September 14, 2026

CEC 30 Calendar and Business Meeting Minutes

Location: 28-11 Queens Plaza North, 5th Floor Conference Room, Long Island City (Hybrid)

Calendar Meeting

Call to Order: 6:34 PM

Roll Call:

Linda Chung-Leung: Present
Alexis Kaloyanides: Present
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Present
Victoria Medelius: Present
Estela Nguema: Present
Marlene Rossi: Present
Nadeea Saeed: Present
Laura Simpson: Present
Whitney Toussaint: Present
Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: Present
Kayla Spence: Present

Appoint New Member – Michael Garcia: Present

Resolution 210 to Appoint New Member
The Council considered Resolution 210 to appoint Michael Garcia to fill the vacant CEC 30 member seat. The resolution noted that CEC 30 had advertised the vacancy, conducted a candidate forum, and provided an opportunity for community feedback in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation D-140.

Rollcall:
Linda Chung-Leung: IN FAVOR
Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: IN FAVOR
Alexis Kaloyanides: IN FAVOR
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: IN FAVOR
Victoria Medelius: IN FAVOR
Estela Nguema: IN FAVOR
Marlene Rossi: IN FAVOR
Nadeea Saeed: IN FAVOR

Laura Simpson: IN FAVOR
Kayla Spence: IN FAVOR
Whitney Toussaint: IN FAVOR
A roll call vote was conducted, and Resolution 210 passed unanimously, appointing Michael Garcia to CEC 30 through June 30, 2027.
The Council welcomed Michael Garcia. It was noted that he could participate in Council discussions but could not vote until his Oath of Office was completed, notarized, and submitted to FACE.

First Public Agenda and Speaking
A District 30 parent of two children, including a kindergartner, spoke about her child's placement and waitlist for P.S. 78Q in Long Island City. She explained that although the family lives close to P.S. 78Q, her child remained waitlisted and was traveling approximately 25 minutes to another school. She requested clarification regarding when additional seats might become available.

Adam Gerber, a District 30 parent, shared that he was homeschooling his son while awaiting placement and raised concerns about conflicting information families had received regarding a September 25 waitlist deadline.

Liz Bloomfield, a Long Island City resident and District 30 kindergarten parent, spoke on behalf of families in her residential community regarding P.S. 78Q, school capacity, and upcoming Long Island City zoning discussions. She noted that she had previously submitted concerns and emails from more than 30 parents.

Co-President Whitney Toussaint responded that school capacity and zoning in Long Island City have been longstanding concerns and encouraged families to participate in the upcoming community conversation regarding potential zoning changes. She clarified that no new zoning map had yet been proposed and that the upcoming community conversations would provide an opportunity for the public to review and discuss potential changes before the Council takes action. She also explained that school waitlists continue to move as seats become available and that the September 25 date referenced by parents did not mean that schools would stop using their waitlists.

Superintendent Lisa Hidalgo thanked the parents for sharing their concerns and stated that the district was working to ensure that decisions affecting Long Island City families were fair and equitable. She further clarified that the September 25 date did not prevent families from receiving a school placement from a waitlist. Superintendent Hidalgo stated that district staff were working to place students and noted that there were currently some available Pre-K and kindergarten seats within the area. She asked the parents to provide

their contact information so the district could follow up with them directly regarding their individual circumstances.

Peter Argyris and Damien LaRock presented the fall Chapter Book Edition featuring Aku: Journey to Ibra by author and former MLB player Micah Johnson, who will read with students and donate physical copies. In the spirit of Leader in Me, they also discussed giving students opportunities to take on reading roles and become Book Club Student Ambassadors who can promote the program at their schools.

Crystal Cleveland, speaking virtually, raised concerns about Bullseye for Schools, an AI-enabled tool that can capture classroom video and audio and provide coaching feedback to teachers. She asked whether the tool is being used in District 30, what student data may be collected, and whether parents are informed when children could appear in recordings. Crystal also congratulated Michael Garcia on his appointment and clarified that efforts to reduce student screen time should not restrict assistive/adaptive technology needed by Students with Disabilities. She noted that some families have difficulty obtaining necessary assistive technology and emphasized the importance of maintaining access.

Venus Ketchum shared that her focus for the 2026–2027 school year will be on the communication culture within District 30. She discussed how information is shared across schools and the district, including through CECs, SLTs, PTAs, and other public governance meetings.
Venus emphasized the importance of information being timely, accessible, clear, and consistent for families, staff, and school communities. She encouraged District 30 to continue improving communication across all schools, noting that compassionate and consistent communication helps reduce uncertainty and build trust.

