

Community Education Council District 8



New York City Department of Education

1230 Zerega Avenue, Rm. # 57, Bronx NY 10462 | Telephone: TBA | Email: cec8@schools.nyc.gov

CEC8 Officers

Crystal Rodriguez (President)
Tamara Farrell (BPA/VP1)
Lourdes I. Jibodh (BPA/VP2)
Gerald Cannon (Rec. Secretary)
Deirdre Riveccio (Treasurer)

CEC8 Members

Wanda Ivette Balines (D75 Rep.)
Cynthia Caldwell
Latoya Coleman (IEP Rep.)
Aileen Fadgen
Lourdes Rodriguez
Jasmine Ruiz
Mohammed Uddin (ELL Rep.)

District 8 Superintendent

Jennifer Joynt

CEC8 Administrative Assistant

Adam Mobley

Meeting Type: Business Meeting

Date: September 16, 2026

Time: 6 to 9 PM / Hybrid

Location/Platform: PS72, 2951 Dewey Avenue / Via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Tamara Farrell, CEC8 VP1/ BPA

Recording Secretary: Gerald Cannon

CALL TO ORDER

VP1/BPA Tamara Farrell called the meeting to order at **6:36 p.m.** and presided in person on behalf of President Crystal Rodriguez, who participated virtually. The meeting experienced initial technical difficulties involving audio, microphones, and virtual participation. At President Rodriguez's request, language interpreters provided participation instructions in Arabic, Bangla, and Spanish before roll call commenced. Quorum was established, with nine Councilmembers in-person, two participating virtually, and one absent for a total of eleven Councilmembers in attendance.

ROLL CALL / ATTENDANCE

Roll call was conducted by VP2/BPA Lourdes Jibodh on behalf of CEC8 Rec. Sec. Gerald Cannon.

Councilmembers Attendance Record

CEC8 Councilmembers	In-person Attendance	Absent	Virtual Attendance	Late Arrival	Excused Absence	Unexcused Absence
Wanda Ivette Balines (D75 Rep.)	x					
Cynthia Caldwell (CEC8 – Member)	x					
Gerald Cannon (CEC8 – Member)	x					
Latoya Coleman (IEP Rep.)	x					
Aileen Fadgen (CEC8 – Member)	x					
Tamara Farrell (CEC8 – VP1/BPA)	x					
Lourdes Jibodh (CEC8 – VP2/BPA)	x					
Deirdre Riveccio (CEC8 – Treasurer)	x					
Lourdes Rodriguez (CEC8 – Member)			x			
Jasmine Ruiz (CEC8 – Member)	x					
Mohammed Uddin (ELL Rep)		x				
Crystal Rodriguez (CEC8 – President)			x			

Attendance Total: 11 Members

Present: 9 | Absent: 1 | Virtual Attendance: 2 | Late Arrival: 0

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Due to the volume of documents and insufficient time for all council members to review them, a motion was made to table the July and August 2026 meeting minutes until the next meeting. A roll-call vote was conducted, and the motion carried.

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Council Action at 6:46 PM:

Motion made by: CM Latoya Coleman to table all the minutes from July and August/2026 until the following month to allow members adequate review time. **Second by:** VP1/BPA Farrell

Vote Total: 11

Yes: 10 | No: 0 | Abstentions: 1 | Absent/Not Voting: 1

Result: ☒ **Motion Carried** ☐ Motion Failed ☐ Motion Withdrawn ☐ Motion Tabled

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT & BUDGET SUMMARY

The financial report identified \$1,775 in member reimbursements and \$240 in council meeting expenses. Reported remaining allocations were \$17,125 for member reimbursement, \$2,640 for council meals, \$2,500 for webmaster services, and \$720 for general operating expenses, against a \$25,000 total budget.

