



# COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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## Business Meeting Minutes

Approved at the February 4, 2020 CEC15 Business Meeting

**Date: Monday, December 3, 2019**

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

**Location: P.S. 130 - 713 Caton Ave**

### AGENDA (as posted)

1. Roll Call (2 min)
2. Approval of Minutes (10 min)
3. President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President (10 min)
4. Guest Speaker - Meredith Kiely, D15 Supervisor, OFNS (20 min)
5. SCA Priority List - Progress Report (50 min)
6. Old Business (10 min)
7. New Business (15 min)
8. Adjournment

### Call to order at 6:32pm.

Interpretation in Spanish was offered.

#### 1. Roll Call

##### Present:

Camille Casaretti, President

Mark Bisard, Co-Vice President 1 (left at 7:50 p.m.)

Antonia Ferraro, Co-Vice President 2

Bess Abrahams, Secretary

Kimmerly Scott, Treasurer (left at 8:30 p.m.)

Anna Nadal Burgues, ELL Rep

Scott Powell, Member

##### Absent:

Kathy Park Price, Member

Francisca Montana, BPA

Krystal Cason, Parliamentarian

##### Special Guests:

Meredith Kiely, D15 Supervisor, OFNS

Cynthia Macias, DOE FACE Parent Empowerment Liaison

Christian Mabry, DOE FACE School Based Liaison



## 2. Approval of Minutes

- a. **Approval of Nov 19 CEC15 Meeting Minutes** were contingent on edits, see below.

Edit clarifies the language in section 6 (for the first answer to the first question documented) to include:

*The Office of Enrollment representative explained that some addresses that fall in the D15 elementary school catchment area are zoned for a middle school in a neighboring district.*

Thus, it's possible that (a family in that geographic area who attends (and is zoned for) a D15 elementary school, might be assigned a MS out of D15 district (in this case, a D20 MS) even though they can and may list D15 middle schools on their priority list (list of their preferred schools in ranked order). This happens because not everyone gets placed in a school on their lists, although that is the hope. Being assigned a school not on one's list could be due to a number of reasons, including not putting down enough school choices on the list. CEC discussed the importance of Guidance Counselors informing families that fall into this unique circumstance.

**Antonia Ferraro made the motion to approve the Nov 19 Minutes with edits**

**Bess Abrahams seconded the motion.**

**Decision was unanimous with 7 voting YES, none opposed.**

- b. **Amendment of Sept 10 CEC15 Business Meeting Minutes** was reviewed and approved.

**Camille Casaretti made the motion to approve the Amendments to the Sept 10 Minutes**

**Scott Powell seconded the motion.**

**Decision was unanimous with 7 voting YES, none opposed.**

- c. **Adoption of May 9 Charter Committee Minutes** was reviewed and approved.

**Bess Abrahams made a motion to approve the adoption of the May 9 minutes.**

**Antonia Ferraro seconded the motion.**

**Decision was unanimous with 7 voting YES, none opposed.**

## 3. President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President

- Welcomed everyone, expressed gratitude for our many D15 volunteers, and asked that attendees spread the word about CEC15 meetings with their school communities, friends and neighbors.
- School Visits: CEC Members are visiting their liaison schools to survey building conditions and note possible building improvements. Every year, the School Construction Authority considers including 5 of our suggestions into the Capital Plan, which is the budget document that lists upcoming school capital improvements. SCA will present their Five Year Capital Plan on Jan 28 at P.S. 24.
- The SCA Public Hearing for a new school site has been rescheduled to Feb 4 at 6:30 p.m. CEC15 Business Meeting will precede at 6pm, and then at 7pm there will be a Sunset Park Town Hall where we would be hearing from community members about their ideas and visions for all of the new Sunset Park Schools that are coming on line.
- PTA Data was released recently. These dollars collected are one source of funding that can support school expenses and programming. DLT discussed CEC15 hosting a meeting dedicated to School Budgeting Issues so that interested parties can better understand how schools are funded through Tax Levies, Title 1 funds, Title 3 funds, Grants and Capital Funds.
- Update on Possibility of Middle School Sibling Preference in the D15 Diversity Plan: DOE is considering this as a pilot. It likely will not happen for this year's cycle.