Anna Moyano, a District 30 parent of two students and an SLT member for the past six years, raised concerns about the fear immigrant families are experiencing regarding ICE and immigration enforcement, including fears surrounding school drop-off and pick-up. She emphasized that families often turn to their schools for guidance and reassurance. Anna shared that she and other parents have distributed Know Your Rights information and resources outside of school but expressed concern that support often depends on individual parents, teachers, and staff. She urged the district to provide schools with clearer guidance and greater ability to support immigrant families directly.

Jacqueline Daly, a Long Island City resident of 12 years, shared that she is commuting across town with her five-year-old, who is #53 on the P.S. 384 waitlist and #88 on the P.S. 78 waitlist. She questioned why P.S. 384 opened with five sections instead of the six she said had been anticipated, while more than 70 zone children remained without local seats.

She requested an immediate audit of registration rosters to identify unused seats and asked that neighborhood birthright figures be released to help explain the increase in waitlists.

Wendy, a parent of two students in second grade at P.S. 398Q in the Woodside/Jackson Heights area, raised concerns following an SLT discussion about the new student technology and screen-time guidance. She questioned how schools would implement the guidance when portions of curricula such as Amplify Science are accessed digitally, particularly when schools may not have textbooks or other materials readily available. Wendy also supported earlier concerns regarding ICE activity and immigrant families, noting reports of immigration enforcement activity near the school community and a nearby playground. She asked how schools would address these concerns and support families.

Leader in Me Presentation

Danielle Lammering, District 30 Student Services Manager, and Jessica Rosinski presented an overview of Leader in Me, a districtwide leadership framework based on the Seven Habits. They explained that the initiative is being implemented across all 43 District 30 schools, with more than 2,000 educators and staff members trained. Schools are beginning direct lessons, developing classroom mission statements, creating student leadership opportunities, and working through school-based Lighthouse Teams.

Gary Magui, District 30's FranklinCovey coach, joined the presentation and discussed two upcoming parent workshops. The first workshop was scheduled for October 14 from 5:30–7:00 PM and would provide an overview of the Seven Habits. A second workshop was scheduled for November 18 from 5:30–7:00 PM and would provide a deeper look at applying the habits at home.

During discussion, members asked how the lessons are incorporated into the school day and how families can participate in Lighthouse Teams. District staff explained that middle schools generally use advisory periods, while elementary schools are expected to provide lessons at least three times per week.

Xochitl raised concerns about the cost of Leader in Me and whether its focus on personal responsibility also prepares students to recognize and advocate against structural inequities. Nadia Saeed asked how effectiveness would be measured; Gary explained that schools will use the Measurable Results Assessment (MRA) with staff, students, and families.

Kayla Spence questioned whether Leader in Me is the best use of school resources and whether a separate, prepackaged curriculum is necessary for skills educators may already foster organically. She also questioned the structure of Lighthouse Teams, emphasizing that parents should be meaningfully integrated with educators and administrators rather

than placed on separate parent teams. She said she looked forward to attending the upcoming parent sessions to learn more.
Laura Simpson asked for clarification on how the program is implemented, particularly the balance between direct instruction, integration into existing curriculum, and adult modeling. She expressed concern that relying heavily on the broadly defined concept of modeling did not seem like a sufficiently clear pedagogical approach. Gary clarified that the percentages discussed reflected his own approach and emphasized that adults should consistently model the habits while direct instruction introduces students to the framework.
Alexis echoed concerns raised by other members and questioned whether a leadership model originally developed for business settings is appropriate for young children. Speaking from her experience as a neurodivergent parent raising a neurodivergent child, she expressed concern that the framework could be too structured for students who are creative, neurodivergent, or learn differently. She stated that she plans to attend the upcoming parent sessions to learn more but currently has concerns about the program's approach.

During public Q&A, Cherise Williams asked how families can find out who serves on their school's Lighthouse Team. Whtiney stated that this information would be shared with families as implementation continues.

Venus Ketchum submitted a comment thanking Alexis for her transparency regarding personal growth and the potential trauma associated with it.

No additional questions were raised through Zoom or the Spanish and Bangla interpretation rooms. Another participant submitted a positive comment about Leader in Me and its impact on students.

A final question was asked about whether the October 14 parent session would be recorded. Presenters confirmed that it would be recorded and posted online.

