



Community Education Council (CEC) District 8 Official Meeting Minutes

Elected Officers:

Vacant – President

Vacant – 1st Vice President

Austin Rodriguez – 2nd Vice President [Chair Pro Tem 1/30/2024 meeting]

Vacant - Secretary [Crystal Rodriguez, Assigned Council Notetaker for 1/30/2024 meeting]

Wanda Balines – Treasurer [Assigned Spanish Interpreter 1/30/2024 meeting]

Meeting Date: January 30th, 2024

Meeting Location: P.S. 333X Longwood Academy of Discovery 888 Rev. James Polite Ave - Principal Victoria Najera

Virtual Link: No

Meeting Purpose: Monthly Calendar Meeting/ Monthly Business Meeting

Monthly Meeting Quorum Attendance:

Per the Community Education Council (CEC8) Bylaws, FACE Guidelines and ..., quorum is established by ½ the council at large plus (1) member for a total of (7). Quorum must be met in-person at the designated meeting location. Remote attendance is allowed as described in FACE Guidelines and per CEC8 ByLaws, Article XX, Section XX

Councilmember Attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Remote</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Latoya Coleman			X	
Wanda Balines	X			
Elizabeth Garcia			X	
Rima Izquierdo	X			
Aurora Ronda			X	
Austin Rodriguez	X			
Crystal Rodriguez	X			
LaTicia Thompson	X			
Vacant – ELL Seat				
Vacant – Councilmember				
Vacant – Councilmember				
Vacant – Councilmember				
Vacant – Student Member				

6:02pm -6:04pm- VP2 A. Rodriguez called the meeting to Order and did Roll call.
(Members in attendance reflected in the chart above) Quorum was not reached.

6:04pm-6:06pm- VP2 A. Rodriguez recited the Pledge of allegiance
(No Flag was present in Auditorium)

6:06pm-6:10pm- VP2 A. Rodriguez read aloud Robert's Rules Ground Rules for small committees

6:10pm-6:20pm- LAD Students Performed Two Poems and a Step performance as a preview of their Black History

6:20pm-6:22pm- VP2 A. Rodriguez Thanked the students for their performance and Assigned Notetaker for the meeting to Council Member C. Rodriguez

6:22pm- Minutes were tabled to next Month's meeting.

6:24pm- Motions on the floor were tabled for next Month's meeting.
CM Izquierdo Suggested that all resolutions be printed for the February meeting so all council members and the public can follow along.

6:25pm-6:29pm- VP2 A. Rodriguez Report

- To his understanding all busing issues have been resolved.
- "If you have any issues with your busing, please access your OTP app"
- Aware of 2 schools (Delta and 583) that were having issues with busing due to traffic.
- Social media accounts- "we finally have access to accounts, and we will hopefully be able to begin posting soon."

6:29pm-6:35pm Treasurer Balines Report

- Formally introduced herself to the public.
- She informed the public that there are 7 D75 schools Co-located in our district which she represents.
- Capital Budget & Participatory Budgets- Meeting was held previous Tuesday and those participating were able to put in their request.
- "This one is very important. I don't know how many schools presented with any resolution projects there was supposed to be a deadline of January 12. School Construction Authority and Borough presidents ended January 19th, But the City Council is allocating until February the 20th. This request has to be made by the principal. More technology, HVAC, AC's. You have my email and number please feel free to contact me at any time"
- Not sure how many Principals were present during our meeting. Council Member Amanda Farias was having a Budget Planning meeting for Principals as we met.

6:35pm-6:39pm- Council Member C. Rodriguez Report

- Spoke about Family Healing Ambassadors Projects currently taking place around the Bronx. Mental Health Continuum and STH (Students in Temporary Housing)
- MS 337 had a Zoom meeting. They did a presentation on “FreshAir Fun” a sleep away camp. Parents can look into the website on FreshAir.Org
- “If you're interested, please check it out. We can give our children the opportunity to experience something outside of our Neighborhood.”

6:40pm-6:45pm- Council Member R. Izquierdo Report

- NYCPS will be having a press conference on 1/31/2024 ‘Reimagining Special Education. “I’ve been a part of that team. So hopefully they'll be announcing some nice changes to education and how we're trying to integrate Special Education', and specifically D75 into all schools in district 1-32 schools”
- Busing- “I also wanted to mention the busing issues that we do have a few throughout different schools. Not just big issues like sidewalk issues, But also individual student issues” “There is a really great organization called PIST (Parents to Improve School Transportation) they have Facebook, Instagram, Twitter & Email. You can join their Email list and they are always sharing great information. You can find them on social media- PISTNYC.”
- “Last one, the Office of School Enrollments is looking to change the middle school admissions process. They're doing listening sessions and are trying to make all programs accessible from the MySchoolsApp. So students in any 5th grade including ‘hopefully soon’ District 75”

