

Community Education Council District 32 Meeting

CALENDAR AND BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES	November 16, 2022	6:00 PM	CEC D32 Office 1160 Decatur Street Brooklyn, NY 11207
Type of Meeting	Calendar and Business Meetings		
Note Taker	Tatiana Beato, Administrative Assistant		
Attendees		Calendar Meeting	Business Meeting
	Desines Rodriguez	Present	Present
	Jessica Jean-Mackey	Absent	Absent
	Marlene Rossi	Present	Present
	Defina Scott	Present	Present
	Nahshon K. Brown	Absent	Absent
	Zebulon Miletsky	Absent	Absent
	Dr. Rebecca Lozada, Superintendent	Present	Present
	Steve Wieser, Face Liaison	Absent	Absent
Quorum	Met		

Monthly Calendar Meeting: 6:00 PM

- Call to order and roll call:** Desines Rodriguez, Marlene Rossi, Defina Scott
- Brief message from Principal Ms. Carleen Miller Bailey from PS.299 Followed by student Performance of PS.299**
- Brief message from Principal Janine Matos from PS.377 Followed by Student Performance of President PS.377**
- CEC32 President Report and Announcements:** Good evening, everyone and welcome to see this year's business meeting and schedule, if this is your first time at our meeting a special welcome. Thank you for being with us tonight. We meet as a council once a month to meet with our superintendent, Dr. Rebecca Lozada, staff, elected officials, and parents from our school. You will also hear a report from the superintendent on the state of our school, Dr. Rebecca Lozada.
- Report from the Community Superintendent Dr. Rebecca Lozada:** Welcome! to our November CEC. Meeting tonight. I'm super excited because we have our own councilwoman, Jennifer Gutierrez. Hello! Thank you very much for joining us. You must see a small piece of what is happening in the schools of our district, raising the bar of excellence, and giving our children what they rightly deserve through the arts, music, and dance. education is personal. I am very excited to communicate, not only in those to the schools that will be exhibited tonight. So much happened in the month of October, early November, we

had our educator exchange, where three of our own educators and teachers from District 32 were alumni, one of whom was my student teacher. She is a guidance counselor. So, we had about 60 teachers across the district virtually come in and brainstorm. We also had the CSA School Leaders Gala. It was with directors and assistant directors all over New York City, as well as a delegate. We bring together our guidance counselors, social workers, and speech teachers who meet once a month for wellness monitoring because they reach out so much to the needs of our kids, our families, and so they come together and share great unique practices. We learn from each other and from our educator, executive director, so they will also meet this Friday in our office. I have been meeting more and more with students because we want to advocate for them to know that their voice counts and makes a difference. We had our District 32 Parent Coordinator meeting every month. They will also meet this Friday. Remembering that November is Puerto Rican Heritage month, and I am very proud of that. Also remember that on Friday, November 18, we have our bi-monthly collaboration meeting with anyone who wants to come. I'll have Dan put the link in the chat, let's say, online at 1:00 p.m., that's for CEC. Council of members or presidents. Any parent who wants to come over and have a conversation with myself, as well as having a monthly chat with the superintendent this month. It is November 21 at 9:00 AM. In my office, or if you prefer virtual at 5:00 p.m. On November 21 as well. Let's stay connected and know that we work as a community of one. Thank you very much.

