



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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Business Meeting Minutes

Approved at the CEC15 Calendar Meeting Nov 19, 2019

Amended at the CEC15 Business Meeting Dec 3, 2019

Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: 131 Livingston Street, Room 610

AGENDA (as posted)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes from August 5 and August 13
3. Election of CEC15 Parliamentarian
4. President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President
5. Discussion of CEC15 Goals
6. Selection of School Liaisons
7. Guest Speaker: Halley Potter, Senior Fellow at The Century Foundation
Discussion on Schoolwide Enrichment Model
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

Call to Order at 6:45 p.m.

1. **Roll Call**

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President
Mark Bisard, Co-Vice President 1, IEP Rep
Antonia Ferraro, Co-Vice President 2
Kimmerly Scott, Treasurer
Anna Nadal Burgues, ELL Rep

Late:

Scott Powell - 7pm arrival

Excused:

Bess Abrahams

Absent:

Francisca Montana
Krystal Casson
Kathy Park Price

Special Guests:

D15 Superintendent Anita Skop
Halley Potter, Senior Fellow at the Century Foundation

*****Due to lack of Quorum at the start of meeting, speakers were prioritized. Agenda did not occur as posted.*****



2. President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President

- Welcomed everyone back to a new school year and discussed the importance of creating time for children to talk about their day and share their experiences with the family. Helps to build relationships, helps the child to grow academically, allows a space for the child to express themselves. Let the child lead the conversation when possible. Adults can work on active listening skills.
- **Discussed changes to the Meeting Calendar:** Meeting on Oct 7, not Oct 8. Additional meeting on Nov 19. Moved the Chancellor's Town Hall to the late Spring.
- **Red Hook Community Meeting:** Tues, Sept 17, 6 p.m. at P.S. 15, to discuss SubDistrict 3 rezoning. All are welcome to attend. CEC15 members are encouraged to participate in small group discussions.
- **Upcoming Rezoning Meeting** with the Office of District Planning: Sept 24, at 6:30 p.m. at P.S. 32. Representatives from the Department of Education will be presenting advanced versions of 2 different zoning approaches that were informed by community feedback. There has been a lot of feedback from the community to see a map of what a new zone might look like. A map will be presented but this is not the final map. We will find out more in the coming weeks. Special Guest, NYS Senator John Liu, Chair of the Education Committee, will be speaking. Pres Casaretti solicited for topics to address.
- **Mind Science/Implicit Bias Awareness Workshop** hosted by Perception Institute: Thurs, Sept 26, from 6 - 8 p.m., location to be determined.
- **Charter School Mailings:** In response to parent concerns regarding privacy, the DOE is offering all parents the option to remove their names from charter school mailings produced by Vanguard; families may refuse mailings online or use the paper form that will be sent home via folder. Vanguard services for charter schools will be temporarily suspended until October 25, while forms are collected, and contact lists are updated accordingly. Questions should be directed to the Office of School Charters at the DOE, email charterschools@schools.nyc.gov
- The [School Diversity Advisory Group](#) released its second report with additional recommendations on school screens and Gifted and Talented (G&T) programs. The issue of selective enrollment at New York City public schools is a critically important conversation which focuses us on what a 21st Century education entails and how that relates to the creation of integrated and equitable learning environments for all students.

**3. Guest Speaker: Halley Potter, Senior Fellow at The Century Foundation
Discussion on Schoolwide Enrichment Model**

Ms. Potter discussed her [research background](#) and why she became interested in the [Schoolwide Enrichment Model](#) (SEM) designed by UConn Professors Renzulli and Reis.

The Schoolwide Enrichment Model is widely implemented as a both an enrichment program used with academically gifted and talented students and as a magnet theme/enrichment approach for all students. The theme of the SEM is to develop the strengths and talents of all students, and use an expanded curriculum.

The [identifiers for Gifted & Talented](#) lend themselves to differentiation. There are only gifted behaviours, not gifted students. Elements of Giftedness include: above average academic ability, creativity, commitment to task. The goal is to nurture all students to reach all three rings. SEM helps teachers identify all three areas in students. Gifted abilities can be increased in other areas through the use of this model.

Where the entire school may have enrichment clusters, others may pull out for G&T to connect across disciplines. The goal is to allow students to have access points to advanced learning. Over the course of a year, every child can work on intensive enrichment through [Project Based Learning](#) that has real world value.



This model has been successful in getting diverse groups of students together. In too many schools, overall enrollment may be diverse, but classrooms don't reflect that diversity. SEM can help address and avoid this form of within-school segregation.

The SEM provides enriched learning experiences and higher learning standards for all children through three goals:

- developing talents in all children,
- providing a broad range of advanced-level enrichment experiences for all students, and
- providing advanced follow-up opportunities for young people based on their strengths and interests.

The pedagogical tools of SEM have specifically been shown to be [effective with gifted students](#). This approach of offering enrichment to students across ability levels has also been shown to [improve outcomes](#) for [both high- and low-ability students](#).

The SEM focuses on enrichment for all students through high levels of engagement and the use of enjoyable and challenging learning experiences that are constructed around students' interests, learning styles, and preferred modes of expression. There are a variety of strategies for differentiating instruction while maintaining integrated classrooms that can be used in conjunction with the SEM or on their own, including de-tracking classes while creating course level work for all students in Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) studies.

