



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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

Business Meeting - Health & Safety Update **Approved on 03/27/18 at a Business Meeting**

Date: 03/08/2018

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: 131 Livingston Street, Room 508A

Business Meeting Agenda (as publicly posted)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes from March 2
3. Welcome - Pres. Camille Casaretti
4. Health & Safety Update
 - a. Meredith Kiely, School Foods Director
 - b. Lois Herrera, Office of Safety and Youth Development, Chief Executive Officer
 - c. Joseph Lazarus, Director of Facilities - Brooklyn North
 - d. Save Our School Based Health Clinics - Amy Sumner, Parent Coordinator of PS 146
5. Questions and Answers
6. Superintendent Report - Anita Skop
7. Bylaws Review - Charles Star & Mark Bisard
8. WXY Update - Lili Velez
9. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Meeting - Lili Velez
10. New Business
11. Adjournment

Call to Order 6:33 p.m.

1.Roll Call - Camille Casaretti

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President

Scott Powell, Co-Vice President

Nicole Brier

Mark Bisard

Antonia Ferraro



Yanfeng Zhang
Lili Velez
Elena Romero
Kathy Park Price
Charles Star

Absent:

Neal Zephyrin, Secretary - Excused

Invited Guests:

Anita Skop, D15 Superintendent
Meredith Kiely, School Foods Director
Lois Herrera, Office of Safety and Youth Development, Chief Executive Officer
Joseph Lazarus, Director of Facilities - Brooklyn North
Alea Stormer, Deputy Director of Facilities - Brooklyn North
Chris Bortle, Deputy Director of Facilities - Brooklyn North
Amy Sumner, Parent Coordinator of PS 146
Abby Wolfson, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - PS 146 & MS 448

2. Approval of Minutes from March 2

- A couple of changes were made to the minutes.

All 10 council members in attendance voted in favor of the changes to the minutes.

3. Welcome - CEC 15 President Camille Casaretti

- Excited to have a meeting focused on health and safety.
- Happy to have the speakers at this meeting.

4. Health & Safety Update

a. Meredith Kiely, School Foods Director

- D15 School Foods Supervisor since January 9, 2017
- Congratulations to the first D15 vegetarian school: PS 1. Congratulations also to Principal Arlene Ramos for making this happen. Principal Ramos contacted her regarding a vegetarian menu. The school left it up to the students to vote on this. They voted to be on the vegetarian program.



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- A press conference was held on October 23rd with Mayor Bill de Blasio, Chancellor Carmen Fariña and Borough President Eric Adams to announce that some Brooklyn schools will participate in Meatless Mondays. Some of the schools participating are PS 1, PS 130, PS 130 Annex, PS 172. Their lunch menu will be similar to other schools' menu but no meat will be offered on Mondays.
- Students now can download the school foods mobile app for menu updates.
- Free lunch 12 months of the year, not just summer months.
- A Scratch Cooking pilot is happening in the Bronx.
- New York Thursday is when food locally sourced is used to prepare meals on Thursdays.
- Each meal must have a fruit or a vegetable. They allow children to choose what they want to eat to avoid food waste.

b. Lois Herrera, Office of Safety and Youth Development, Chief Executive Officer

- Wanted to come to CEC15 meeting to present the anti bullying unit. The City is dedicating \$8 million to support the launch of anti bullying initiatives.
- An online portal is being created to make it easier for parents to report bullying. It will launch in 2019.
- Working with 311. If a call that deals with bullying comes through it will be rerouted to her office. They've received close to 300 complaints of allegations of bullying since January. When the portal comes out it will make it easier to track cases and will provide parents feedback.
- Some schools are training their staff in restorative practices. These practices help students involved in bullying incidents to take ownership of their actions. Some schools have faculty conferences done in circles.
- Another part of the initiative is funding middle and high schools that want to start a diversity club.
- An anti bias training was launched in February. Please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/RespectforAll/default.htm> for more information. This is an online training that takes about an hour. About 500 people went online to take this training a week before the winter break.
- If a child is bullied the school needs to investigate. If the parent does not feel the school responded appropriately then the parent can report to the Office of Safety and Youth Development. Her office will help principal with steps to take on how to handle the situation. If the principal does not handle it appropriately, principal will be punished. Read Chancellor's Regulation A-832 for policies on dealing with bullying.
- Cyberbullying is included in the initiative. The Division of Instructional and Information Technology (DIIT) will help teach digital citizenship.



- New York City will NOT entertain the idea of arming teachers.

c. Joseph Lazarus, Director of Facilities - Brooklyn North

- He works for the Division of School Facilities. His office oversees Districts 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 22
- Introduced his Deputy Directors Alea Stormer and Chris Bortle.
- He's in charge of maintenance and repairs. Custodians report to him.
- Over a year ago they ran a cold water tap test. They tested every cold water tap. The school buildings the failed the lead level test were sent a letter. They shut every cold water tap with lead.
- All work has been completed as of today to fix the problem. They've replaced anything that wasn't tested. If a sink was broken and could not be tested they treated it as if it had lead level. If they can't get cold water tap to pass the test then they remove the pipes completely.
- To avoid this problem with new buildings, they require a lead-free certificate from their contractors, but even with that certificate they test the tap anyway as a precaution.
- Custodians are required to flush the whole school building. If a school is closed for a day they must flush the whole building the next day.

Agenda items were moved to allow CEC15 Member Lili Velez present early.

