

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
Community Education Council 24
February Calendar and Business Meeting

Date Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Time 6:00 pm –9:30 pm

Location Public School 153
Maspeth Elementary School
60-02 60th Lane
Maspeth, New York 11378

ADA Fully Accessible

Mandarin, Polish and Spanish Interpreters Available In Person

Members

I.A. President	Veronica Piedra Leon
I.A. Vice President, IEP Representative	Connie Altamirano
Borough President Appointee/I.A. Treasurer	Mati Gonzalez
Recording Secretary	Michael Martizano
ELL Representative	Johanna Pineda
CEC Member	Matthew Crescio
CEC Member	Manisha Jain
CEC Member	Anna Karwowska
CEC Member	Guo Zhou
CEC Member	Juny Adames
District 75/CEC Member	Vacancy
Queens Borough Appointee/CEC Member	Vacancy

CALENDAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Roll Call by Michael Martizano, Recording Secretary
2. Election of President, Vice President and Treasurer
3. Vote on Member's Absences
4. Vote of No Confidence
5. CEC24 President's Report - Veronica Piedra Leon
6. D24 Superintendent, I.A. Superintendent Anthony Rivera's Report
7. **Resolution #174-** Resolution Opposing Proposals to Impose Permit Fees on Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) Funded by COMPASS or Other Government Sources, Sponsor: Matthew Crescio, Co-Sponsor: Connie Altamirano, Manisha Jain and Michael Martizano
Resolution 175 - Resolution for the Removal of Interim Acting President Veronica Piedra Leon, Sponsor: Matthew Crescio, Co-Sponsor: Connie Altamirano, Anna Karwowska

8. Public Session
9. Adjournment

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

10. Roll Call
11. Approval of December 2024 and January 2025 CEC24 Meeting Minutes
12. New Business
 - a. Treasurer's Report
 - b. Member Remuneration Issues
 - c. Member Attendance
 - d. Committee Meetings
 - e. School Liaison Visits
13. Old Business
14. Adjournment

Upcoming:

CEC24 March 2025 Calendar Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2025
Time: 5:00 - 9:30 pm*
Location: Public School 71
Forest Elementary
62-85 Forest Avenue
Ridgewood, New York 11385

*Parent Engagement Meeting
prior to CEC24 Meeting

ADA Fully Accessible

*Mandarin, Polish and Spanish
Interpreters Available In Person*

CEC24 Resolution #174

Sponsor: Matthew Crescio

Co-Sponsor: Connie Altamirano, Manisha Jain and Michael Martizano

1. **Resolution Opposing Proposals to Impose Permit Fees on Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) Funded by COMPASS or Other Government Sources**
Sponsored by Matthew Crescio, Co-Sponsor: Connie Altamirano, Manisha Jain and Michael Martizano

Whereas the Comprehensive Afterschool System of NYC (COMPASS) Program is comprised of over 890 programs serving young people enrolled in grades K-12, offering high-quality, no-cost programs that balance academics, recreation, enrichment, and cultural activities to support and strengthen the overall development of youth;

Whereas COMPASS programs aim to help young people build skills to support academic achievement, raise confidence, and cultivate leadership through service learning and civic engagement opportunities, fostering lifelong learners and productive citizens;

Whereas the Out-of-School Time Program initiative, the precursor to COMPASS, began in 2005 with an initial investment of \$46 million, and since its rebranding in 2014, COMPASS has integrated the best practices of OST while expanding its programming to serve middle school youth across the five boroughs;

Whereas COMPASS programs and all other afterschool Community-Based Organization (CBO) programs that are grant-funded leverage public and private spaces, including schools, community centers, religious institutions, public housing, and parks, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity for all families regardless of income or background;

Whereas the City of New York is currently facing significant budget challenges that have led to proposals to require Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) funded by COMPASS or other government sources to pay permit fees to use public school facilities for their programs;

Whereas the imposition of permit fees on CBOs would create a significant financial burden, forcing many programs to cease operations due to budget constraints, thereby depriving thousands of children and families of essential afterschool services;

Whereas any shift from a free program model to a fee-based structure to cover these costs would place an undue financial burden on families, many of whom already struggle to afford basic necessities, and would exacerbate inequities in access to enrichment and development opportunities;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Community Education Council District 24 (CEC24) strongly opposes any proposals to impose permit fees on Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), including COMPASS and all other grant-funded after school programs, for the use of public school facilities;

