



# CEC23 Meeting Minutes

**Date:** April 13, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 PM start

**Location:** In Person / Hybrid

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## Call to Order & Opening

- Meeting opened with Introduction of Spanish and Arabic interpreters.
- Roll call.
- **Present:** Elcock, Farrell, French, Garcia, Pitts, Romero, Ruiz, Stewart, Tucker  
**Late:** Brockington, Shaw
- Ground rules reviewed

## Welcome & Agenda Overview

President welcomed attendees to the April 13 CEC23 meeting and noted a full agenda.

- Agenda included:
  - Literacy presentation (Naomi Peña)
  - Fair Student Funding presentation (Linda Perez and Dr. Kirkland)
  - Superintendent's Report (Dr. Kirkland)

## Presentations:

**Presenter:** Naomi Pena, Co-Founder, Literacy Academy Collective

## Key Points:

- Many families are unaware when children struggle with reading.
- Parents should check student progress via NYC Schools Account:

- K–2: Acadience
  - Grades 3–8: iReady
- Warning signs:
  - “Below” or “well below” benchmarks
  - Red indicators in iReady
- Emphasis on shift from:
  - Balanced literacy (guessing strategies) → Structured literacy / science of reading
- Structured literacy focuses on:
  - Phonics, decoding, and language processing
- Dyslexia awareness:
  - Often misunderstood as laziness or lack of effort
  - Early identification is critical

### **Equity Concerns:**

- Disparities in literacy outcomes for:
  - Black and Hispanic students
  - Students with disabilities
  - Multilingual learners
- High correlation between literacy struggles and incarceration rates

### **Organization Overview:**

- Literacy Academy Collective:
  - Nonprofit (501c3)
  - Operates literacy-focused public schools:
    - South Bronx Literacy Academy
    - Central Brooklyn Literacy Academy
- Model:
  - Small-group instruction (1:6 ratio)
  - 90-minute literacy blocks

### **Recommendations for Families:**

- Monitor student data regularly
- Ask teachers about progress and interventions
- Escalate concerns to principals if needed
- Seek Tier 2 or additional supports early

## **Presentation: Fair Student Funding (FSF)**

**Presenter:** District Leadership (Linda Perez and Dr. Kirkland)

### **Overview:**

- NYC Public Schools Budget (FY2027):
  - ~\$46.1 billion total
  - ~\$34,700 per student

### **Funding Breakdown:**

- 43% Non-discretionary (fixed costs)
- 57% Discretionary (school-facing services)

### **District 23 Budget (~\$202M):**

- 56% Fair Student Funding
- 33% State & Local
- 5.1% Title I
- 3.6% Contract for Excellence
- 2.1% Other federal funds

### **Key Concepts:**

- FSF = majority of school budgets
- Funding based on:
  - Enrollment
  - Student needs (weights)

### **Student Need Weights Include:**

- Grade level
- Academic intervention needs
- English Language Learners
- Students in temporary housing
- Special education

### **Decision-Making:**

- School budgets determined by:
  - Principals
  - School Leadership Teams (SLTs)

### **Public Access:**

- Families can view school budgets via:
  - NYC Schools website → Reports → Budget & Finances
  - Public comment period is March 9<sup>th</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup>

## **Superintendent's Report**

- New campaign introduced: “**Brownsville Shows Up: Every Scholar, Every Day**”
- Dr.Kirkland gave credit to Ms. Lawrence from PS 184 for coming up with the idea.

### **Key Message:**

- Attendance is critical for:
  - Academic success
  - Social connection
  - Long-term outcomes

### **Planned Actions:**

- Community-wide awareness campaign
- Social media rollout via parent coordinators
- Support for barriers (transportation, health, etc.)

## **Recognition: Student Attendance**

- Students with **100% attendance** recognized.
- Families shared strategies:
  - Strong expectations at home
  - Emphasis on education goals (high school/college)
  - Leading by example (parents pursuing education)

### **Next Steps:**

- Families to serve as ambassadors in future outreach efforts
- Potential inclusion in campaign materials

## **District Priorities Update**

### **Focus Areas:**

1. Literacy achievement (K–2 Acadience, ongoing assessments)
  2. Student safety (physical & emotional)
  3. Academic quality
- District reports progress in literacy and safety metrics

### **NYC Kids RISE (529 College Savings Program)**

- Clarification provided that participation in the NYC Kids RISE 529 program **does not impact public benefits** (e.g., SNAP, housing assistance).

- Accounts are tied to student ID numbers, not Social Security numbers.
- A video presentation on the program will be shared at a future meeting.

## **Parent Coordinator Activity Report (PCAR)**

- PCAR reflects engagement between parent coordinators and families (meetings, workshops, outreach).
- District reported performance at or above city benchmarks.
- Acknowledgement and appreciation given to parent coordinators.

## **Math Curriculum Implementation**

- New curriculum: **Amplify Desmos**
- Rollout timeline:
  - Grades 6–8: Beginning September [Year]
  - Grades K–5: Following school year
- Teacher and leader training to begin prior to implementation (spring/summer).
- Emphasis on avoiding negative math mindsets among students and families.