6:45pm-6:51pm - Council Member L. Thompson Report

- Celebrated being able to have a meeting at her son's school.
- “I am proud that we are having one of our CEC meetings in person, in this school, with the babies performing. Thank you so much to Principal Najera and our new AP Mr. Sonnichson, who are hosting us. Thank you to PTA, Thank you to the PAC. Because those parent leadership roots are important. Thank you, Ms. Luz, our PC, our admin this morning. Thank you for making sure there was food. Thank you to New York Edge. Thank you, Dean Blake.”
- “This is the most people we have had at any of our meetings this year. Thank you so much for showing up.”
- “So my report was kind of that because there's other stuff to take care of in the business meeting. Just wanted to highlight what is being done in this school, because we’re here. But also to other principals that come out and support each other and we definitely need more of that, right? Because we’re coming out of COVID. I’m still talking about that because we need to do more of this, in the face. We need to humanize everyone, and so I really appreciate that you stayed. That people are still here listening to us and that they’re supporting us and we appreciate that.”
- Welcomed invited guests: Guns Down, Lives Up, UFT Bronx Parent Liaison, Community Board 2 Youth Committee, Office of School Food Nutrition Services
- “Please be sure to stay to hear their presentations because this is stuff that's going to help you in the community. These are your resources, these are your help out in the community.”

6:53pm-7:18pm- Superintendent Joynt Report

- Introduced herself to the public and thanked everyone for coming out.
- Thanked Principal Najera for hosting us.
- Thanked Dean Blake for putting together the Children's performance for us.
- "And while it might be past their bedtimes because I don't see them anymore, the STUDENTS who presented...Amazing, Amazing, Amazing."
- "And I see a lot of teachers and parents from 333. Parents, I appreciate you being here, Thank you so much. Teachers, I appreciate you being here because you were here early, you were teaching all day, you're tired, you gotta teach tomorrow but you showed up. So, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for being here."
- "I just want to reiterate that because teachers don't have to be here. They're here because they have pride in the school. And so I just really, really want to reiterate that I'm very thankful to see you. And as we have a UFT Rep with us, I'm really excited to see so many teachers including a UFT Chapter Leader Ms. Sangosse here. So, Thank you again. Shout out that we do have Principal Galiano from 304"
- "They did ask me if I wanted a projector. I said nope. We have our awesome Parent Coordinator from BAMM here as well so let's give a shout out to BAMM."
- "So around the district every month I was asked by some of our Council Members CEC Members, mainly probably Crystal here, around bullying reports for the district. Right? So, how we report bullying in the city is what we call PMI. Potential Material Incidents. From September to December, there were 344 incidents reported. Doesn't mean they amounted to anything but there were 344 potential cases reported to our 36 schools. Now compared to in the Bronx there were 3,364 incidents reported. We're about a tenth of the Bronx in terms of potential incidents reported. There were 18,000 potential incidents reported in New York City. Compare 300 to 18,000, so I just wanted to show the scope of the work from the District to the City."
- "So of those 344 incidents reported. For example, at 333 you might call the Principal and the AP and report something and then they have to investigate. And how those incidents then break down into two different categories. One is what we call A-832 and an 832 is a student-to-student discrimination, harassment, or bullying. So, let's just say bullying, an 832 is bullying. So, of the 344 incidents reported in the district 109 were investigated and labeled as 832, Bullying. Student to student bullying. Of 344, 109 were cases of bullying in our district. And in the Bronx, they had 1,095 cases of bullying. So again, we're a tenth to the Bronx. So, it's a really good number because our numbers are lower and we're not exceeding the ratio of reports to things that are manifesting to bullying."
- "Then of the whole broken down into two categories. One was bullying, the other category is an 831, and that's a student-to-student sexual harassment. And we only had 20 of those. And the borough had 202, the same ratio. And when you add 109 and 20, you get 129 we don't get 344. So what that means is that 344 things were reported, but when a third investigation was done only about a third of what was reported actualized in something that broke the discipline code in terms of those two infractions. Which is good, we're not crazy compared to the borough."
- "Hopefully all of you parents get my newsletter that comes out every single week. It comes out in English and Spanish. It's called In the Parent Loop. It's chock full of the

information I am giving tonight. What I'm trying to say is that we have a lot of great events in District 8. Yesterday we held our very first elementary school debate where we had 160 students participating, including students from 333! And it was Amazing. Our next debate is March 20th. We also have an amazing Art Festival, Mr. Blake I hope you sign up your little step team for the Art Festival that's coming up. It's our Second Annual Art Festival and it will be held on Friday, March 15th."