6. **Report from High School Superintendent Mrs. Janice Ross by Dr. Rushell White:** Good afternoon, everyone. I am Dr. Michelle White, and I am very happy to be with this CEC32 family. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity on behalf of Superintendent Ross, just to share our updates on high school. October was an amazing month for us. We participate in many high school fairs. We had a small high school fair, which we are very proud of. We also had a high school fair that was held on Saturday last week and was well attended. So, it was very well taken care of, and we're excited about the turnout so far and our high schools continue to host their own personal high school fair, and we encourage everyone to attend. We are very proud of the work we do at North Brooklyn High Schools. We have sat programs available to all our students. We do we've worked with or is working with Khan Academy and the university board to make sure students can log in and create an account so they can get seat prep for free. And so, we're rooting for all our parents. We continue to monitor attendance at our schools. But in the meantime, we have some upcoming events. Many of our students are committed to college now. We also have the opportunity at Vaughn College for our children to be born in college. In alignment with our college and career goal, we partner with colleges to ensure that all our director meetings are held on a college campus or a place of business for our future careers. The first one that opened the door for us in September, so all the directors were there, and they gave each director a scholarship to give to their students, who would be interested in becoming a pilot or enter aeronautics. So, we were very excited about that partnership, and all the city leaders have expanded their partnership with them as well. They also took advantage of the National Educational Equity Laboratory, which is part of several colleges and universities across the country. And again, our students are sitting in their regular high school classrooms. Teachers are trained by members of the university on how to teach university courses, and these courses are taught. Students sit and earn college credit. Some of the universities include Harvard, so our students will earn Harvard University credits before they graduate from high school. So, we're very excited about that partnership. We also have the partnership with Liu. They have a Rock School of Rock, a Rock nation school of music. So, for students who are interested in getting into the field of music, which is something that Jay-z brought to Liu, the musicians who are in the field are taught by the artists. And so, our children have the opportunity to go and earn college credit in the program through Smart Scholars Early College. So, we're excited about that opportunity for our students as well. I mentioned that again in terms of preparing for post-secondary. All supports will be provided to our students. They have access to tutoring. All they must do is create an account through the university board, create an account through a Khan academy. Khan Academy is an accessible online program. It is a mentoring program. Help students prepare for. You know, any subject is A.K. There are twelve tutoring programs. So that anyone can log in. If someone is struggling in a math, social studies, or science class, they have all the tutoring available for all students. We want to highlight two of our schools and District 32. It is one of the

first schools in New York State to be certified as a data science school. So, students who are interested in data science can apply to book with leaders, and they will participate in these programs.

7. First Public Comment:

- a) **Renesha:** I am a resident of District 32. But I know that we also have high schools in the district, the comments I have, or suggestions are also outstanding for our high school. we have many parents who are interested in what is happening in our schools at the School Leadership Team level. And I think what I am suggesting is that our superintendent and deputy superintendent encourage the functional way of running sat. So, what I am suggesting is that we encourage our school leaders to function. to its maximum capacity when there are statutes. I sat down with DLT with District 32 and then we talked about the bylaws. We are talking about the executive team. We talked about the CEC, and when I sit in high school, that is what I look for, but it is not, and sometimes even with our grade level schools. I am looking for what I have experienced, I'm afraid to say it's not always there. I appreciate our school leaders. I appreciate you ladies and what you are going through with your teams. But I would appreciate it if we gave our parents the power to say that we, too, can learn to be in that capacity. Therefore, I look forward to a very prosperous year. Our communication is in the fleet, especially in the 32nd district. we are doing it.
- b) **Marlene Rossi:** Good afternoon, everyone District 32 is really doing their thing. They are ready with the collaboration. And take our students to the next level. So, I just wanted to make that comment. I have a question for Dr. White regarding Bushwick Leaders, my first question would be: Has there been a difference? or a drop in attendance since they moved or relocated to the school, they moved to a few months ago at the beginning of the school year AND if there has been, has any research been done to see why that drop is occurring? And I am going to start with that question.
- c) **Dr. Rushell White:** The strict leaders, you know, had to change. And so, there was a rocky start. because many of our students are used to being at home, you know. But let me just say that they started year-end attendance last year it ended at 82%. And so, they began. It's an improvement. They were at 78% and the change happened around October 7, where they had an increase from 79 to 81. They made improvements in September, so it started badly in September, and it actually shows an improvement, which is a good thing. So, we're going to work with them to make sure we address the additional problem of our children.
- d) **Marlene Rossi:** So, the next question is about data science. what is that exactly? Can you elaborate a bit, so parents can understand what a data science program would be? How is it for your children? Or are they even interested if it is a show for them? What is?
- e) **Dr. Rushell White:** Yes. So, it is a program where the students are. We know that data controls a lot in terms of technology. There are many cultivated fields that come with data. So, all these companies, these organizations, they have Google for example, they even have your phone, everything to do with data and technology is related to data science. is helping our students understand computer science, how to use data to market products. and the opportunities to participate in those high technology opportunities that will be available to them. when they graduate from high school. it is being able to be the next Jeff Bezos or be the next inventor of our new phone system. But to have that technology, to have access to learn how that understanding works, the science behind it, and to be able to participate in that way. we are very excited about that.
- f) **Defina Scott:** I am very excited to see all that is happening in District 32, the opportunity to incorporate music, singing, and dancing, even as adults, those are skills that sometimes, even as adults, it is a challenge to break into, so to see in what they are working on at such a young age made my heart smile. It was great to see District 32 figuring out how to prepare our students for tomorrow the things we learned in school, not to mention that it is all completely irrelevant. New York City is a hub of talent, and instead of having all the international and even national visitors that come and participate in our phenomenal job and growth offerings. We are cultivating tomorrow's leaders and tomorrow's talent right here. I just wanted to thank all our leadership and

