



Community Education Council 24

Public School 71 Forest

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DRAFT CEC24 Calendar Meeting Minutes, July 28, 2026 at PS 71

Call to Order/Welcome

. The Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by CEC24 President Matthew Crescio.

Roll Call: Jullissa Mc Hugh, Recording Secretary

. **Present:** Matthew Crescio, Gina Liberta, Kate Barvels, Anna Karwowska, Aliya Bonar, Brian Augustine, Julissa McHugh

Excused from Meeting: Manisha Jain

CEC24 Annual Meeting

A roll call confirmed that seven Council members were present, establishing a quorum under the Council's bylaws.

Election procedures were reviewed, including that officers would be elected by roll-call vote, candidates needed at least seven votes to be elected, and every office required a vote even if only one candidate was nominated. Members were informed that nominations did not require a second and that self-nominations were permitted.

Chair Pro Tem

Aliya Bonar was nominated by Julissa McHugh and accepted the nomination.

The Chair Pro Tem reviewed the procedures for nominations, candidate statements, voting, abstentions, and the steps to be followed if an office remained vacant.

2026-2027 CEC24 Elections

Kate Barvels nominated Matthew Crescio for President. There were no other nominations, and Matthew Crescio accepted the nomination. CEC24 members voted for Matthew Crescio. Voted 7-0.

Julissa McHugh nominated Gina Liberta for Vice President. There were no other nominations and Gina Liberta accepted the nomination. CEC24 members voted for Gina Liberta. Voted 7-0.

Gina Liberta nominated Anna Karwowska for Treasurer. There were no other nominations, and Gina accepted the nomination. CEC24 members voted for Anna Karwowska. Voted 7-0.

Gina Liberta nominated Julissa McHugh for Recording Secretary. There were no other nominations and Julissa accepted the nomination. The CEC24 members voted for Julissa McHugh. Voted 7-0.

Congratulations to:

Matt Crescio for CEC24 President

Gina Liberta for CEC24 Vice President

Anna Karwowska for CEC24 Treasurer

Felicita McHugh for CEC24 Recording Secretary

Adjourned.

The CEC24 Calendar Meeting

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by the CEC24 members and guests.

CEC24 President Matt Crescio Report

--The Council considered three vacant membership seats.

One applicant withdrew shortly before the meeting, leaving two candidates, Devin and Bhavi who had previously been interviewed at a Special Meeting.

Following separate roll-call votes, both candidates received the required votes and were appointed to the Council. One vacancy remains open. The Council will reopen recruitment, post a vacancy flyer on its website, and seek to interview candidates and fill the remaining seat at the August meeting.

Student Voice and After-School Programming

The President raised concerns regarding changes to an anticipated after-school program at I.S. 61 and the impact on student voice. Students had actively supported and promoted a proposed Junior Tennis Association program, but the program was later replaced with an arts-based activity. Concerns were expressed -that students' interests were not adequately considered and that materials created by students to advocate for the program were removed.

In response, the President announced plans to draft a letter for Council review and approval before sending it to the Chancellor. The letter would support the I.S. 61 school community and address concerns about student voice, advocacy, and the decision-making process surrounding the program change.

While members noted that after-school programming had changed at other schools as well, the President explained that the letter would focus specifically on I.S. 61 due to the additional concerns about the removal of student-created materials and the perceived suppression of student advocacy.

The Council also noted that eight responses had been received through a related survey or feedback form.--

-NYC Kids RISE Save for College Program Discussion

The Council discussed strategies to increase awareness and participation in the NYC Kids RISE Save for College Program. Members emphasized promoting the program because eligible incoming kindergarten students may receive an initial college savings allocation of up to \$1,000.

Plans were discussed to distribute informational flyers to families at schools and community events and to collaborate with the Superintendent's Office and district partners to expand outreach. Council members reviewed program eligibility, enrollment, and account activation processes, as well as opportunities for

community organizations and other groups to contribute through scholarship funds and Building Block incentives.

District data showed that approximately 46% of eligible kindergarten through fourth-grade students (about 7,800 families) were connected to a Building Block account out of roughly 17,000 eligible students. As of April 30, approximately \$2.1 million had been allocated to student accounts, including about \$152,000 in community scholarship funds.

