

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 28
Calendar/Business Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2024

ATTENDANCE

Member	Position	Attendance
Vijah Ramjattan	President	Present
Quentin Mezetin	1st Vice President	Present
Yutao Cheng	2nd Vice President	Present
Nathifa Lewis	Recording Secretary	Present
Tanya Wendt	Treasurer	Present
Paquita Williams	Member	Present
Julie Suh	Member	Present
G.K Kalyanaram	Member	Present
Nurun Swapna	Member	Excused Absent
Lu Zhao	Member	Present
Simone Dornbach	Member	Present
Lauren Clavin	Member	Absent

NON-MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Dr. Eric Blake	Superintendent	Present
----------------	----------------	---------

Calendar Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Ramjattan at 6:45pm
 Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis and Quorum was met.

- President Vijah Ramjattan opened the meeting and gave greetings. He asked Spanish interpreters to give instructions in Spanish.
- Superintendent Dr. Eric Blake gave his report and presented various topics/data. A couple of the topics were on literacy proficiency, math proficiency, chronic absenteeism, and parent engagement. He also announced that D28 has been piloting of various AI programs.
- Deputy Superintendent Dr. Hall gave greetings and provided feedback on new HMH curriculum.
- Family Leadership Coordinator Sonia Rueda gave greetings and provided updates for upcoming meetings, election, and workshops.
- PEP Representative, Adriana Alicea gave greetings and provided upcoming meetings dates, location, and time.
- President Ramjattan announced some important awareness for the month of October.
- Office of District Planning Presentations by Director & Associate Director of Queens Planning - Reba Lichtenstein & Rhea Cumberbatch
- FACE Liaison Tameka Nurse-Carter gave greetings and provided a brief update.
- President Ramjattan asked all Principals that are in attendance to say hello to the community.

- Queens South H.S Presentation by Executive Director, Steven Chernigoff
- CEC28 Bylaws Committee Members discussed and presented updated bylaws to the community.
- President Ramjattan asked the Community and Council members to give feedback on the updated bylaws. President Ramjattan announced that everyone has two weeks to email their feedback to the CEC inbox as the members will be voting on the changes in the November meeting.
- Office of QBP Donovan Richards gave greetings and provided updates.
- CPAC and QBP PEP Appointee gave greetings and provided updates
- President Ramjattan asked Principals who were present to give greetings and give feedback for the first day of school.

Member Reports

- Council Member gave greetings. He stated that he plans on visiting his schools in the coming weeks and will report back in November.
- Council Member gave greetings and provided feedback regarding his recent school visits.
- Council Member provided an update on her recent school visit at PS312. She voiced that the school is not somewhat well known so she's asking the district enrollment center for assistance. She also mentioned that she has some more school visit scheduled for the coming weeks.
- Council Member gave greetings and gave her recent school visit feedback. She voiced that MS 287 still has safety concerns regarding the two-way street which has caused some accidents in front of the school. Council Member announced that Emerson has a new PC. She also mentioned she has some school visits schedule for the coming weeks. She also gave feedback on her recent SLT meeting.
- Council Member gave greetings and gave feedback on her recent school visit with MS 217. She announced that a project from last where the school will turn an unused room into a tech classroom is moving forward. She plans on visit again as her and Principal ran out of time. She voiced that Middle School needs to have a better application process and better communication as many parents are complaining.
- Council Member voiced recently QSHS Superintendent gave a presentation on the new math curriculum. He voiced that the initial results were not good. He thinks the new math is a great idea but doesn't fit in a large-scale public school. He asked ODP to elaborate on the plans to open a new campus for the Queens HS for the Sciences at York. He also asked ODP to provide feedback on FHHS as it's very overcrowded even with a decrease in enrollment. He wants to know if there's a plan to release some pressure.
- ODP answered the Council Member questions and mentioned that they are in negotiations and having conversations about additional classrooms. ODP already visited the school over the summer with members from Dr. Van's Ess team.

- ODP also commented on the new building on Hillside. They are planning on having conversations with all groups and come up with a plan as a few schools are already interested in being recited.
- QSHS Executive Director, Steven Chernigoff answered the Council Member questions regarding the new math curriculum.
- Council Members gave feedback on the recent correspondences that he had with his schools regarding events, meetings, and policies. He plans on attending upcoming SLT meetings.
- Council Member gave feedback on her recent PS 99 PTA meeting and PS 196 SLT meeting. She plans on visiting her schools soon and will report back. She gave feedback on recent visit to PS 80.
- Council Member gave greetings and gave feedback on her recent school visit with MS190. She asked the district office to elaborate on the committee that was recently formed to help with the new computer-based testing. She urges the district to take this seriously as small children needs to learn how to type. She also voiced that not all household have computers nor internet. She voiced every school should teach children how to type before they are tested. She also urged everyone to vote and announced some upcoming events in the community.
- Council Member gave feedback on his recent PC interview at MS 217.

