

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: Special Meeting Minutes (Vacancy Candidates Interviews)

Date: August 12, 2026

Time: 5 to 6 PM / Hybrid

Location/Platform: District 8 Office, 1230 Zerega Avenue / Via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Crystal Rodriguez, CEC8 President

Recording Secretary: Vacant

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of Community Education Council District 8 was called to order at **5:23 p.m.** by CEC8 President Crystal Rodriguez after the Council obtain quorum. Quorum was established, with seven Councilmembers present in person, one participating virtually, one late arrival and one absent for a total of nine Councilmembers in attendance.

ROLL CALL / ATTENDANCE

Roll call was conducted by President Crystal Rodriguez.

Councilmembers Attendance Record

CEC8 Councilmembers	Present	Absent	Virtual Attendance	Late Arrival	Excused Absence	Unexcused Absence
Wanda Ivette Balines (D75 Rep.)	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: **9 Members**

Present: 7 | Absent: 1 | Virtual Attendance: 1 | Late Arrival: 1 (virtual)

Excused Absence: | Unexcused Absence:

Council Vacancy Candidate Interviews

Key Point: The purpose of the Special Meeting was to interview and consider **Gerald Cannon** and **Cynthia Caldwell** for vacancies on CEC8.

Council Action:

Each candidate was asked questions concerning:

- their background and interest in serving on CEC8;
- their understanding of leadership;

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- how they would respond when the Council adopts a position with which they disagree; and
- their experience with and ability to support the District 75 community, special education, the IEP process, and collaboration between District 8 schools and co-located District 75 programs.

Candidates summarized responses:

- Mr. Cannon discussed his military background, prior CEC experience, commitment to parent advocacy, and personal experience as a former District 75 student with an IEP. He emphasized leadership development, professionalism following Council decisions, and empowering families to understand and navigate available services.
- Ms. Caldwell discussed her experience as a parent, PA President, SLT participant, prior CEC member, and regular attendee at Council meetings. She expressed an interest in remaining actively involved in her child's education and supporting District 75 and students with IEPs.

Council Action at 5:40 PM: Following completion of both interviews, D75 Rep Wanda Ivette Balines motioned to enter into **Executive Session** and was seconded by VP2/BPA Lourdes Jibodh for Council deliberation regarding the candidates. All members agreed. A breakout room was established for virtual participation. The Council subsequently returned to the public meeting and proceeded with voting.

Council Action at 6:00 PM:

Motion made by: VP2/BPA Lourdes Jibodh to accept candidate Cynthia Caldwell as a member of CEC8. **Second by:** CM Jasmine Ruiz.

Vote Total: 9

Yes: 8 | No: 0 | Abstentions: 1 | Absent/Not Voting: 1

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

Council Action at 6:02 PM:

Motion made by: CM Jasmine Ruiz to accept candidate Gerald Cannon as a member of CEC8. **Second by:** VP1/BPA Tamara Farrell.

Vote Total: 9

Yes: 9 | No: 0 | Abstentions: 0 | Absent/Not Voting: 1

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

Adjournment:

Motion made by: CM Jasmine Ruiz to accept candidate Gerald Cannon as a member of CEC8. **Second by:** Treasurer Deirdre Riveccio. The Special Meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM.

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Meeting Type: Business Meeting Minutes

Date: August 12, 2026

Time: 6 to 9 PM / Hybrid

Location/Platform: District 8 Office, 1230 Zerega Avenue / Hybrid Via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Crystal Rodriguez, CEC8 President

Recording Secretary: Vacant

CALL TO ORDER

The Business Meeting of Community Education Council District 8 was called to order at **6:18pm** by President Crystal Rodriguez. Quorum was established, with nine Councilmembers present 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.

Councilmembers Attendance Record

CEC8 Councilmembers	Present	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

Excused Absence: | Unexcused Absence:

Administrative Assistant Welcoming / Office Operations Discussion

Key Point: The Council welcomed its new administrative support staff member, **Mr. Mobley**, and acknowledged the work completed in preparing Council meeting materials and submitting permits for upcoming meetings.

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Council Action: The Council discussed his work schedule and agreed that **Mondays and Fridays would serve as remote workdays**, with regular working hours generally established as **9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.**, subject to adjustments on Council meeting days.

2026–2027 School Liaison Assignments

Key Point: The Council reviewed and revised the **2026–2027 School Liaison List**, taking into consideration existing assignments, vacancies, the addition of the two newly appointed Councilmembers, and requests by current members to move between primary and secondary liaison assignments. Among the changes discussed were adjustments involving Councilmembers Coleman and Fadgen, assignments for Cynthia Caldwell and Gerald Cannon, and coverage of District 75 programs and schools with vacant primary or secondary liaison positions.

