



**Business Meeting Minutes
(Approved by the Council at the 1/8/18 Business Meeting)**

Date: 12/18/2017

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: PS 676 - 27 Huntington Street

Business Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Welcome - Co-Vice President Scott Powell
Introduction of new CEC15 Admin Assistant Francisca Andino
3. Billion Oyster Project - Robina Taliaferrow
4. Superintendent Report - Anita Skop
5. Success Academy Public Hearing and CEC Statement - Antonia Ferraro
6. Senator Montgomery on the Harbor Middle School
7. School Visits Report:
 - a. Kathy Park Price - PS 118, PS 372, PS 676
 - b. Charles Star - PS 124
 - c. Mark Bisard - PS 154, PS 146
 - d. Lili Velez - MS 136, PS 32
 - e. Antonia Ferraro - MS 443, PS 29, PS 32, K497(BHS)
 - f. Yanfeng Zhang - PS 169
 - g. Scott Powell - PS 15, MS 821 (Sunset Park Prep)
8. Bylaws Review - Charles Star
9. Budget Revision - Charles Star
10. Approval of Minutes
11. Communications
 - a. Update and discuss keeping current website or create new one - Vote on Website-Kathy Park Price & Antonia Ferraro
 - b. Present the Stakeholder Contact Map - Scott Powell and Lili Velez
12. Adjournment

(Business Meeting Call to Order 6:31 p.m.)

CEC 15 Vice-President Scott Powell

- Announced there are free books for children in attendance to take.
- Welcomed everyone to CEC15 Business Meeting.
- President Camille Casaretti is very sick and will not be at the meeting.

1. Roll Call by CEC 15 Member Antonia Ferraro

Present:

Scott Powell, Co-Vice President

Kathy Park Price, Co-Vice President



Charles Star, Treasurer
Nicole Brier
Mark Bisard
Antonia Ferraro
Lili Velez
Yanfeng Zhang

Absent:

Camille Casaretti, President - Excused
Neal Zephyrin, Secretary - Excused
Elena Romero - Excused

Guest:

Anita Skop, D15 Superintendent

2. Welcome - CEC 15 Co-Vice President Scott Powell:

- Announced we have interpreters, if needed, for Chinese and Mandarin. Asked if anyone needed translations in any language. No one did.
- Introduced new Administrative Assistant Francisca Andino
- There will be a presentation on the new Harbor Middle School proposal
- Important items to be discussed during the meeting: Diversity meeting update, Success Academy report, CEC members school visits

3. Billion Oyster Project/New York Harbor School - Robina Taliaferrow:

- She's a District 15 parent.
- Billion Oyster Project is a non-profit project.
- Their mission is to engage students in the district.
- Will support the Harbor Middle School.
- New York Harbor High School is a Marine Science/Maritime School, focuses on Marine Biology
- Harbor Middle School will address Maritime Biology
- Harbor Middle School will have a capacity of 650 students.
- Best case scenario will open in the year 2022.
- The site will be on a vacant lot on Delavan Street.
- It's been proposed for the middle school to have a swimming pool.
- Now it's the time to send proposals regarding the school.

4. Superintendent Report - Anita Skop:

- Two brief announcements:
 - Ms. Figueroa will be the Principal of PS 676 going forward.
 - The Mayor's Town Hall meeting was last Thursday, Dec. 14 at MS 88. Issues raised during the meeting: the light rail, NYCHA, Sunset Park overcrowded schools and the continued effort to improve communication between the community and the police.
- District 15 is engaged with significant diversity with WXY Studio.



- Attended a Borders Crossers training with District 15 Principals. There was a powerful moment during this training when everyone in attendance was asked why they were at this training - all answers showed how important education is in breaking down barriers.
- Planning to have forums all over the district, especially in Middle Schools. She wants to make sure everyone can express their issues.

