



Community Education Council 24

Public School 71 Forest

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Welcome to the September 16th 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: 25 guests

Attendees: Superintendent Anthony Rivera, Jose Jimenez, Kanye Smith, Principal Joseph Lisa of IS 61, Rachell Lewis, John Harrington, UFT Representative, Julianne Bozzo and Rhea Cumberbatch from the Office of District Planning, Principal Katherine Rodriquez from PS 16, Principal Linda O’Shaughnessy from PS 88, Donna Murphy, Maribell Perez-McDaniels, from FACE, Adrienne Williams, Anthony Stifler , Charlie Varuska representative from Council member Bob Holden, Mercedes Jennings, representative from Senator Giannaris’ office, Theresa Cottone, representative from Council member Julie Won’s office; former CEC24 members, Connie Altamirano and Johanna Pineda

Parent Vacancy:

The candidate was unable to make it tonight; so we will table it for the October 28th meeting.

Matthew Crescio’s, CEC24 President September’s Report

Transportation: Beginning of year bussing issues. We contacted John Benson, from OPT and those issues have been corrected.

After-School Program: Under Mayor Adams, five schools in D24 received free after-school programs. The school sites are PS 143, PS 110, Helen Marshall school, PS 28 the early childhood site and PS 91.

Leadership Update: Joe Lazarus has been promoted to the Senior Executive Director at Department of School Facilities. We look forward to continuing that relationship working with him.

IRead Program: Public School 88, Principal Linda Shaughnessy's school was selected as the first IRead (dyslexia/early literacy program) Superintendent and council will advocate for expansion of a new Q340 school in Woodside.

Superintendent Anthony Rivera's Report

This morning was the D24 Principal's meeting and we discussed a few pilots called the M-class pilot. M-class allows for a screener to be administered in English and Spanish. We have 12 schools participating. The M-class pilot schools are PS 13, PS 14, PS 16, PS 19, PS 28, PS 81, PS 88, PS 89, PS 110, PS 143, PS 211 and PS 330

District 24 Highlights

3.9 % increase on NYS ELA exams for all students

Reduction in Level 1 in ELA

mClass pilot schools saw dramatic decreases in students scoring LVL 1 in ELA and students scoring proficient

Congratulations to the Five Tenured District 24 Principals:

Matt Borelli from IS125

Robert Aiello PS 7

Naomi Landau from Mosaic Pre-K

Dr. Nina Morris from PS 239

Artie Gnecco from Mosaic Pre-K

Appointed Superintendent

Our 2025 - 2026 Literacy Instructional Focus

In D24, we are dedicated to helping every child become a confident reader and writer. We are supporting our teachers with ongoing training, classroom visits and coaching to strengthen their teaching practices. These teachers and leaders will be visiting schools to share ideas.

professional development for new principals

Improving Conditions for English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities

D24 is helping children succeed.

Some of the pilots we are working on are Edmonton and I-Read as supplemental programs, and Inclusion Innovators for special education.

We are ensuring that each classroom is supported by language development and setting goals. We are expanding the Dual Language program so students can learn both English and their home language.

To support students with IEPs, we are working with teachers to include their learning goals and supports in their lessons. This will support all students to grade-level contents.

Ensure Strategic and Aligned Use of Data for Improvement

D24 uses student's data to plan their everyday

Emphasized a commitment to equitable opportunities for all students across District 24. Announced a district-wide listening tour to engage with families, educators, and students. Focus on post-pandemic academic recovery and emotional wellness. Plans to strengthen partnerships with parents and community-based organizations. Continued efforts to improve school environments and student support systems.

Strengthening our Leaders: (Principals, APs and Teacher Leaders)

To deepen growth to scale the use of instructional rounds and peer intervisitations
Regular school walkthrough to monitor the progress that our schools are making and to better understand the need for additional support
Targeted and regular support for new and early career principals

2025-2026 District Partnerships

Edmentum Pilot

IS 5, PS 7, IS 12, PS 28, PS/IS 49, PS 68, IS 73, IS 77, Ps 81, PS 88, PS 89, PS 91, IS 93, PS/IS 102, PS 110, PS/IS 119, IS 125, PS/IS 128, PS 153, Ps 229, Ps 239, PS 290, PS 311, PS 330

mClass (12 schools)