**\*\*CEC Members requested adding this topic to a future agenda for in depth discussion.**



#### 4. Guest Speaker - Meredith Kiely, D15 Supervisor, Office of Food and Nutritional Services (OFNS)

Ms. Kiely manages the managers who work in the D15 school kitchens. She has worked in three regions (Bx, Qns, BK) in five different Districts (7, 9, 12, 25, 15) during her time at School Foods, and has received Recognition for her Leadership.

Ms. Kiely provided a short history of the evolution of school foods and offerings and discussed the many partners like: Garden to Cafe, Farm to School, Cafeteria Culture, Plastic Pilot Program that uses compostable trays and utensils.

She discussed the expansion of Meatless Monday citywide. The Mayor and Chancellor have been to P.S. 1 and 130 for Press Conferences and Announcements. Overall the program has been positive and aligns with the vision. Beneficial for the children's health as well as the health of the planet. Looking at more plant based options but there are plant based options offered everyday at all schools, as an alternative to the daily entree, like hummus and crackers, and sun butter. P.S. 1 was the first school in Brooklyn to offer a vegetarian menu.

Discussion on NY Thursdays where locally sourced farm foods are featured on Thursday's menus across the five boroughs. Serving 35 million apples and 7 million gallons of milk per year. State foods also include Local and sustainable New York State Beef for schools. OFNS receives fewer canned USDA commodities today compared to the years passed. Hence, more fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables are procured. They are constantly looking to expand their local offerings.

Ms. Kiely described the various options for "Breakfast for All" with three service methods so that more students can benefit from the program. Inclusive of Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC), Grab and Go (bagged breakfast at the door), and a hybrid (combo of cafeteria service to early arrivals and a grab & go station for students arriving on time or late for class. Afterward, a bagged Breakfast After the Bell meal is available in the kitchen upon request up until the first lunch period. Talked about the process at P.S. 146.

Zero Waste was piloted in D15. Many schools participate, like P.S. 32.

OFNS has an Allergy Awareness Policy. However, they cannot guarantee a nut, milk or "allergen-free" environment. Families should have a doctor fill out a 504 Plan for children with food allergies. A copy should be provided to the school nurse. To ensure the child's safety they suggest you work with the Nurse, Administration, and SFSM providing a list of food or ingredients that your child needs to avoid.

All meals are free since last September but families must still fill out the School Foods Form in order to keep statistical data and confirm ongoing need for the program. The MS Diversity Plan may shift the data at each middle school.

Discussion on chocolate milk. It is not served on the Alternative Menu. Chocolate milk can be limited to certain days. The Principal has to approve changes and can discuss this with the kitchen staff and school foods manager.

The USDA sets the standards for nutrition. OFNS must meet or exceed those standards within the 5 day week. Suitable substitutions can occur for various reasons but ideally the posted menu is being followed.

Discussion on food plate waste vs. plant plate waste and food offered vs. food served. The students must take 3 item components out of 5 offerings at mealtime to be considered a reimbursable meal. Students must choose (1) item from each food component category. The food component categories are Fruit, Vegetables, Grain, Protein and Milk. Something like a bun burger counts as a grain AND a meat which accounts as (2) components and each lunch tray must contain



either a fruit and/or vegetable. Note - Students are not required to take milk. Allowing students flexibility in choosing what they want on their plate reduces waste. Packaged items that are uneaten can go onto a share table.

Ms. Kiely reported that food managers and principals now meet once a month to talk about needs and assessments of what's working/not working. Monthly metrics are discussed in relation to participation percentages compared to Average Daily Attendance numbers.

## 5. SCA Priority List - Progress Report

CEC Members reviewed their progress with School Visits and listed possible projects to include in the SCA Priority List.