Council Action at 6:54 PM:

Motion made by: D75 Rep Wanda I Balines to approved treasure's report and budget summary as presented by CM Riveccio. **Second by:** CM Latoya Coleman

Vote Total: 11

Yes: 11 | No: 0 | Abstentions: 0 | Absent/Not Voting: 1

Result: ☒ **Motion Carried** ☐ Motion Failed ☐ Motion Withdrawn ☐ Motion Tabled

NYC COUNCILMEMBER AMANDA FARIAS PUBLIC COMMENTS:

NYC Councilmember Amanda Farías addressed the Council and welcomed families and councilmembers back for the new school year. She provided updates on constituent services, district funding allocations, community resources, and upcoming events. She reported that her district office on Castle Hill Avenue had been affected by a fire approximately three weeks earlier. To maintain uninterrupted constituent services, her office temporarily relocated to 725 Castle Hill Avenue, at Disciples of Galilee (formerly St. John Vianney). She explained that services related to veterans, immigration, tenants, and homeowners remained available virtually, with in-person assistance arranged as needed. She anticipated that repairs to the original office could take four to six months. The office remained reachable at 718-792-1140. She announced the return of the Health Bucks program, offering \$10 packets of \$2 coupons redeemable for fresh produce at participating markets. Distribution would continue through the fall market season. Regarding the recently adopted City budget, Councilmember Farías highlighted the following funding allocations:

- Over \$7.5 million in capital funding for district schools, affordable housing, public safety improvements, and institutional revitalization.
- Over \$3.1 million in discretionary program funding for local programs and services.
- \$56 million in Bronx-wide capital funding secured through the Bronx Delegation.

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- An additional \$365,000 in discretionary program funding for borough-wide initiatives.

Councilmember Farías also announced several upcoming community events, including a September 18 shredding event, a September 25 skating event at Taylor Playground, an October 9 Halloween movie night featuring Coco, and an October 17 Fall Festival at Soundview Park.

The Council thanked Councilmember Farías for her attendance, continued community engagement, and commitment to sharing information and resources with District 8 families.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PROJECT & ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN....

The Council reviewed a resolution addressing the Bronx five-year capital plan, outstanding school construction and improvement projects, implementation timelines, transparency and accountability. Provisions included a proposed inventory and implementation schedule within 90 days, an emphasis on completing outstanding projects, and language preserving urgent health, safety and capacity investments.

Council Action at 7:47 PM:

Motion made by: VP1/BPA Farrell to move the Resolution to the Calendar Meeting Public Session for discussion and voting. **Second by:** CM Coleman

Vote Total: 11

Yes: **11** | No: **0** | Abstentions: **0** | Absent/Not Voting: **1**

Result: ☒ **Motion Carried** ☐ Motion Failed ☐ Motion Withdrawn ☐ Motion Tabled

QUARTERLY MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL & DPAC

Members discussed coordinating quarterly engagement with the District 8 Presidents' Council and District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC). Suggested periods included the beginning, middle and end of the school year. President Rodriguez reported that DPAC elections had not yet taken place and recommended revisiting the schedule after the body was established. At **7:52 PM** all members agreed without recorded opposition to deferring the matter to the following month.

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION REPORTS (IPRs)

President Rodriguez reminded members to respond to Administrative Assistant Adam Mobley's emails, complete the monthly participation-report form, and observe calendar reminders. Members needing help were directed to contact Mr. Mobley or the President.

COUNCILMEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

The Council reviewed outstanding councilmember absences for August and September 2026.

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Councilmember Lourdes Rodriguez – August 12, 2026: President Crystal Rodriguez confirmed that Councilmember Lourdes Rodriguez had reported being ill and was unable to attend the August meeting. Following discussion, councilmembers agreed to classify her absence as excused.

Councilmember Mohammed Uddin – September 16, 2026: The Council reviewed Councilmember Uddin's absence, noting that no written notification or explanation had been received. Although previous travel was mentioned, President Rodriguez confirmed that no communication regarding his current absence had been submitted.

Council Action at 7:59 PM:

Voting Record: Council voted on CM Uddin unexcused absence.