The Council expressed interest in monitoring participation rates and strengthening family outreach during the upcoming school year. A follow-up presentation was proposed to provide additional program information and updates

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SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Council received updates on several district facilities projects.

At P.S. 88, long-delayed HVAC repairs are expected to be completed by early September, and discussions continue regarding reopening the playground. **P.S. 91** is moving forward with a \$42 million façade repair project, while efforts are underway to equip a completed media room so it can be used. **At P.S./I.S. 119**, a previously delayed media room project has been completed, and discussions continue about a potential annex to address future space needs. **At P.S. 87**, a \$1.7 million kitchen modernization project, delayed for several years, is nearing completion following advocacy and coordination with facilities officials.

Artificial Intelligence and Educational Technology

The President reported that NYC Public Schools had not yet released guidance on artificial intelligence. Schools were advised to delay new purchases and renewals of AI and educational technology programs, including Edmentum and i-Ready, pending

further guidance. The Council emphasized the need for clear standards on screen time, AI use, data privacy, instructional value, and age-appropriate technology use.

-School Health and Emergency Medication

The President reported that approved non-injectable epinephrine devices had not yet been incorporated into local procedures, despite State approval nearly ten months earlier. A letter was sent requesting that the DOE update the relevant Chancellor's Regulation to allow schools to use these emergency medications, improving access and reducing administrative barriers.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER NOTIFICATIONS

The President discussed ongoing concerns regarding the implementation of procedures requiring schools to receive notifications about registered sex offenders residing near school communities.

It was reported that, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, this information was transmitted through law enforcement channels and distributed to appropriate school officials. Since the pandemic, this practice has reportedly become inconsistent or ceased altogether.

Although schools continue to be inspected for compliance with the applicable Chancellor's Regulation, principals are not always receiving the information necessary to comply. The President expressed concern that schools may be cited for circumstances beyond their control.

The President informed the Council that a meeting had been scheduled with DOE safety officials, including Mark Rampersad and Kevin Moran, to determine whether the regulation would continue to be enforced and supported or be revised. The President stated that the current situation places an unfair administrative burden on principals.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Fresh Pond 3-K Site

The Council discussed low enrollment at the Fresh Pond early childhood site. Members noted that because the site was added after the main 3-K enrollment period, many families may not have been aware of available seats or their waitlist options. The Council recommended stronger outreach through social media, schools, community organizations, and direct communication with waitlisted families.



Laurel Hill Boulevard Facility

The President stated that an additional meeting would be requested with Deputy Chancellor Foti regarding the vacant early childhood facility on Laurel Hill Boulevard.

The building has reportedly remained unused for approximately five years while continuing to incur custodial and operational maintenance costs.

The Council advocated for the facility to be utilized as a specialized early childhood center serving students requiring programs such as AIMS, ACES, NEST, Horizon, and other specialized or literacy-based services.

Members expressed concern about the cost of maintaining an underutilized facility and noted the inefficiency of operating an entire building for only one classroom or a very small number of students.

Bylaws

The members approved and voted for the Proposed Amendment V of the Bylaws to include the standing committees.

Facilities Committee	Special Education Committee
Zoning Committee	D24 Events and Awards Committee
Safety Committee	Resolution Committee
Social Media Committee	Bylaws Committee

Superintendent Anthony Rivera's Report

Summer Rising Operations

Superintendent Rivera reported that Summer Rising had generally begun successfully, with minimal operational disruption.

Transportation remained the most significant concern. The district was continuing to address cases in which eligible students had not received appropriate transportation or had experienced routing problems.

District staff had visited school-based and community-based organization program sites. The Superintendent reported that many school and CBO partnerships were operating effectively.

The Superintendent emphasized that Summer Rising should offer more than supervision. Programs should provide meaningful enrichment and take advantage of learning opportunities beyond the traditional classroom.

Extended School Year Programs

The district opened two Extended School Year sites to serve students whose Individualized Education Programs required summer services.

One program continued at P.S. 128, and an additional site was opened at P.S. 143.

District 24 has one of the city's largest populations of students eligible for Extended School Year services. The district also reportedly has one of the highest participation rates among eligible students.

