



Draft

# Community Education Council 23 (CEC23) Meeting Minutes

**Date:** May 4<sup>th</sup> 2026

**Time:** 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

**Location:** 1784 Park Place / Hybrid

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## Call to Order & Opening

- Meeting opened with introduction of Spanish and Arabic interpreters.
- The meeting was called to order at 6:16 PM
- Roll call
- **Present:** Brockington, Elcock, Farrell, Garcia, Pitts, Romero, Ruiz, Stewart, Tucker
- **Absent:** French, Shaw
- Ground rules reviewed

## Reports

### President's Report

**PEP Highlights** ~Chancellor Kamar Samuels emphasized:

- Reducing classroom sizes
- Addressing school capacity across New York City schools

### State Testing Technology Disruption

- On April 29, 2026, a statewide technology issue disrupted the Grades 3–8 computer-based math exams.
- Thousands of students were unable to access the testing platform.
- NYC Public Schools were acknowledged for responding flexibly to the disruption.

# PEP Voting Results

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Result</b>
FY2027 Budget Proposal	Passed (19 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention)
Capital Plan Amendment	Passed (20 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention)
Building Utilization – Manhattan Districts 1, 2, and 4	Passed (19 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention)
Contracts 1–30	Approved
Contracts Tabled	None

## Upcoming Meetings

- Next PEP Meeting:
  - May 6, 2026
  - Francis Lewis High School
- Final CEC Meeting:
  - June 1, 2026 at 6:00 PM
  - 1184 Park Pl or via Zoom

## Deadlines

- CBO application submissions due May 5, 2026.

## Superintendent's Report —

Dr. Kirkland presented district progress updates related to academics, attendance, student services, family engagement, and upcoming district initiatives.

## Academic Goals

- District aims for:
  - 5% increase in ELA performance
  - 7% increase in Math performance
- Grades 3–8 continue weekly standards mastery assessments.
- Regents exams remain available for advanced middle school students.

## Attendance & Student Services

- District attendance rate: 88%
- Chronic absenteeism: 43.8%
- Highest absenteeism rates are in Pre-K and Kindergarten.
- Attendance concerns discussed for:
  - Students with disabilities
  - Students in temporary housing

- Behavioral incidents (Levels 1–5) have decreased districtwide.

## **Special Education**

- 86.3% of students receive full mandated services.
- Staffing shortages continue to impact service delivery.
- Challenges remain in recruiting certified special education teachers.

## **Family Engagement**

- District is promoting NYC Kids RISE accounts.
- Goal: 80% participation for 4th grade students.
- Schools are assisting families with on-site registration.

## **Summer Rising**

- Eight district schools will host Summer Rising programs.
- Applications due May 5.
- District stated all interested students are typically placed.

## **Upcoming Events**

- Math Madness Competitions: May 11–21
- District STEAM Fair: May 28
- Honors Haven Conference: July 6–10

## **Testing Updates**

- Statewide online testing issues had minimal impact on District 23.
- Math testing continues through May 8.
- Science testing for Grades 5 & 8 runs May 12–15.

## **Cell Phone Policy**

- Each school maintains its own phone policy.
- District reported decreases in behavioral incidents but did not directly attribute improvements to phone restrictions.

## **Closing**

Dr. Kirkland thanked attendees and encouraged continued family engagement and participation in district initiatives.

# Brooklyn North High School District

## Presentation

Presented by:

- Sandra Kidd, Family Leadership Coordinator
- John Xavier, District Academic Policy Specialist

## District Updates

- Dr. Rochelle White was officially appointed Superintendent on April 28, 2026.
- District attendance rate is 88%.
- Chronic absenteeism decreased in 27 schools.
- District vision focuses on “centering children with love” and “leading with love.”

## New York INSPIRE Graduation Changes

John Xavier presented updates on New York State’s new graduation framework:

- Regents exams will no longer be the only graduation pathway.
- New York State will transition to one diploma system by 2029.
- Changes begin with current sophomores and younger students.
- Students will demonstrate learning through projects, assessments, internships, and work-based learning.

## Portrait of a Graduate

The new framework emphasizes:

- Academic preparedness
- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Global citizenship
- Future-focused learning

## Brooklyn North Initiatives

District highlights included:

- 30 of 47 schools offer the Seal of Biliteracy.
- Expanded civic readiness and CTE programs.
- Increased project-based learning opportunities.

- 19 schools participated in international travel experiences during spring break.
- 72% of seniors are enrolled in advanced coursework.
- 13 schools earned AP Honor Roll recognition.

## **Legacy Leadership High School Highlights**

Programs currently offered include:

- AP classes
- Arts programs
- College Now
- Journalism for All
- Financial literacy

## **Upcoming Events**

- Science Expo: May 16 at Brooklyn Navy Yard
- Brooklyn Got Talent: May 29

## **Questions & Discussion**

A council member, Pitts asked about recent incidents involving:

- A firearm found at Brooklyn Law and Technology
- Nearby shootings

District representatives stated they did not have details available during the meeting and would follow up at a future meeting.

## **Closing**

Brooklyn North staff thanked the council for the opportunity to present.

## **Community Announcement**

**Dominique Alexander from Sandy Nurse's office** shared details about a May 16 job fair focused on local hiring opportunities tied to major development projects in East New York and Brownsville. The event, open to ages 16–99, will connect residents with employers, developers, nonprofits, and training programs offering certifications like OSHA and pathways to employment. Dominique Alexandre emphasized the importance of ensuring residents benefit from neighborhood investments and encouraged attendees to spread the word. The job fair will take place at the RiseBoro Youth Center on Gates Avenue from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## **Public Comments**

**PEP member Faraji Hannah-Jones** expressed concern about low parent engagement, chronic absenteeism, and leadership accountability in schools. He stressed that schools need more meaningful and unconventional approaches to family engagement and questioned the effectiveness of school leadership, particularly principals, in addressing ongoing challenges. He also highlighted broader social and political issues affecting marginalized communities and urged stronger leadership and responsiveness within the education system. His remarks were cut short after exceeding the meeting's two-minute speaking limit.

## **Adjournment**

First motion by Ruiz and seconded by Brockington at 7:21 PM.

## **Business Session**

**Call to Order:** At 7:30 PM

## **Roll call**

**Present:** Brockington, Elcock, Farrell, Garcia, Pitts, Romero, Ruiz, Stewart, Tucker

**Absent:** French, Shaw

## **Approval of Minutes**

Council reviewed and approved the previous meeting minutes (April 13<sup>th</sup>) after minor corrections.

## **Budget Review**

The Council reviewed the current budget

**Member Reimbursements - \$5775.00**

**Refreshments- \$421.02**

## **Old Business**

Members then discussed preparations for the upcoming town hall, including walkthrough logistics, seating arrangements, food service, technology setup, overflow planning, and outreach efforts. A walkthrough was scheduled for May 14 at 10:00 AM, and members agreed to submit questions for the event.

## **New Business**

The council discussed delays in the DOE budget approval process and the possibility of holding a special meeting later in June or July if necessary. Members shared concerns about AI use in schools, particularly around student privacy and data protection, and encouraged participation in the city AI survey.

## **Adjournment**

First motion by Stewart and seconded by Ruiz at 7:54 PM.