PS 13, PS 14, PS 16, PS 19, PS 28, PS 81, PS 88, PS 89, PS 110, PS 143, PS 211 and PS 330

LUCES

PS 14, PS 16, PS81, PS 110, IS 61, IS 93, IS 125, PS 311, MS 419

English 3D - to be discussed

Special Program Expansion

PS 13 Horizon, PS 88 IRead, and PS 71 D75 colocation

Inclusion Innovators (8 schools) TBD

NYCPS Cares (9 schools)

PS 14, IS 61, PS 89, IS 93, PS 110, PS 143, IS 311, PS 330, MS 419

Literacy Hub Expansion (7 schools)

DYCD Afterschool Programs (5 schools)

PS 13, PS 28, PS91, PS 110 , PS 143

D24 Next Step - AP Pipeline

-  Guest Presentation- Rhea Cumberbatch and Jacqueline Bozzo from the Office of District Planning

partner up with school communities, Community Education Councils (CECs), Superintendents, NYCPS offices, and other stakeholders to assess district needs through the **annual District Planning Process**. These proposals—such as school closures, grade expansions, or co-locations—are governed by **Chancellor’s Regulation A-190**, which outlines the public review and approval process for **significant changes in school utilization**. It ensures transparency, community input, and formal consideration by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP).

 **Elementary Schools (K–5) (32 schools)**

- **Trends:** Slight enrollment decline; high diversity with many ELL and economically disadvantaged students.
- **Capacity:** Over-utilization in Elmhurst & Corona; under-utilization in slower-growth areas.

 **Middle Schools (6–8) (8 schools)**

- **Trends:** Stable enrollment; growth in schools like IS 73 & IS 125.
- **Capacity:** Near/over capacity in high-demand areas; planning underway for future needs.

 **High Schools (16 high schools with over 14,000 students)**

- **Trends:** Stable overall; growth in schools with specialized programs.
- **Capacity:** Over-utilization in high-performing and CTE schools.
- **Expansion:** Queens International Secondary School (24Q849) opened in 2025, adding 260–300 seats.

D75 Growth: Increase across all levels.

Support: Strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and space analysis for special education.

New Program: D75 elementary program launched in Building Q071 (Sep 2025).

New Business

- **Resolution No. 185:** Resolution to Declare a Seat Vacant was passed unanimously by the CECC24 members
-  Old Business
- **Resolution No. 184:** Resolution in Support of Families and Children in District 24 During ICE Deportations Sponsored by: Gina Liberta, 1st Vice President was passed unanimously by the CEC24 members

Public Comment

Community members voiced concerns and suggestions, particularly around overcrowding, special education services, and after-school programming. Balanced communication digital and paper.

CEC24 Business meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Committees:

Curriculum Committee to oversee IEP, G&T and ELL

Establish a separate a ASD Committee

Awards and Recognition Committee

In past years, the council acknowledged 5-6 students per meeting for achievements (minecraft competitions, handwriting, spelling bee, etc), Continue student recognition and possibly expand to include Big Apple Awards for teachers.

Nutrition Committee

Nutrition oversight includes influence on school meals and participation in DOE test kitchen program where students approve new ;menu items

Issues raised: High food waste, dislike of vegan/plant based meals by students

Bylaws Committee

Agreement to establish a Bylaws Committee to ensure readiness if amendments are needed. Committees need to be placed in bylaws and are subject to OML requiring in person advertised meetings.

Safety and Facilities

Safety Committee: Will address school lockdown procedures, bullying transparency, and new risks, subway surfing

Facilities/Construction Committee: will handle capacity,utilization and infrastructure needs

Parent and Community Engagement

Members stressed that committees should include parents beyond the council to improve engagement and flexibility, Community outreach, Improve flyers, more visually engaging and ensure principals calendars has meeting dates on them

Language Access

Persistent concerns about translation quality at meetings Suggested forming a Language Access Committee and exploring Zoom's built-in translation features

Social Media and Outreach

Improve meeting accessibility and communication, address audio/technical challenges with virtual sessions, broaden parent participation and cover language outreach

Vacancies and Membership

Two parent vacancies and one Queens Borough Appointee remain open

Next Steps and Action Items

Confirm committee chairs and membership assignments

Update bylaws with new committees

Improve communication flyers

Explore technical fixes for translation and zoom accessibility

Prepare signage and materials for upcoming meetings

Adjournment of meeting.

DRY