The Superintendent recognized school leaders, assistant principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses, therapists, and other staff members responsible for operating the programs. These programs require substantial staffing because many participating students have significant educational, therapeutic, health, and behavioral needs.

District Comprehensive Education Plan

The Superintendent reviewed the District Comprehensive Education Plan process.

The district was finalizing its preliminary goals, professional-learning plan, and self-assessment. Central staff would review those materials and provide feedback. Final feedback was expected by approximately September 25, after which the district would complete its plan for the school year.

The Superintendent stated that the District Comprehensive Education Plan should function as an instructional and strategic roadmap rather than merely a compliance document.

School Comprehensive Education Plans

Individual schools were also developing their Comprehensive Education Plans.

School goals must align with districtwide priorities while addressing the specific needs of each school community. District staff would review school plans, provide feedback, and allow schools to revise their submissions before final approval.

The Superintendent stated that the planning process had become more meaningful and more closely connected to school improvement, instructional priorities, and student outcomes.

-School-Building Readiness

District teams will conduct pre-opening school walkthroughs to assess building safety, cleanliness, facilities, technology, instructional materials, and operational readiness. The Superintendent noted that summer is a critical time for repairs, construction, cleaning, and preparation, and any significant issues identified will be escalated to the appropriate facilities or support offices.

Class-Size Reduction and Teacher Hiring

The Superintendent provided an update on implementation of the class-size mandate.

During the previous year, District 24 filled approximately 230 new positions. The current year's approved plans called for approximately 63 additional teachers across several district schools.

Schools identified during the presentation included P.S. 71, I.S. 61, P.S. 143, P.S. 419, P.S. 307, P.S. 191, and P.S. 89, among others.

The Superintendent explained that citywide hiring was occurring more slowly than during the previous year, partly because school budgets had been released later than expected.

The district would continue working with principals to fill newly created positions as well as vacancies resulting from retirement, resignation, transfer, or other attrition.

New Teacher Orientation

District 24 planned to conduct a two-day orientation for newly hired teachers on approximately September 2 and September 3.

The district would provide the first day of professional learning and general orientation. Principals and school-based teams would then continue the onboarding process at the individual schools.

The goal is to ensure that new teachers understand district priorities, instructional expectations, available supports, and the needs of their respective school communities.

Eighth-Grade Summer Graduation

An eighth-grade summer graduation or moving-up ceremony was announced for Thursday, August 13, at I.S. 61.

The ceremony is intended for students who completed required summer coursework and became eligible to advance to high school.

Families and community members were invited to attend and support the students. The Superintendent described the previous year's ceremony as a meaningful event that provided students and families with an opportunity to celebrate an accomplishment that had not been completed during the regular June graduation period.

S.E.E.N. Parent Leadership Institute

The district announced the creation of the S.E.E.N. Parent Leadership Institute, representing Supporting, Empowering, Engaging, and Nurturing parent leaders.

Three virtual sessions were planned at different times of day to improve accessibility.

Topics would include:

- Parent associations;
- School Leadership Teams;
- School and district leadership structures;
- Common education acronyms; and
- Parent leadership resources.

A separate institute for principals was also being considered to review changing regulations, leadership expectations, family engagement, and current school-community needs.

The Calendar Meeting was concluded.

CEC24 Business Meeting

Roll Call by Julissa McHugh

The June Minutes were approved.

The new 2026- 2027 budget was approved.

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Website	\$3,000
Travel/Food	\$1,000
Parent Engagement	\$1,000
Supplies	\$1,000
P-Card	\$500
Parent Member Reimbursements	<u>\$18,500</u>
Total	<u>\$25,000</u>

Committees and Liaisons will be discussed at the August meeting.

Discussions :

Gina Liberta and Aliya Bonar will work on Newsletter details to be sent to principals for updates

OPT presentation in October meeting

A welcome email will be sent to the new members.

All members must fill out the Individual Performance Reports monthly.

Julissa McHugh is working on a spreadsheet and will share with all members

An updated D24 Liaison list with schools, principals, council members, community boards, will be available shortly.

Meeting Ended.

7/28/26

