

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 28
Annual/Business Meeting Minutes
January 8th, 2026

ATTENDANCE

| Member | Position | Attendance |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Quentin Mezetin | President | Present |
| Lauren Clavin | 1st Vice President | Present |
| Jennifer Sobers | 2nd Vice President | Present |
| Chantel Chambers | Recording Secretary | Present |
| Olessia Bauer | Treasurer | Present |
| Lu Zhao | Member | Present |
| Kenya Townsend | Member | Present |
| Annie Cok | Member | Present |
| Paquita Williams | Member | Present |
| Eric Gretch | Member | Present |

NON-MEMBER ATTENDANCE

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Dr. Eric Blake | Superintendent | Remote Present |
| Tameka Nurse-Carter | FACE Specialist | Present |

Calendar Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Council Member Quentin Mezetin at 6:41pm
 Roll call was done by Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers and Quorum was met.

- President Quentin Mezetin opened the meeting, greeted and wished everyone a happy new year, thanked everyone for attending. He asked Spanish Interpreters to provide instructions in Spanish. 1st VP Lauren Clavin provided chat etiquette. He asked Council Members Lu Zhao and Kenya Townsend to monitor the speakers list which will end at 7:20pm. President Mezetin thanked all the members and A.A for all the work they do behind the scenes.
- President Quentin Mezetin congratulated Dr. Hall on her new promotion and asked her to bring greetings and farewell speech.
- President Mezetin went over the month January awarenesses.
- President Mezetin spoke briefly about a young 15-month-old that was killed by his mom in District 28.
- Superintendent Dr. Eric Blake gave his report. He welcomed everyone and said his report will be short as it's the first month of the calendar year. He voiced that D28 celebrates all differences, racial differences, ethnic differences, language differences, and belief differences. He also voiced that his four priorities are still the same. Those priorities are to improve the outcome in math, literacy, chronic absenteeism and to continue increasing parent and family engagement and community partnership. He also touched upon the district negotiable standards that every Principals are aware of. He congratulated and welcomed the new Chancellor. He also congratulated Dr. Hall on her new role and voiced he will be

in touch with the CEC28 President to assist with the hiring process of the new deputy superintendent. He also said that all his schools have completed their class size applications. He congratulated PS160 and Principal Hicks for opening their new UFT Teacher Center. He continued to give feedback on various meetings, events and deadlines.

- Presentation by PS 121Q Principal Patrello. He presented all the great things about his school.
- President Mezetin updated the everyone on the interview for CEC28 and asked 2nd Vice President Sobers to proceed with the interview
- 2nd Vice President Jennifer Sobers went over the interview procedures with the candidate and community
- Council Members proceeded with the interview process. The candidate introduced herself and made a two-minute statement.
- Respective Council Members proceeded with asking the candidate the questions Council Members came up with.
- President Mezetin asked elected officials offices to bring greetings.
- President Mezetin asked Principals in attendance to bring greetings
- Family Leadership Coordinator Sonia Rueda gave greetings and spoke about the workshops that she has already started and gave feedback on upcoming workshops. She spoke about the collaboration she does work with. She also touched upon mental wellness for all.
- Dr. Benoit from district office gave greetings
- Rajendra Jimenez-Jailall from district office gave greetings
- Laris Stone from district office gave greetings
- President Mezetin thanked all the PCs for their hard work and all school staff.

Public Comments

- CB13 Member came in person to bring greetings and provided updates
- D28 parent came in person to bring greetings and urge other parents to attend meetings such as cec to voice their concerns and stay informed. She also asked that schools put their SLT info on the websites so it's easily accessible for parents.
- CB 12 gave greetings and announced that she is now a member of the Community Engagement Team for Councilman Ty Hankerson. She is looking forward to collaborating with district office and CEC28 members.
- Civilian Compliant Review Board Member gave greetings and provided important updates.
- UFT Rep gave greetings and thanked the presenters for their wonderful presentations. He gave feedback on the new teacher center at PS160. He gave a brief update on paraprofessionals. He also mentioned that there's a teacher shortage and he also touched upon working on better the teachers' pension plan.
- D28 Parent and ex-cec28 council gave greetings and shared that she wanted to inform families in District 28, no matter where they live, they can apply for pre-K

and kindergarten to go to PS303. She said they do not have busing, but children can get the Omni Card.