5. Success Academy Public Hearing and CEC Statement - CEC 15 Member Antonia Ferraro:

- There will be a public hearing on Wednesday, December 20: Success Academy is asking to increase the number of seats in SACH and add a 7th grade.
- The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. but speaker sign-in is at 5:30 p.m. If anyone wants to voice their opinion at the meeting they need to get there by 5:30 p.m. to sign up.
- Success Academy is currently serving students in K-6, they want to expand to serve students in K-7.
- Success Academy Charter School Cobble Hill is currently located in the The School for International Studies building (MS 497) located at 284 Baltic Street.
- SACH is under-enrolled this year.
- Opposes expanding SACH. It will take funding from public schools. She's not willing to compromise with SACH.
- SACH is always pushing for more, we need to push back.
- They are unhappy with the two co-locations offered by the DOE in D14 and D17 and have published a press release and an article in the NYPost requesting space at MS 447 among other schools.

Superintendent Anita Skop: MS 447 is the most popular school in District 15. She's surprised they are requesting space there.

CEC 15 Member Mark Bisard:

- Surprised they are having a meeting so close to the holidays.
- The best middle schools are located in District 15. We do not need Success Academy to serve 7th graders in the district. There are enough great choices.
- SACH thinks that parents do not have a voice.
- No need to spend school funding to expand SACH when there are schools in the district that need improvement.

6. Harbor Middle School - State Senator Velmanette Montgomery

- She wanted to give a special thank you to parents who brought their children to the meeting.
- She is excited to finally have an approved site for the middle school.
- Has been working for a couple of years on this project.
- The school is designed to be a top of the line middle school.
- Harbor Middle School be a feeder school the New York Harbor High School. Both schools will be working together.
- The Harbor High School does not have a swimming pool, which they need for their scuba diving lessons, the Harbor Middle School will have a swimming pool. The high school will be able to use the pool.
- Wants to make sure this project is done right.
- This will be a public middle school.
- Wished everyone happy holidays.



Assemblymember Jo Ann Simon:

- Represents part of District 15.
- Big fan of the Harbor Middle School plans.
- Helping to get the word out on Harbor Middle School.
- She's been to New York Harbor High School. It is a wonderful place for learning. The young people there are doing experiments and learning how to be involved.
- It is not just about experiments. Students have to explain and present their work to their fellow students. Young people are blossoming there.
- Building a feeder school will help more students go to New York Harbor High School.
- Wished everyone a wonderful holiday.

CEC 15 Member Antonia Ferraro: This will make the careers of our globalized present and future accessible to local Brooklyn students. So many job opportunities with cargo ships.

State Senator Velmanette Montgomery: The maritime industry is extensive. There are many aspects to this industry. NYC is surrounded by water. We should make sure we do not have to go overseas to get people to work in the maritime industry.

7. School Visits Report - CEC 15 Members:

a. Kathy Park Price:

- Every council member has 5 to 6 schools they liaise. PS 676 is one of her schools.
- Started visiting schools and getting to know them.
- PS 118 has a diversity committee. This is new to them. They are working on diversity. They are learning how incorporate diversity into their community
- PS 272 is an inclusion school. It's a very popular school. It has 40% of IEP students.
- PS 676 just had its 1st Halloween Party for their students. They had a bake sale as a fundraiser.
- Each council member represents the entire district but they each get to know individually some of the schools better so they can represent the parents and the families and advocate for the schools.

Ms. Figueroa (PS 676 Principal): PS 676 will be having a gift giving celebration tomorrow, December 19, 2017 between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to join them.