Wonder Girls Presentation
Irene Robles, co-founder of Wonder Girls, presented an overview of the nonprofit organization, founded with Natalie Maniscalco, which focuses on empowering girls through leadership, confidence building, mentorship, community service, and personal development.

Irene announced that Wonder Girls will launch at I.S. 10 in District 30 in October, with Paulina Lopez serving as Program Coordinator. The program primarily serves girls ages 12–18 and runs from October through May, offering workshops, mentorship, career exposure, field trips, community service, and wellness activities.

Irene shared that Wonder Girls has served more than 3,000 girls, expanded to approximately 27 schools across New York and New Jersey, and awarded more than $75,000 in college scholarships.
During discussion, Alexis Kalyanides shared that Irene is her cousin and helped connect the organization with District 30. Members expressed interest in becoming mentors and expanding the program to additional District 30 schools. Irene also discussed the possibility of a community-based program and virtual Speaker Series for students who do not attend participating schools.

Linda Chung-Leung shared that she has a young daughter who is currently navigating challenges with confidence and self-image. She asked whether Wonder Girls offers programs for girls outside of participating schools, including independent or virtual opportunities. Irene explained that Wonder Girls currently operates a community-based group in NJ for girls from various schools and would be open to discussing a similar community program.

Victoria Medelius thanked Irene for the presentation and said that partnering with I.S. 10 was a strong fit because of the principal's passion and involvement. She expressed hope that the program would be successfully piloted and expanded throughout District 30 and stated that she planned to sign up as a mentor.

Ms. Lisa Hidalgo, District 30 Community Superintendent's Report
Superintendent Lisa Hidalgo welcomed families to the 2026–2027 school year and introduced District 30 leadership and family support staff. She reviewed the district's HEART values and strategic priorities and shared that District 30 welcomed more than 24,000 students across 43 schools. She highlighted the district's third annual Back-to-School Community Event at I.S. 145, where school supplies, books, backpacks, food and other resources were distributed to families.

Superintendent Hidalgo reviewed 2026 academic data, reporting District 30 averages of 54.8% in ELA and 61.4% in Math. She outlined the District's five priorities for 2026–2027: literacy/NYC Reads, mathematics/NYC Solves, safe and inclusive schools, college and career readiness, and attendance.
In response to earlier concerns regarding immigrant families, Superintendent Hidalgo reviewed NYCPS protocols concerning non-local law enforcement, including ICE, and resources provided to schools. She explained that schools have designated staff to support immigrant students and families, connect them with legal and community resources, and coordinate with Project Open Arms and trusted community organizations.
The district then provided an update on AI and screen-time guidance. Staff explained that there is a moratorium on student-facing AI for 2K–8 students. Teacher facing AI may be

used for approved instructional planning and operational purposes but not for areas such as grading, behavior management, placement or promotion. The screen-time guidance does not apply to assistive technology required through an IEP or 504 Plan.
Recommended limits on one-to-one device use were also reviewed, along with exceptions for assessments and required instructional programs. District staff discussed implementation concerns involving programs such as Amplify and explained that principals had been surveyed for feedback. CEC 30 members were also asked to complete a survey regarding the new guidance.

Resolution 211 -Resolution Urging Governor Hochul to NOT Opt In to the "Federal Education Freedom Tax Credit Program" under Donald Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill"
Resolution 211, authored by Alexis Kaloyanides and co-sponsored by Whitney Toussaint, Victoria Medelius, Kayla Spence, Estela Nguema, and Xochitl Cohen-Garcia, urged Governor Kathy Hochul not to opt New York State into the Federal Education Freedom Tax Credit Program. The resolution raised concerns about the program's potential effects on public-school funding, low-income students, students with disabilities, and charitable giving, and called for CEC 30 to share the resolution with the State Legislature's Education Committees.
Members thanked Alexis Kaloyanides for drafting the resolution and expressed support for protecting public-school funding. Members requested that footnotes/references be added for the printed version and discussed sending the resolution to the State Assembly and Senate Education Committees with a brief introductory message. An additional amendment was proposed to strengthen the fifth WHEREAS clause by specifying that voucher participation in cited states was as high as 95% among students who had not previously attended public schools. Two additional members also requested to be added as co-sponsors.
There were no public comments on the resolution. The Council then voted on Resolution 211 with the three amendments, and it passed unanimously**.**
Rollcall:
Linda Chung-Leung: IN FAVOR
Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: IN FAVOR
Alexis Kaloyanides: IN FAVOR
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: IN FAVOR
Victoria Medelius: IN FAVOR
Estela Nguema: IN FAVOR
Marlene Rossi: IN FAVOR
Nadeea Saeed: IN FAVOR
Laura Simpson: IN FAVOR
Kayla Spence: IN FAVOR
Whitney Toussaint: IN FAVOR