8. WXY Update - Lili Velez

- Last Working Group meeting was on Feb. 28.
- The D15 Diversity Plan Public Workshop #1 was on Feb. 13. Need more Red Hook families to attend these workshops. Get the word out about the workshops in Red Hook.
- Next workshop will be on March 13. Neal Zephyrin, CEC15 Secretary, will be the facilitator.

9. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Meeting - Lili Velez

- Diversity, equity and inclusion is a hot button topic.
- Spoke to Neal Zephyrin and they discussed having a special sessions meeting for April instead of waiting until May.
- It should be Town Hall style but will need a facilitator.

4. d. Save Our School Based Health Clinics - Amy Sumner & Abby Wolfson

i. Amy Sumner, Parent Coordinator BNS 146

- Happy to have this issue visible.



- Last year SUNY Downstate announced that they were closing School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) due to lack of funding. They decided to give these centers another year while they search for a new sponsor.
- She met with President of SUNY. He does not want the clinics to close but if SUNY cannot find funding they will have no choice but to close them.
- In January, Senator Montgomery wrote a letter to Governor Cuomo, which she had signed by 19 senators and assembly members, requesting that he includes \$4,018,874 in funds for SBHCs in the 2018-19 proposed State Executive Budget.
- The good news is that there is awareness out there regarding this. A second letter is in the works by Senator Kavanagh.
- Students in BNS & BCS visited the clinic 3500 times in a year.
- Asking CEC15 to please offer another resolution.

ii. **Abby Wolfson, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner**

- School health clinics are a proof of equity. She sees children regardless of insurance or immigration status.
- By having kids be treated by a nurse practitioner helps keep kids in school and parents at work.
- She provides health care and flu shots. For adolescents, having health care in school is very important.
- She provides contraceptive services to adolescents. There is a 40% decrease in teen pregnancy.
- Schools need these clinics and should not be closed.

5. Questions and Answers

- Questions were asked during the Health & Safety Update. Speakers answered as they presented.

6. Superintendent Report - Anita Skop

- St. Agatha it's on it's way to opening in September of 2018. It will have 4 kindergarten classes. A couple of Pre-K classes may be added if there are classrooms available. In the process of getting a principal.
- As it goes forward, she needs to decide if this should be a lottery or zone school. Asked for CEC15's input. If it's a lottery school it will be open to all of District 15. If it's zoned then it will be open to just a small area in Sunset Park.
- Considering dual language programs for this school. In this program, half the kids will be Spanish or Chinese dominant, while the other half will be English dominant. Kids will learn in both languages.



There will be 2 teachers, 1 English teacher and 1 Spanish or Chinese. The language has not been chosen yet.

- She feels very humble to receive a Shirley Chisholm Women of Excellence Award. It will be next Friday, March 16 at St. Francis de Sales School for Deaf. This is a huge honor. She would love to have one of the members from CEC15 to go and sit at her table to represent the CEC.

CEC15 members Antonia Ferraro and Kathy Park Price drafted a document - Principles of Information Disclosure. This is to reinforce CEC policy, taking the opportunity to address council priorities. It was decided to table it until the Special Sessions Meeting scheduled for March 19.

Motion to table discussion of Principles of Information Disclosure - Camille Casaretti

2nd motion to table discussion of Principles of Information Disclosure - Kathy Park Price

Motion passed by all 9 members present

7. Bylaws Review - Charles Star & Mark Bisard

- Formally presenting bylaws during tonight's meeting. Will vote on bylaws during next meeting.
- Some significant changes were made. Chairman position was eliminated. Combined the president and chairman duties.
- Co-Vice Presidents have been renamed Co-Vice President 1 and Co-Vice President 2 to reflect order of succession.
- The duties for Recording Secretary and Treasurer have stayed the same.

Motion to adopt the bylaws - Scott Powell

2nd motion to adopt bylaws - Antonia Ferraro

Motion passed by all 9 members present.

10. New Business

- Council Member Mark Bisard drafted a statement of support for the students participating on the school walk-outs happening on Wednesday, March 14.
- D15 Superintendent Anita Skop shared that children's safety is in important. There are protocols in place for the walk-outs. Children who do that not want to participate will not be forced to do so. Teachers will take attendance before and after. Many schools are doing school-wide events for the younger students. This is not a political rally, it's a protest against violence. D15 schools came up with appropriate actions for all grade levels.



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- Council Member Yanfeng Zhang suggested the idea of having a Unity Day in the future. D15 Superintendent liked the idea.
- Some changes were made to the statement.

Motion to approve the statement of support - Scott Powell

2nd motion to approve the statement of support - Nicole Brier

Motion passed by all 9 members in attendance

Motion to go into Executive Session to further discuss potential litigations - Camille Casaretti

2nd motion to go into Executive Session to further discuss potential litigations - Scott Powell

Motion passed by all 9 members in attendance

Executive Session began at 8:49 p.m. Francisca Andino, CEC15 Administrative Assistant was invited to stay.

Members Present:

Camille Casaretti

Scott Powell

Kathy Park Price

Charles Star

Mark Bisard

Antonia Ferraro

Elena Romero

Motion to end Executive Session at 9:33 p.m. - Scott Powell

2nd motion to end Executive Session at 9:33 p.m. - Charles Star

Motion pass by all 7 members in attendance

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting - Scott Powell

2 motion to adjourn meeting - Mark Bisard

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:30 p.m.

-Minutes submitted by Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant