



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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

APPROVED 2020/10/27

October Business Meeting

October Business Meeting

Via Teleconference

Tuesday, Oct 06, 2020 - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Please sign the Attendance link that will be shared at the start of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (2 min)
2. Approval of Minutes - Bess Abrahams, CEC15 Secretary (8 min)
 - a. Aug 25 Calendar Meeting
 - b. Sept 29 Calendar Meeting
3. Introduction to CEC15 (3 min)
4. Teleconference Protocol (2 min)
5. President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President (10 min)
6. High School Updates from Superintendent Janice Ross - Jen Goldberg (5 min)
7. Vote on Bylaw Amendments (5 min)
8. Old Business (5 min)
9. New Business (80 min)
 - a. Discussion on CEC15 Goals for 20-21
 - b. School Liaison Updates (3 min for each member)
 - c. Discussion on CEC15 Time Allotted for Questions to Presenters
 - d. Other New Business
10. Adjournment

Call to Order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present:

Camille Casaretti (President)
Antonia Ferraro (Co-Vice President 1)
Tia Schellstede (Co-Vice President 2 & BP Appointee)
Bess Abrahams (Secretary)
Mark Bisard (IEP Rep)
Iván Banda (BP Appointee)
Cateia Rembert, Member
Claudia Lechuga, Member

Excused:

Kimmerly Scott (Treasurer)

Late:

Mark Bisard (IEP Rep)
Claudia Lechuga, Member

Special Guest:



Superintendent Anita Scott

2. Approval of Minutes - Bess Abrahams, CEC15 Secretary

- i. Minutes from [2020 08 25](#) Calendar Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from August 10, 2020 - Antonia Ferraro, 2nd motion; Ivan Banda

Roll call vote:

Camille Casaretti, President, yes
Antonia Ferraro, Co-Vice President 1, yes
Bess Abrahams, Secretary, yes
Kimmerly Scott, Treasurer, yes
Tia Schellstede, Co-Vice President 2 & BPA, yes
Ivan Banda, BPA, yes
Cateia Rembert, Member, yes

- ii. Minutes from [2020 09 29](#) Calendar Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from August 10, 2020 - Bess Abrahams, 2nd motion; Cateia Rembert

Roll call vote:

Camille Casaretti, President, yes
Antonia Ferraro, Co-Vice President 1, yes
Bess Abrahams, Secretary, yes
Kimmerly Scott, Treasurer, yes
Tia Schellstede, Co-Vice President 2 & BPA, yes
Ivan Banda, BPA, yes
Cateia Rembert, Member, yes

3. Introduction to CEC 15 was read aloud

4. Teleconference protocol was reviewed

Agenda amended to include Superintendent Skop's update.

5. Superintendent Skop's Update on the Governor's Announcement.

- Mayor De Blasio had announced a closing of schools depending on location [in a map with a 3 color system](#). Schools located in the orange zone will be completely remote by Friday.
- There will be a total of 8 schools impacted.
 - Sunset park schools PS169, PS 94, PS896, PS24,
 - PS172 and schools to the north are not impacted. Schools west of 4th ave do not have to close.
 - 3 schools in 130 will be fully remote as of Friday.
- The most restrictive rules will govern activities in the red zones, and somewhat less so, for orange, with the yellow more or less what's allowed now, except for mandatory weekly testing for schools in the yellow zone.
- The rules can go into effect as soon as Wednesday but no later than Friday and will be in effect for 14 days after which time the state will then reevaluate.
- Principals are waiting for guidance from the Mayor and Chancellor before notifying parents tomorrow
- Karen Watts reported that 1000 additional devices will be delivered in November. Paper packets for families that do not have the internet will continue.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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

- 2 D15 schools have had surge random testing and one school had a testing site in a van nearby.
- The Superintendent has asked Principals to have a contingency plan to go fully remote.

6. [President's Report](#) - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President

- The Office of Family and Community Empowerment (FACE) is organizing a parent leader briefing from DOHMH officials on COVID-19 testing in schools for this Thursday, October 8th from 6:30pm - 8pm.
- The UFT had a meeting last night and engaged with CEC members.
- The 2020 10 05 [DEI session](#) had a researcher who spoke about how D75 programming can result in parents and students feeling stigmatized, ashamed and left out of broader community conversations.
- PS131 falls into one of the zip codes that the Mayor flagged for school closures.
- ECC wrote a letter to the Chancellor asking for greater accountability and true parent participation through our School Leadership Teams and District Leadership Teams.
- SCA will be at our November 2, 2020 meeting for a site selection hearing for St. Catherine of Alexandria site.
- ODP invited CEC members to do a zone walk of PS 676/58 and the pedestrian bridge tomorrow morning at 9:15am.
- Scott Powell is still listed as the owner of the CEC15 Google docs main folder. Mark Bisard will follow up.
- The PEP would be voting on a Resolution to limit CEC speaking time to 2 minutes and elected officials to 5 minutes. CECs are also state elected officials and should have no less time.
- The next PEP meeting is November 17, 2020 at 6:00PM. The PEP will be approving the aggregation of the Community School District budgets, as modified and approved by the Chancellor, together with a proposed budget for the administrative and operational expenditures of the city board and the Chancellor (the "Aggregated Budget").