Council Action at 6:52 PM:

Motion made by: CM Jasmine Ruiz to approve 2026-2027 School Liaison List with amended CEC8 Councilmembers Liaisons updates. **Second by:** VP2/BPA Lourdes Jibodh.

Vote Total: 11

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

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

2026–2027 Meeting Calendar

Key Point: The Council reviewed the remaining locations for the 2026–2027 meeting calendar, particularly the April, May, and June meetings, with consideration given to rotating meetings throughout different areas of District 8.

Council Action at 6:59 PM:

Motion made by: CM Jasmine Ruiz to approve 2026-2027 CEC8 Calendar of meeting dates and locations. **Second by:** CM Cynthia Caldwell.

Vote Total: 11

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

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

Treasurer's Report / Budget Modification

Key Point: The Treasurer presented proposed modifications to the previously approved Council budget based on updated expenditures and available balances. After discussion and recalculation, the proposed allocations presented for approval were:

- **\$18,775 – Councilmember reimbursements**
- **\$2,640 – meals**
- **\$2,500 – webmaster**

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• \$1,085 – general expenses

The Council also discussed future budget planning and the possibility of scheduling the Legislative Breakfast earlier in the service year to increase participation by elected officials.

Council Action at 7:06 PM:

Motion made by: Treasurer Deirdre Riveccio to approve budget modifications as discussed.

Second by: CM Jasmine Ruiz.

Vote Total: 11

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

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

School Construction Resolution

Key Point: The Council reviewed a proposed resolution addressing outstanding School Construction Authority projects and calling for completion of previously funded and delayed projects before initiating additional projects. The resolution called, among other things, for greater transparency regarding project timelines, budgets, and completion status. The Council discussed referring the matter to the appropriate committee for additional review and finalization before further action.

Council Action at 7:17 PM

Motion made by: VP1/BPA Tamara Farrell to refer the matter to the appropriate committee for additional review and finalization before further action is taken. **Second by:** CM Jasmine Ruiz.

Vote Total: 11

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

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

Councilmember Attendance Record

Key Point: The Council read into the record previously determined Calendar Meetings excused and unexcused absences covering the prior service year. The attendance record included only members who are still on the Council from July 2025 to July 2026 as follows;

- July 2025 – Lourdes Rodriguez (unexcused); Mohammed Uddin (unexcused).
- August 2025 – Lourdes Rodriguez (excused); Mohammed Uddin (excused).
- September and October 2025 – All Members Present (either in-person or online)
- November 2025 – Lourdes Rodriguez (excused); Mohammed Uddin (excused).
- December 2025 – All Members Present (either in-person or online)
- January 2026 – Latoya Coleman (Excused)
- February 2026 – Crystal Rodriguez (excused); Mohammed Uddin (excused).
- March 2026 – Mohammed Uddin (excused).

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- April 2026 – Latoya Coleman (unexcused); Tamara Farrell (unexcused); Lourdes Rodriguez (excused); Mohammed Uddin (excused).
- May 2026 – Mohammed Uddin (excused).
- June 2026 – Tamara Farrell (excused).
- July 2026 – Latoya Coleman (unexcused); Mohammed Uddin (unexcused).

The Council discussed establishing a practice of addressing attendance determinations monthly rather than allowing multiple months to accumulate. The Council also discussed CM Lourdes Rodriguez's absence from the August 12 meeting. Because the Council couldn't reach agreement on a specific motion regarding whether the absence should be deemed excused or unexcused, the matter was tabled until next month's meeting.

Adjournment

The Business Meeting was adjourned at **7:27 p.m.**

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Adam Mobley

Meeting Type: Calendar Meeting Minutes

Date: August 12, 2026

Time: 6 to 9 PM / Hybrid

Location/Platform: District 8 Office, 1230 Zerega Avenue / Via Zoom

Presiding Officer: Crystal Rodriguez, CEC8 President

Recording Secretary: Vacant

CALL TO ORDER

The Calendar Meeting of Community Education Council District 8 was called to order at **7:38 p.m.** by President Crystal Rodriguez. Quorum was established, with nine Councilmembers present 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.

Councilmembers Attendance Record

CEC8 Councilmembers	Present	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**

Excused Absence: | Unexcused Absence:

MEETING NORMS:

Key Point: Meeting norms were reviewed, including requirements for virtual participation, cameras and audibility for voting purposes, use of the raise-hand feature, silencing electronic devices, and procedures for public comment.