Member Reports

- Council Member wished everyone a happy new year. She gave feedback on her school visit to PS86 and PS48 with a fellow council member. She voiced that her heart is heavy thinking about Minneapolis community and what they have been going through with ICE. She also gave feedback on CPAC meeting she attended. She wished Chancellor Samuels the best of luck in his new role. She also said that CEC's can be entrusted to do a lot more as the members are on the ground with our schools. She also said that they could do with a better budget for much more and their administrative assistant. She is for reforming mayor control or the end of mayoral control.
- Council Member gave feedback on her recently attended January DLT meeting. She said among the things that were discussed were New York City Rise College savings accounts for students, and there is willingness to hear ideas and feedback about Summer Rising, planning of which is well underway. She provided feedback on recently attended SLT meetings at PS55 and PS121. She said currently the SLTs are discussing their CEP goals. She said she agreed with the parents that schools should have their SLT info on their websites and she will advocate for that as well. She voiced that she's attended an SLT meeting for the Young Women's Leadership and is looking forward to visiting the school. She said it's been very difficult and sad to see the news that's coming out of Minneapolis.
- Council Member gave feedback on her recent school visit to PS174. She also provided feedback on recent visits to PS303 and PS48, in preparation for CEC28 Town hall. She said she has been speaking to principals regarding their capital planning priorities. She also said that she attended the opening of the UFT teachers center at PS160 and provided feedback. She voiced that she attended PS160 as a child, so going back there and seeing the progress that the school is making is very touching to her.
- Council Member gave her feedback on her recent school visit to PS 287. She touched upon the school grants that were received, she went through all the issues the school has been going through pertaining to their renovation projects. Her report was shared on zoom with the community.
- Council member provided an update about his recent PC interview at PS303. He gave his feedback. He voiced that PS54 was allocated funds for projects that were never delivered. He has been trying to advocate for the school and has been in communication with SCA. He voiced that these projects take forever which is a big problem. Council Member supported the idea of an after-school theater program and suggested discussing more arts-focused pathways like those that exist for academic programs. He shared an example of a talented child who missed out on a specialized arts school due to long commute challenges

and noted how schools like Mark Twain help prepare students for top arts high schools. He emphasized the importance of having local arts programs in D28, so students don't lose valuable opportunities. He was interrupted by an in person D28 parent due to his length of report, among other reasons. He noted the length, clarified his position, and said he was finished.

- Council Member started her report by stating that parents' concerns are rooted in their feelings and love for their children, and that those feelings are valid and deserve to be heard. She spoke about her background as a former public-school teacher and a parent; she described her role in helping families navigate concerns by encouraging direct communication with classroom teachers and supporting outreach to D28. She also shared that two water fountains were restored and bathrooms were temporarily repaired over the break, acknowledged these as small but important wins, expressed empathy for those who felt triggered or frustrated, and committed to continued advocacy and follow-up.
- Council Member gave feedback on her recent school visits with fellow CEC members, noting that co-located school visits offered a valuable new perspective. She also mentioned participating in PS80's "Deck the Halls" event with students and teachers and attending the inauguration of District 28 Council Member Ty Hankerson. She's looking forward to her upcoming school visits and CEC28 Chancellor's town hall in March.
- Council Member gave feedback on her recent school visits, including PS40 with Principal Brinker and AP Williams, and thanked principals for clearly outlining their SCA project needs. At PS40, she noted the need for electrical work to fully connect a washer and dryer, as well as a request for an elevator to provide access from the first to fifth floors. She also shared concerns from another school visit regarding a hole with falling debris in the auditorium as a top priority, highlighted positive academic progress across schools, and said her role in gathering and passing along school needs to DOE leadership.
- Council Member gave his feedback on his recent school visits to all three of his schools. His schools are JHS190, PS117, and PS139. He said that all the principals were welcoming, informative, and that schools overall looked strong despite ongoing needs. He highlighted a concerning pattern where allocated capital funds appear to be delayed or unaccounted for, which was surprising to both the speaker and principals, and suggested further discussion to understand the issue.
- Council Member reminded attendees that information about upcoming "Know Your Rights" meetings is available on the district superintendent's website and encouraged D75 parents to use the 811Q link for additional, specialized support. He stressed the importance of respectful communication during council meetings, noting that while everyone's feelings are valid, discussions should remain orderly and professional, and conflicts can often be resolved through private, respectful conversations. He addressed the parent that interrupted the meeting and asked for her to respect the rules. He also highlighted feedback

from parents regarding the length of council reports, suggesting that updates could be summarized or shared via newsletters so that important information is communicated efficiently without extending meetings unnecessarily. He also shared feedback on the various meetings he attended and school visits. He emphasized collaboration and effective communication as key to maintaining a productive and respectful council environment.

- Council Member voiced the value of voluntary procedures and providing high-level reports, while acknowledging that meetings can feel overwhelming or confusing. She said the members can drop the links of their reports so that the community will be able to read and see ahead of time. She said the community can come to the meeting and ask questions, and they can be resolved in two minutes. They also noted that attention spans have waned over time, highlighting the importance of balancing essential updates with concise, accessible communication.
- President Mezetin asked the Spanish interpreters if they had any questions from the Spanish room. He wished everyone a happy holiday season. He made a motion to adjourn the calendar meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:57pm

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
ATTENDANCE

| Member | Position | Attendance |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Quentin Mezetin | President | Present |
| Lauren Clavin | 1st Vice President | Present |
| Jennifer Sobers | 2nd Vice President | Present |
| Chantel Chambers | Recording Secretary | Present |
| Olessia Bauer | Treasurer | Present |
| Lu Zhao | Member | Present |
| Kenya Townsend | Member | Present |
| Annie Cok | Member | Present |
| Paquita Williams | Member | Present |
| Eric Gretch | Member | Present |

Meeting was called to order by President Mezetin at 9:18pm

Roll call was done by Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers and Quorum was met.

Recording Secretary mentioned 2nd Vice President was present for the business meeting and was also here for the calendar meeting, she was just late for the calendar meeting.

1st Vice President Lauren Clavin announced that she was no absences to report

Council Members discussed the logistics for CEC28 Chancellor's Town Hall amongst themselves. Roll call was done by Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers

Council Members decided to narrow down their potential schools to PS48 as their first choice and MS217 as their second choice.

Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers made motion to table December Calendar and Business Meeting Minutes

Seconded by President Mezetin

President Mezetin announced that candidate G.K Gurumurthy has stepped down from running for a CEC seat. He also announced that the members will be voting for candidate Alex Segura and Cecily Xu. He said Alex was already interviewed and that's the reason why he was not reinterviewed today as the members had no further questions for him. He mentioned Alex could not attend today's meeting due to childcare.

President Mezetin made a motion to enter an in-person executive session where the members will be discussing the candidates and amongst themselves and then come back with their vote.

Seconded by 1st Vice President Lauren Clavin

President Meztin announced that the members were just in executive session, and they're back after discussing the candidates in an executive session. He asked the recording secretary to proceed with the roll call.

Roll call was done by Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers
 Recording Secretary announced that voting will be with Cecily Xu
 Roll call by Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers
 10 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 absent; 0 abstain.
 Cecily Xu was elected as CEC D28 Council Member

Roll call was done by Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers
 Recording Secretary announced that voting will be with Alex Segura
 Roll call by Recording Secretary Chantel Chambers
 10 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 absent; 0 abstain.
 Alex Segura was elected as CEC D28 Council Member

President Mezetin asked recording secretary to share her screen with SCA for so the members can start finalizing the SCA form with the top five priorities. The top five schools that were picked were PS54, PS175, PS312, PS140, and PS99. The members discussed the SCA capital planning results amongst themselves and agreed on the order of each school. All schools that completed their capital request form were listed on the SCA form by the council members.

President Mezetin asked members if they would like to discuss any new business.

President Mezetin made a motion to adjourn meeting

Business Meeting Adjourned at [10:14pm]

Respectfully Adopted by

Chantel Chambers
CEC 28 Recording Secretary

APPROVED