

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 14

MINUTES: 9/17/2026

Annual Elections Meeting

Call to order and Roll Call (Council meetings are open to the public) - **6:05pm**

Emily Williams - Here	Minden Koopmans - Here
Françoise Olivas - Here	Neil Padover - Here
Laraine DeAngelis - Here	Lara Fareed - Resigned / Absent
Natalia Espinoza - Here	

Chair Pro-Tem Election

- Laraine DeAngelis self-nominates
- Françoise Olivas - Second
- All Approved
- Laraine DeAngelis nominated Chair Pro-tem

Council President Election led by Chair Pro-Tem

- Maura Conley nominates Neil Padover, he accepts
- Neil Padover made a statement
- All members voted Yes, Neil is elected president

President Neil takes over remaining nominations

First Vice President Election

- Carlos Cabrera self-nominates
- Carlos Padover made a statement
- All members voted Yes, Carlos is elected first vice president

Second Vice President

- Neil Padover nominates Françoise Olivas
- Françoise made a statement
- All members voted Yes, Françoise is elected second vice president

Recording Secretary

- Minden Koopmans self nominates, and made a statement
- All members voted Yes, Minden is elected Recording Secretary

Treasurer

- Emily Williams self-nominates, and made a statement
- All members voted Yes, Emily is elected Treasurer

Elections Meeting adjourned

Call to order and Roll Call (Council meetings are open to the public) - **6:25pm**

Emily Williams - Here

Minden Koopmans - Here

Françoise Olivas - Here

Neil Padover - Here

Laraine DeAngelis - Here

Lara Fareed - Resigned / Absent

Natalia Espinoza - Here

Presidents Statement

- Neil welcomed back all families and thanked them for their time
- Recap of August Meeting and family concerns that were shared (leadership changes, school safety, screen time and AI concerns) - And overall, the CEC is here to listen and we acknowledge that families are in deep need of clear information and more opportunities to understand and provide feedback on school
- This month NYC PS announced changes to AI in schools and screen time limits
- Parents have raised concerns that students are not reading whole books
- CEC made requests of the superintendent, including:
 - Information on the educational technology
 - Classroom used screeners and other technology used for assessment
- We know our work will move forward, but will also need to be continued beyond our two-year term.

Approval of August meeting minutes

- Françoise moves to approve the minutes, Carlos seconds
- All members vote, approved unanimously

Statement

Neil Padover reads a prepared statement, related to terms of settlement (Sutton et al. vs Alexander et al) - [please link to slide we presented](#)

- Vote to strike article in the bylaws.
 - Neil Padover - Approve
 - Maura Conley - Approve
 - Laraine DeAngelis - Approve
 - Minden Koopmans - Approved
 - Françoise Olivas - *Absent* (stepped out of the meeting)
 - Natalia Espinoza - Approve
 - Carlos Cabrera - Approve
 - Emily Williams - Approved

The removal is approved.

Subcommittee Updates - No updates for this meeting.

CEC Events - Principal check-in to be scheduled - tentatively 10/7.

Superintendent Report [Please Link to presentation](#)

- Dr. Cintron presented, highlights include:
 - Welcome back to school and acknowledgement of the 25th anniversary of 9/11

- Welcome new acting interim principals in our district (Kimberly Rodney at PS196 and Sandra Simplice at PS250)
- NYS Testing Results - Superintendent shared that there were changes to the "cut" scores for 1,2,3,4 and that adjustment changed our results. In D14 saw a ~5 percentage point drop - smaller than NYS or NYC drops; Dr. Cintron shared that other subgroups also did not see smaller drops compared to the average
- Citywide curriculum - The Math Revolution, for D14 will expand its Math Competition (D14 is not an NYC Solves district. D14 has not selected a singular curriculum, but work is happening this year to assess options from NYC PS for future years)
- Generative AI has been banned for 2k-8 for any student use (9-12 has some limited uses), 1-year policy
 - D14 is not struggling because tech use was central of prior ATM+ approach, only a small part - removing it did not cause a problem as our teaching remained human-centered
 - D14 also suspending the technology stations in teaching approach in every school (will review any exceptions on case-by-case). Enrichment station is now advancing with Problem-Based Learning, more books in our classrooms)
 - Every middle school will be participating in Billion Oyster Project (all 6th graders)
 - Will expand Superintendent's tech advisory group
 - Diagnostic tools - D14 using iReady for ELA and Math, only use assessment module (not generative AI)

Brooklyn North High School Report - Two high schools spoke:

