



Community Education Council 24

Public School 71 Forest

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DRAFT CEC24 Calendar Meeting Minutes, August 25, 2026 @ PS 71

Call to Order/Welcome

. The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by CEC24 President Matthew Crescio.

Roll Call: Jullissa Mc Hugh, Recording Secretary

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

Excused: Anna Karwowska, Manisha Jain

Candidate/Voting

We have one candidate, Mr. Gabriel Solnica for a vacancy on the CEC24. The members took a vote and it did not pass. Another vote will take place next month.

Outcome

- Members debated whether the council could interview and vote on the same night and whether a representative from the Office of Family and Community Empowerment (FACE) had to be physically present.
- The meeting discussion cited Chancellor's Regulation D-140 and characterized FACE's role as verifying candidate eligibility, while stating that a FACE representative's physical presence was not required for the interview or vote.
- The transcript also stated that the vacancy must be publicized and that presidents' councils and other education groups must have an opportunity to submit recommendations and consult before the vacancy is filled.
- Because the vote did not produce a final appointment and members wanted more discussion, the matter was carried forward.

CEC24 President Matt Crescio Report

- Council leadership reported that P.S. 113 had been sanitized and repeatedly tested after an earlier death on the premises, and stated that the building was safe and ready to reopen. The underlying investigation remained with the NYPD and Medical Examiner.
- The council continued advocacy for P.S. 61 to retain the New York Junior Tennis League as its community-based organization provider after a DYCD contract change.
- Transportation and enrollment errors associated with the DOE transition from ATS to OASIS reportedly shifted some District 24 students into District 30 and affected busing. Enrollment records were said to be corrected, while transportation exceptions remained under review.
- Members sought continuation of the Gifted & Talented pathway at P.S./I.S. 87 through grades 6-8, stronger analysis of why families select charter and nonpublic schools, and a coordinated strategy linking programs, enrollment, capacity, class-size compliance, and capital planning.
- Q West/PS 437 is preparing to open and phase in. School Nutrition was working on kitchen and staffing readiness.
- PS/IS 119, no new project update on District Planning

District 24 Superintendent Anthony Rivera's Report by Deputy Superintendent Jose Jimenez

- District staff were conducting annual building-readiness walkthroughs covering facilities, safety, classrooms, curriculum delivery, and concerns raised by principals or custodial engineers.
- Teaching Matters was selected to provide job-embedded coaching for NYC Reads and NYC Solves implementation. The district described it as an experienced independent support organization able to serve both literacy and mathematics, including grades 6-8.
- The district clarified that Teaching Matters is a coaching/support partner, not a replacement curriculum. Members raised reasonable concerns about change fatigue and long-term continuity after schools had begun learning the prior support model.
- Parent-leadership trainings were announced on PA/PTA roles, recordkeeping, finances, SLT roles, and leadership best practices. The dates heard in the transcript should be checked against the official calendar because the recording may contain date errors.
- A parent-facing curriculum guide was being prepared for fall distribution. It was expected to explain how families can use TeachHub, access student information and

assessments, and understand ELA and mathematics curricula; it would be shared through District 24 channels, principals, and parent coordinators.

Guest Speaker, Rhea Cumberbath, Jullianne Cianciaruso, from Office of District Planning

District Planning described a yearly cycle of needs assessment, data analysis, consultation with superintendents and partner offices, community engagement, scenario development, and—when needed—a formal proposal.

Significant school changes require an Educational Impact Statement, a joint public hearing and public-comment analysis, and a vote by the Panel for Educational Policy.

School rezonings proceed under Chancellor’s Regulation A-185 and require close engagement with the CEC; the CEC votes on rezoning proposals for its district.

NEST and Horizon

Council leadership cited 147 elementary NEST/Horizon seats and only 39 middle-school seats in District 24 and asked where students go after fifth grade. District Planning could not answer during the meeting and said the Office of Special Education would need to trace student placements. The presenters identified space and funding as the main barriers to expansion and noted a new program expected at I.S. 71.

Member’s Discussion

Members highlighted the contrast between heavily enrolled P.S./I.S. 49 and nearby P.S. 128 around Juniper Valley Park. One speaker estimated roughly 1,300 students at P.S./I.S. 49 and about 700 at P.S. 128, while emphasizing that P.S./I.S. 49 had virtually no spare instructional space. These figures were conversational estimates, not verified counts.

- Districtwide “excess seats” do not mean every neighborhood has adequate capacity. The presentation identified a large elementary surplus in Corona/Elmhurst but a small deficit in the Glendale area.
- District Planning may respond with program additions, zone “right-sizing,” creation of zones for new schools, capital additions, or other changes, depending on the cause of the imbalance.
- Rezoning requires data analysis and community engagement and are ultimately voted on by the CEC. No rezoning proposal was made at this meeting.
- Class-size law adds pressure because fewer students per classroom can require more rooms even when enrollment is declining. Planning must protect specialty rooms and program integrity rather than treating every room as interchangeable capacity.

Meeting Adjourned.

CEC24 Business Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Meeting was called to order by CEC24 Recording Secretary Julissa McHugh

Minutes

- CEC24 Members approved the CEC24 July Minutes

Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer's Report was approved by the members.

Committee Reports

- The AA will send to all members the current Committees

Other Findings

- priorities for fall meetings, parent/SLT training, committee assignments, school-liaison responsibilities, meeting locations, and clearer standards for future vacancy interviews.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Minutes Submitted by:

Janet Kregler, CEC24 Administrative Assistant.