



## Community Education Council 24

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### Community Education Council 24 (CEC24) – Meeting Minutes

**Date:** January 27, 2026 at PS 7

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Welcome to the January 27th Hybrid 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:** 42 guests

**Attendees:** Jose Jimenez, Rachell Lewis, Robert Aiello, Principal from PS 7, Laura La Sala, Principal from PS 89, Donna Murphy, Jacqueline Atkins, Anne Marie Snadecky , Principal from PS 68, Romy Diamond Principal from PS 81, Katherine Rodriguez, Principal from PS 16, Justine Lucas, Principal from PS 143, former CEC24 members Johanna Pineda and Connie Altamirano, Kat Zapata, from Queens Borough President's office;

#### 1. Opening & Roll Call

- The meeting opened with welcoming remarks and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll call confirmed quorum.
- Spanish and Mandarin interpretation services were announced and available.

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## 2. President's Report

- The President delivered a brief report noting the start of the year following winter recess.
- The appointment of a new NYC Schools Chancellor, Chancellor Kamar H. Samuels, was highlighted.
- The Chancellor has begun visiting districts citywide and has already visited District 24, engaging with district leadership and discussing district-specific needs.
- Appreciation was expressed for school custodial engineers and staff who worked extended hours during severe weather to ensure schools were operational.
- Three resolutions were introduced and slated for discussion later in the meeting.

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## 3. Superintendent Anthony Rivera's Report

Superintendent Rivera provided an extensive district update, including:

### a. Remote Learning During Severe Weather

- Schools pivoted to remote instruction due to snow conditions.
- Approximately 81% of students were actively logged in and engaged, representing a significant improvement over previous remote-learning tests.
  - Initial login challenges were quickly resolved.
- Teachers successfully integrated real-world events (the snowstorm) into instruction, maintaining student engagement.

## b. Community Emergency Response

- Two major residential fires in Ridgewood displaced families, including students in District 24.
- District schools, principals, city agencies, and community partners coordinated emergency support.
- Temporary shelters, donations, and direct family assistance were organized quickly.
- No District 24 students were seriously injured, and strong community collaboration was emphasized.

## c. 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**
- Plans are underway to expand programming and open an additional Extended School Year (ESY) site to support students with IEPs requiring 12-month services.
- High staffing levels and district oversight were emphasized to ensure program quality.

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## 4. Deputy Superintendent Jose Jimenez's Report – Mathematics Initiatives

- District math proficiency targets aim for a 10% increase overall, measured by the percent of students who achieve a Level 3 or 4 on the NYS math exam with focused goals for:
  - o English Language Learners

- o Students with Disabilities
- Instructional focus centers on:
  - o Sense-making and low-floor, high-ceiling tasks in productive struggle, building conceptual understanding for real-world problem solving;
  - Professional development includes:
    - o Coaching cycles
    - o Inter-school visitations
    - o AP Plus One leadership sessions, Principal conferences, Cross-Functional Collaborations (ELL and SWD Teams)
  - Two math curricula are being piloted:
    - o Illustrative Mathematics
    - o Amplify Desmos Math
- District-wide observations, surveys, and a town hall meeting are planned to support curriculum selection.

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## 5. **School Spotlight & Family Engagement**

- A Paper Roller Coaster Challenge at PS 153 highlighted family engagement, STEM learning, and collaborative problem-solving.
- Families and students worked together, emphasizing creativity, engineering, and teamwork.

- The event demonstrated strong school-community partnerships.

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## 6. **FACE & Family Initiatives**

- The Family Support Coordinator shared updates on:
  - o NYC Reads Ambassadors
  - o Family Connectors Program
- Approximately 45 parent participants per session are engaged across five schools.
- Focus areas include literacy support, community resource connections, and parent leadership development.
  - . Parent Leadership Empowerment Session - February 4th at 6:30 pm
  - . Mid-Winter Recess - February 16 - 20, 2026
  - . Dream Big Future Fair - coming in April 2026
  - . We Are 24 Fair - June 6, 2026

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## 7. **Student & Staff Recognition Awards**

CEC District 24 honored students and staff for academic excellence, leadership, kindness, and service:

### **Student Honorees**

- Students from PS 7, PS 13, and PS 89 were recognized for leadership, academic achievement, athletic dedication, and positive school culture.

### **Staff Honorees**

- Teachers, parent coordinators, and school staff from PS 7, PS 13, PS 89 and PS 102 were acknowledged for outstanding dedication, innovation, and long-term service across multiple schools.

School leaders provided remarks highlighting the honorees' impact on their school communities.

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### **8. Queens Borough President's Office Presentation**

A representative from the Queens Borough President's Office presented information on capital funding opportunities:

- Capital funding supports large-scale school improvements (minimum \$50,000).
- Applications must be submitted by principals or assistant principals with required PTA/PA letters of support.
  - Eligible projects include:
    - o Technology upgrades
    - o Athletic fields
    - o HVAC systems

- o Facility renovations

- Application deadline: February 27 at 5:00 PM

- Public budget hearings scheduled for February 23–24.

- Schools were encouraged to participate and collaborate with PTAs and community stakeholders.

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### 9. **Resolutions**

Resolution No. 189, Enforcement of Chancellor’s Regulation A-418 (Sex Offender Notification) and NYPD Notification Protocol, Sponsor by Matthew Crescio, co-Sponsor by Manisha Jain, Gina Liberta and Kate Barvels was approved by the CEC24 members at tonight’s January 27, 2026 CEC24 meeting;

Resolution No. 190, Opposing Any Weakening of Minimum Distance Rules for Cannabis Dispensaries , Sponsored by Matthew Crescio, CEC24 President was approved by the CEC24 members at the January 27, 2026 CEC24 meeting; and .

Resolution No. 191, CEC24 Top Priorities for 2025-2026 Five Year Capital Plan, Sponsored by Matthew Crescio, CEC24 President was approved by the CEC24 members at the January 27, 2026 CEC24 meeting.

### 9. **Public Comment**

- Community members raised concerns regarding:

- o Accessibility of meetings

- o Availability of language interpretation for virtual participants

o Transportation and safety challenges affecting parent attendance

- Requests were made to increase meeting accessibility and parent participation, particularly in immigrant and multilingual communities.

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## 10. Closing

· Additional announcements and reminders were shared. The next CEC24 meeting will be on February 24, 2026. The new location will be discussed at the Business meeting.

- The meeting concluded with appreciation for attendees and presenters who participated despite severe weather conditions---

**The CEC24 Members voted and approved all three Resolutions No. 189, Resolution No.190 and Resolution No. 191 at the January 27th Meeting.**

### CEC24 Business Meeting

The December CEC24 minutes were approved by the CEC24 members.

The CEC24 members discussed and reviewed the Budget Allocation and the Treasurer's Report. Both were approved by the CEC24 members.

Committee Reports will be discussed at the February 24th meeting.

Discussion of school locations for the following meetings, February 24, March 24, April 28, May 19 and June 9, 2026

Donna Murphy discussed our meeting with the President's Council. The upcoming meeting is February 23rd via zoom. February 4th Partnering for Student Success District 24 Parent Empowerment Session.

Discussion on Chancellor's Town Hall location in June.