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Election of Recording Secretary

Key Point: The Council announced a vacancy in the Office of Recording Secretary and reviewed the procedures for nominations and voting. The floor for nominations opened at approximately **7:46 p.m.** CM Jasmine Ruiz was nominated by CM Mohammed Uddin but declined the nomination. CM Gerald Cannon subsequently accepted nomination made by Treasurer Deirdre Riveccio/self-nominated for the position. With no additional nominations, the floor closed at approximately **7:48 p.m.**

Council Action at 7:48 PM:

Motion made by: VP2/BPA Lourdes Jibodh to accept CM Gerald Cannon for the Office of Recording Secretary. **Second by:** D75 Rep Wanda Ivette Balines.

Vote Total: 11

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

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

Resolution – Reinstatement of Comprehensive Quality Reviews

Key Point: The Council returned to a resolution previously approved for placement on the Calendar Meeting agenda calling for the **reinstatement of comprehensive quality reviews in New York City Public Schools**. The Council discussed transmitting the adopted resolution through the appropriate channels and bringing the matter to the attention of the Panel for Educational Policy

Council Action at 7:57 PM:

Motion made by: VP2/BPA Lourdes Jibodh to adopt the resolution as written. **Second by:** CM Jasmine Ruiz.

Vote Total: 11

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

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

Office of District Planning – Data Consultation

Key Points: Representatives from the **NYCPS Office of District Planning**, including Emily Glovin, Valeria Rojas Infantas, and Adem Ali, provided the Council's annual District 8 data consultation. The presentation focused on districtwide enrollment trends, student population trends, District 75 needs and capacity, low-enrollment schools, and compliance with New York State class-size requirements. The presenters explained that the purpose of the consultation was to develop a shared understanding of District 8's strengths and areas of need and to support future planning and advocacy. Key data presented included:

- Elementary school enrollment decreased approximately **15%** over five years.
- Middle school enrollment decreased approximately **19%**.
- District 8's school-age residential population also declined.

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- Approximately **53% of elementary students** residing in District 8 attended District 8 schools, while approximately **25% attended charter schools**.
- Approximately **47% of middle school residents** attended District 8 schools and approximately **27% attended charter schools**.
- District 75 elementary enrollment/residential need increased substantially, while a small middle-school District 75 seat deficit was identified.
- Eight District 8 schools were identified as serving **250 or fewer students**.
- Approximately **64% of District 8 classrooms** were reported as compliant with class-size requirements, consistent with the citywide average.

The Office of District Planning also highlighted recent District 8 initiatives, including expanded District 75 capacity, an adult education hub, and an AIMS program at PS 119. The presenters emphasized continued collaboration with CEC8, Superintendent Joynt, families, and other stakeholders to strengthen enrollment and educational opportunities in District 8.

Council Action: Councilmembers raised questions regarding District 75 data, enrollment, school utilization, and future planning.

Response: The Office of District Planning agreed to continue working with the Council and encouraged members to review the school-level data provided in the accompanying workbook.

Councilmember Reports

Council members provided reports on recent activities and issues, including:

- participation in District 75 professional development and the importance of parent involvement in understanding classroom instruction;
- strengthening communication with families and PA/PTA leadership;
- encouraging District 8 schools to participate in **participatory budgeting** opportunities;
- IEP-member training and advocacy for students with disabilities;
- transportation discussions involving District 75 busing and student OMNY cards;
- community outreach and partnerships supporting immigrant families;
- community events and engagement with local elected officials;
- concerns regarding student internship schedules and expectations;
- upcoming DLT and Chancellor meetings; and
- procedures for reporting Councilmember absences and submitting supporting documentation.

Superintendent's Report

On behalf of Superintendent Joynt, the Deputy Superintendent Munce presented district updates, including:

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- appreciation for Councilmembers who participated in discussions with the School Construction Authority concerning delayed capital projects;
- upcoming District 8 events;
- the annual District 8 Teacher Day at Mercy University;
- continued partnerships supporting literacy/intervention programs in District 8 schools;
- Superintendent Joynt's upcoming virtual Town Hall;
- the District 8 Arts Festival, MBK Gala, Multicultural Festival, and planning for a future Science Expo; and
- continued efforts to strengthen district/community partnerships.

Additional discussion addressed outstanding schoolyard/facilities concerns, including the PS 131 schoolyard project and access to the newly renovated public recreation space at PS 146.

Public Comment

At approximately **8:59 p.m.**, the Council opened the floor for public comment. A Bronx representative to the **Panel for Educational Policy** addressed the Council regarding the importance of CEC resolutions reaching the PEP through the formal process, the statutory role of CECs in school utilization and district planning, preservation of enrichment spaces while implementing class-size requirements, and continued advocacy for additional educational opportunities within District 8, including a performing arts high school.

Adjournment

At approximately **9:07 p.m.**, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Calendar Meeting. August 12, 2026, CEC8 Calendar Meetings was concluded.