all our parents who obviously support the students who participate in these phenomenal programs. I hope to see more. I look forward to professional development. I see it will happen to support even us CEC members. so that we can all be as well-equipped as possible to function at maximum capacity.

8. Committee Report:

- a) **Desines Rodriguez:** I want everyone to know that all our seats will be in the elections next year. We will provide more information in the coming months. But you should market calendars now for April 21, when voting opens, but don't wait another day to open a school account in New York City if you haven't already, because we make decisions that impact your children. I like to take an extra minute to introduce myself. My name is Desines Rodriguez. I am the mother of two children, one in elementary school and one in high school. I have the pleasure of working with both superintendents. I have been a member of the CEC for 5 years and I am very dedicated. I serve parents to teach, empower and share. And now I'll open for the second public comments.

9. Second Public comment

10. Adjournment 7:27 PM

Business Meeting: 7:37 PM

1. **Call to order and roll call:** Desines Rodriguez, Marlene Rossi, Defina Scott.
2. **Approval of minutes:** 3 Members were missing, we could not approve the minutes, so the approval of the minutes of October 20, 2022, will go to the next meeting.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was moved to the next meeting due to the absence of 3 members.

4. Building of the Agenda:

Marlene Rossi: I mean, I just think I did a traversal on PS.151 and I found myself I met that director for the first time. Very nice lady. I did walk through them. They are under construction. They've been under construction for the last four years, and Covid hit, you know, and there were some deadlocks on that end. But what worries me is that what I really saw from the whole situation was that there is no accountability, and you know, especially in the times that we are in where there are limited funds for so many things that have to do with our children. I think I think we could do better, and we should do better because they've worked at that school. It is a two-year project that was extended a bit longer due to Covid. However, a lot of the work they are doing is and there is a saying like you. You build something with your hands and break it with your feet. That's that's what I see. They They have done all this work, though. So, they have They been not. They're not doing the job right, so it's hurting again, which means the school, even though it's doing the work it needs to do with these contractors. In the end you must do it again, or it is not a job that will really benefit the school or the building itself. It is an old building. It's over a hundred years old, so they're working. They're not doing the job right where there's water damage, you know, after painting and doing the walls, and doing all this work, they're letting the water damage because they don't seal the roof. where that's still under construction, because it's an old building, so all these better be there's all these other things that come into play that we're probably not in the plans and then it is damaging the work. So yes, they redid everything, let's say, on the top floor, but they don't cover the ceiling properly, and then all the water leaks out. So, they have bubbling beams and they have polka dots. So, what was the point of doing the job. That's how it is. It's up to me to see. It's a little frustrating because you did the job, but then you didn't cover the roof. So now you must do the job again. So, what is going to happen? The school is going to be a scaffold for a longer time. Children are going to be exposed to that type of condition for a longer time. Because sure, you can't open the window because there's debris outside and you know the wind is going to bring all that dust. I feel like I'm on a ram here. But it was annoying to see that you work. you're not doing your job properly. So, what you

