



Calendar and Business Meeting Minutes

Date: August 3rd, 2026

Location: In Person/ Virtual Meeting

Calendar Meeting Called to Order: 6:10 PM

Business Meeting Called to Order: 6:41 PM

Adjournment: 7:08pm

Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Elcock, Farrell, Pitts, Romero-Powell, Ruiz, Stewart, Tucker.

Absent: Garcia

Review of Meeting Ground Rules

The Council reviewed its meeting ground rules.

Welcome and President's Remarks

The President welcomed attendees to the August Calendar and Business Meeting and thanked council members, families, district staff, school leaders, parent coordinators, community partners, and elected officials for their continued support and engagement.

Remarks focused on:

- Preparation for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Ongoing advocacy for District 23 students and families.
- Continued collaboration with schools and district leadership.
- Appreciation for community partnerships and stakeholder involvement.

Superintendent's Report

District Comprehensive Plan (DCP) Goals 2026-2027

The Superintendent presented draft District Comprehensive Plan (DCP) goals, pending approval by central administration.

Literacy Goals

- Increase student reading proficiency from 50% to 55%.
- Increase proficiency in literature and informational text assessments from 30% to 40%.
- Increase K-2 literacy proficiency, as measured by Acadience, from 30% to 40%.

Mathematics Goals

- Improve student performance on NWEA mathematics assessments.
- Reduce the percentage of students performing in the lowest percentile ranges.
- Increase NWEA mathematics proficiency levels by 8%.

Safe and Inclusive Schools

- Reduce Level 4 and Level 5 incidents by 12%, from 384 incidents to 338.
- Increase positive responses on school culture surveys from 65% to 75%.

Student Readiness and College/Career Pathways

- Increase participation in NYC Kids RISE from 80% to 90%.
- Increase Regents examination pass rates from 75% to 85%.

Attendance

- Increase overall attendance from 88.8% to 89.5%.
- Reduce chronic absenteeism from 41.8% to 35%.

Attendance Initiative

The district is exploring the use of the **Character Strong** program to:

- Improve attendance.
- Reduce chronic absenteeism.
- Strengthen positive attendance practices.
- Address barriers affecting student attendance.

Participation would be optional for individual schools.

Grant Opportunity

The district announced plans to apply for the **New York State My Brother's Keeper Grant**, designed to support academic achievement and opportunities for boys and young men of color.

Application deadline: September 15.

School Leadership Updates

The Superintendent reported anticipated leadership transitions at:

- The RAMS
- MS 671
- PS 150

Appointments remain pending final approval by central administration.

Questions and Discussion

Council members discussed:

- DCP approval timelines.
- Continued use of i-Ready as a district assessment screener.
- Availability of student growth and screener data comparisons.
- Advanced coursework and Regents participation rates.
- Selection and implementation of Character Strong.

District leadership reiterated the importance of ensuring students are appropriately prepared for advanced coursework and highlighted Character Strong's success in several high-performing district schools.

Public Comment

Melanie Mendonca

Ms. Mendonca requested follow-up information regarding schools designated for improvement and Contract for Excellence (C4E) funding.

Ms. Mendonca also stated that she submitted public comments requesting:

- School-level reporting on use of Contract for Excellence funding.
- Inclusion of Contract for Excellence discussions in School Leadership Team (SLT) meetings.

- **Adjournment of Calendar Meeting 6:37pm**

Business Meeting

Call to Order

The Business Meeting was called to order at 6:41 PM. Roll call was conducted and a quorum was established.

Present: Elcock, Farrell, Pitts, Romero-Powell, Ruiz, Stewart, Tucker.

Absent: Garcia

Approval of July Meeting Minutes

Corrections and amendments to the July meeting minutes were reviewed and discussed.

Motion: Approve the July meeting minutes as amended.

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Report

Reimbursement Request (for Ruiz)

A reimbursement request related to June Town Hall expenses was presented.

Amount Approved: \$110.00

Vote:

- Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstentions: 0 motion passed.

Budget Update

Reported balances included:

Member Reimbursement

- Original Allocation: \$14,400.
- Reimbursements Used : \$950
- Remaining Balance: \$13,450

Food and Refreshments

- Budget: \$2,300
- Expenditures: \$189.98
- Remaining Balance: \$2,110.02

New Business

The Council discussed presentation topics and priorities for the 2026-2027 meeting calendar.

Suggested presentations included:

- Contract for Excellence (C4E)
- School Construction Authority (SCA)
- Fair Student Funding
- District Comprehensive Plan updates
- Enrollment trends
- Facilities and capital improvements
- Food services and kitchen modernization projects
- Accessibility and elevator projects

The Council also discussed scheduling an introduction for the district's new representative, Mr. Ridley.

Members emphasized the importance of reviewing presentation requests in advance to ensure relevance and value to the community.

Additional Announcements

Discussion included:

- Procedures for food purchasing and approvals.
- Expectations for member responses to council communications.
- Upcoming principal interview and selection processes.
- Future meeting planning and presenter scheduling.

Adjournment

The Business Meeting adjourned at **7:08 PM**.

Next Meeting

Date: September 14, 2026

