



President Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez	1st Vice President Sophie Oulai	2nd Vice President Lacey Jordan– D75 Rep	Recording Secretary Lawanda Joyner– MBPA	Treasurer Vandana Bonilla– MBPA
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Council Members:
Elizabeth Soto-Cardona
Johanna Domínguez– ELL
Adriana Tlacomulco
Tia Jackson IEP
Kiera Jerez Alston

District 4 Superintendent:
Dr. Kristy De La Cruz

Date: Wednesday, August 12th, 2026

Meeting Start Time: 6:06 pm

Introduction of interpreters: 6:06 pm

Attendees: 37

Calendar Meeting Minutes

August 12th, 2026

1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan- (6:08 pm – 6:09 pm)

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

Member Absent: Sophie Oulai (Excused)

2. NYC Public Schools Office of District Planning: Caitlin Whittemore & Eric Herman: (6:10 pm – 7:03 pm)
Caitlin Whittemore introduced herself as a Senior Associate Director of Planning for Manhattan Schools at the Office of District Planning.

- **Eric Herman** introduced himself and said
- that he will be online to support as well.

- **Caitlin Whittemore:**

She discussed:

- Office of District Planning Overview
- District Planning levers
- District Planning Process
- Significant School Changes and Chancellor's regulation A190
- Public Review Process for Significant School Changes
- Reviewing District 4 Data Summary
- District 4 enrollment Trends
- District 4 5th to 6th Grade Articulation
- District 4 Schools in Bottom 25% of Enrollment Citywide
- District 4 Special Populations
- Class size law Compliance Rates by District
- District 4 All Schools map

3. **SEED model- Performance Engineer- Zahira Martin:** (7:03 pm – 7:27 pm)

She introduced herself as a performance engineer, working as an independent contractor with school districts implementing what was then known as a program for the whole child. She said the seed model is a restorative and regenerative learning pathway, and the word seed is intentional. The seed model sits inside of a larger ecosystem known as the 21 Continuum. It is the Pulse Work project, and inside of that, it is developed and designed for the restoration of humanity. And it begins first with education. The Seed model does is redesigned and imagines the way a learner receives the education that is free.

SEED Model Methodology: The SEED Model distinguishes the method through which knowledge is introduced, practiced, recognized, and advanced across every learning environment. It begins with what is true, observable, and within the Spark's capacity to comprehend. As clarity develops, the depth of information expands with it, carried by four anchors

- Guiding Principle
- Procedures
- Techniques & Tools
- Evaluation Criteria

4. **Statement on the Departure of Deputy Chancellor Simone C. Hawkins and the Future of Early Childhood Education in New York City:** (7:28 pm – 7:32 pm)

Motion to vote for the Statement on the Departure of Deputy Chancellor Simone C. Hawkins and the Future of Early Childhood Education in New York City by Kiera Jerez Alston seconded by Vandana Bonilla.

Statement was approved unanimously by the members.

5. **The Anti-Voucher Resolution:** (7:33 pm – 7:38 pm)

Motion to vote for The Anti-Voucher Resolution by Vandana Bonilla seconded by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona.

Resolution was approved unanimously by the members.

6. **Resolution on Recommendation for Diversity in High School Admissions for Specialized High Schools:** (7:39 pm – 7:55 pm)

Motion to vote for the Resolution on Recommendation for Diversity in High School Admissions for Specialized High Schools by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona seconded by [Kiera Jerez Alston](#)

Resolution was approved unanimously by the members.

7. **Report of District 4 Superintendent- Dr. Kristy De La Cruz:** (7:55 pm – 8:28 pm)

She introduced District 4 new team member Robin Posner the Executive Director of School Support and Operations. She thanked all the participants for attending the meeting.

She discussed:

- ❖ District 4 Community Norms
- ❖ New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) Mission
- ❖ District 4 East Harlem Mission
- ❖ Summer Rising Attendance
- ❖ District 4 Summer tour 2026
- ❖ D4 NYSED State Math language Arts 3-8
- ❖ Human Resources & Budget
- ❖ Upcoming Events & Announcements
- ❖ NYCPS Stands Against Hate

8. Report of D4 CEC President – Kaliris Salas- Ramirez: (8:28 pm – 8:33 pm)

She said that as the president of the CEC, she has asked the Department of Education to provide us with briefings on all things. The test results, the screeners. In terms of these results, our goal at the end of the day is for our students to thrive; they must have the appropriate resources. As part of our advocacy, we had 3 different resolutions to address the use of AI in our classrooms to address, the use of iReady in our classrooms, and screen time, the Department of Education and City Hall are actively working on policies to address these concerns. At this point, we have 14 CECs that have passed the same resolution asking for the moratorium on the use of AI. We have 6 CECs that have passed resolutions on screen time. And the use of screens in schools, meaning computers and iPads and all the things. We are the only CEC that has drafted a resolution on iReady, we are still holding the Department of Education accountable on that.

