# 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 Rivieccio (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:** October 14, 2026
**Time/Format:** 6 to 9 PM / Hybrid (In-Person and Virtual Participation)
**Location/Platform:** MS 301, 890 Cauldwell Ave. Bronx, New York/ Via Zoom
**Presiding Officer:** Tamara Farrell, CEC8 VP1/ BPA
**Recording Secretary:** Gerald Cannon

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### CALL TO ORDER

VP1/BPA Tamara Farrell called the meeting to order at **6:01 p.m.** and presided in person on behalf of President Crystal Rodriguez, who participated virtually She then proceeded to read the Council's meeting norms. The norms addressed attendance and seating requirements, participation by virtual members, maintaining cameras on when required, speaking only when recognized by the Chair, allowing one speaker at a time to support interpretation, councilmember reporting time limits, public comment registration, and maintaining a respectful and orderly meeting environment. language interpreters provided participation instructions in Arabic, Bangla, and Spanish before roll call commenced. Technical difficulties involving audio feedback and Spanish interpretation were addressed during the opening proceedings. Quorum was established, with nine (9) Councilmembers in-person, one (1) participating virtually, and two (2) absent for a total of ten (10) Councilmembers in attendance.

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### ROLL CALL / ATTENDANCE

Roll call was conducted by 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 Rivieccio (CEC8 – Treasurer) | x | | | | | |
| Lourdes Rodriguez (CEC8 – Member) | | x | | | x | |
| Jasmine Ruiz (CEC8 – Member) | x | | | | | |
| Mohammed Uddin (ELL Rep) | | x | | | | x |
| Crystal Rodriguez (CEC8 – President) | | | x | | | |

**Attendance Total: 10 Members**
Present: **9** | Absent: **2** | Virtual Attendance: **1**| Late Arrival: **0**

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**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

The Council considered minutes from the following meetings: July 8, 2026, July 15, 2026, August 12, 2026, and September 16, 2026. Members discussed the circulation and availability of the minutes prior to the scheduled meeting.

**Council Action at 6:11 PM**

**Motion made by:** CM Ruiz to approve all the minutes from July, August and September/2026 as written. **Second by:** CM Coleman

**Vote Total: 10**

Yes: **10** | No: **0** | Abstentions: **0** | Absent/Not Voting: **2**

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

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**APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT & BUDGET SUMMARY**

The Council reviewed its annual operating budget of $25,000. The preliminary report showed the following amounts; Councilmember reimbursements of $18,900, Council meals $2,880, Webmaster services $2,500, and General expenses $720. Reporting initial expenditures of $5,687.

President Crystal Rodriguez clarified that the $2,500 allocated for webmaster services had not yet been disbursed. She explained that the SGOs would release payment as services were rendered.

Following discussion, the financial figures were corrected as follows:

| Category | Expenditures | Remaining |
|---|---|---|
| Member reimbursements | $2,475 | $16,425 |
| Council meals | $712 | $2,168 |
| Webmaster services | $0 | $2,500 |
| General expenses | $0 | $720 |
| **Total** | **$3,187** | **$21,813** |

The Council also discussed a possible future headset purchase for the administrative assistant.

**Council Action at 6:19 PM**

**Motion made by:** VP2/BPA Jibodh to approved treasure's report and budget summary with corrections presented by CM Rivieccio. **Second by:** CM Latoya Coleman

**Vote Total: 10**

Yes: **10** | No: **0** | Abstentions: **0** | Absent/Not Voting: **2**

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

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**PRESIDENT's OUTSTANDING REIMBURSEMENT**

The Council considered an outstanding reimbursement request submitted by President Crystal Rodriguez for October 2025.

Members were informed that the original reimbursement checks had been damaged and could not be deposited or cashed. Because the previous fiscal year's budget had closed, the Council discussed authorizing unpaid reimbursement from the current budget.
It was clarified that the request concerned $125 from October 2025 and was separate from the President's regular $75 reimbursement for October 2026.

