



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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Joint Business Meeting with CB7 Approved on 07/17/2018 at a Business Meeting

Date: 06/19/2018

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: PS 516, 4222 4th Avenue, Auditorium

Agenda (as publicly posted)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. School Construction Authority Presentation - Tamar Smith
3. Questions & Comments from Council Members
4. Office of State Senator Jesse Hamilton - Ean Fullerton, Communications and Research
5. Borough President Appointee Report - Elena Romero
6. President's Report - Camille Casaretti
7. WXY Working Group Report - Neal Zephyrin
8. Review of Letter Regarding Diversity Plan - Charles Star
9. Dual Language Update and Draft of Resolution - Scott Powell
10. School Safety Procedures Training Update - Scott Powell
11. Approval of Minutes from May 10, May 17 and June 8
12. New Business
13. Adjournment

Call to Order 6:40 p.m.

1. Roll Call - Camille Casaretti

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President

Scott Powell, Co-Vice President

Charles Star, Treasurer

Nicole Brier

Antonia Ferraro

Yanfeng Zhang

Late:

Neal Zephyrin, Secretary

Elena Romero

Absent:

Kathy Park Price, Co-Vice President - Excused

Mark Bisard - Excused



Lili Velez - Excused

Invited Guests:

D15 Superintendent Anita Skop

Tamar Smith, Community Relations Manager, External Affairs, New York School Construction Authority

Ean Fullerton, Communications and Research, Office of State Senator Jesse Hamilton

Javier Salamanca, Make Space for Quality Schools

CEC15 President Camille Casaretti

- Thanked Jeremy Laufer and Maria Gonzalez for putting this meeting together.

2. School Construction Authority [Presentation](#) - Tamar Smith

- Five new schools will be coming soon, 1 of them is in District 20.
- First school to open this September will be in the former St. Agatha's building, PS 896:
 - Located at 736 48th Street, it's currently in construction.
 - 228 seats for students in grades K-2
 - Site is leased by SCA and has been undergoing repairs and renovation on the exterior and interior (new windows, repaired roof, repaired masonry). Phase I: September 2018 - 100 children in 5 kindergarten classrooms.
 - Phase II: September 2018-2020 - 6 additional classrooms for grades 1 and 2.
- K746, District 20, Occupancy September 2020:
 - Located at 256 59th Street, currently in construction
 - 976 seats for students in grades pre-K through 8, 40 classrooms
 - Gymnasium, gymnasium with stage, exercise room, elementary science room and middle school science lab, library, art and music classrooms, reading and speech resource rooms, playground with a separate early childhood play area
- K730, Former C-Town Site, District 15, Occupancy September 2021:
 - Located at 4525 8th Avenue, currently in design
 - 332 seats for students in grades 3-5, 12 classrooms
 - Will be ready in 2021 form incoming 3rd graders from PS 896
 - Music room, library, science/project room, gymnasium with stage, playground, reading and speech resource rooms, parent/community room
- K671, Occupancy September 2021:
 - Located at 836 5th Avenue, currently in design
 - 404 seats for students in grades K-5, 18 classrooms
 - Music room, library, science/project room, gymnasium with stage and an exercise room, special education classrooms, reading and speech rooms, parent/community room, playground and separate early childhood play area
- K557, former police precinct, District 15, Occupancy 2022:
 - Located at 4302 4th Avenue, currently in design
 - 332 seats for students in grades pre-K - 5, 12 classrooms
 - This school will be part of PS 516



- Library and music classroom, science/project room, gymnasium with stage, rooftop playground, special education classrooms, speech and reading resource rooms

3. Questions & Comments from Council Members

Why is the former police precinct building the only school with a rooftop playground?

- Rooftop playground is not the first choice. First choice is always an on the ground play area. This site does not have space for an on the ground play space so we've added a rooftop play area.

How many seats will the D20 Pre-K Center on 93rd Street have?

- It will have 252 seats

What plans have been put in place for kids who suffer from asthma that will be attending the 59th Street site?

There are a lot of issues with traffic and air quality.

- When a big site is found SCA has to take the site even with its cons. There are no windows facing 3rd Avenue and air purifying vents have been installed in that site.

PS 24 has been evacuated recently. This school has been evacuated before due to fumes from the nearby bus depot.

- PS 24 was evacuated because there was a smell and the school thought it was from the bus depot, but it was not. The school was evacuated to be safe.

St. Agatha's (PS 896) has limited space, are there any plans put a rooftop playground there?

- We cannot place anything on the roof at St. Agatha's because it is a leased site - we do not own the building and do not have roof rights.

Is there a possibility of installing a greenhouse on the rooftop?

- Can't have areas where some students can't get into.

SCA should take resources to make a better playground for PS 516.

- PS 516 is a leased building. The yard is also use as a parking lot for the church next door. As per the lease, the school only has use of the yard from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- The former precinct is only 20 feet from PS 516, so it makes sense to have it be part of the school. Students will have access to the rooftop playground.

What is the SCA doing to have energy efficient school buildings?

- Some schools have solar panels.
- NYC is replacing old boilers in schools with energy efficient boilers.

Some schools have broken AC units, will those be fixed?

- Air conditioner unit issues need to be brought up to the school custodian. This is not an SCA issue.