Be it further resolved that CEC24 urges the City of New York, the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), and other relevant agencies to protect the integrity and accessibility of COMPASS programs and all grant-funded after school programs by ensuring that they remain free and available to all families in need;

Be it further resolved that CEC24 calls upon local elected officials, including the City Council, Borough Presidents, and the Mayor's Office, to advocate for and secure funding to offset the costs of school facility usage, thereby preserving these vital programs for current and future generations of youth;

Be it further resolved that CEC24 will actively collaborate with other Community Education Councils, parent associations, and advocacy groups to amplify the importance of sustaining free, high-quality afterschool programs and preventing policies that would undermine their mission.

Resolved on this day:

Motioned by:

Seconded by:

Vote:

Adopted this [Insert Date] day of February, 2025, by the Community Education Council District 24.

CEC24 Resolution #175

Resolution for the Removal of Interim Acting President Veronica Piedra Leon

Sponsor: Matthew Crescio

Co-Sponsor: Connie Altamirano, Anna Karwowska

Whereas, the leadership of the Community Education Council for District 24 (CEC24) is critical to fulfilling its mission of advocating for students and families;

Whereas, Interim Acting President Veronica Piedra Leon has demonstrated a consistent failure to meet the responsibilities and duties of her position as outlined by the New York State Education Law and CEC24 bylaws;

Whereas, the following specific actions and inactions highlight a clear pattern of absenteeism, mismanagement, and neglect of leadership duties:

Attendance Violations

1. Missed seven (7) CEC24 meetings without providing official notification to council members, in violation of New York State Education Law, which permits a maximum of three (3) absences.
2. Called an emergency meeting on January 16 due to lack of planning, forcing members to adjust work schedules and childcare arrangements on short notice.
3. Failed to attend the emergency meeting that she herself called.

Failure to Fulfill Mandatory Duties

4. Attended only two (2) District Planning Meeting for the 2024-2025 school year, despite being a mandatory member or being required to send a representative to ensure parents' voices are heard.
5. Denied parents a voice at the table by failing to provide adequate leadership and representation.

Leadership Absence and Mismanagement

6. Absent as a leader for three (3) months, leaving the council without direction.
7. Sent an email placing blame on NYC DOE FACE for council issues, despite their lack of authority over CEC24 .
8. Disrespected and insulted fellow CEC24 members in the same email, blaming them for inaction while attempting to appear as a leader.

Translation Service Denial

9. Refused to approve translation services for a CEC24 member, hindering their ability to contribute effectively.

Intimidation, False Allegations

10. Attempted to file false allegations against a fellow council member, claiming they would violently attack other members, to silence dissent and remove them from the council.
11. Tried to convince other CEC24 members to support these false allegations, but they refused.

Reimbursement Delays

13. Delayed approval of reimbursement requests from certain members without providing reasons or explanations, contrary to bylaws.
14. Shifted blame to DOE for not signing off on forms that the President is required to handle.

Failure to Foster Collaboration

15. Failed to attend any council check-ins for the 2024-2025 school year, which are critical for fostering collaboration and unity.
16. Ignored requests from Presidents' Council to meet with CEC24, as required by New York State Education Law.

Historical Comparison and Lack of Advocacy

17. Since the establishment of CEC24 in 2002, the council has historically secured an average of \$3.75 million annually for school improvements and program expansions, including annexes, ELL, NEST, Horizon, STEAM, STEM, and Gifted & Talented programs, as well as free after-school programs funded by city and state grants. Under I.A. Veronica Leon leadership has not advocated for one program for D24. Therefore denying the students in D24 a superior education.
18. Under the leadership of IA Piedra Leon, no programs have been expanded, some have been cut, and no funding has been secured—marking the first time in 23 years that no funds have been allocated for school improvements.

Therefore, Be It Resolved:

1. That Interim Acting President Veronica Piedra Leon is hereby removed from her position as Interim Acting President of CEC24, effective immediately.
2. This resolution serves to restore competent and effective leadership to CEC24, ensuring the council can refocus on its mission to advocate for the students and families of District 24.
3. CEC24 will elect new leadership to fulfill the responsibilities of the President's role in accordance with the bylaws and New York State Education Law.

Resolved on this day:

Motioned by:

Seconded by:

Vote:

Adopted this [Insert Date] day of February, 2025, by the Community Education Council District 24.

Draft