- "Last year we had students as young as 3 years olds in our 3K to 12 graders in our Highschool. So that's in March. We also have an amazing Multi-Cultural Day. This will be our second Annual Multi-Cultural Fair, Friday, April 19th. I just tell you now, so that you can come out. The Multi-Cultural Fair was amazing last year. We had representation from the countries that we represent in District 8. We're not picking countries that we don't see showing up in our District. They're the countries and the cultures that YOU represent and it was just nothing short of amazing. Dancing, food, Dresses, Garms, Language. It was amazing."
- "So, the last thing is; and probably the most important but it depends on what you look at. Hopefully all of you guys realize that we are part of New York City Reads, and we are selecting a unified reading and writing curriculum in our District for the fall. We have picked HMH's IntoReading for Grades K-5. IntoLiterature for Grades 6-8 and at a school like 333 where they offer an amazing Dual Language program they will utilize AribaLaLectura for the Dual Language Component. We have 5 Dual Language Programs in District 8."

7:19pm-7:20pm VP2 Rodriguez announced Principal Galiano's Birthday. Everyone sang Happy Birthday.

7:22pm-7:28pm Guns Down Lives Up Guest Speaker Abdul Maleek Program Director

- Thanked Ms. Thompson for inviting him to come out.
- Anti-Gun Violence Program Run out of Lincoln Hospital, with the CMS. Crisis Management System for the Mayor's Office. Do Intervention, Prevention and Education. They have many resources that our children can benefit from. They have Arts Programs, Dance, Basketball, Media, they do plays and are currently working on their next performance that will be taking place during Fashion Week, Downtown on 42nd Street. This is the second year they will be performing. The program is for children aged 10-26 years old. Also Mentioned, SUV Stand Up To Violence operating out of Jacobi Hospital. Their programs are pretty similar, and this is a great resource for our families to access, on the other side of the Bronx.
- They also do Summer Youth and Internship Programs for children in Middle and High School Students.
- Mr. Maleek will continue to come out to future CEC meetings to support and will have access to applications for those who are interested.

7:29pm- 7:30pm Member of the public made a comment requesting that for future meetings we have translation services available as she was dissatisfied with the quality of interpretation provided being that Ms. Balines had to interpret to everyone during each portion of the meeting.

7:30pm-7:36pm Office of Food and Nutritional Services.

- Explained that they service all of the children in the City. Explained that parents can collect a flier at the back of the Auditorium. Free Breakfast and Lunch for all students. “Even if you feed your children at home, know that they can come to school and have breakfast.” The brochures available give a little more information about what they do, the program. “Also, a point of information, if you live in the neighborhood and know someone who may want to work with us or work for us, we are hiring.”
 - “So the last thing that I would like to say to the administration from this school, especially more so to the CEC is when I went to the schools website I saw information about OFNS. What I would like to say to the parents is if you want to know more information about what's on the menu contact your principal and principals, contact your food service managers and they can get you the menu so that you can share it.”
 - OFNS has 26 different meals. 3 Different menus Breakfast, Lunch and if they're in afterschool. Menus available in color.
- Question from the public for OFNS: “Instead of only milk, will you guys be adding juice and water to the students? There's a lot of kids' stomachs get irritated with the milk.”
- Answer: “So with the changes made by the Mayor's office to how food is served, the juices that we had, had too much sugar in them. We have to follow state guidelines on how food is served.”
- Question from the Public for OFNS: “How about Lactaid for students who are Lactose intolerant? The milk makes their stomach hurt. Do you guys have any kind of Lactose free milk?”
- Answer: “If your child has some sort of Lactose Allergy or anything like that. You would have to give that information to your principal, Principals would give that information to the school's kitchen manager and then we would allow for an order like that to go out to the particular school. All you have to do is ask. Also, water should be available to every student. We have water jets in the cafeteria”
- Comment by CM Thompson: “In our school, we currently have 62 signatures from students that want better food for lunch. They don't like what they're getting for lunch so we will be at PEP tomorrow and we will be telling them. We will be trying to help you, to help us to get better lunch inside of our schools. It was started by a student on our Student Council and they took it upon themselves to get names, because we can't say signatures, but because they wanted better food.”
- Response: “This is a QR code for a survey. The only way we can get feedback is from you. Just to be clear the inside of our brochure has our menus and says that all is student driven. All of our meals have been tested by students and approved by children. Please take a picture of the QR code and give us your feedback with your children. We can meet with the leadership in this school (333) and the students who signed up for better food so we can set up a taste testing and I can hear how we can do better.”