Public Comments

- Community Activist and Member voiced that's there's a lack of science teachers. She is asking for more school safety agents as cars are running the stop signs since there's no traffic light.
- Community member and Principal voiced that her school is still in a construction zone. She voiced that they were trailers outside but now have the new classrooms addition. She is asking partnership with enrollment to get this going with PreK and 3K so that she can proceed with the hiring process for 3K and PreK.
- Community member voiced his concerns about smoke shops that are popping up near schools. He voiced it is not a good environment for children and community needs to come together with a solution to remove these smoke shops.
- Council Member commented on the smoke shop issue and voiced that they are some elected officials that are already working on this issue, but we need to continue to push them. He urges the rest of the council members to write a resolution on this issue. He also voiced that community boards also approves licenses to smoke shops so community boards need to take responsibility for this matter which should be included in the resolution.
- Community Activist from CB12 gave greetings and voiced that she is MWBE certified. She explained that MWBE is the Minority Women or Men in Business Enterprise. They are in attendance to let the schools and Principals know that they can help with their concerns. She voiced that schools are getting funds too late to spend and majority of the money has been given back. CB12 is requesting

any schools in the CB 12 area to reach out with any concerns or request if it relates to your facility or the school construction authority.

- UFT Rep gave greetings and provided updates on new events and programs that they are implementing.
- Office of Sen. Leroy Comrie gave greetings and provided updates. The smoke shop bill number was announced to the community in case they need to look it up. She mentioned they have been fighting for years for this bill as smoke shops only needs to be 500 feet away from a school which is extremely wrong.
- President Ramjattan asked the interpreters to ask if anyone had any questions. He dismissed the interpreters for the night.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:18pm

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Member	Position	Attendance
Vijah Ramjattan	President	Present
Quentin Mezetin	1st Vice President	Present
Yutao Cheng	2nd Vice President	Present
Nathifa Lewis	Recording Secretary	Present
Tanya Wendt	Treasurer	Present
Paquita Williams	Member	Present
Julie Suh	Member	Present
G.K Kalyanaram	Member	Present
Nurun Swapna	Member	Excused Absent
Lu Zhao	Member	Present
Simone Dornbach	Member	Present
Lauren Clavin	Member	Absent

Meeting was called to order by President Ramjattan at 9:25pm
Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis and Quorum was met

1st Vice President Quentin Mezetin went over 2nd Vice President Yutao Cheng September in-person and virtual absence form.

1st Vice President Quentin Mezetin made a motion to approve 2nd Vice President Yutao Cheng in-person and virtual absence for September Calendar and Business Meeting.

Seconded by President Ramjattan

10 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 absent – Motion passed.

1st Vice President Quentin Mezetin went over Council Member Nurun Swapna October in-person and virtual absence form.

1st Vice President Quentin Mezetin made a motion to approve Council Member Nurun Swapna in-person and virtual absence for October Calendar and Business Meeting.

Seconded by President Ramjattan

10 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 absent – Motion passed.

1st Vice President Quentin Mezetin went over Council Member Julie Suh October in-person absence form.

1st Vice President Quentin Mezetin made a motion to approve Council Member Julie Suh in-person absence for October Calendar and Business Meeting.

Seconded by President Ramjattan

10 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 absent – Motion passed.

President Ramjattan went over 1st Vice President Quentin Mezetin October in-person absence form.

President Ramjattan made a motion to approve Council Member Quentin Mezetin in-person absence for October Calendar and Business Meeting.

Seconded by Member Lu Zhao

10 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 absent – Motion passed.

1st Vice President Quentin Mezetin went over Council Member Lauren Clavin October in-person and virtual absence form.

1st Vice President Quentin Mezetin made a motion to approve Council Member Lauren Clavin in-person and virtual absence for October Calendar and Business Meeting.

Seconded by President Ramjattan

5 in favor; 4 opposed; 2 absent; abstain 1 – Motion not passed.

Motion was made by President Ramjattan to adopt September Calendar and Business Meeting Minutes

Seconded by 1st VP Quentin Mezetin

Council Members discussed moving January Calendar and Business meeting date amongst themselves.

10 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 absent; abstain 0 – Motion passed.

Council Members and A.A discussed CEC28 budget. Members decided to take a vote on purchasing a new computer every year. President Ramjattan made a motion to allocate money to buy a new computer.

Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis

4 in favor; 4 opposed; 2 absent; abstain 2 – Motion not passed.

President Ramjattan made a motion to allocate money to buy a new podium banner.

Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis

10 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 absent; abstain 0 – Motion passed.

President Ramjattan made a motion to allocate \$300 to Pcard.

Roll call by Recording Secretary Nathifa Lewis

10 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 absent; abstain 0 – Motion passed.

President Ramjattan proposed making a committee to modify the school visitation form. Member Simone Dornbach replied stating there's already one and she will send to everyone. Member Gurumurthy Kalyanaram and Member Paquita Williams will look over form and make suggestions if needed.

A.A reminded President Ramjattan to ask Council Members if they would like to ask Mr. Rampersant any questions as he will be presenting at the next meeting. President Ramjattan asked A.A to send an email out and get Council Members feedback.

Council Members discussing having a Middle and High School Admissions Fair amongst themselves. Two teams were created, and instructions were given by President Ramjattan.

President Ramjattan made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Seconded by Treasurer Tanya Wendt

Business Meeting Adjourned at [10:30pm]

Respectfully Submitted by

Nathifa Lewis
Recording Secretary