7. Vote on Bylaw Amendments. To be discussed at the next Business Meeting. All the editions are not made yet.

8. Old Business

- Still accepting applicants for CEC15 ELL Candidate and CEC15 Student Representation. Outreach continues.
- Who can CEC15 appeal to regarding the decision to cancel interpretation for this meeting (and possibly all future meetings) because we've reportedly had zero use of the services at all of our meetings so far.
- Resolution to the Chancellor to be drafted surrounding the lack of translated documents and the pulling of interpretation services at meetings. Tia Schellstede will draft the resolution with Cateia Rembert. Ivan Banda will translate it.
- Tia Schellstede will revise the metal detector resolution, which will be presented at the Calendar Meeting

9. New Business

a. Discussion on CEC15 Goals for 2020-21

- Collect emails for SLTs and executive boards of PTAs to increase email reach.
- Work with Superintendent Skop to improve ELLs, STW and special needs students' academic, social and emotional achievement, growth and integration and inclusion
- Obtain an ELL representative on CEC15
- Review, discuss and reflect on how we want our children's achievements to be measured



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

CEC15@schools.nyc.gov | tel. 718-935-4267 | facebook.com/CECD15 | CECD15.org

- Increase student voice, participation and involvement
- Address Inequities: Fiscal discrepancies between PTAs, other disparities

Additional topics discussed:

- Importance of SLT liaising. Liaisons can do more to outreach outside of their existing relationships.
- CEC and every parent invited to the President's Council which is meeting at 12:30 tomorrow about sharing pods, creating parents leaders, sharing person powered resources and grassroots school-education-children focused supports.
- We can't have parent leaders without translation services
- Upcoming rezoning issues, and issues related to schools with unique borough-wide ordinances possibly like BNS
- Need for rebuilding bridges of trust between parents and DOE

b. School Liaison Updates (3 min for each member)

Antonia Ferraro:

PS 32 - will have their SLT on Thursday.

PS 124 - The CEC received a letter from a frustrated PTA CO-president at PS 124 asking for support for the school in several key areas. Perhaps the Council can offer some time on a calendar agenda to perhaps create a forum for PS 124 families and for Anita to address families on what is going on at PS 124.

- The school has lost 6 teachers. This may seem similar to what is being reported at other schools but the difference here is that PS 124 has only 200 students. They lack 1 Dual Language Spanish teacher, 2 General Ed ICT blended teachers for remote days, 3 special ED in-person teachers. They also lack a para. The promised guidance counselor has been cut. The occupational therapist that was shared with PS 118 resigned.
- PS 124 needs greater support in communications with WIN residents. There is an issue with residents congregating around the school. There is also an issue with homeless camping overnight on the front steps of the school and around the perimeter of the building leaving human waste and drug paraphernalia. This is unconnected to the shelter.
- Funding for Security Cameras -Antonia suggested a PB grant for security cameras, but they need it for laptops. A larger issue with participatory budgeting and Reso-A looms. The OMB (Office of Management and Budget) is holding back even previously allocated funds. There is a citywide cash flow problem that we need to understand in greater detail. As a consequence there is a backlog of Reso-A projects. 2019 and 2020 haven't even been released yet, so even if PS124 won a PB grant for security cameras they would not get them for years. I'm told there are possibly 3 years of projects in the pipeline before 2021.

Principal Interlandi confirmed the account of this parent and gave more detail. She feels that they need more at a time when they are getting far less. They now have 36 students in temporary housing, where last year they had 20. Their enrollment in 1st grade did increase but overall enrollment went down. Their inability to hire teachers hinges on a DOE loan that they were denied b/c they were above the enrollment threshold. They are appealing a 2nd time now that their enrollment went up.

Claudia Lechuga:

PS24 - They don't have online learning tools that are essential. They are going remote only as of Friday.

Mark Bisard:



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

CEC15@schools.nyc.gov | tel. 718-935-4267 | facebook.com/CECD15 | CECD15.org

PS154 - has a parent driven afterschool program that uses the playground and cafeteria and had a permit that cost around \$22K, the DOE said they would charge \$90K. Our district office was assisting. The permit was modified and they were able to get the permit for a lot less. \$37K

Bess Abrahams:

MS839 - Application for a street closure was approved, but no clear guidance on how to use the money. They will go fully remote for 2 weeks.

PS295 - website needs to be updated

Camille Casaretti:

- MS821: Reports that they are fairly well-staffed and covered at this time, and have a contingency plan. Because of their medium size, the biggest challenge is having only one teacher on a grade for a subject: if the teacher got remote accommodations .

They worked out the ICT classes, but with 3 of every 6 classes on the grade ICT, this has been difficult. The classes went from needing to be staffed with 2 teachers in a normal year, to needing up to 6 teachers (in-person, remote, in-person while remote).

Principal Spalding is not looking for “bodies” to stand in front of students in-person. If she’s hiring teachers, she wants great, high quality people who she can develop on staff for years to come and who care deeply about the students. She’s also concerned about what hiring means – would she have these teachers forever, even after we return in-person?

Would she want that? Could she ever afford that long-term?

Looking for the following staff members to work in person:

- 1 in person Science teacher (parental leave coverage)
- 2 in person math teachers
- 1 in person ELA teacher
- 1 in person Spanish teacher

- PS261: Staffing has been the biggest challenge. Principal used the additional Covid funds for planning and submitted a request for additional funding which she received in part but it’s not enough to cover 1 additional teacher. She wanted 6. She needs more teachers for the ICT classes. There’s no clarity on when more money will come. So far they have been able to follow the legal mandates for ICT. She also reported that every day the number of remote students is increasing so they may have to compress in person classes at some point.

I made contact with the PTA President.

- MS136: Principal Bueno has been in attendance at our CEC Meetings. She said she has a relationship with Senator Brisport. So far she is managing. I’ve been reaching out every 10 days or so to check in.

c. Discussion on CEC15 Time Allotted for Questions to Presenters. To be added to next logistics meeting

d. Other New Business: Camille Casaretti brought up Indegenious People day. She will write a statement about this, to be read in the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting -Camille Casaretti, 2nd motion, Ivan Banda

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:49 p.m.