



## COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

131 Livingston Street, Room 301, Brooklyn, New York 11201

[CEC15@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CEC15@schools.nyc.gov) | tel. 718-935-4267 | [facebook.com/CECD15](https://facebook.com/CECD15) | [CECD15.org](http://CECD15.org)

### Calendar Meeting - Joint Meeting with CEC13 Approved on 4/17/18 at a Calendar Meeting

**Date: 03/20/2018**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Location: PS 133, 610 Baltic Street, Auditorium**

#### Calendar Meeting Agenda (as publicly posted)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Presidents' Welcome - D13 Ayanna Behin and D15 Camille Casaretti
3. District 15 School Budget Allocation Presentation
4. District 13 Superintendent Report - Barbara Freeman
5. District 15 Superintendent Report - Anita Skop
6. State Testing Discussion
  - a. D13 Superintendent Barbara Freeman
  - b. D15 Superintendent Anita Skop
  - c. D15 Principal Anna Allanbrook
  - d. BNS Parent Katie Lapham
  - e. Co-Founder of NYC Opt Out Kemal Karmen
  - f. D13 Field Support Center:
    - i. Bernadette Fitzgerald - FSC Executive Director
    - ii. Alison Sheehan - Director for Teaching and Learning
    - iii. David Olesh - Academic Policy, Performance Assessment Specialist
7. D13/D15 Council Questions and Answers
8. Questions from the floor
9. Review of 80 Flatbush Avenue Communication Plan
10. CEC15 Bylaws Vote
11. Public Comments
12. Adjournment

**Call to Order 6:43 p.m.**

#### Items on the agenda were moved to accommodate School Budget Allocation Presentation

#### 3. District 15 School Budget Allocation Presentation - Laurita Moye, Budget Director

- The Fiscal Year 2019 DOE Budget is \$32.6 Billion. Of this amount the City gets \$12.3 billion, the State gets \$11.1 billion. Schools get a total of \$14 billion.
- This year the DOE will receive \$1.6 billion less. The CFE ruling determined that New York State was not meeting its constitutional requirements in funding public schools and the State agreed to phase in additional funding to New York City schools over four years, however, due to the recession, New York



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State has walked away from this obligation. Without these funds, New York City cannot provide each school with 100% of their Fair Student Funding allocation.

- The Mayor has made significant investments in Equity & Excellence Educational Programs. The following programs will either be introduced or expanded for the next school year:
  - Academic Excellence: Universal 2nd Grade Literacy, Pre-K for All, Computer Science for All, AP for All and Algebra for All
  - Student & Community Support: Single Shepherd, College Access for all Middle Schools, College Access for all High Schools, Community Schools and NYC Summer Meals.
  - Innovation: District-Charter Partnerships, Renewal Schools, Field Support Centers, SchoolFinderNYC.gov and ELL Translation Services.
- Proposed budget weights decides how much each school will receive for each student. Schools receive \$4100 for each student in grades K-5, \$4428 for each student in grades 6-8 and \$4223 for each student in grades 9-12.
- This budget does not cover charter schools.
- If a child leaves a school before 10/31, the money follows the child to the new school. If a child leaves the school after 10/31, the money stays with the first school, and the new school will receive the money the following school year.
- Comments and questions may be directed by April 24, 2018 via email to [BudgetPublicComments@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:BudgetPublicComments@schools.nyc.gov) or by phone to 212-374-6754.

### 1. Roll Call at 7:06 p.m.

#### CEC15 - Camille Casaretti

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President

Kathy Park Price, Co-Vice President

Scott Powell, Co-Vice President

Nicole Brier

Mark Bisard

Antonia Ferraro

Elena Romero

Lili Velez

Late:

Neal Zephyrin

Absent:

Charles Star, Treasurer - Excused

Yanfeng Zhang - Excused

#### CEC13 - Ayanna Behin



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### Present:

Ayanna Behin, President  
Meryem Bencheickh, 1st Vice President  
Christina Prozano, 2nd Vice President  
Ivana Espinet, Secretary  
Benjamin Greene  
Faraji Hannah-Jones

### Absent:

Matrice Sherman, Treasurer  
Horace Allison  
Jacob Jung  
Cynthia McKnight

### Invited Guests:

Barbara Freeman, D13 Superintendent  
Anita Skop, D15 Superintendent  
Laurita Moye, Budget Director  
Anna Allanbrook, D15 Principal (BNS 146)  
Katie Lapham, BNS Parent  
Kemala Karmen, Co-Founder of NYC Opt Out  
Bernadette Fitzgerald, Field Support Center Executive Director  
David Olesh, Academic Policy, Performance Assessment Specialist  
Miguel DeJesus, Academic Support Field Manager

### **2. Presidents' Welcome - D13 Ayanna Behin and D15 Camille Casaretti**

- Thanked everyone for coming the day before a snow storm.
- Thanked PS 133 for having them.
- 1st joint CEC meeting with the newly elected members.
- Want people to feel comfortable about asking questions.
- This is an informational session to provide parents information to make their own decision to have their children take the tests or opt out.
- All voices are welcomed.
- No one should feel pressured to make a decision.
- Comment cards will be passed around for questions.

### **4. District 13 Superintendent Report - Barbara Freeman**

- Conceded her time for the state testing discussion.

### **5. District 15 Superintendent Report - Anita Skop**

- Conceded her time for the state testing discussion.



**6. State Testing Discussion:**

**a. D13 Superintendent Barbara Freeman**

- Conceded her time to other speakers

**b. D15 Superintendent Anita Skop**

- Conceded her time to other speakers

**c. D15 Principal Anna Allanbrook**

- Students in her school must do a project and write a paper, which they present in front of educators. She's very interested to see if students can talk in front of people and whether or not they can articulate what they learned and how they learned it.
- The standardized tests results are not ready until the summer. This does not help the current teacher of students who took the tests.
- Students' test scores reflect the test prep and their ability to understand the test prep. Teachers are being evaluated on how well they prepare students before the tests, not on how well they teach life and learning skills.
- Elementary school is the foundation where we prepare children for the future. If time is spent preparing them for a test then they lose other important things, like the arts, science and teamwork skills.

**d. BNS Parent Katie Lapham**

- As a teacher, she has watched kids suffer and shut down because of these tests.
- Common Core state testing is being used to privatize public education and dismantle teacher unions.
- Any feedback she gets from the testing company is unreliable because of the tests' poor design and development inappropriate content. Authentic and meaningful classroom work, created by educators, not testing companies, paints a much more accurate picture of student progress.
- Test scores are used to unfairly label schools, students and teachers as "failing", and they are used to close local schools in Black, Brown and poor neighborhoods.
- The focus on raising test scores also takes schools away from the work they must do to address school inequity and segregation.
- NYC schools with low test scores face immense pressure to raise scores and therefore most decision-making revolves around this goal. Teacher morale in these schools is low and this trickles down to students. There is little to no freedom to teach and learn in schools with low test scores.
- In many schools with low test scores there is an urgency to improve students' performance in math, reading and writing this results in limited choice time and no free play (in the lower grades), fewer field trips, enrichment programs and school performances.
- English-language learners (ELLs) are the most over-tested students in New York State. The annual ESL assessment is given to ELLs every spring following the ELA and math tests. Many parents of ELLs don't even know their child is taking this test.



- Encouraged parents to go on the website and take the tests.

**e. Co-Founder of NYC Opt Out Kemala Karmen**

- Standardized tests determine the bottom 5% schools.
- The mechanism of test works to privatize schools.
- What kind of education do parents want for their children? A way to fix the problem of testing is to vote against what is being forced to our children.
- Is not aware of any schools being penalized for students not taking the tests.
- Test score is not the determining factor of getting accepted in a school. Some high score students got into their 1st choice school while some didn't. Low score students got into their choice school while others didn't.
- Kids that have opted out were accepted in good schools.
- Tests are much longer now. In 2010 there a 5th grade standardized test had 61 questions, while in 2016 the test had 117 questions.
- 95% of ESL and IEP students are considered not proficient and failing.

**f. D13 Field Support Center - Bernadette Fitzgerald, David Olesh, Miguel DeJesus**

- Only here to answer technical questions about the tests.
- Tests are 2 days long, untimed.
- Administered tests must adhere to IEPs and must be based on students' needs.

**7. D13/D15 Council Questions and Answers**

- The physical facilities where kids are taking the tests are not very comfortable. Some classrooms are too hot and windows can't be opened due to noise. Will the DoE commit to make sure those facilities are up to code or at least commit to bus kids to a comfortable facility?
  - Superintendent Skop - Have Principals contact Superintendent's office.
- What information guidepost has been provided to principals regarding testing?
  - Superintendent Skop - This is a state law, a state requirement. No letters have been sent out to principals telling them what they can do and not do. That decision rests on the parents.
- Are tests scores still included into middle school acceptance?
  - Superintendent Skop - Test scores used for a small percentage. Parents are very aware of testing percentage acceptance in middle school.

**8. Questions from the floor**

- CEC13 President Ayanna Behin and CEC15 President Camille Casaretti read comment cards that were handed to them during the meeting. Speakers gave answers to comment card questions.

**11. Public Comments**

- No public comments

**10. CEC15 Bylaws Vote**



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**Motion to vote on the CEC15 Bylaws - Camille Casaretti**

**2 motion to vote on the CEC15 Bylaws - Scott Powell**

**Vote passed by all 6 members present during time of voting**

### **9. Review of 80 Flatbush Avenue Communication Plan**

- Some edits were made

**Motion to approve the 80 Flatbush Avenue Communication Plan - Scott Powell**

**2nd motion to approve the 80 Flatbush Avenue Communication Plan - Lili Velez**

**Approved by all 7 members present during time of voting**

### **12. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn meeting - Neal Zephyrin**

**2nd motion to adjourn meeting - Lili Velez**

**Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:52 p.m.**

- Minutes submitted by Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant

### Next CEC 15 Meetings:

Tues, Mar 27, Special Session Business Meeting - D15 Office Building, 131 Livingston Street, Room 501

Tues, Apr 17, Calendar Meeting on Overcrowding and Class Size - PS 94 5010 6th Ave.