Resolution 212 -Resolution Urging NYCPS to Take Stronger Action to Protect Immigrant Students and Families from ICE

Resolution 212, authored by Alexis Kaloyanides, urged NYCPS and District 30 to take stronger measures to support and protect immigrant students and families amid increased immigration enforcement activity. The resolution called for continued Know Your Rights trainings, expanded Project Open Arms support, partnerships with community organizations, regular emergency response training for school communities, designated Project Open Arms contacts at every school, and improved communication and resources for families. It also proposed school-based safety and emergency response teams, including support during arrival and dismissal, and called on NYCPS and District 30 leadership to continue prioritizing the safety of students and families regardless of immigration status.

Alexis Kaloyanides spoke about her personal experiences with ICE activity in District 30 communities and the fear experienced by immigrant families, emphasizing that existing resources and information are not enough and that schools and educators should be empowered to provide greater support.

Linda Chung-Leung noted that students and families can be vulnerable during their daily travel to and from school and emphasized the importance of the community looking out for one another. Other members thanked Alexis for drafting the resolution, praised its specific recommendations, and discussed the importance of extending protections beyond school buildings into surrounding neighborhoods. Members also recognized ongoing efforts by Superintendent Hidalgo, Project Open Arms, CEC members, and community organizations, while noting the need for consistent implementation and communication across schools.

Resolution 212 passed unanimously.

Rollcall:

Linda Chung-Leung: IN FAVOR
Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: IN FAVOR
Alexis Kaloyanides: IN FAVOR
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: IN FAVOR
Victoria Medelius: IN FAVOR
Estela Nguema: IN FAVOR
Marlene Rossi: IN FAVOR
Nadeea Saeed: IN FAVOR
Laura Simpson: IN FAVOR
Kayla Spence: IN FAVOR
Whitney Toussaint: IN FAVOR

Second Public Agenda and Speaking Time

No members of the public provided comments. Interpreters also confirmed there were no comments in the language interpretation rooms.

Announcements
Next CEC 30 Calendar Meeting: Monday, October 19, at the District 30 office on the 5th floor.
Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) Meeting: Wednesday, September 30, at the Michael J. Petrides School on Staten Island, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the public were encouraged to attend and speak directly to the Chancellor about education-related concerns.
Know Your Rights Session: Thursday at 6:00 p.m., held virtually, with Spanish interpretation available. The Council encouraged everyone to register and share the information widely, including with people outside District 30. The session was being held with Make the Road New York.
The Council reminded attendees that they could continue sending comments or concerns to CEC30@schools.nyc.gov.

Adjournment: 9:50 p.m

Business Meeting

Call to Order: 10:02 p.m

Roll Call:
Linda Chung-Leung: Present
Alexis Kaloyanides: Present
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: Present- Virtual
Victoria Medelius: Present
Estela Nguema: Present
Marlene Rossi: Present
Nadeea Saeed: Present
Laura Simpson: Present
Whitney Toussaint: Present
Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: Present
Kayla Spence: Present
Appoint New Member – Michael Garcia: Present

Reading and Approval of August 2026 Minutes
August Minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

Speaker Series
Members discussed the following potential Speaker Series presentations:

Wonder Girls
NYC Solves – a presenter will be coordinated for an upcoming Speaker Series.
Kickoff to Kindergarten – follow-up is still needed to confirm the presentation.

October Meeting Speakers and Presentations
Members reviewed the planned items for the October 19 meeting:
School Construction Authority (SCA): Presentation regarding the selected school construction site at 43-58 11th Street, connected to the OneLIC area.
School Spotlight: Members agreed to reach out to PS 111 first; if unavailable, they would move down the list, with PS 228 mentioned as another option.
District 30 Presentation: Superintendent Lisa Hidalgo will have a member of her team present. Members agreed this would become a standing agenda item in addition to the Superintendent's Report.
Members also requested an update on topics discussed during the September meeting, including ODP-related matters.
Members agreed the October agenda was sufficiently full and that additional presentation ideas could be considered for November or future Speaker Series events.