The other thing the UFT came out saying that they are against continuing to double down on New York City REITs roughly \$400 million on curriculum and these screeners, we need to have a deeper conversation about that, and we are looking forward to engaging schools, parents, students, and their perspectives.

The last thing is that we wanted to have the Office of District Planning and the Community Board here today, because we will be engaging in deeper conversations with the community around utilization proposals. What is happening with our school buildings, programming, etc

We are looking forward to be present at PA and PTA meetings in September and October, and we will be going through our CEC liaisons so that we can go to the schools and engage in these conversations.

And this is the second year of this term for the CEC, there will be CEC elections coming up this school year. Right now, we have 10 members. We have 2 empty seats that are still open.

We also are committed to building a youth council this year to have representation from diverse high schools across the district, and so we are working in collaboration with Superintendent De La Cruz, as well as with our social worker, Azeen Karamati, to ensure that we have a safe space for our young people, and so that we can continue to build youth voice in our district.

She mentioned that she has drafted a statement based on conversations that we have had with DYCD. We had them come to our meeting to talk about after school. There were concerns that were raised by community members and by principals, and she drafted a letter summarizing all those concerns. Also, showing gratitude for the things that they have done in the last month to help support our schools.

Tomorrow, our City Council is having a Youth Fair. The CEC4 will be there. It is also a collaboration with Children's Aid, and there is going to be free book bags, giveaways. CEC4 will be there and we will have a table with swags. It will be on 106th, between Lexington and 3rd, in front of the White Park.

• Chair of the Education Committee of Community Board 11- Ashar Rodriguez: (8:33 pm – 8:47 pm)

He introduced himself as the Chair of the Youth and Education Committee on Community Board 11.

He said on Monday, they had a meeting with Dr. Kristy De La Cruz, Nightingale, the private school that is building a 6000 square feet sports facility. They spoke to them about potential collaboration and access for our D4 students, to have access to the school facilities, because many of our schools may appear competition sized. Nightingale said that they have an emphasis on health and wellness, so we emphasize that we would like our students to also have access to those services.

He said that their next 2nd Avenue Subway meeting is on September 1st and Youth and Education Meeting is on September 8th, both located at the board office between 117 and 118 Park Avenue. Next school board meeting is on September 15th next executive meeting is September 22nd, Nightingale said they will be there, next Economic Development and Culture Meeting is on September 10th.

9. Motion to adjourn the calendar meeting by Kiera Jerez Alston seconded by Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (8:47 pm)

- **Calendar meeting adjourned: 8:47 pm**

Business Meeting Minutes

August 12th, 2026

Date: Wednesday, August 12th, 2026

Meeting Start Time: 8:50 pm

1. Roll call and call to order by Farah Khan (8:50 pm – 8:51 pm)

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

Members Absent: Sophie Oulai (Excused), Lacey Jordan (Excused) and Adriana Tlacomulco (Excused)

Attendees: 30

2. Treasury Report: (8:52 pm – 8:53 pm)

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

3. CEC4 Liaison's Schools Assignments: (8:53 pm – 8:53 pm)

CEC4 President asked that if any member wants to switch their liaison's schools, they can inform her and they can keep the same schools if they want and can change.

4. Approval of D4 CEC- Calendar & Business Meeting Minutes, for July 8th, 2026: (8:54pm – 8:54 pm)

Motion to approve CEC4 meeting minutes by Tia Jackson seconded by Vandana Bonilla.

CEC4 meeting minutes were approved unanimously by the members.

5. Motion to adjourn the business meeting by Tia Jackson seconded by Kiera Jerez Alston. (8:54 pm)

Business meeting adjourned: 8:54 pm

Prepared & submitted by:

Farah Khan

Administrative Assistant

Next D4 CEC Calendar and Business Meeting will be on September 9th, 2026.