Vote Total: 11

Yes: **4** | No: **0** | Abstentions: **7** | Absent/Not Voting: **1**

Result: ☐ Motion Carried ☒ **Motion Failed** ☐ Motion Withdrawn ☐ Motion Tabled

President Rodriguez expressed concern regarding Councilmember Uddin's repeated absences, insufficient communication, and the resulting lack of representation for English Language Learner (ELL) families. She emphasized the importance of councilmember accountability and fulfilling statutory responsibilities. Recording Secretary Gerald Cannon explained that his abstention resulted from insufficient knowledge of Councilmember Uddin's attendance history. President Rodriguez referred members to the attendance records previously presented to the Council.

BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by: D75 Rep Wanda I Balines to adjourn the Business/Working portion of the meeting.

Second by: CM L. Rodriguez.

The Business Meeting was adjourned at **8:02 p.m.**

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Meeting Type: Calendar Meeting Minutes

Date: September 16, 2026

Time: 6 to 9 PM / Hybrid

Location/Platform: PS72, 2951 Dewey Avenue / Via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Tamara Farrell, CEC8 VP1/ BPA

Recording Secretary: Gerald Cannon

CALL TO ORDER

VP1/BPA Tamara Farrell called the Calendar Meeting to order at **8:23 p.m.**, VP2/BPA Lourdes Jibodh conducted roll call, recording nine councilmembers present in person, two virtually, and one absent. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. President Crystal Rodriguez reviewed the meeting norms, emphasizing that councilmembers must remain seated at the dais or have their cameras on to be counted for voting. Attendees were reminded to keep microphones muted when not speaking, use virtual chat for questions, and sign up for public comment. Despite ongoing audio difficulties, the Council proceeded with its agenda.

ROLL CALL / ATTENDANCE

Roll call was conducted by VP2/BPA Lourdes Jibodh.

Councilmembers Attendance Record

CEC8 Councilmembers	In-person Attendance	Absent	Virtual Attendance	Late Arrival	Excused Absence	Unexcused Absence
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Cynthia Caldwell (CEC8 – Member)	x					
Gerald Cannon (CEC8 – Member)	x					
Latoya Coleman (IEP Rep.)	x					
Aileen Fadgen (CEC8 – Member)	x					
Tamara Farrell (CEC8 – VP1/BPA)	x					
Lourdes Jibodh (CEC8 – VP2/BPA)	x					
Deirdre Riveccio (CEC8 – Treasurer)	x					
Lourdes Rodriguez (CEC8 – Member)			x			
Jasmine Ruiz (CEC8 – Member)	x					
Mohammed Uddin (ELL Rep)		x				
Crystal Rodriguez (CEC8 – President)			x			

Attendance Total: 11 Members

Present: 9 | **Absent:** 1 | **Virtual Attendance:** 2 | **Late Arrival:** 0

BRONX HEALTH REACH's PRESENTATION

Ms. Diane, Program Coordinator for Bronx Health REACH's Creating Healthy Schools and Communities initiative, presented an overview of the organization's efforts to improve health, wellness, nutrition, and community safety throughout the Bronx. She explained that Bronx Health REACH is a

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coalition of more than 80 organizations and that its New York State Department of Health-funded program will continue through 2031. The initiative provides schools with free technical assistance and access to wellness programming, focusing on physical activity, healthier nutrition, mental health, and positive school environments. The presentation highlighted successful partnerships involving school-based physical activity programs, Open Streets initiatives, school gardens, student-led nutrition education, and teacher wellness spaces. Examples included initiatives at P.S. 32 and P.S. 59 that expanded outdoor learning opportunities and supported student attendance. Ms. Diane also discussed collaborations with community organizations and the Department of Transportation to improve pedestrian safety near schools. She emphasized that programming is tailored to each school's needs, priorities, and available resources.

