



**Community Education Council 15
Business Meeting Minutes
Approved on 1/11/18 at a Special Session Meeting**

Date: 01/08/2018

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: 131 Livingston St, Room 504

Business Meeting Agenda (as publicly posted)

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- 2. Welcome - Pres. Camille Casaretti**
- 3. Approval of Minutes from Nov. 15 and Dec. 18**
- 4. Briefing on January 16 Meeting - Elena Romero**
- 5. Review of locations for 2018 Meetings**
- 6. Update on 80 Flatbush Avenue - Boerum Hill Association President Howard Kolins**
- 7. Update on Success Academy Public Hearing - Camille Casaretti, Antonia Ferraro, Mark Bisard**
- 8. Finalize SCA Building Comment Form due January 12**
- 9. Charter School Resolution and Vote - Antonia Ferraro**
- 10. WXY Meeting Group update (tentative) - Lili**
- 11. Bylaws Review - Mark, Charles**
- 12. New Business**
- 13. Adjournment**

(Business Meeting Called to Order 9:18 a.m.)

1. Roll Call by CEC 15 Co-Vice President Scott Powell

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President
Scott Powell, Co-President
Charles Star, Treasurer
Nicole Brier
Mark Bisard
Antonia Ferraro
Elena Romero
Yanfeng Zhang

Absent:

Kathy Park Price, Co-Vice President - Excused
Neal Zephyrin, Secretary - Excused
Lili Velez - Excused

Guests:

Anita Skop, D15 Superintendent



Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant
Howard Kolins - **Boerum Hill Associate President**
Betty Feibusch - CB2 Education Chair
Jai Griem, Family and Community Engagement Liaison for the DoE

2. Welcome - CEC 15 President Camille Casaretti

- Wished Happy New Year to everyone and thanked them for coming this morning. Meeting had to be rescheduled due to the snowstorm last week. Glad everyone could make it today with the short notice.
- Wanted to share some feedback from PS 676. The school was thrilled CEC 15 had our meeting there and felt it allowed for access to the Red Hook Families.
- PS 676 was grateful for the books that were brought in, which had been donated by Learning Leaders when they closed.
- CEC 15 was able to give the students of PS 676 about 100 wrapped gifts based on their request letters. Kathy Park Price helped with this and also a PS 32 parent, Tritia Denaro, who spent many hours wrapping presents. All the gifts were donated by parents and D15 friends based on the letters that the children wrote.
- There is a workshop on January 29 at Tweed Courthouse to learn about Every Student Succeeds Act. The invitation was sent and translation is available.
- CEC 15 will have a District Wide Science Fair in spring. A number of schools are interested in participating. A draft invitation was sent to CEC 15 members over the weekend for review. Once members get a chance to comment we can move forward with creating a submission form.
- Date previously discussed for Science Fair was May 3rd, but the last day of State Math Tests is on that day. Date should be probably changed.

CEC 15 Member Nicole Brier: Do we have a site for the fair?

CEC 15 President Camille Casaretti: No site yet

CEC 15 Member Antonia Ferraro: Are we judging it?

CEC 15 President Camille Casaretti: No, I don't think so. I think it should be science teachers.

3. Approval of Minutes from Nov. 15 and Dec. 18

November 15 Minutes:

- Addition: "Donalda Chumney gave an extensive powerpoint presentation on all good things happening in District 15."
- Addition: Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Motion to add changes to November 15 Minutes - Antonia Ferraro
2nd motion to add changes to November 15 Minutes - Charles Star
Motion to approve minutes passed by unanimous vote



December 18 Minutes:

- Scott Powell suggested to add that council members had an extensive talk on how to prioritize meetings. *Camille Casaretti suggested to discuss details of this during New Business part of today's meeting.*
- Mark Bisard added that the last 3 bullets on his presentation on school visits are about PS 146 which was not mentioned on the minutes. Identify PS 146 on his list of schools.

Motion to add changes to December 18 minutes - Scott Powell

2nd motion to add changes to December 18 minutes - Nicole Brier

Motion to approve minutes passed by unanimous vote

4. Briefing on January 16 Meeting - CEC 15 Council Member Elena Romero:

- As of Friday, 12 exhibitors were confirmed for the Summer Camp Fair: Brooklyn Game Lab, Camp Eagle Hill, Acting Out!, United Methodist City Society, New York, YMCA, Marks JCH Summer Camp, YMCA Park Slope, Wildlife Conservation Society, JCC Brooklyn Kings Bay Y at Windsor Terrace, Soul Collections, Brooklyn Arts Exchange/Bax and Girl Scouts.
- CEC 15 Administrative Assistant will work on table cards for the exhibitors.
- All exhibitors will come with their own materials.
- Expecting about 55 parents at MS 839.
- Exhibitors will be provided with tables and WI-FI password.

CEC 15 President Camille Casaretti: The fair will be in the cafeteria but the room for the business meeting has not been confirmed.

