



# Community Education Council 24

Public School 71 Forest

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

Date: March 24, 2026

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### Welcome to the March 24th Virtual Calendar and Business Meeting

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

**Online:** 35 guests

**Attendees:** Anthony Rivera; Jose Jimenez; Kanye Smith; Seth Berger, Principal from Public School 229, Adelia Tripoli, Principal from PS 58; Kelly Nepogoda, Principal from IS 5, Cynthia Dicochea, Assistant Principal from IS 73; Donna Murphy, Family Leadership Coordinator; Theresa Cottone, representative from Council Member Julie Won's office; Charlie Vavruska, representative from Council Member Phil Wong's office; John Harrington, UFT Representative, Maribell Perez-McDaniel from FACE; Harold Golden, Budget Director

### 1. Opening & Roll Call

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

## 2. Matthew Crescio, CEC24 President's Report

We thanked Principal Seth Berger for hosting the CEC24 monthly meeting at his school.

## 3. Superintendent Anthony Rivera's Report

The **Fair Student Funding (FSF) presentation for District 24** is the **official NYC Public Schools budget presentation** delivered to **CEC24** explaining **how district and school-level funding is allocated**.

### **DCEP Priority 4 – Civics Education in District 24**

#### **Discussion:**

The Superintendent provided an update on **Civics Education** as part of **District 24's District Comprehensive Education Plan (DCEP), Priority 4**, which focuses on preparing students to be college and career ready. Civics Education supports this priority by **strengthening student voice and civic engagement through district-aligned initiatives**.

#### **Goal and Target:**

Under **Priority 4, Goal 2**, the District aims to increase school participation in civics education initiatives. By **June 2026**, the percentage of District 24 schools participating in **two or more Civics for All components** will increase by **25 percentage points**, from **47.5% to 72.5%**.

The Civics for All components include:

- Civics for All initiatives

- Project Soapbox
- Participatory Budgeting
- Take Action projects

### **Civics Week:**

The Superintendent also noted that District 24 schools participate annually in **Civics Week**, a citywide initiative focused on promoting civic learning and engagement. Civics Week activities emphasize:

- Youth voice and leadership
- Civic engagement
- Voting awareness, particularly for older students
- Respectful dialogue on community issues

### **Outcome/Next Steps:**

The District will continue to support and expand participation in civics education initiatives in alignment with DCEP goals to promote student engagement, leadership, and readiness for college and careers.

### **Office of Public Transportation Presentation**

Chancellor's Regulation A-801 governs pupil transportation, including eligibility, modes of service, student behavior, safety drills, and OPT oversight. The NYC School Bus Caregiver app can supply families with live location of the buses for each student. We are working on more features such as the arrival time of the bus on the app. Full information is on the website, under OPT Modernization Plan.

LaQuana Chambers answered questions from the CEC members and from the meeting. Parents were upset with the wait time for picking up a child with a disability from home, which is too short of time.

Grades 9 - 12 can receive a discount with the NYC Ferry on the NYC Ferry website.

### **Resolutions**

#### **Resolution 196,**

Resolution Calling for Expanded School-Based Mental Health Supports,

Family Partnership and Restorative Practices, Sponsored by Gina Liberta and  
Co-Sponsored by Maniosha Jain will be tabled

#### **Resolution 197**

A resolution acknowledging the Service of Elizabeth Fortunato, Former CEC24 member was approved by the members of the CEC24.

The meeting adjourned.

### **CEC24 Business Meeting**

Roll Call

February minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's Report has been approved.

### **Discussion on Treasurer's Report for the Upcoming ELL Fair**

The Treasurer provided an update regarding the upcoming ELL Fair. The event was originally scheduled for **April 25**; however, due to the short notice, the ELL Fair will be **postponed to a later date**.

#### **New Business:**

The IEP Fair is scheduled for Saturday, September 25th at Public School 91. Details will follow.

We spoke about the limited parking at Public School 343 for the **May 19th meeting**. We decided to postpone the meeting site and have the **May 19th meeting at Public School 71**, where the CEC24 office is. The June 9th meeting has been rescheduled to June 1st, right after the Chancellor's Town Hall.

The Council discussed presenting an award to DSF in recognition of the consistent and valuable support provided by Carmine Franzese over the past year.

Manisha Jain proposed that Food Services also be recognized for their contributions, Lucia Abernathy.. Matt Crescio recalled that Crown Trophy has been used previously to obtain awards and plaques for similar recognitions.

We are sending Superintendent Anthony Rivera a letter from the CEC24 members stating we need to push for the annexes that we are looking forward to working with the D24 and be involved in the process with all meetings in regards to capacity issues at the two sites PS/IS 113 and PS/IS 119.

Parent Coordinators are hired throughout District 24, including at high schools. As part of the Parent Coordinator advisory process, members of the CEC participate in interviews. However, we have learned that new Parent Coordinators have been hired in D24 schools without our knowledge.

### **Committees:**

#### **Social Media**

Aliya will send her notes from the last meeting on March 6th. Aliya and Gina will meet with the Administrative Assistant, Janet to help her set up U-tube and Facebook. Gina Liberta has been reviewing the Instagram account and we have over 495 views.

Thank you to Donna Murphy for announcing the March 24th meeting flyer on GAMA to all parents in District 24.

#### **Construction Committee**

Matt Crescio and Kate Barvels met with Principal Aiello and other members of the team from DSF and Superintendent Rivera discussed the Public School playground which has been ripped apart and now after four years it needs to be removed.

Carmine Franzese from DSF, together with Principal Caryn Michaeli of PS/IS 87 and Matt Crescio, met to discuss the kitchen and cafeteria work at PS/IS 87 that was approved by the SCA many years ago for more than \$2 million but was never completed. Mr. Franzese will follow up with the SCA and ensure that the approved work is completed.

#### **Walk Thru at IS 73.**

We had the Chancellor's Walk through on March 18th at IS 73, including Maribell Perez-McDaniel, Kate Barvels and myself to discuss the upcoming Chancellor's Town Hall meeting. Month

#### **Awards**

Monthly awards have been given out to two staff members and two students from the school where the meeting is being held and surrounding three schools.

**By-Laws Committee**

The Bylaws have been updated and CEC24 Present Matthew Crescio, and CEC24 Recording Secretary Felicita McHugh signed and dated them at the March 24th CEC24 meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned.  
March 24, 2026**