already did is broken and then must be done again. In ten years, when it's passed again, the money put in there is good for the contract, no matter how much money is spent. So now you can't fix what ends up broken after the fact. So, what was the point of that? So, with accountability? Who is responsible for doing the work, and doing it correctly, so that our funds are correct? I am as I am. I'm upset about that project, and that walkthrough. That's what I got from my walkthrough.

Desines Rodriguez: You already know about capital planning and what capital planning is not. You are right. I noticed there was a lot of leaks in the building and was trying to figure out why, hey! As I walked and took a video of my tour and took photos. All I saw was leaks in the ceiling, or some of the vents weren't cleaned properly, and it's like. Also, you can't even get up there with a ladder. In fact, you need additional equipment to do it. My son came back and told me the gym was leaking all sorts of stuff, so I know they're working on SCA too. But I feel like you're giving us like a two-year contract, and it's gone. The contract will be extended to six years as now. Now, for example, when I ask Marlene, let me answer the question that she asked Dr. White, with her assistants. for our understanding. You know they're trending and things like that. Come on, we're not going down. We are supposed to. As well as getting updates from this high school and seeing how they are doing. so. By the way, it was an amazing question that you asked me my name. But yeah, I've done my job. You have some principles that don't even want to let you in or answer. We had Celeste from the Community Board. She sent an email yesterday to the CEC. Me and Dr. Lozada stating that there was some dust and dust that people were complaining about when they dropped off the kids and over the weekend and that was a big concern and that is a principle in this district which I am still trying to work with. She has not let me in. He just sends it to the CEC a lot. Of the things that need to be fixed, that you're building. So, I think maybe we need to talk to Lozada right. to see what he could do, because there seems to be a lot of leaks in the roof, so it's like Honestly, that's probably why, some of the families are dropping out of all the schools. it's like, I don't want to have my son in the school that floods all the time. How is he going to learn how? I feel like the principals are using the budgets for furniture, and not really using it for the curriculum.

Defina Scott: we are talking about the school visit, but I think also in general. she made me think about when we were filling out the superintendent's review or report, evaluating it I don't know if you agree, I know she came in the middle of a quarter. but I think I have seen a change in the things I mentioned in the review. So in terms of accountability, I think she's paid attention herself and started making some improvement changes that address some of the things that came up in the assessment, and I think she's the perfect person, obviously, to go to in terms of what or who in terms of these repairs there has to be a governing body that we should be as alarmed as we are but someone is clearly not doing their job in terms of who is overseeing the work that the contractors are doing. That is feasible and sustainable, as Marlene mentioned. Having a two-year contract that you just must fix, fix in a short time is a complete waste of time and public funds for everyone. so, raising the issue with Dr. Lozada as a starting point. But also in that professional development meeting, just like on tour, I think that's another person, to follow up on, especially at the beginning of the school year, like. Now when we are doing our tours. Who do we look for to really lead and take responsibility, I think that is not enough, because obviously, we need to vent and everything that is useful, right? And know what is going well. That is the point of doing the tour. that is the condition of the school and state of repairs. It's no secret, and in other neighborhoods you never, ever see or know, and a lot of parents would make noise about those issues and obviously in the right ears. And we must do the same.

1. **Adjournment** 8:30 PM

APPROVAL OF CALENDAR, AND BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES	October 20, 2022, November 16, 2022 – Next Meeting [Met Quorum]
NOTE: A draft of all meeting minutes are available within two weeks after the meeting and will be posted on the Council’s website at CEC32.org.	
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM
SUBMITTED BY:	Tatiana Beato, Administrative Assistant

Subject to approval on: Thursday, December 15, 2022

Tatiana Beato

_____Recording Secretary