The basic elements of SEM include:

- enrichment clusters
- different definitions of giftedness
- tools for differentiating instruction

Discussed other "homegrown" enrichment models similar to SEM.

Ms. Potter offered a toolkit for schools: [Strategies for School Leaders and Educators](#). With questions, contact potter@tcf.org

Many of our D15 schools are using this model, either as all day cluster class events, across a whole grade, or on rotating semesters. Discussed details of SEM at P.S. 32, P.S. 39, P.S. 676 and I.S. 88. Very important to have District, School Staff and Family support. SEM helps to form a togetherness at schools that allows for more understanding of each other, and inevitably, less bullying.

Superintendent Skop discussed her training in SEM, her personal experience with her daughter and SEM, and how struggling students may be assigned to a particular teacher, and how some students will team up to support others. SEM can be used as a cluster piece, in small teams or as a whole school model.

Ms. Potter discussed how SEM can lead to smaller class size ratios through addition of community partners and the use of the whole staff. There is lots of planning involved with finding creative ways to scaffold. There is harm for students to be in a low ability track, and this allows for bridging. Teachers require a number of different skills in order to differentiate. This model allows for students to work on a deep level where they are at. It requires a lot of Professional Development for teachers and staff.

Discussion on how students are graded. Tests would still remain in place, there would still be a main teacher, the enrichment cluster is graded differently than the academic class.



4. **Approval of Minutes from August 5 and August 13**

Due to the change in Administrative Assistants, the minutes will be voted on at the Oct 7 Meeting. FACE (Family and Community Empowerment, DOE) has offered CEC15 a temporary AA who will assist with processing of Purchase Orders.

5. **Election of CEC15 Parliamentarian**

Moved to an upcoming agenda.

6. **Selection of School Liaisons**

Because all CEC members were not present, the selections remain incomplete. CEC15 Members present expressed interest in the schools they would like to liaise with. There was a discussion on best practices in liaising with schools. FACE recommends liaising with schools that your child does not currently attend for reasons of perceived and implied Conflict of Interest

- Camille Casaretti expressed interest in PS 896, PS 130 colocated with MS 839.
- Mark Bisard expressed interest in PS 146, PS 154, MS 442, and MS 839.
- Antonia Ferraro expressed interest in PS 32, MS 88 and PS 124
- Kimmerly Scott expressed interest in PS 15, PS 29, MS 447 colocated with HS 656
- Anna Nadal Burgues expressed interest in MS 497 and MS 136 colocated with MS 821
- Scott Powell expressed interest in PS 38, PS 118, PS 172 and PS 676

CEC Members agreed to wait to contact Principals until the list of liaisons is complete.

7. **Discussion of CEC15 Goals**

CEC Members discussed possible focuses for this term:

- Parent engagement around understanding how policies impact education, and more guest speakers.
- Parent empowerment through changes to the Panel for Education Policy
- Improve the admissions process for K, MS and HS
- Data assessment and academic progress
- Review of suspension data and programs/procedures to reduce suspensions
- Discussion on rezoning the entire District
- Research and projections on implementation of new policies and admissions

CEC Members asked FACE for training on roles and responsibilities.

8. **Old Business**

- **Update on Hiring of AA Candidate:** Kathleen Massey, has accepted the position for AA but asked for a flexible schedule. DOE HR Department may approve a modified schedule.
- **Formation of CEC15 Committees:** Antonia Ferraro presented a description for the Legislative Committee, and would like to move forward on formation of such.



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“The Legislative Committee reviews city, state and federal laws and regulations relevant to public education in order to develop comments, resolutions, and policy recommendations. The committee will communicate with elected officials in order to advocate on behalf of District 15 schools, as well as in conjunction with other districts and the ECC (Education Councils Consortium) to advocate for NYC public schools.”

Scott Powell made a motion to form the Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Committee with Antonia Ferraro as Chair.

Kimmerly Scott seconded the motion.

6 votes in favor.

Approved: Formation of the Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Committee with Antonia Ferraro as Chair

- **CEC15 Boro President Appointee Vacancy:** CEC15 currently has only one BPA assigned. Members would like to have a second person appointed by the Borough President. Outreach to the BPs office is in progress.

9. New Business

Discussion on Sponsoring Events vs Partnering on Events: CEC15 Member Kathy Park Price sent a request for CEC15 to sponsor an upcoming Garden Train event. ***Camille Casaretti made a motion for CEC15 to sponsor the event.*** A discussion ensued.

CEC15 will support events and will publish D15 school related events and activities. Discussion on liability, representation, and absence of a Sponsorship Policy within CEC15.

Mark Bisard offered to follow up with FACE(Paola deKock or Steve Weiser) and DOE Legal about creating a Sponsorship Policy.

10. Adjournment at 8:32 p.m.

Scott Powell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Mark Bisard Seconded the Motion.

All in favor of Adjourning the Meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President



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Excused Absence:

Bess Abrahams

Tue 9/10/2019 6:13 PM

Colleagues,

As some of you may remember my father has been ill. I was very much looking forward to tonight having given much thought to many issues but he has been hospitalized unexpectedly and I am here with him now. I'm sorry to report I can not attend tonight's meeting.

Bess