Superintendent Anita Skop: It's her expectation that every school has school led diversity committees. Every school has their own personality and their own needs.

b. Charles Star:

- Met with the Principal at PS 124 and also spoke with the Assistant Principal, the Parent Coordinator and the PTA President.
- The staff walked him through the school. The hiring of a new physical education teacher for the school has expanded the opportunities for movement.
- They are facing some challenges with student retention, as a school receiving overflow from Sunset Park as space becomes available to Sunset Park residence for transfer to more local



schools in the upper grades. The enrollment issues may be exacerbated by all the school construction in Sunset Park.

c. Mark Bisard:

- Visited PS 154 last week. As a former teacher he gets excited about schools and he is eager to share everything he learned.
- When he visited the school he immediately saw their willingness to share.
- The school has taken steps to help 5th grade students get ready for middle school. 5th graders change classrooms after every period. This helps them practice and be ready for the classroom changes in middle school.
- There is no gym in the building. They have to use the YMCA. Every school in the district should have a gym in their building.
- PS 154 is a good model for using technology. Kids are engaged.
- The interim Principal is fantastic. Full of energy.
- Parents don't know how to protect their kids on social media. How as parents do we trust these sites? The Principal sent a survey regarding social media trying to start the conversation.
- Visited PS 146. Met with the Parent Coordinator, the PTA Executive Board and SLT members. The meeting with them was amazing.
- The SLT members at PS 146 talked about equity and diversity.
- Not all schools have an IT person or CTO (Chief Technology Officer). District 15 needs an IT guy to teach their teachers.

Lili Velez: Brad Lander said that there's money put aside for technology. What's the point if we don't know how to incorporate it in the school?

d. Lili Velez:

- Visited MS 136 located in Sunset Park. Students there told her what they liked and didn't like about the school.
- It's a loving school.
- The school building has some structural issues.
- School is under-enrolled. It's not attracting a lot of parents.
- The school has a Robotics program.
- Spoke to many parents from PS 32 & PS 38 after the G&T forum.
- We need to have more conversations on G&T regarding equity and inclusion.

Superintendent Anita Skop: There's friction in a handful of schools because of gentrification and G&T programs. Parents of color are afraid to apply for G&T programs because they think kids will be discriminated against. Encouraged parents of color in attendance to apply. There isn't a reason not to apply.

CEC 15 Co-Vice President Scott Powell: We have the WXY process going. This is the most segregated school system in the country. Should we have a G&T program at all?

Superintendent Anita Skop: We need to have people come together.

e. Antonia Ferraro:



- Had a great tour lead by MS 443's Principal. Special thanks to him.
- Only issue with school is the awkward space. The building was originally designed for an Elementary School.
- The school is very popular with girls - 70% of students are girls, while only 30% are boys.
- PS 29 has seats in the upper grades.
- MS 497's main issue is that they have to utilize their classrooms for multi-purposes.
- Attended PS 32's SLT and heard from families very protective of the G&T program. There is problematic dynamic here that impacts the school community and entire school zone.

f. Yanfeng Zhang:

- PS 169 is an awesome school.
- They provide the following languages: Chinese, Russian, Spanish
- Their auditorium is old and they want to change it.

g. Scott Powell:

- PS 15 does a fantastic job with technology. All kids in the school have tablets.
- Their main challenge is public transportation. There is no public transportation nearby.
- They need funding for bathrooms in the building.
- MS 821 has an after school enrichment program. They're looking for additional grants to fund the enrichment program.
- The school's Principal told him that painting crew showed up to paint some of the classrooms, while she was happy they were there to paint, she did not know a painting job was requested. When she asked when was this order filed they responded it was filed 9 years ago.
- It seems principals are going to facilities instead of the SCA (School Construction Authority) because they don't trust the SCA.

Superintendent Anita Skop: If concerns are emailed to her she will email them about it.

CEC 15 Member Mark Bisard: Their customer service is horrible.

Superintendent Anita Skop: Let's see what we can do collectively to get a response. The most pressing issue is what we want to highlight.

CEC 15 Co-Vice President Scott Powell addressed parents to let them know that the CEC 15 will be doing their business part of the meeting. They are welcome to stay. Announced there will be a Calendar Meeting and a Summer Camp Fair on January 16.