Public Comment

- 333 PTA President Johnnequa Menifield: Made a public complaint to CM C. Rodriguez about CM L. Thompson. “Since Crystal Rodriguez here, she's the liaison for our school, so this is my complaint to you, the lady sitting next to you LaTicia Thompson. She's been harassing me, bullying, making everything so doubtful and just harmful for our students. I'm also a volunteer, I'm the PTA President. She doesn't have volunteer or help with anything in our school. Everything that she does she tries to destroy the school and I'm tired of it. I don't know if you're going to speak up, but this is me coming to you and I don't know because I don't see you taking down notes.”
CM C. Rodriguez responded “It's being recorded”.
Ms. Menifield: Continued on to say “She is very disrespectful. She harasses me all the time. And I'm saying what are we going to do about it? She's a C- in this seat, in this little thing here and it's like, I understand that how (audio inaudible)”
CM R. Izquierdo requested that our CEC Liaison Ms. Perez-McDaniel give Ms. Menifield the information for her to be able to put in an official complaint so the DOE can investigate.
- Parent asked: “What are the limited access protocols?”
CM R. Izquierdo addressed “I would like to recommend that we take that question and bring it into our next CEC meeting so that we can get all the information that we need from DOE, Central so that we have all the accurate information and then we can give a better answer. Because that's a very specific question that I'm sure has a very specific answer and there are nuances in the answer that maybe people in the school don't know but Central would be able to answer that, so I want to get you the right answer.”
- SLT Parent Ordeliza Cepeda: Made a public comment about CM L. Thompson “It was a Petition that Ms. Thompson was doing against our principal and a lot of Spanish speaking parents was asking me about it and telling me that there was no explanation given to them and they were basically forced to sign that paper.”
- Presidents Council President: Spoke to the public “So just to um, change it up. Start talking about Drama, Music and singing. Presidents Council is having a District 8 talent show for parents, staff, teachers and the adults in District 8. You're more than welcomed to audition. The auditions are extended until the 31st, for people who want to perform you're more than able to go past that. I'm looking forward to have a great talent show. We're so used to seeing kids rocking to them, so it would be great to be able to be role model them.”
- 333 Parent: Made a comment Thanking Principal Najera always looking out for her child and doing very well at communicating with mom about any possible incidents or ways to support her children.
- 333 Parent: Made a comment in response to hearing about there being a petition to remove Principal Najera “I find it surprising because I have an 11 year old daughter and she goes to District 12. I love that school, that's my school that I used to go to. I love District 12. This is my first time in District 8 and in this school they do so much stuff for these kids. Like there is an amount of technology, every room has a smartboard. There

are lessons, every time they go on a trip, a Broadway show. There's just so much going on that even I can't keep count because there's a lot of things they have that's amazing. There's trips, stuff for the parents. Even today, the food that was given to the parents was very nice. Not all schools do those things. And, this is a lot of Ms. Najera's work. She does a lot for the school and she cares a lot about these kids here. She cares about this building. Every single one of us here, the parents. She does a lot. So I just find that surprising that there is a petition to have her removed when this is- even going against my school. Like I said, I love my school. But, there's so much going on here. I just want to say thank you to Ms. Najera for all you do. I love it here."

- 333 Parent Tamara: Made a comment "I just want to give a quick, quick shout out to Ms. LaTicia Thompson. I met her 2 school years ago, and when I tell you she's been one of the best advocates that I've known so far. As far as keeping all of us parents in the loop about everything that's going on. I just once again wanted to share my gratitude to her. She's one of the best people I've known and I'm so grateful to have known her this far and for so many years to come. And I appreciate and Love you LaTicia you're one of the best that we have at this school and your hard work doesn't go unnoticed and I just wanted to tell you that.
- VP2 A. Rodriguez: Shared CEC email with the public so they can contact if they have any questions or concerns.

7:57pm

VP2 A. Rodriguez Announced food in Room 216 and 15 min break before the Council reconvened for the Business meeting.

District Leadership Attendance:

1. District 8 Superintendent- Jennifer Joynt
2. District 8 Family Leadership Coordinator- Vanessa Ruiz
3. District 8 President's Council- Erika Newsome-Rodriguez
4. District 8 CSA Rep- Ronald Laurent
5. District 8- Principal Galiano

Special Speakers and Guests in Attendance:

1. Maria Morales- UFT Bronx Parent & Community Liaison
2. Abdul Maleek- Guns Down Lives Up
3. Mr. Kent- (VP2 Rodriguez has document with Titles)
4. OFNS-

Interpretation

Interpretation was done by Council Member/ Treasurer Wanda Balines