Back-to-School Drive
Members reflected on the District 30 Back-to-School event and thanked everyone who helped distribute supplies. CEC 30 gave out all of its school supplies, and members emphasized that resources were intended for families attending with their children so there would be enough for those present.
Members also thanked IS 145, its staff, CEC volunteers, and community partners for supporting the event, and encouraged greater contributions of school supplies from elected officials and partners at future events.

Member Reports
Alexis Kaloyanides: Reported meeting with JGR and families of trans youth regarding CEC 30 Resolution 203, and attending the PEP, where she spoke about several CEC 30 resolutions, including concerns regarding screen time and protections for immigrant students and families.

Victoria Medelius: Shared updates on school renovations, including improvements at I.S. 10 and the replacement of the auditorium audiovisual system at P.S./I.S. 126. She noted the importance of continuing to advocate for needed improvements in District 30 schools.

Marlene Rossi: Shared an update regarding P.S. 127, noting that during Summer Rising there were several very hot days, including temperatures above 85 degrees. She followed up with contacts regarding previously allocated funding for cooling improvements at the school. She reported that the funding had been allocated and project paperwork had been

signed, with potential cooling improvements planned for the auditorium and another school area. She said she would continue following up and share updates with the council.

Kayla Spence: Reported that she and Whitney Toussaint, through Council Member Julie Won's office, met with the NYC Parks Department to discuss the Schoolyards to Playgrounds initiative, which would open unused schoolyards as public playgrounds on weekends. Parks will provide a list of participating District 30 schools and priority schools located in "playground deserts," where children do not have a walkable playground within a half mile. Kayla noted that the first step would be securing principal support, followed by identifying funding for custodial staffing. She also shared that they would continue advocating with the Borough President's Office and other elected officials. She mentioned an upcoming meeting with CEC representatives and community boards and invited members to share issues they would like to raise with the community board education chairs and the Borough President's Office.

Linda Chung- Leung: Provided an update on the gym renovation project at P.S. 2Q – The Alfred Zimberg School. She shared that she participated in a walkthrough with vendors in July but later learned from Principal that the project had been removed despite originally being expected to be completed before the school year. After Linda followed up with the parties involved, the project was placed back on track. She noted that the gym does not have air conditioning and was extremely hot during Summer Rising. Linda said she would continue following up to make sure the work is completed.

Whitney reminded members, the School Construction Authority's upcoming virtual office hours and encouraged members to attend or send concerns they wanted raised.

Whitney Toussaint: Shared that she spoke with Teresa from Council Member Julie Won's office regarding the Girl Scouts of Greater New York, which is looking to partner with more District 30 schools. Whitney said she would reach out to Dania Campbell, VP of Membership and Volunteer Experience, as the Girl Scouts have had some difficulty connecting with schools in the district. She also discussed the required quarterly OneLIC Task Force updates, noting that follow-up is needed to ensure representatives from the appropriate teams and the Mayor's Office provide CEC 30 with updates on OneLIC and related development. Whitney also encouraged members to attend Adriana's PEP representative check-ins when possible and noted that members would be added to the distribution list for those updates.

CEC Member Email Accounts -Members discussed creating separate Gmail accounts for CEC business after determining that using CEC30.org email addresses through Google would cost over $1,000. A standardized naming format was proposed using each member's first name, last initial, and CEC 30 designation. Members were asked to check

whether the proposed usernames were available, after which instructions would be shared on how to update the accounts. The goal is to have consistent CEC email addresses at no additional cost and add the new addresses to the liaison/contact list before October school outreach. Members agreed that the new CEC emails could be included publicly on the liaison list.

Committee Reports

Members discussed the need to add members of the public to CEC 30 committees, so committee meetings can be properly scheduled and held. Committee chairs were asked to submit a one-sentence mission statement to Lesley by Thursday for a community outreach email announcing available committees.

Members also discussed onboarding Michael, providing him with committee information and the CEC Member Manual, and updating school liaison contact lists before outreach begins in October.

New Business

Members discussed planning for the January 12 Town Hall. The Council will review a narrowed list of possible school locations at the next meeting, with public transportation and auditorium accessibility identified as important considerations.

Members also reviewed the Town Hall format. CEC 30 will solicit questions from District 30 families and Council members, then select and organize questions for the Chancellor. Members emphasized developing specific requests and allowing time for questions from attendees during the event.

Additional in-person planning meetings will be scheduled to finalize the questions, script, and Town Hall timeline.

Adjournment: 10:38 p.m.