**P.S. 32** - Antonia Ferraro reported that they are undergoing construction and will have an extension added to the current building. Although the old building will become ADA compliant and receive an elevator, there are ongoing issues in the common areas that have gone unaddressed for many years. **P.S. 32 is in need of an electrical upgrade in the Auditorium, Air Conditioning in the Auditorium and Gym.**

**M.S. 88** - Antonia Ferraro reported that they had **requested a green roof**. To her knowledge, no assessment has been done to ascertain if the roof garden is a viable option. The SCA could not prioritize any of the requests made for MS 88 last year, which included AC in the cafeteria and auditorium and curtains on the stage.

**P.S. 124** - Antonia Ferraro reported that repair work in the kitchen has been done since last year's assessment was done. Exterior work has been done on the building in the last year and the scaffold has just been removed in the front, but is still up in the back. **There is a need for new windows and resurfacing of the school yard, hallway floor tiles, security cameras outside of the building, and they have some heating complaints.** *\*\*there was also an update given on the budget struggles that they continue to face with under enrollment, and an update was given on the promises made regarding additional staffing as a direct result of two new shelters opening in the area\*\**

**M.S. 136 and M.S. 821** (co-located) - Anna Nadal Burgues reported that the schools would like to purchase an **ID Card Scanning System** for security purposes. BHS has a system like this that allows tracking of the students when they arrive, leave the building for lunch, and are dismissed. **They would like to discuss a redesign to provide for a Multi-Purpose Room, and are in need of a School Yard Renovation.**

**BHS I.S. 497** - Anna Nadal Burgues reported that they are having a lot of space concerns and would like the DOE to review the usage of the building, and possibly relocate one of the existing schools. **They are in need of a new gym floor.**

**P.S. 676** - Scott Powell discussed enrollment and budgeting issues. P.S. 676 is rebranding as a maritime school with a name change, possibly someone famous in maritime like Jacques Cousteau, Robert Ballard (underwater explorer who found the Titanic), James Cameron (who dove to the bottom of the Marianas Trench in the Deepsea Challenger), or Dennis Conner (three-time winner of the America's Cup). There are some large grants that they may qualify for through the Marine Society of NY and the Cousteau Society. Parents in the area want stricter rules and discipline. They are considering a uniform or other measures as part of the rebranding to give zoned parents more confidence in the school. **There are no capital improvements requested from PS 676 at this time.**

**P.S. 896** - Camille Casaretti discussed details on the leased building contract. Trying to understand more about what can and can not be done within a leased building. 896 is experiencing budget constraints due to low enrollment as they are only in their second year of existence. Ms. Casaretti will be meeting on Friday with the Principal and a few PTA leaders to discuss building conditions and possible grants.



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**P.S. 130** - Camille Casaretti met with Principal Nunziata and discussed the **need for an elevator in the Lower School Building** which lost its landmark status when a small pre-K extension was added. The auditorium is on the 4th floor and it is very challenging for families to walk up 4 flights of stairs. The building is very old. **There is an original stained glass window in need of repair and restoration.** They have tried to get grants to allow it to survive but because they lost the landmark status they no longer qualify for funding. The windows throughout the building were replaced not too long ago but due to exterior work, **many of the windows can not open due to construction buildup on the exterior sills.**

### 6. Old Business

- **Update on Administrative Assistant New Hire**

An announcement was made that Saida Barker had accepted the offer as CEC15's Administrative Assistant and will begin on Monday, December 16, 2019.

- **Agenda Request**

Voces Cuidado would like to speak at an upcoming meeting. Camille Casaretti and Anna Nadal Burgues will be meeting with them and Superintendent Skop on Friday and will discuss a possible date.

### 7. New Business

- **Gowanus Neighborhood Rezoning** - Antonia Ferraro shared information from a community event she attended regarding new developments in D15 with an eye towards exploring and understanding the impact on D15 schools including environmental concerns, enrollment issues, and impact on our diversity plan.

### 8. Adjournment

*Antonia Ferraro made a motion to adjourn.*

*Scott Powell seconded the motion.*

*The council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:55pm.*

Minutes submitted by: Bess Abrahams, CEC15 Secretary