

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 14

1.8. 2026 Public Meeting Notes

ATTENDEES:

Françoise Olivas
Neil Padover
Laraine DeAngelis
Lara Fareed
Carlos Cabrera
Minden Koopmans
Emily Williams

Calendar Meeting

- Call to order and Roll Call -6 :19PM
- Subcommittee Updates
 - Bylaws -
 - Communications
 - Promoting Wellness in schools
 - “Know Your Rights” Workshops
 - Family Institute on AI Literacy - 1/21 at 9am
 - Equity, Transparency, Accountability
 - Data gathering from elected officials - what have you given to schools in the district? (Across 3 fiscal years)
 - Following schools have received \$0
 - PS 120, PS 23, IS 318, MS 577
 - The Council is trying to figure out what money has been gifted (in name only) versus paid versus project funded then completed
 - Next step: Will share liaison list so that schools know which CEC member is liaison to their school
 - A “Status page” would be great
- Capital Project Prioritization
 - Principals submitted the top priorities they have for their buildings
 - CEC will submit all projects to the School Construction Authority, marking our top 5 recommendations for projects to be funded this year
 - Link to public capital plans document
 - Thank you to everyone for submitting during this busy time. Over 95 priorities. Bathrooms, Gyms, Auditoriums, AC. To us, these are essential aspects of a school building and we will work hard to put them into some sort of priority, but will work beyond the SCA’s yearly requests to get these issues addressed.
 - Especially a bathroom initiative. Some of them are old, some are not functioning, some are outdated or not age-appropriate.
 - [cut in the recording]
 - From the floor:
 - From FACE: Our concerns about bathrooms could inspire a resolution from the Council. This would formalize our thoughts, our language, and get the resolution in front of everyone.
 - Expense concerns about bathrooms

- “No” shouldn’t be an option
 - IS 318 is the largest school in the district and the largest summer school in the district. Not having AC in the auditorium makes it really difficult to function
 - How does this work with temperatures in the room being above lawful levels, above safety levels?
 - Participatory budgeting can handle things like AC
 - There are avenues outside the SCA budgeting process
 - PS 126 PA system - only 1 person knows how to work that system its so ancient
 - PS 31 is exploding with enrollment; should be addressed
 - Q: CEC 14 wants to keep these projects going, what are some ways to keep these requests afloat?
- Any Elected, PEP, or Principal representative comments
 - Evelyn Cruz - from Congresswoman Velázquez - will meet with Superintendent Cintron about AI and will look into money for bathrooms. No updates about Title I cuts.
- Upcoming 1/16 Principal Check-In with the CEC on Zoom, reports in future meetings
- Cook Shop / Nutrition: upcoming programs
- SUPERTINDENT’S REPORT: Dr. David Cintron
 - Chancellor Kamar Samuels plans to visit with CECs
 - Dr. Melanie Pitchford: new Executive Director for School Support!
 - AI guidelines: At the base level, it should enhance what we do in teaching and learning. Policy forthcoming
 - Ballet Hispánico to come to D14 schools for a residency
 - New District 14 newsletter
 - Next open house 2/12, for CEC to visit classrooms and students, with a focus on instruction
 - Link to report
- Yuet M. Chu, Executive Director of School Support and Operation, Office of Brooklyn North High School
 - Link to report
- Public Comment
 - PS 414 Brooklyn Arbor - representing parents who are concerned about digital technology in the classroom and concerns about AI. Adams put forth AI contracts to the PEP but it failed. AI company objectives do not align with the DOE.
 - Lisa Cheung Bender - PS 132 - stories of fentanyl containers on campus and picked up by a PreK student and brought home. Lack of communication with families. Is there narcan available on campus? Are parents trained?
 - Superintendent Cintron confirms that there was a container left on the perimeter of the school, *not* on campus. Everyone is working together to confirm that the grounds are safe - principals, parks, parents, custodial staff.
 - Francoise Olivas - a partnership with Parks might be a good idea.
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- Adjournment of calendar meeting at 8:10pm

BUSINESS MEETING

- Call to order and Roll call at 8:10
 - Françoise Olivas
 - Neil Padover
 - Laraine DeAngelis

- Lara Fareed
 - Carlos Cabrera
 - Minden Koopmans
 - Emily Williams
- President's Report
 - 1-2 times to meet in the next week to get report ready for the SCA
 - 1/16 principal check in prep
 - 2/12 Carols Cabrera will run the next 2 meetings while Neil Padover is out of town
- New Business
 - Françoise Olivas brings up swim
- Adjournment of Business meeting at 8:13