

September 28th CEC24 Meeting Minutes

Members of CEC24: Madelene Chan, Superintendent, Eleanor McNamee, Ferdie Lee, Henry Choi, Michael Conigliaro, Mohammad Hossen, Connie altamirano, Matthew Crescio, Johanna Pineda, Jose Ramirez and Sandy Jimenez(remotely).

Guests: Krystal Castillo, Principal of PS 19, The 110 Precinct, Stacy Gauthier, Renaissance Charter School, Judy Mittler, former Principal of IS 125, Matt Borelli, Principal of IS 125; Michele Dzwonek, former Principal of PS 239.

Ferdie Lee, President Reports:

Thank you to Krystal Jimenez for hosting tonight's meeting.

Approval of the September Minutes are Ferdie Lee and seconded Henry Choi.

Michael Conigliaro asked for approval of the updated CEC24 Financial Statement. All members approved the Budget.

Tonight is the first Meeting of the year and we are having it hybrid. There are over 200 parents and staff attending the September meeting. We appreciate all the interpreters who are helping in person and on line parents.

The 110 Precinct located at 94-41 43 Avenue, Elmhurst, New York. They were present to offer any help in the communities of Corona and Elmhurst and other communities. The 110 Precinct is here to discuss if you need help or have an issue, please contact them with your concerns. Captain Moran – 718 476 9342 Monday – Friday 7:00 -3:00 pm. Any questions regarding safety agents, crossing guards, sanitation, please contact them.

Thank you to the 110 Precinct.

CEC Meeting Superintendent's Report September 28, 2021

Central Issues

Update on the Staff Vaccine Mandate

The DOE will begin implementing the staff vaccine mandate on Monday, October 4.

School Building Visitor Policy

Schools should limit nonessential visitors coming into the building during the school day. Schools are encouraged, where possible, to address visitor and parent concerns by phone or computer. Principals and designated staff may conduct meetings remotely where possible.

In order to protect staff and students in DOE buildings, all visitors wishing to enter DOE buildings must show proof of having at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination. Visitors do not include students

attending school in a DOE building, including adult students participating in D79, YABC, or DYCD programs.

Acceptable proof of vaccination is one of the following:

- A CDC Vaccination Card (a photo or photocopy is also acceptable.)
- A NYC Vaccination Record or other official immunization record from within or outside the US, including from a health care provider. A photo or photocopy of this card is also acceptable.
- NYC COVID Safe App on Android or iOS.
- Excelsior Pass or Excelsior Pass Plus.
- DOE COVID-19 Vaccine Portal. An acceptable COVID-19 vaccination includes one dose of any COVID-19 vaccine fully authorized or authorized for emergency use by the FDA or WHO.

If a visitor wishes to enter a DOE building but is unable or unwilling to show proof of vaccination upon sign in, the visitor may not enter the building absent emergency circumstances. **Additionally, any visitor to the building must show identification, complete the daily health screening and wear a face covering at all times while on DOE property.**

Protocol for Visitors

Upon entry to a Department of Education building, a visitor must sign in and show photo identification, proof of vaccination, completion of health screening, and the visitor must be wearing a face covering.

New NYC Schools Account (NYSCA) Families can now access the new NYC Schools Account (NYCSA) portal, which consolidates several important parent-facing applications in one place. In addition to seeing information for MyStudent, such as grades, attendance, and transportation, families will also be able to access Parent University and the Bullying Reporting online form. Parents can reset the passwords to their student's DOE email accounts through the Manage Account page; please note the change in URL from <http://mystudent.nyc> to <http://schoolsaccount.nyc>. Families who currently have a NYCSA account will automatically have access to new features in the portal.

