COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15
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December 10, 2024
Calendar Meeting

President's Report - Antonia Ferraro Martinelli

Welcome everyone to PS 94 in Sunset Park (HS 656). We are very grateful to Principal Gonzalez for accommodating tonight's meeting. PS 94 has a lot to offer, so before we delve into this meeting, I want to invite **Principal Cristina Gonzalez** to speak about the school.

And I would also like to introduce our **Family and Community Empowerment (FACE) liaison Anthony Aguilar** who would like to share some updates with the President's Council about the importance of CPAC and the upcoming CEC elections.

Tonights' meeting is a Joint CEC meeting with the District 15 Presidents' Council. Welcome to the President's Council Co- Presidents Elton Dodson and Elisabeth Sanders Greyson. Welcome to all the PTA presidents and other PTA parents on the call and here in-person. We look forward to hearing from you later in the meeting during our discussions. We had an epic first joint meeting last Monday. I shared the UFT's training on applying for the recently announced $182 Million in class size funding. Many principals are currently working with their SLTs to develop plans to reduce class size for SY25-26 without reducing programming offerings. These plans should only include funding requests which will ensure that they can bring more classes below the newly mandated caps in their current space and enrollment configurations.The applications are due on Friday, Dec. 20.

Share in Chat:
https://www.uft.org/sites/default/files/attachments/uft-csa-class-size-training.pdf

We also had a discussion about the potential consequences of the national election on schools. Parents reflected on the need to build community around the issues they care deeply about. I shared that the Legislative Breakfast on Jan 24th is a good place for parents to voice these concerns as they pertain to students and schools to elected officials.

We also discussed the need for a dedicated Sunset Park Town Hall, which I am eager to continue to develop. In fact, I got some inspiration from Chancellor Ramos' Listening Tour last week at Thomas Jefferson High School Campus in District 19. I think the format for this meeting could be useful for a Sunset Park Town Hall. People sat in small group discussions guided by a facilitator with 3 questions. One person was assigned to be a notetaker and another selected as a spokesperson to share out the best ideas that emerged. I think this was a great way to focus conversations in a productive way. The administration then collected all the feedback.

Before I share my updates I want to offer the floor to Presidents' Council Co-Presidents Elton and Elisabeth.

Updates:

Chancellor Ramos Listening Tour focused the questions on three core commitments:

1. Ensuring safety and promoting wellness
2. Strengthening comprehensive teacher supports
3. Fostering genuine and impactful family and community partnerships- aka parent empowerment

Some interesting themes rose include:

- Think of the school as a large community
- How well do you know your students?
- Are we calling home just to relay negatives? Perhaps parent engagement can be fostered by also making outreach to relay positive feedback or events to celebrate students
- Teachers need systematic sustainable PD around mental health
- Why has NYC stayed silent on protecting Migrant students when other big school districts have made statements?
- The need for parent volunteers in schools (This reminded me of the now defunct organization, Learning Leaders)
- The need for Community Schools with wrap around services. A child can't learn with a cavity.
- My table suggested reimagining the parent teacher conferences to offer more time so that it wasn't like speed dating and to include the student in the conference for accountability
- And the final parent gave a rousing speech on the plight of the special ed parent. She spoke about the urgent need to address transportation issues, the inadequacy of services, the tremendous stress and hardship parents endure in the fighting for their child's rights under FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education), and the need to include related services on students' IEPs.

Now for some good news…**Announcement on Mid-Year Adjustments**

Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos announced that school budgets will be held harmless for mid-year enrollment losses for the 2024-2025 school year. This should be a relief to many of our neediest schools.

Reminders:

Schools will be closed from Dec 23 to Jan 1. Classes resume on Jan. 2 2025.

CEC15 still has a vacant seat for the Parent of MultiLingual Learner.

Share in Chat:
Applications in nine languages and all information about eligibility to CECs can be found here.
Please apply directly to the DOE at CCECinfo@schools.nyc.gov.

PEP meetings

Wed, Dec 18 - 6:00 pm, Sunset Park High School 153 35th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11232
If you would like to access this meeting remotely, please visit: https://learndoe.org/pep/dec18