**Council Action at 6:28 PM**

**Motion made by:** VP1/BPA Farrell to authorize payment of $125 from the current Council budget to reimburse President Crystal Rodriguez for eligible October 2025 expenses. **Second by:** CM Coleman
**Vote Total: 10**
Yes: **10** | No: **0** | Abstentions: **0** | Absent/Not Voting: **2**
**Result:** ☒**Motion Carried** ☐ Motion Failed ☐ Motion Withdrawn ☐ Motion Tabled

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**INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS (IPRs)**

The Council discussed the status of outstanding IPRs and the need for members to document their activities. Members raised concerns regarding the time required to document school visits, community events, resolutions, and other Council-related work. President Rodriguez reminded members that AA Adam Mobley had developed a reporting form that members could complete, allowing him to compile the information. Members were encouraged to use their calendars, prior meeting agendas, and approved resolutions to document their activities. The Council discussed completing outstanding submissions by the following Monday.

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**COUNCILMEMBERS' ATTENDANCE REVIEW**

- ✓ ***Councilmember Lourdes Rodriguez (October 14, 2026, Absence)*** **-** President Rodriguez reported that CM L. Rodriguez had submitted medical documentation and subsequently informed leadership that she needed to take her daughter to the emergency room.

**Council Action at: 6:36 PM**

**Motion made by:** VP1/BPA Farrell to excuse her absence on Oct. 14, 2026. **Second by:** CM Coleman
**Vote Total: 10**
Yes: **10** | No: **0** | Abstentions: **0** | Absent/Not Voting: **2**
**Result:** ☒**Motion Carried** ☐ Motion Failed ☐ Motion Withdrawn ☐ Motion Tabled

- ✓ ***Councilmember Mohammed Uddin (September 16 and October 14, 2026, Absences)*** **-** The Council reviewed CM Uddin's outstanding September absence and his absence from the October meeting. President Rodriguez stated that she had not received correspondence explaining his absence. Members expressed concerns regarding his attendance, communication, and fulfillment of responsibilities as the English Language Learner representative. During the discussion, a councilmember announced an intention to prepare a formal resolution concerning CM Uddin's

continued membership for consideration at a future meeting. No removal action was adopted during this discussion.

**Council Action at: 6:40PM**

**Motion made by:** VP2/BPA Jibodh to approve unexcused Sept. 16 and Oct. 14, 2026, absences.
**Second by:** President C. Rodriguez
**Vote Total: 10**
Yes: **10** | No: **0** | Abstentions: **0** | Absent/Not Voting: **2**
**Result:** ☒**Motion Carried** ☐ Motion Failed ☐ Motion Withdrawn ☐ Motion Tabled

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**NEW BUSINESS**

✓ **School Quality Reviews Resolution**

- The Council revisited a previously approved resolution concerning school Quality Reviews. Members discussed the importance of school accountability, transparency, leadership oversight, and the availability of school performance information. The discussion included the need to advance the Council's previously adopted resolution to the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP). A councilmember requested support for presenting the Council's position at an upcoming PEP meeting. The discussion emphasized the importance of continued advocacy and follow-through on resolutions already approved by CEC8.

✓ **Legislative Committee — Proposed Legislative Brunch**

- The Legislative Committee discussed planning its annual legislative event. A proposed date of **March 12, 2027**, was presented for consideration. Members discussed the importance of engaging every elected official before the conclusion of the Council's terms, securing a suitable venue, identifying available funding, and coordinating outside contributions where appropriate. The discussion acknowledged limitations within the Council's operating budget. Further planning and coordination were discussed. The final event arrangements remained subject to follow-up.

✓ **School Utilization, SCA and DFS Committee Report**

- The Committee discussed the September 16, 2026, resolution addressing outstanding School Construction Authority projects and concerns regarding construction delays. Members emphasized the need for the SCA to provide meaningful updates concerning projects that remained incomplete or had not begun. The Committee discussed requesting the participation of SCA President Celeste Ramirez or another appropriate representative at the December 9, 2026, Council meeting. Members also expressed the need for more structured committee meetings, including advance agendas, specific questions, supporting documentation, and measurable follow-up actions. Potential dates for a November committee meeting were discussed, with final scheduling to be coordinated separately.

**Council Action at: 6:48PM**

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**Motion made by:** VP2/BPA Jibodh to approve committee name change from School Utilization and DFS Committee to School and Community Improvement Committee (SCIC). **Second by:** President C. Rodriguez

**Vote Total: 10**

Yes: **10** | No: **0** | Abstentions: **0** | Absent/Not Voting: **2**

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

✓ **District Leadership Team (DLT) Representation**

- President C. Rodriguez requested that the official record reflect the designation of VP2 L. Jibodh as CEC8's representative to the District Leadership Team. President Rodriguez explained that her responsibilities as District Parent Advisory Council Chair created a scheduling conflict. The designation had been discussed and agreed upon during a prior Council check.