Guidance on Special Education Meetings for the 2021–22 School Year

During the 2021–22 school year, special education meetings with parents will continue to be held remotely, by phone or using a DOE-approved virtual-conferencing platform. Special education meetings include Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, social history meetings, manifestation determination review (MDR) meetings, conferences to develop behavioral intervention plans (BIPs), meetings to discuss initial referrals or requests for initial referrals, and meetings to develop suspension plans. At the parent/guardian's request, special education meetings can be held in-person. If the meeting is held in-person, all 2021–22 school year policies regarding health and safety must be complied with, including the COVID-19 vaccination requirement currently in effect for visitors. Special education

meetings do not constitute “emergency circumstances,” under which a visitor who is unable or unwilling to show proof-of-vaccination upon sign-in may enter the building.

The Universal Mosaic Curriculum

Mosaic Classroom Reading Collections and Scholastic Rising Voices:

The DOE is developing the new Universal Mosaic Curriculum, a comprehensive, culturally diverse ELA and Math curriculum for all students in grades K-12, set to launch in fall 2023. As an initial part of this initiative, all schools will receive new sets of culturally diverse and representative trade books to supplement and enhance classroom libraries and support students’ independent reading.

Specifically, each K-5 school will receive Scholastic’s Rising Voices collections of books celebrating Black and Latino Boys. This is to supplement each school’s current efforts before the curriculum is shared in 2023.

The Rising Voices Library provides The Rising Voices Library provide students with culturally relevant texts that give context to today’s world through stories of the historically underrepresented. Teaching materials are also included to facilitate deep discussions about social justice and empathy for others.

Sample texts will be delivered to schools beginning the week of September 20th and will include the following titles:

- Grade K: The Field by Baptiste Paul
- Grade 1: A Team Stays Together! By Tony & Lauren Dungy and illustrated by Vanessa Brantley Newton
- Grade 2: Imagine by Juan Felipe Herrera and illustrated by Lauren Castillo
- Grade 3: Surf’s Up, Creepy Stuff by Andres Miedosa and illustrated by Victor Rivasff
- Grade 4: Tyrannosaur by Dr. José Carallido and Dr. Diego Pol and illustrated by Florencia Gigena
- Grade 5: Saint Louis Armstrong Beach by Brenda Woods the full classroom sets will be delivered beginning in October

Specialized High School Admissions Test

All current 8th and first-time 9th grade students who live in New York City can apply to high school and test and/or audition to apply to the Specialized High Schools during the 2021-2022 school year.

In mid-October, you will get your child’s welcome letter with details on how to access your MySchools account and participate.

SHSAT UPDATE

As of September 27th, we have updates for students interested in applying to any/all of the eight testing Specialized High Schools. You apply to these schools by registering for and then taking the Specialized

High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT); offers are based on each student's SHSAT score, their school preferences, and seat availability.

Here is what to do, when:

- Prepare. Detailed test information, sample tests, and information about testing accommodations are available on our website.
- Register. Registration will open in mid-October 2021. Specific registration dates are coming soon!
- Test. All registered students will take the SHSAT in December 2021. When specific test dates and other information become available, we will send an update.

WHAT TO DO NOW

- Visit schools.nyc.gov/High and schools.nyc.gov/SHS to get the latest information and watch our video series to learn how to participate in high school admissions. For in-depth information, read last year's digital High School and Specialized High Schools Admissions Guide. Please note that some resources and information will be updated this fall to reflect any changes for 2022 admissions.
- Start exploring high school program options in the MySchools.nyc high school directory. You do not need to log in or create an account to use the online directory!

District Updates

New CEC Student Member

Ms. Fiorela Borici will be our new student Rep for the CEC.

She is currently a senior at Grover Cleveland High School where she is very involved in student council and student government. Congratulations to Ms. Fiorela Borici, she is currently on the zoom.

