the district4, as well, and we will continue to be showing up at the Panel for Educational Policy, advocating for our school community.

- **Motion to adjourn the Calendar meeting by Vandana Bonilla seconded by Lawanda Joyner (8:33 pm)**

9. Calendar meeting adjourned: 8:33 pm

Business Meeting Minutes

May 13th, 2026

Date: Wednesday, May 13th, 2026

Meeting Start Time: 8:42 pm

1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan 8:42 pm

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

Members Absent: Adriana Tlacomulco (Excused)

Attendees: 22

2. Treasury Report by D4 CEC Treasurer- Johanna Dominguez: (8:43 pm – 8:52 pm)

She talked about the D4 CEC expenditure report for the month of May.

3. Approval of D4 CEC- Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes, for April 13, 2026: (8:52 pm – 8:53 pm)

Motion to approve CEC4 meeting minutes by Vandana Bonilla seconded by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona.

CEC4 meeting minutes were approved unanimously by the members.

- **Motion to adjourn the business meeting by Tia Jackson seconded by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona.** (8:53 pm)

5. Business meeting adjourned: 8:53 pm

Prepared & submitted by:
Farah Khan
Administrative Assistant

Next D4 CEC Calendar and Business Meeting will be on June 10th, 2026.