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**BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURMENT**

**Motion made by:** President C. Rodriguez to adjourn the Business/Working portion of the meeting and go on a brief recess. **Second by:** Rec. Sec. Cannon

The Business Meeting adjourned at **6:56 p.m.**

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**Meeting Type:** Calendar Meeting Minutes
**Date:** October 14, 2026
**Time/Format:** 6 to 9 PM / Hybrid (In-Person and Virtual Participation)
**Location/Platform:** MS 301, 890 Cauldwell Ave. Bronx, New York/ Via Zoom
**Presiding Officer:** Tamara Farrell, CEC8 VP1/ BPA
**Recording Secretary:** Gerald Cannon

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### CALL TO ORDER (Opening Proceedings and Pledge of Allegiance)

Following the recess, the Council reconvened its Calendar Meeting at **7:12 PM**. The meeting opened with welcoming remarks and the Pledge of Allegiance. Council leadership acknowledged attendees participating in person and virtually, including representatives from NYC Public Schools and community organizations. Attendees were reminded to keep microphones muted when not speaking, use virtual chat for questions, and sign up for public comment.

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### ROLL CALL / ATTENDANCE

Roll call was conducted by 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 Rivieccio (CEC8 – Treasurer) | x | | | | | |
| Lourdes Rodriguez (CEC8 – Member) | | x | | | x | |
| Jasmine Ruiz (CEC8 – Member) | x | | | | | |
| Mohammed Uddin (ELL Rep) | | x | | | | x |
| Crystal Rodriguez (CEC8 – President) | | | x | | | |

**Attendance Total: 10 Members**
Present: **9** | Absent: **2** | Virtual Attendance: **1**| Late Arrival: **0**

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### NYCPS OFFICE OF RELATED SERVICES PRESENTATION

**Presented by: Shona Gibson, Executive Director of Operations, Office of Related Services**

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Shona Gibson, joined by colleagues from the NYCPS special education team, presented an overview of related services and support available to students with disabilities. The presentation addressed the organization and delivery of related services, coordination between central offices and school-based teams, specialized programs and support for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), and opportunities for improving communication with families. The presenters discussed the importance of ensuring that students receive appropriate services and that families understand available resources. Council members raised questions concerning service delivery, accountability, access to information, and support for students requiring specialized services. President C. Rodriguez proposed connecting the presenters with CEC8's IEP Committee Co-Chairs to complete the presentation during an upcoming committee meeting. The presenters agreed to continue the discussion and explore ways to collaborate with the Committee, including improving information and resources available to families. Follow-up: Coordinate a subsequent presentation and discussion with the IEP Committee.

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**TRUE BLEND LEARNING PRESENTATION**
**Presented by: Representative of True Blend Learning**

A representative of True Blend Learning introduced the organization's educational initiatives, community partnerships, and program development approach. The presentation emphasized the importance of creating engaging educational experiences that respond to community needs rather than relying solely on traditional presentations. Topics included educational enrichment, leadership development, financial literacy, workforce preparation, data-driven program design, and corporate sponsorship opportunities. The presenter described partnerships and initiatives intended to expand educational opportunities for students and families, including sports and leadership programming. The organization also expressed willingness to explore possible partnerships with CEC8, including assistance with securing a location for future leadership or legislative event. The Council thanked the presenter for sharing information and discussing potential collaboration.

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**COUNCILMEMBERS AND COMMITEES REPORTS**

- Councilmembers provided updates and raised concerns regarding school conditions, student safety, community engagement, and districtwide matters.
- Councilmember Caldwell raised concerns about school leadership, administrative accountability, and student safety involving P.S. 333 and P.S. 146. She discussed allegations involving school personnel, concerns about administrative oversight, and requests for independent review. She reported submitting correspondence to appropriate NYCPS leadership and investigative authorities.

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These matters were presented as concerns and allegations raised by the councilmember, not as independently established findings by CEC8.

- Members discussed ongoing community outreach, participation in school activities, and the importance of continued communication with school communities. The discussion also included concerns regarding school administration, accountability, and the need for accurate information from responsible NYCPS offices.