Department of Health Related Items

Updates to COVID-19 School Testing Program

As of September 2, 2021, the following updates will be in effect for school-based COVID-19 testing:

- School-based testing will occur weekly (as opposed to biweekly) for unvaccinated students in grades 1–12.
- We can only test students whose parents have provided an updated testing consent form to their school.
 - You are encouraged to provide this consent for your child if you have not done so. If you have already submitted a testing consent form for the 2021-22 school year, that consent form remains in effect. If you have not yet submitted your consent, you can do so one of two ways:

Fill out the form using your NYC Schools Account (NYCSA):schoolsaccount.nyc or Download the form online atschools.nyc.gov/ covidtesting and bring the completed form to your child’s school

Vaccine Requirements for Eligible Students Participating in High Risk Extracurricular Activities

As a reminder, COVID-19 vaccination will be required this year for DOE students and staff participating in Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) sports considered high-risk for potential COVID-19 transmission. High-risk sports include football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, lacrosse, stunt, and rugby. Vaccination will also be required for participation in bowling because while the sport is not high risk, the locations where it occurs require vaccination.

- Participants in fall high-risk sports must get their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by the first day of competitive play, which varies by sport. Winter and spring PSAL participants have until the beginning of their season to be fully vaccinated. For additional information about health and safety protocols for PSAL in the 2021-22 school year, please visit schools.nyc.gov/PSAL.

Extracurricular Activities

Consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and State guidance, COVID-19 vaccination will be required this year for students who are at least 12 years old and are participating in afterschool extracurricular activities considered high-risk for potential COVID-19 transmission. High risk after school activities include:

- Chorus
- Musical Theater
- Dance / Dance Team
- Band / Orchestra / Marching Band
- Cheerleading / Step Teams / Flag Team

Special Interest Features

Information about COVID-19 Vaccine Course with Families

The DOE’s Parent University invites families to attend a one-hour virtual course entitled, “COVID-19 Vaccines: What You Need to Know,” which will be held at 10:00 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m. on **September 29**.

The course is taught by experts from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and includes updates about COVID-19 vaccines, as well as a live question-and-answer session.

Congratulations from Superintendent Madelene Chan

We want to congratulate two outstanding Principals who are retiring. July Mittler, Principal of IS 125 and Michelle Dzwonek from PS 239.

Mr. Matt Borelli spoke how Ms. Mittler has been a wonderful Principal for the last 12 years at the DOE and 24 years as principal.

Ms. Michelle Dzwonek from PS 239 Staff, parents and children will be truly missed. It has been a pleasure to work with you. We wish you the best health and much happiness. The love for her students and it has been a pleasure to work with you.

Congratulations and enjoy your Retirement!

Vaccination Mandate MC

Incentives \$100 eligible

Nyc.gov/vaccine finder 877-vax4nyc Original referral bonus \$100 link.

Trace Take, wipes, Sanitizers

Guest Speaker – Sandy Gauthier and the Barone Management regarding the Renaissance 2 Charter School.

A charter school is in Martin Luther High school and in September 2022 is moving to 45-20 83 Street in Elmhurst with 1,053 students for Kindergarten thru 3rd grade. The school has been very helpful.

New Business

Henry Choi mentioned the Office of Pupil Transportation declined our request to speak at our September meeting. We hope they will attend the October meeting. Many children in the district have bussing concerns. If you have any questions regarding bussing, please contact Madelene Chan or Eleanor McNamee at the District 24's office at 718-592-3357.

Richard Donnelly from American Debate League Ameriandebateleague@gmail.com

This program provides young people of all backgrounds opportunity to develop debating, speaking and literacy skills through debate training and competitions that will ultimately improve self-esteem, academic achievement, graduation success rates and access to higher education.

Provide opportunities for students to participate in competitive debate competitions bi-monthly or quarterly throughout the year.

Provide Summer Debate Camps for elementary to high school students

Provide Regional Debate Centers to provide debate and public speaking education to those students who do not have access to a debate program in their schools.

Many parents asked questions about Social Distance, Interpretation this evening, Special Education.

In addition, Eleanor McNamee and Madelene Chan will get back to the parents regarding their questions.

Many parents showed up with signs.

Meeting ended at 9:30 PM

Janet Kregler

Administrative Assistant

CEC24