



Draft

Community Education Council 23 Meeting Minutes

Date: January 5, 2026

Location: In-Person (No Internet; no hybrid meeting)

Attendance: Members Present:

Elcock, Romero, Akela, Joan Stewart, Pitts, French, Ruiz, Tucker, Brockington

Excused Absence: Garcia and shaw

Guests / Presenters:

- Dom Alexander (Office of Council Member Sandy Nurse)
- Ms. Chu (Brooklyn North High Schools)
- Robert Williams (Borough Director for Language Access)
- Food Director Oudker

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at **6:20 PM**.

Ground Rules

Ground rules were reviewed by Treasurer Pamelita Romero.

President's Report

- President wished everyone a **Happy New Year**.
- **School walkthroughs** are ongoing.

Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent started his report by acknowledging the **new School Chancellor**.
- Continued initiatives include **NYC Reads** and **NYC Solves**.
- New focus on **equity among schools** and improved use of **Parent Coordinators**.
- Plan to visit **all 45 districts within the next month**

DCEP Goals

- **Priority 1:** NYS ELA exam results increased from **48.6% to 53.6%**.
- **Chronic Absenteeism:**
 - Pre-holiday attendance at **80%**, which is low but **7% higher than the city average**.

Additional Updates

- **MLK Soapbox Event:** Students must memorize their speeches.
 - **CEP Compliance:**
 - Recording Secretary Pitts asked about schools not in compliance.
 - Dr. Kirkland clarified the district approved full CEPs for the three schools; schools failed to upload documents to the state. Approval and uploads are currently in process.
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Brooklyn North High Schools Presentation

Presenter: Ms. Chu

- **ELL Services:** 95% of English Language Learners are receiving required services.
 - **Seal of Biliteracy:**
 - 32 of 47 schools currently offer the program.
 - **Project Open Arms:**
 - Weekly “Know Your Rights” sessions
 - Adult education offerings
 - 15 parents must commit to a semester to open a class within a school.
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Language Access Update

Robert Williams, Borough Director for Language Access, will begin visiting CECs

Food Services Report

Presenter: Food Director Ms. Oudkerk

- Meals provided: **Breakfast, Lunch, Supper, Snack**
- **Two culinary schools**, including one at **Eagle**
- **Meatless Monday** implemented
- **Plant-based menu** at least one day per week (expanded beyond Fridays)
- **Fresh fruit daily**

School-Specific Updates

- **184:** Slated for upgrade this year; **401** redesigning lunch line pending equipment budget
 - **137:** Not receiving upgrade due to low enrollment; estimated **\$250,000** fundraising needed
 - **284:** Principal has a promise; upgrade slated for next year
 - **298:** Electrical outlets fixed
 - **Cafeterias/Tables:** Funded through principals' budgets
 - **327:** Epoxy flooring installed in kitchen
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Participatory Budgeting

Presenter: Dom Alexander (Office of Council Member Sandy Nurse)

- Participatory Budgeting funds are available for **school projects**.
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Additional Discussion

- **Brooklyn Landmark** and **PS 184 PTA Presidents** were acknowledged.
 - Member Pitts raised concerns regarding **YouTube filtering and AI-generated content** (“AI slop”), directed to **DIIT (Division of Instructional Information Technology)**.
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Adjournment (General Session)

The general session adjourned at **7:22 PM**.

Motion: First by French and seconded by Romero

Business Session

Attendance: Members Present:

Elcock, Romero, Akela, Joan Stewart, Pitts, French, Ruiz, Tucker, Brockington

Excused Absence: Garcia and shaw

to Order: 7:30 PM

Approval of Minutes

- **December minutes approved unanimously.**

Motion

A motion was made to:

- Remove:
 - \$705 from Refreshments
 - \$1,935 from Supplies
 - \$660 from Copier
 - \$1,200 from Unscheduled
- Total: **\$4,500**, to be moved to Reimbursements
- If the **SGO** cannot make adjustments or obtain clarification from the **AA**, the SGO must appear in person or virtually at the February meeting.

Vote: All members present voted **Yes**.

Additional Business

- **Capital Plan** due by **January 16**.
 - **Virtual Meeting:** Wednesday, January 14 at **4:00 PM**.
 - Member Pitts will conduct **PS 155** visit on Friday or Monday.
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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at **8:24 PM**.

Motion: First by French and second by Brockington