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**SUPERINTENDENT's REPORT**
**Presented: Superintendent Jennifer Joynt, Community School District 8**

- Superintendent Joynt presented her October 2026 State of the District report and provided updates on district initiatives, leadership activities, family engagement, upcoming events, and funding.
- September Town Hall - The Superintendent reported that the September town hall attracted more than 300 participants. She thanked Council members and community representatives for attending and assisting with questions. The next Superintendent's Town Hall was anticipated for January.
- District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) - Superintendent Joynt announced that the District Parent Advisory Council had successfully conducted its executive board elections in September. She acknowledged the contributions of Reverend LaTicia Thompson and congratulated CEC8 President Crystal Rodriguez on assuming the DPAC Chair position. She also thanked VP2/BPA Lourdes Jibodh for serving as CEC8's District Leadership Team designee.
- Family Leadership Coordinator Appointment - The Superintendent reported that interviews for the District 8 Family Leadership Coordinator position were held on October 1, 2026, with four candidates participating. Erica Williams-Frazier was selected and had accepted the offer. The appointment remained subject to completion of NYCPS hiring procedures.
- District 8 Community Carnival - The Superintendent reminded attendees of the District 8 Carnival scheduled for October 17, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at P.S. 182. She acknowledged the participation of Throggs Neck Community Alliance and Angela Torres, who provide pantry items and community resources.
- Funding and Partnerships - The Superintendent acknowledged several funding contributions and initiatives:

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| Funding source or initiative | Amount reported | Purpose |
|---|---|---|
| Councilmember Farías | Approx. $20,000 | My Brother's Keeper family and community engagement |
| Additional grant application | $300,000 requested | Expanded family engagement initiatives |
| Sen. Sepúlveda — P.S. 152 | $650,000 | Cafeteria improvements |
| Sen. Sepúlveda — P.S. 140 | $125,000 | Dance and music studio improvements |

- The Superintendent expressed appreciation for the partnerships and anticipated further opportunities to secure resources for District 8 schools.
- Upcoming Events and Activities - Superintendent Joynt noted that the proposed March 12, 2027, legislative event would fall on the same date as the District's Arts Festival. Although the events might not overlap directly, preparations could affect the availability of some participants. She also announced continued planning for the districtwide Bullying Town Hall series.
- PMI Data - The Superintendent reported that updated PMI data had not yet been released and indicated that additional information was anticipated the following month.
- Regarding School Leadership and Administrative Oversight - Superintendent Joynt responded to questions concerning the leadership transition involving the former principal of P.S. 333. She clarified that the decision to remove the individual from the principal position was made by her in her capacity as Superintendent and was based on her professional assessment of leadership performance. She distinguished her administrative decision from the outcome of any separate investigation.
- Councilmembers continued to express concerns regarding school leadership, transparency, and the importance of appropriate oversight. No formal Council determination concerning the underlying allegations was recorded.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS SESSION**

During public comment, speaker Rev. L. Thompson addressed community concerns and districtwide initiatives. The speaker recognized October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month, emphasizing the importance of supporting young people and families affected by abuse, bullying, and other challenges. The speaker also discussed upcoming districtwide bullying prevention of town halls and encouraged families to participate. The Council received recognition for its continued advocacy through resolutions submitted to the Panel for Educational Policy.

Particular acknowledgment was given to CEC8's resolution concerning school Quality Reviews, which had been discussed during a PEP briefing. Attendees were encouraged to continue participating in PEP meetings and supporting community advocacy efforts. The next PEP meeting was identified as October 28, 2026, in Long Island City.

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**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Additional discussion addressed Council participation, school-related documentation, and the importance of maintaining appropriate records for activities and meetings. A question was also raised concerning a scheduled middle school admissions presentation. Participants indicated that the presenters had not joined the meeting. No additional formal action was clearly recorded during this portion of the discussion.

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**CALENDAR MEETING ADJOURMENT**

A motion by CM Coleman was made to adjourn the Calendar meeting and second by: CM Ruiz. It was announced that the next Council meeting will be at: P.S. 583 — Bronx Lab School of Historical Discovery located at: 1028 White Plains Road, Bronx, NY on Wednesday, November 4, 2026. The Council thanked attendees, presenters, and interpreters for their participation. All were in favor to adjourn the meeting at **8:46 PM**.