- **Lyons Community School** - Wuta Onda spoke about school, shared out on what makes it special (no Regents, students support development of new electives for students, including ASL, hydroponics, share food from gardens with their families)
 - **Open house next Wednesday 9/23 12:30-1pm Middle School and High School**
 - Parent Coordinators and Principals are welcome to visit
- **Brooklyn Nexus HS** - Principal Nirmala Nanes and their new assistant principal spoke about new name for the high school on the Grand Street Campus and shared about their programming (three CTE programs, Future Ready, Hospitality and Tourism, Engineering Robotics, and an IB diploma program)
 - Open House for Middle School Counselors should come next Friday at 10am
 - 10/1 Family Mixer night 5-7p (open to interested families)

Elected Officials/PEP:

- **Rep from Assembly Member Davila's office** gave an updated on NYS funding, including early childhood, food and hunger prevention

- **Camille, BP appointee to PEP**, welcomed everyone back to school. SCA has a new head and Camille is welcome to join these walk-through. Reach out to Camille if you have issues with busing or other back-to-school challenges. [Contact information](#)
- **Rep from Councilmember Gutierrez's office** welcomed everyone back. Participatory budgeting starting very soon (PS 257 was awarded funding in the last round), Hispanic heritage event, and trash force clean up coming soon.

Public Comment

- Will Clifford and members of Brooklyn Football Club shared about free youth programming and the new teams they have. Interested in doing free clinics with DOE schools.
- Priscilla Ghaznavi is a member of the community and shared that is listening and learning from our parents and schools.
- On zoom, a parent asked a question about screentime limits now in place and how that relates to testing.
 - Françoise asked a follow-up question about how kids can take tests on computers when they are using them in school. Students are frustrated by lack of typing skills. Also asked about how students can move to the next grade if they are meeting grade level in the state testing.
 - Superintendent clarified that the NYS determines the testing requirements. NYC / D14 do not dictate how the tests are used. The superintendent does not know what the state is planning. In D14, we use a few different assessment tools. Will cover this as a follow-up topic in future discussions.

Calendar Meeting Adjourned

Business Meeting

Call to order and Roll Call (Council meetings are open to the public) - 7:50pm

- Emily Williams - Here
- Françoise Olivas - Here
- Laraine DeAngelis - Here
- Natalia Espinoza - Here
- Minden Koopmans - Here
- Neil Padover - Here
- Lara Fareed - Resigned / Absent

New Business

Councilmembers put forward a Resolution on AI

Emily read the AI resolution

- Minden motioned to approve, Françoise seconded
 - Neil Padover - Approve
 - Maura Conley - Approve
 - Laraine DeAngelis - Approve
 - Minden Koopmans - Approve
 - Françoise Olivas - Approved
 - Natalia Espinoza - Approve
 - Carlos Cabrera - Approve
 - Emily Williams - Approved

- The AI Resolution is approved unanimously and will be posted to the CEC website

Councilmembers put forward a Resolution on screen time -[please link to presentation](#)

- Emily read the screen time resolution
- Minden motioned to approve, Neil seconded
 - Neil Padover - Approve
 - Maura Conley - Approve
 - Laraine DeAngelis - *Abstain*
 - Minden Koopmans - Approve
 - Francoise Olivas - Approve
 - Natalia Espinoza - Approve
 - Carlos Cabrera - Approve
 - Emily Williams - Approved
- The Screen time Resolution is approved and will be posted to the CEC website

No CEC Member Applicants in-person. Vacancies remain.

Resolution Process

CEC members discussed bringing additional resolutions forward.

- Councilmember asked if there is a certain volume of families or schools that need to be in support of a topic for it to be a resolution.
- Some members expressed strong commitment to hearing from families and parents at a diverse set of D14 schools. Other councilmembers considered if a research / evidence base is enough to bring a resolution forward.
 - PTA Principals Council could be a partner in hearing from schools. SLT meetings at a councilmembers liaison school are also a great resource.
- Councilmembers acknowledge that any resolution must have three councilmembers to support and then be voted upon. Having a broad, documented set of family input would improve a members ability to bring forward a resolution and to have it approved.
- Current resolution ideas the council has considered / received include one related to Math Curriculum (shared by a PS110 parent) and Music Curriculum (led by Laraine)
- CEC would like to hear parents in-person, virtually, or through some kind of form / letter writing.
- Council agreed to continue discussion.

Business Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes from Recording Secretary: Emily Williams

Cc: File