## **District Initiatives & Events**

- Monthly recognition events (e.g., Social Workers Appreciation).
- Expanded collaborative meetings including:
  - Parent coordinators
  - Guidance counselors
- Writing initiative highlighted via **Quill.org** usage.

## **Upcoming Events:**

- Math Madness (grade-specific events)
- STEAM Fair – May 28 (BCMS)
- Hiring Fair – April 23 (PS 323)
  - Attendees encouraged to bring resumes and cover letters
- Summer program resources to be shared monthly

## **. State Testing Information**

- **ELA Exams:** Window begins immediately (10-day window)
- **Math Exams:** Following week
- **Science Exams:** Now administered in Grades 5 and 8 (previously Grades 4 and 8)
- Schools stagger testing schedules to manage technology/bandwidth.

## **Testing Participation Discussion**

- District emphasized importance of student participation in state exams.
- Concerns raised regarding:
  - Terminology “high-stakes testing”
  - Student anxiety
  - High opt-out rates in some schools
- District stance:
  - Testing decisions rest with parents
  - District encourages participation for instructional planning and support

## **. Summer School & Promotion Policy Discussion**

- Concerns raised about effectiveness of summer school for promotion.
- District noted:
  - Summer school is significantly shorter than the academic year
  - Serves as a **support/warm-up**, not full remediation

## **Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Schools**

- Discussion of DOE AI guidance and future planning.
- Key points:
  - AI use among staff and students still evolving
  - Upcoming principal discussions on AI implementation
  - Concerns cited about over-reliance on technology affecting student learning

## **Brooklyn North High Schools Update (Yuet Chu)**

### **Attendance**

- Current attendance: 88.3%
- 27 of 47 schools have reduced chronic absenteeism
- Target goals:
  - 92% attendance
  - 29% chronic absenteeism

### **Celebrations & Highlights**

- First Brooklyn North Women Leaders Celebration
- Majority of principals are now female (historic milestone)
- Arts partnership with Jamel Gaines / Creative Outlet
- Student achievements:
  - PSAL City & State Championships
  - Track and field accomplishments

### **Student Opportunities**

- International trips across 14 countries
- Cultural exchange experiences

### **College & Career Readiness**

- 75% of students enrolled in advanced coursework (AP, IB, dual enrollment)
- All schools offer at least one advanced course
- CUNY/SUNY Fair scheduled (approx. 4,000 students expected)

### **Seal of Biliteracy**

- Offered in 30 of 47 schools
- Expansion planned for District 23 schools

### **Family Engagement**

- NYC School Survey opens through Friday
- Support available through parent coordinators

### **High School Admissions**

- Families may still join waitlists if unsatisfied with placement

## **Elected Official's Representative Report**

### **Office of Senator Roxanne Persaud (Karen Davis)**

- Upcoming events:
  - Resource & Job Fair (Jefferson Campus)
  - Women's Wellness Webinar (April 24)
  - Pre-Mother's Day distribution event (May 2)
- Contact information and flyers to be shared with CEC.

## **6. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.
- First by French
- Second by Brockington

### **Business Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** At 7:53pm

**Roll Call:**

- **Present:** Elcock, Farrel, French, Garcia, Pitts, Romero, Ruiz, Stuart, Tucker, Brockington, Shaw

**Approval of Minutes**

The Council reviewed the previous meeting minutes for January 5th, February 2nd and March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 19th. Corrections were made regarding attendance and minor details.

**Motion:** To approve the minutes as corrected

**Result:** Motion approved

**4. Budget Review and Report**

The Council reviewed the current budget status:

- **Member Reimbursement:** \$7,225.00
- **Refreshments:** \$421.00
- **Total Remaining Balance:** \$7,646.02
- **All funds in refreshments line must be used by April 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**4. Old Business**

**5.**

**Town Hall Planning**

- **Event Date:** June 8
- **Theme:** Black and white attire (due to video recording and public visibility)
- Food and beverages have been arranged.

**Logistics:**

- A site walkthrough is pending confirmation from the school administration (Dr. Harris).
- Space usage under consideration includes the main area and gymnasium for overflow.

**Roles:**

- Ms. Tucker and Ms. Garcia will facilitate and ask questions during the event.

## **New Business**

### **Follow-Up Meeting**

- **Date:** May 8 (via Zoom)
- **Purpose:**
  - Finalize Town Hall questions
  - Review community submissions
  - Ensure a minimum of 10 questions
  - Eliminate duplicate questions

### **Upcoming Regular Meeting**

- **Date:** May 4

## **Announcements / Discussion**

### **AI Discussion Invitation**

Council members were invited to attend a Department of Education discussion on artificial intelligence with the Chancellor.

- Event to be held via Zoom
- Members discussed submitting questions in advance
- General discussion acknowledged the increasing role of AI tools in daily and educational contexts

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately **8:11 PM**.

- First by French
- Second by Brockington