



Community Education Council 24

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Community Education Council 24 (CEC24) – Meeting Minutes

Date: February 24, 2026 Virtual

Welcome to the February 24th Virtual Calendar and Business Meeting

Roll Call: Matthew Crescio, Gina Liberta, Kate Barvels, Anna Karwowska, Manisha Jain, Elizabeth Fortunato, Brian Augustine, Julissa Mc Hugh, Aliya Bonar

Online: 144 guests

Attendees: Anthony Rivera; Jose Jimenez; Kanye Smith; Indiana Soto, Principal from PS 71; Linda O’Shaughnessy, Principal from PS 88; Donna Murph, Family Leadership Coordinator; Jacqueline Atkins; June Barnett; Africa Dunn-Taylor; Amanda Bueno-Rene; Carmine Franzese from Department of School Facilities; Theresa Cottone, representative from Council Member Julie Won’s office; Principal Artie Gnecco from Mosaic Pre-K; Charlie Vavruska, representative from Council Member Phil Wong’s office; John Harrington, UFT Representative, Delci Rodriguez, UFT Representative; Maribell Perez-McDaniel from FACE;

1. Opening & Roll Call

- The meeting opened with welcoming remarks and the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Roll call confirmed quorum.

- Spanish interpretation services were announced and available.

2. Matthew Crescio, CEC24 President's Report

· A state of emergency was declared due to the weather and this meeting will remain **virtual**.

Appreciation was expressed for the **school custodial engineers and custodial staff** who worked extended hours during the recent severe weather to ensure that all school buildings remained safe and operational. Their dedication and quick response played a vital role in maintaining continuity for our students and staff.

We also extend our gratitude for the continued support provided by the DSF and CEC24 in supporting **IS 61 and IS 73** as they move forward with upgrades to their **gymnasiums and auditoriums**. These improvements will greatly enhance the learning and extracurricular experiences for students in both school communities.

Thank you to everyone whose efforts contribute to the well-being and success of our schools.

We discussed at a meeting on **Monday, February 23rd** about a new co-location of **District 75 into IS 125 (P438Q@Q125)** with 48-96 students. There will be several public hearings to discuss this for the opening of September 2026 - 2027 school year.

· · Three resolutions, No. 192, No. 194 and No. 195 will be introduced and slated for discussion later in the meeting.

3. Superintendent Anthony Rivera's Report

Monday, February 23rd was a Snow Day. While snow conditions kept many teachers home, the children were excited and showed up to celebrate the 100th day of school."

Superintendent Rivera provided an extensive district update, including:

· · We do want to acknowledge the District 24, FDNY, NYPD, and other groups that families were misplaced near Ridgewood and Elmhurst for the horrific fires in their homes. District schools, principals, city agencies, and community partners coordinated emergency support.

· Temporary shelters, donations, and direct family assistance were organized quickly.

Summer Programing Expansion

· The district reported strong participation in Summer Rising programs. Tentative Summer Rising Sites. **Elementary School Sites, PS 14, PS 211, PS 91, PS 110, PS 153, PS 229, PS 239, PS 143 and PS 343 Middle and K-8 School Sites: IS 5, IS 73, IS 61, IS93, PS/IS 128, PS/IS 119 and IS 125**

· The American Debate League has been active and several schools in District 24 have participated. From **February 13–16**, students from **PS/IS 119** and **IS 73** attended the debate event held at **Harvard**.

Looking ahead, the **Queens Championship** is scheduled for **March 7**, and the **Grand Championship** will take place on **May 17**.

· **Dream Big Future Fair is April 12 -**

We are Fair is June 6.

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4. **June Barnett, District Attendance Coordinator**

Provided an update on attendance across District 24. Ms. Barnett noted that:

- **Some schools have shown improvement** in their overall attendance rates.
- **Other schools continue to struggle**, especially within the higher-need tiers.

- There are **clear differences by tier**, with several schools experiencing **chronic absenteeism** that remains above district expectations.
- Chronic absenteeism continues to be a **systemwide concern**, varying significantly from school to school.

Presenting this information at **SLT and PTA meetings** could help increase transparency, promote family engagement, and support attendance improvement efforts.