CEC 15 President Camille Casaretti: Regarding District Planning, the workbook that they sent last week should be reviewed by everyone. Based on the first page there are many issues. For example, the headcount for charter schools, do they provide their own headcount?

FACE, Jai Griem: Will the fair be at the same time as the District Planning presentation?

CEC 15 President Camille Casaretti: No, they will be at different times.

FACE, Jai Griem: It will be best if CEC members are at the DP meeting during the presentation.

CEC 15 President Camille Casaretti: We planned it better this year.

Discussion on How to Prioritize Meetings:

- Scott Powell suggested CEC 15 does more campaign approach on meetings. If CEC 15 wants to focus on charter schools and overcrowding then maybe that's where most of the focus should be on instead of fairs.
- Mark Bisard suggested that CEC 15 should really take a look at what a business meeting is and what a calendar meeting is. Focus on one or two issues. If CEC 15 focuses their resources on those issues they will do a better job instead of spreading themselves thin on 15 different things. CEC 15 should focus on SCA, charter schools, and overcrowding. Thanked Elena for the hard work she put in for the Summer Camp Fair.



- Charles & Scott suggested that events like the Summer Camp Fair are resources that people in District 15 will be needing this year. CEC 15 can write to SCA but they can't change how SCA works.
- Mark Bisard thinks that they can change how SCA treats school principals.
- Charles Star thinks helping parents with resources when they need things, like summer camps, is very important. CEC 15 can't change SCA's policies. He wants to help but CEC 15 can't focus everything on SCA.
- Mark Bisard feels that it's a real problem when there is scaffolding on a school for a decade.
- Charles Star thinks that discussion on a general level is not useful but discussion on a specific level is useful.
- Camille Casaretti thinks that all fairs are important, events that engage parents on a personal level is how CEC 15 can get them involved. There's something in the middle of what Mark and Charles are saying. CEC 15 has the responsibility to advocate for parents and educate them. The September CEC 15 meeting taught them how to read the SCA forms, that's useful. The CEC 15 members' term is limited, members have to be clear on what they can manage in 2 years and set up foundations for the next members.
- Mark Bisard agrees with everything Camille and Charles are saying. CEC 15 needs to strategize their agenda. He wants to address issues as Charles suggested. CEC 15 needs to shine a light on these issues and move the needle on the important issues.
- Yanfeng Zhang suggests that CEC 15 meets with the top people in regards to SCA. Ten years may pass and they don't fix the issues that schools raised. She wants someone with authority to listen in during CEC 15 meetings. She knows that they might not come but maybe CEC 15 can go to them. She doesn't want CEC 15 to argue with them but to let them know of the issues.

CEC 15 Member Antonia Ferraro: We can invite someone to come to our meeting

CEC 15 President Camille Casaretti: Joe Lazarus from Division of School Facilities wants to come to talk about how DSF is different from SCA and what they do.

CEC 15 Treasurer Charles Star: We should have some formal statement from our schools. As liaisons we should ask why is this issue taking so long to get fixed? We can't change citywide policies but we can poke them and ask why they haven't done anything yet.

CEC 15 President Camille Casaretti: We're supposed to meet with our schools. Access what's a level 1 or level 5 priority. Ask what the issue is, ask if it's already in progress, and if not in progress then send SCA the issue.

FACE, Jai Griem: This Friday SCA deadline is important, anything late will get dumped in the next 6 month cycle.

CEC 15 President Camille Casaretti: SCA accesses the whole city as one whole unit.

After an extensive discussion on how CEC 15 should help schools regarding the SCA, CEC 15 President Camille Casaretti suggested they have a special session meeting this Thursday, January 11 at 9:00 a.m.



All CEC 15 members in attendance voted in favor of having a Special Session meeting on January 11, 2018.

- Scott Powell feels that while CEC 15 may not have formal power against SCA their voice can push them towards policy change.
- Charles Star suggested that if CEC 15 has a specific issue in mind they should fight for that.
- Elena Romero shared that the Summer Camp Fair came out of need for parents. Wants to be able to help all parents with different financial needs.
- Mark Bisard suggests that CEC 15 should call the SCA on the issues that they have not fixed.

5. Review of Locations for 2018 Meetings

- **Feb. 6** - Calendar Meeting with SCA at PS 516 is already set.
- Feb. 27 changed - Camille Casaretti proposed that this meeting be moved to **Feb. 26** to have a joint meeting with Presidents' Council since CEC 15 is mandated to have at least 4 joint meetings. All members agreed to have this meeting moved to Feb. 26.
- **Mar. 8** - Business Meeting will be at 131 Livingston St.
- **Mar. 20** - Joint meeting with CEC 13 at PS 133 regarding testing.
- **Apr. 17** - Chancellor's Town Hall Meeting. With the Chancellor stepping, CEC 15 not sure if there will be a Chancellor's Town Hall. Plan B will be to have a meeting on overcrowding and class size.
- **Apr. 23** - Add in a Business Meeting for April. Joint meeting with Presidents' Council.
- May 3 changed - Tentative date for Science Fair. Due to schools probably having PTA Election Meetings it will be best to move it to a different date. CEC 15 members agreed **May 10** will be a better date. Science Fair will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Business meeting will be from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- **May 18** - Legislative breakfast at Borough Hall
- **June 5** - Tentative Calendar Meeting. Considering having a joint meeting. Discussion on the topic was tabled for next meeting.

6. Update on 80 Flatbush Avenue - Boerum Hill Association President Howard Kolins:

- Mr. Kolins was joined by CB 2 Education Chair Betty Feibusch.
- CEC 15 President Camille Casaretti - we are not happy with the 350 seat Elementary School that ECF is offering to build. That is not a good area for an elementary school. Mr. Kolins agrees with Ms. Casaretti. He's more in a favor of a high school for that area.
- There have been hearings about school seats, but there's a lack of solution.
- At the end of January an environment study needs to be reviewed. It will be voted on in March. Ms. Feibusch hopes to share with her community when she meets with them in January.
- Ms. Feibusch suggests CEC 15 needs to have a relation with Council Member Steve Levin.
- Mr. Kolins believes the problem is that it's not a full city block. It will be the largest building in Brooklyn.



- He is trying to keep the block residential.
- Developers contend that it will only fill up about 250 seats. That few children go to public schools.
- Boerum Hill Association has not really pushed on the topic because it's not in their district, but it is a problem they've been watching.
- Any comments should be sent to Council Member Steve Levin.
- Boerum Hill Association has a city planner standing by for review.
- Ms. Feibusch feels that one of the more important things is that students should not be in the school while in construction.
- A construction crane over a school is a safety concern.
- Mr. Kolins asked everyone in attendance to attend community meetings and to reach out to Steve Levin.

7. Update on Success Academy Public Hearing - Camille Casaretti, Antonia Ferraro & Mark Bisard:

- Francisca made copies of all emails that were sent in opposition to Success Academy's expansion..
- Success Academy is trying to reconfigure their seats. Asking for more seats. They are currently authorized to serve 568 students.
- As of June 2017, they had 454 students and they are anticipating less students this year. There 390 students currently enrolled, of which only 61% are from D15.
- Camille, Antonia and Mark went to the hearing.
- Only received 11 letter in support of expanding Success Academy. Also received one anonymous letter from a Success Academy teacher.
- Received many emails against the expansion.
- Mark feels CEC 15 would have received triple that amount had they had more notice.
- Once the seat expansion is authorized by SUNY, District Planning has to give them the space they are requesting.
- To Superintendent Anita Skop's knowledge Success Academy will not get space in District 15.
- Success Academy was offered other sites, not MS 447. They do not want the sites offered.

CEC 15 Council Member Mark Bisard: What if they want to lease a building?

District 15 Superintendent Anita Skop: There's nothing we can do about that. We have no control over that. We work with charter schools but they are not under her control.

FACE, Jai Griem: Take this up with SUNY.

District 15 Superintendent Anita Skop: District 15 has cache. Certain districts have reputation. We have innovation schools. Three gifted programs and a NEST program that goes through middle school and technically, if you count Millenium, through high school.

8. Finalize SCA Building Comment Form due Jan 12

- **Antonia Ferraro created a google document to keep track of the information the CEC 15 has collected so far.**
- **The feedback is due to the SCA on Friday this week.**



- **CEC 15 members should discuss with the schools they liaise the details in the Building Assessment Survey to see what are the priority concerns. Members should speak to principals and custodians to see if these items are being taken care of or if there is something new that is of concern.**
- **Some complaints have been about broken sidewalks. This is not an SCA issue, it is for the DOT to take care of.**
- **Water issues can sometimes fall under SCA. Members should discuss with the custodians if that concern is an SCA issue or DSF issue.**
- **A Special Sessions Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 11 at 9:00 a.m. to finalize the priority list for SCA.**

9. Charter Resolution and Vote - Council Member Antonia Ferraro

- **A few changes were suggested: Edit out members not present. Add Felix Ortiz, Letitia James, Mayor Bill de Blasio, SUNY, Charter Institute, DOE Office of School Charter and FACE to the document.**
- **Edit out 3rd paragraph.**
- **Members vote: 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 5 Not Present. Unanimous vote in favor of resolution by those present.**

Motion to approve Charter Resolution - Scott Powell

2nd motion to approve Charter Resolution - Antonia Ferraro

Approved by unanimous vote.

10. WXY Meeting Group update - Lili and Neal were unable to come today. We will move this to the next meeting agenda.

11. Bylaws Review - Mark, Charles - Moved to the next meeting agenda.

12. New Business - No new business.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

-Minutes submitted by Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant

Next CEC 15 meeting is:

Tues, Jan 16th at 6:30pm - MS839, 713 Caton Avenue

District Planning Meeting and Summer Camp Fair