



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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January 31, 2023
Calendar Meeting

President's Report - Camille Casaretti

Good evening everyone and again welcome to the CEC15 January Calendar meeting. Thank you all for being here with us at PS15 in Red Hook. And, many thanks to Principal Julie Cavanaugh and the wonderful staff and families of PS15 for hosting tonight's meeting. I'm going to hand the floor over to Nana Poku Agyekum, the CEC15 school liaison for PS15 to say a few words.

Legislative Breakfast at the beginning of January. Collaboration with the Presidents' Council. Went very well, lots of people in attendance and all of the D15 city council members, senators, assembly people, comptroller and public advocate. We had representatives from the PEP and the Boro President opened the meeting. Parents and school leaders were able to voice concerns in a variety of different areas from title 1 funding to school crossing guards.

The following week, there was a Swearing in ceremony for Congressman Dan Goldman at HS of the Arts. I was able to attend and I'm happy to report that there were a number of D15 parents and PA/PTA members in the audience. One of the Congressman's priorities is affordable housing. This is an issue that impacts everyone in District 15. He's advocating for an investment of resources in public housing to address necessary repairs, maintenance, and expansion of services. We will be sure to share with Congressman Goldman the Resolution that we passed recently with other Brooklyn CECs to support these much needed changes to the NYCHA system. Our children and families deserve better.

Supt Alvarez is not here right now but I would like to thank him for pushing the work forward that Supt Skop started. CEC15 members have been working in small groups with the DOE on implementation and expansion of Project Based Learning and Schoolwide Enrichment Models in D15. All APs are being trained and supported to ensure that PBL and SEM are offered to every child. He'll talk more about a district event that is planned to showcase student work. This is very exciting and will bring all of the D15 community together to hear from our students and learn about their incredible work.



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We are also working in small group sessions with WXY on next steps around assessment of the D15 Diversity Plan. Stakeholders throughout the district are being interviewed and there will be a survey coming soon.

There's a lot going on outside of the District as well. I was chosen to sit on the CCSE District Planning & Enrollment Committee where we are discussing D75 inclusion programs and will discuss which special education programs are needed or need to be expanded throughout the city.

I am also sitting on the Citywide Wellness Committee, which is formed by the DOE every 3 years to review the City's School Wellness Policy. You can view the policy on the DOE website. This Policy is approved by the State and monitored regularly. If you have a suggestion for edits, amendments or additions, please feel free to reach out to us at cec15@schools.nyc.gov or directly to me at CamilleCEC15@gmail.com.

A few of us attended a Safety Meeting at BHS this week. We are trying to schedule a presentation with the Office of School Wellness around the problems with vaping and marijuana use. This is a problem in a lot of schools throughout the city, even in D15. We are committed to educating our children around the harms of drug abuse.

We also met with CM Hanif and a few of the non-profits and PTA leaders that are helping with the efforts to feed and clothe the 300 families who came seeking asylum. If you would like to donate clothing or food or even gift cards, please reach out to City Council Person Shahana Hanif's office and they will direct you to the appropriate group leading individual efforts.

Yesterday we had the District Leadership Team Meeting. We are working on the District Comprehensive Education Plan. A draft version was shared and is available for viewing on the iPlan portal. No need to log in. This is publicly posted information. Scroll to the bottom of the page and enter District 15 in the drop down menu. You can also see the Education Plans for each of our schools.

A few of us attended the Presidents' Council Meeting last night. There were a number of people in attendance. They are doing wonderful work in their individual schools and throughout the district. I'm proud to say that we have the best parent leaders here in D15. I'm expecting a long list of possible CEC15 candidates. Please consider running for a seat in this year's CCEC election. As Martha stated earlier, applications are available through your NYCSA account.



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One last piece of information about school budgets and Fair Student Funding. We have a Presentation scheduled for Feb 28. We will review the changes to the weights that were made recently. If you have any questions or comments please send them in advance so that we can assure that your questions are answered.

The recommendation for these changes includes one of our suggestions:

Adding a students in temporary housing weight to the FSF formula:

- This weight is a groundbreaking shift in how schools allocate resources to public school students, with this specific focus on supporting students who reside in temporary housing.
- This funding will support students in asylum-seeking families who are living in temporary housing — providing additional resources to the schools that are taking them in.
- This change is expected to drive approximately \$45 million in funding, impacting students in temporary housing across all five boroughs.

Adding a concentration weight to the FSF formula:

- Schools that serve higher concentrations of students with needs (such as students living in poverty, students with disabilities, and English language learners) may require additional resources to provide high-quality educational opportunities to their students.
- This change is expected to drive over \$45 million in funding to schools in all five boroughs and would impact over 300 schools across the city serving the highest concentration of neediest students.

Ensuring the budget appeals process is responsive to special education programming needs:



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- Throughout the engagement sessions, a significant focus of the working group was the critical need for schools to be able to meet the staffing needs of students with disabilities in a general education setting. Through the budget appeals process, New York City public schools will refine the budget appeals process to prioritize supporting schools in meeting these needs.

Increasing budget transparency for families, students, and the public:

- From the working group and their community engagement sessions, New York City public schools heard concerns over a lack of transparency and understanding in how to fund schools, how the formula works, and what funds are available at the school level.

New York City public schools are now taking steps to address this by improving transparency around school budgets and its own budget through additional, more accessible information available on the DOE website and through its own external engagement process.

I'm going to pass the mic over to Antonia to give a quick update from the Policy Committee.