- Each school's attendance percentages
- How chronic absenteeism is impacting the district
- How families can support improved attendance

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NYSolves Presentation by Africa Dunn-Taylor and Amanda Bueno-Rene

- **Program Overview:** Introduction to the NY Solves initiative and its goals to strengthen math instruction across the district.
- **Curriculum Support:** Use of high-quality, standards-aligned math curriculum materials to support consistent instruction.
- **Professional Development:** Training and coaching opportunities designed to support educators in effective math instruction.
- **Student Achievement Goals:** Strategies focused on improving math proficiency and addressing districtwide achievement gaps.
- **Resources and Implementation:** Ensuring schools are equipped with necessary tools and supports for successful rollout.

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7. Student & Staff Recognition Awards

CEC District 24 honored students and staff for academic excellence, leadership, kindness, and service: from **PS 71 and PS 153** Students for their leadership and academic achievements; Teachers, cooks, custodians, and school staff from **PS 71, PS 153 and Mosaic Pre-K** were acknowledged for outstanding dedication, innovation, and long-term service across multiple schools.

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8. Resolutions

Resolution No. 192, To Ensure Fair and Reliable Transit Access for All NYC Public School Students,

Sponsored by Matthew J. Crescio, CEC24 President, Co-Sponsor by Aliya Bonar, Kate Barvels, Elisabeth Fortunato, Manisha Jain, Gina Liberta and Felicita McHugh was approved by the CEC24 members at tonight's February 24th CEC24 meeting;

Resolution No. 194, Strengthening the Governance of the New York City School Construction Authority,

Sponsor: Matthew J. Crescio, CEC24 President was approved for all members at tonight's February 24th, 2026 CEC24 Meeting;

Resolution No. 195, Calling for a Temporary Moratorium on Artificial Intelligence in New York City Public Schools and implementation of Intentional Guardrails and Integration Plan,

Sponsored by Aliya Bonar, CEC24 Member, Co-Sponsored by : Manisha Jain and Gina Liberta and was approved by the CEC24 members at the February 24th , 2026 CEC24 meeting.

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9. Public Comment

Discussion of Upcoming meeting presentations on Bus transportation and FDNY Workshops

Carmine Franzese from the **Department of School Facilities** acknowledged the hard-working custodians and school engineers for their dedication in helping to clean and prepare the schools across District 24. He noted that many staff members worked **overnight** during the severe weather to ensure buildings were safe, accessible, and ready for students and staff. The level of support and collaboration from this district has been **outstanding**, and their efforts are truly appreciated.

10. Closing

Thank you for attending tonight's meeting.

- The next CEC24 meeting will be on March 24, 2026 at Public School 229.

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CEC24 Business Meeting

The January 2026 minutes were approved by the CEC24 members.
The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Brian Augustine, mentioned to post the CEC24 Certificates on the website.

Bylaws Committees

The Bylaws were updated by Brian Augustine and Matt Crescio and will sign them at the March CEC24 meeting.

Safety Committee

Parents, educators, and neighbors in **Middle Village, Queens** are strongly opposed to a

planned **lithium-ion battery storage facility** at **64-30 69th Place**, directly across from **PS/IS 128**.

Their main concerns are:

- **Safety risks:** People fear possible **battery fires, explosions, and toxic chemicals**, especially since the site is next to a **school, daycare, preschool, and animal hospital**.
- **Zoning worries:** A **state bill** could override NYC zoning rules and allow these facilities in **residential areas** without local approval, making parents feel their community has no protection.
- **Community action:** Parents, elected officials, and local groups held **multiple rallies** – on **April 2, 2025**, and **February 26, 2026** – demanding the facility be moved to an **industrial area** instead.

Social Media Committee

Gina and Aliya will schedule a meeting on Friday, March 6th at 12 pm for members only.

Special Committee

The **Special Committee Meeting** will be held **Tuesday, March 3rd** via zoom.

Know Your Rights Workshop will be held on **Wednesday, March 4** via zoom.

Donna Murphy discussed the CEC24 meeting with the **President's Council**. The upcoming meeting is **Monday, March 2nd** due to the snow day on February 23rd.

Chancellor's Town Hall

Discussion on the June 1st **Chancellor's Town Hall**, from **6:30–7:30 p.m.**

Proposed Location: IS 73 was discussed as a potential host site for the Town Hall.

- **Site Walk-Through:** CEC members and District 24 representatives plan to conduct a walk-through of IS 73 to assess space, accessibility, and logistics.
- **Parking Availability:** The Council noted that IS 73 offers ample parking, which would support strong community attendance.

Discussion of a Legislative Breakfast to include all parent leaders, elected officials, principals, etc.

Meeting Adjourned.
February 24, 2026`