Business part of the meeting began at 8:05 p.m.

8. Bylaws Review - CEC 15 Treasurer Charles Star:

- Not ready to present a draft to the full council.
- It will take awhile before the council can vote on something.
- The timeline for they bylaws review will be probably a month. In January meeting they can discuss having a vote in February.



CEC 15 Member Mark Bisard: Charles and Neal should be given credit for drafting all those documents.

9. Budget Revision - CEC 15 Treasurer Charles Star:

- Currently the budget is as follows: \$2,400 for president reimbursement, \$10,600 for member reimbursement, \$2,500 for the P-card, \$4,032 for the copier and \$468 for meeting expenses for a total of \$20,000.00.
- In absence of a P-card the members have been paying for food for meetings. Members have already spent over \$2000 on meetings.
- The only way to fix this is to move \$2000 from the members personal reimbursement to meeting expenses.
- Budget Proposal: \$2,400 for president reimbursement, \$8,600 for member reimbursement, \$2,500 for P-card, \$4,032 for copier and \$2,468 for meeting expenses.

Motion to adjust budget - Charles Star

2nd motion to adjust budget - Antonia Ferraro

Motion passed by 8 votes (unanimous vote)

CEC 15 Member Mark Bisard: We are doing a lot of events but not a lot of policy issues that we need to tackle.

CEC 15 Co-Vice President Kathy Park Price: Business meetings are more for us. Calendar meetings are more for the public.

CEC 15 Co-Vice President Scott Powell: Having meetings at public schools is a way to be more open, more transparent. At 131 Livingston we are closed off.

CEC 15 Co-Vice President Kathy Park Price: Talking about school visits in front of the general public felt awkward.

CEC 15 Member Mark Bisard: Walking from the train and crossing the highway makes him sympathize with the students who have to walk this to school. Maybe meeting should be split.

CEC 15 Co-Vice President Scott Powell: This is to be more open but maybe more Business Meetings could be moved to 131 Livingston, but not all of them. Report on Harbor Middle School and Success Academy are part of a public meeting.

CEC 15 members had an extensive talk on how to prioritize meetings.

10. Approval of Minutes - November 9 & December 5 Meetings

- Minor changes on November 9 meetings: a comma needed to be moved and change Kathy Park Price name. It was written as Kathy Park.

Motion to approve minutes - Charles Star

2nd motion to approve minutes - Lili Velez.



Approved by unanimous vote.

11. Communications - Lili Velez & Kathy Park Price

- **Stakeholder Contract Map - CEC 15 Member Lili Velez:**
 - Created a map of people to contact
 - Wants to get organization contacts on it.

- **Communications Committee - CEC 15 Co-Vice President Kathy Park Price:**
 - The more visible we are the more effective we can be keeping our conversation outside the meetings.
 - CBC started streaming meetings. By doing so they are not just talking to the people at the meeting, but to those who aren't there as well.
 - We have started translating our fliers to increase engagement.
 - We should let parents know how we can help.
 - Increase engagement at our calendar meetings and get more feedback.
 - The CEC 15 website should be a starting point for basic information. There should be an "about us" on the website. The website should have categories like "calendar, agenda and minutes.
 - Should the CEC 15 consider another platform? Wix is an option.

CEC 15 Co-Vice President Scott Powell

- The website has been down since September.
- Last Administrative Assistant is the account holder. She changed the password before she left.
- Has been working on getting the website back. As a fallback maybe CEC15brooklyn.org could be used until we get back CEC15.org.
- The website pretty much updates itself.
- Wix is easy to use but the tradeoff is that it needs to be constantly updated.

A vote on the website was tabled for next meeting.

CEC 15 Member Yangfeng Zhang shared some personal concerns. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

Motion to adjourn meeting - Charles Star

2nd motion to adjourn meeting - Mark Bisard

Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

-Minutes submitted by CEC 15 AA Francisca Andino



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