COUNCILMEMBERS AND COMMITTEES REPORTS

- Councilmembers provided updates on school visits, special education, transportation, legislative advocacy, and community engagement.
- Councilmember Wanda Ivette Balines highlighted first-day-of-school visits and announced the District 75 Back-to-School Bash scheduled for September 26. The IEP Representative also announced participation in Superintendent Joynt's Special Education Series on November 4 at P.S. 72.
- VP2/BPA Jibodh reported on discussions with the Bronx Borough President's Office regarding councilmember expectations, school safety, youth civic engagement, and a proposed resolution addressing student representation on Community Education Councils.
- The Transportation Committee reported on its September 10 meeting, highlighting concerns regarding student OMNY cards, school bus staffing shortages, transportation safety, and communication with families. Members discussed continued advocacy through the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), with the next committee meeting scheduled for October 8. The first IEP Committee meeting was announced for September 23.
- President Crystal Rodriguez reported that the District Leadership Team (DLT) was reviewing revisions to Chancellor's Regulation A-655 and its bylaws. She encouraged councilmembers to attend School Leadership Team (SLT) meetings and support compliance, parent participation, budget transparency, and Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) discussions.
- Additional community updates highlighted expanded food pantry services and farmers' market opportunities for District 8 families.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Superintendent Jennifer Joynt provided updates on the opening of the 2026–2027 school year, highlighting visits to P.S. 119, M.S. 562, and P.S. 140, including the launch of new Dual Language and AIMS programs and engagement with District 75 students.
- She announced her September 28 Town Hall at 7:00 p.m., along with the upcoming District 8 Presidents' Council meeting and Title I District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) informational meeting. DPAC elections were also being planned.
- Superintendent Joynt reported that the selection process for the Family Leadership Coordinator position had been narrowed to three finalists. She invited CEC8 members and the Presidents' Council President to participate in virtual interviews and provide input on the final selection.
- She concluded by promoting the district's upcoming October 17 Carnival and encouraging CEC8 participation in the community event.

Follow-up: Superintendent Joynt will coordinate interview dates with President Crystal Rodriguez to facilitate councilmember participation in the Family Leadership Coordinator selection process.

RESOLUTION CONSIDERATIONS & VOTING

The Council considered two resolutions previously discussed during the Business Meeting.

1. Resolution Calling for Increased Funding for Community and Citywide Education Councils

Councilmembers discussed the proposed resolution advocating increased funding to support CCEC operations and statutory responsibilities. President Crystal Rodriguez requested confirmation that previously recommended amendments addressing translation and interpretation services and students in temporary housing had been incorporated into the revised document.

Council's Action: Following discussion, a motion was made to table the resolution for further review and clarification. **The motion to table carried.**

2. Resolution Calling for Bronx School Capital Project Completion and Accountability

The Council considered the resolution addressing outstanding school construction and capital improvement projects in the Bronx, emphasizing timely completion and accountability.

Council Action at 9:06 PM:

Motion made by: CM Ruiz to adapt Resolution Calling for Bronx School Capital Project Completion and Accountability. **Second by:** CM Caldwell.

Vote Total: 11

Yes: **11** | No: **0** | Abstentions: **0** | Absent/Not Voting: **1**

Result: ☒ **Motion Carried** ☐ Motion Failed ☐ Motion Withdrawn ☐ Motion Tabled

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PUBLIC COMMENTS SESSION

The Council opened the floor for public comment, inviting attendees participating in person and virtually to share questions, comments, or concerns. President Crystal Rodriguez requested confirmation from the Arabic, Spanish, and Bangla interpreters to ensure all participants had an opportunity to be heard. All three interpretation channels confirmed that no questions or comments had been submitted. No additional public comments were recorded, and the Council proceeded with adjournment.

CALENDAR MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Following confirmation that no public comments or questions were received through the Arabic, Spanish, and Bangla interpretation channels, the Council concluded its calendar meeting. President Crystal Rodriguez confirmed that the next CEC8 meeting would take place on October 14, 2026, at M.S. 301, located at 890 Caldwell Avenue. The meeting was adjourned at approximately **9:11p.m.**, with appreciation extended to councilmembers, attendees, and interpreters for their participation.