End of joint meeting with CB7 at 7:36 p.m.



4. Office of State Senator Jesse Hamilton - Ean Fullerton, Communications and Research

- State Senator Hamilton and Assembly Member Robert Carroll announced a [legislation for safer streets](#) in March. This legislative package will address penalties for repeat offenders, speed-cameras in school areas and medical related car crashes.
- Licenses of drivers with too many violations will be suspended.
- Drivers who lose control of their cars will lose their license.
- Will bring the street safety bill to the Senate.
- State Senator Hamilton has secured a community based funding to work with immigrant communities.
- On June 27 State Senator Hamilton will hold a Participatory Budgeting at the state level with Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. The meeting will discuss projects that were nominated. It will be held at their District Office, 1669 Bedford Avenue, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn. People must RSVP to attend.

5. Borough President Appointee Report - Elena Romero

- She's part of the PS 896 working group.
- The working group has had 3 meetings since May 30th. The tentative date for the next meeting is June 26. Still waiting on confirmation.
- Project Director Ruth Rodriguez-Rivera is looking into tackling collaboration.
- Took some time during the last meeting to think up names for the school.

D15 Superintendent Anita Skop

- Very excited about the opening of this new school (PS 896).
- The Project Director/Principal Ruth Rodriguez-Rivera is very meticulous and detail oriented.
- Ruth Rodriguez-Rivera has received Reggio Emilia training. She has visited a school with staff that's received Reggio Emilia training.
- This school will be used for overflow this year only. Going forward the school will accept registrations.
- When the Kindergartners entering this year finally move to the C-Town location in 2021 that building will have science lab and a music room.

6. President's Report - Camille Casaretti

- 80 Flatbush Avenue Project Update:
 - Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams sent out a number of [recommendations](#) regarding the 80 Flatbush Avenue Project. An email with these recommendations will be sent out.
- Charter School Update:
 - Brooklyn Prospect Charter School gave a [presentation](#) during our May 10 Business meeting. They are planning on opening a new school in D15. CEC15 put out a [statement](#). We need more transparency.
 - A new charter school called LEEP will file an application proposing to be a K-8 dual language program. They are planning almost all subjects to be taught in Spanish. They are thinking of opening a in Sunset Park and are asking for a private facility, they will not request a co-location.
- CEC15 members are discussing switching some of their liaison schools, they're looking into the pros and cons of doing that. The council will make a decision in the next month.



7. WXY Working Group Report - Neal Zephyrin

- In the past couple of months District 15 has been engaged in the D15 Diversity Plan.
- During last public workshop people were presented with recommendations. The Working Group has had 2 meetings since to vote on the recommendations. Last vote was on June 13.
- Most recommendations had overwhelming support.
- Tomorrow will be the 4th public workshop at Sunset Park High School. The [recommendations](#) will be introduced to the public.
- Visit D15diversityplan.com for more information.

8. Review of Letter Regarding Diversity Plan - Charles Star

- Gave the Administrative Assistant the wrong draft of the letter.
- Review of letter was tabled until next meeting.

9. Dual Language Update and Draft of Resolution - Scott Powell

- There are 389 schools that offer bilingual education programs.
- While schools receive additional funding to support ELL students, they do not receive additional funding for non ELL students in dual language programs.
- A proposal from CEC3 wants to get funding for non ELL students. This will fund professional development for teachers not currently funded.
- He drafted a resolution on Funding for non-ELL Students in Dual Language Programs. Unfortunately the entire resolution was not printed and the council could not review it. The review of the resolution will be tabled until July since it is not time sensitive.

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- Dual language is taught in roller coaster style or side by side style.
- Roller coaster dual language is taught by one teacher. This teacher teaches the class in one language in the morning and then teaches it in the other language in the afternoon.
- Side by side dual language requires two teachers. One teacher teaches her class in one language, while the other teacher teaches her class in the other language in the morning. In the afternoon the classes change teachers.
- The point of dual language is to teach kids to be fluent in both languages.

10. School Safety Procedures Training Update - Scott Powell

- Each school is required to have a School Safety Committee that meets monthly. The committee must include: the Principal, the Principal/Designee of any other school or program operating at the site, UFT Chapter Leader, PTA President/Designee, NYPD Precinct C.O./Designee, and the Custodial Engineer/Designee.
- The School Safety Committee must draft a Safety Plan. The draft is then submitted to the Regional Safety Administrator.



D15 Superintendent Anita Skop

- All School Safety Committees must submit a Safety Plan. If a school does not submit a Safety Plan then her office will be notified.
- Every single principal must go through training.
- All NYC schools must have 12 emergency drills. Four of the drills must be lockdown drills, the remaining 8 must be evacuation drills. All schools must participate in 8 drills (a combination of the 2 drills) by December 31st.
- Principals must report all details of the drill to the central office. If a school has not done the mandatory drills the Superintendent's office will be notified.

12. New Business

- Javier Salamanca, Make Space for Quality Schools, is here to present a proposal to CEC15 for their support:
 - The proposal is for Sunset Park Parent Leadership Development Project.
 - The need for more training is important for parent leaders.
 - He is requesting funding on behalf of Make Space for Quality School for this training.
 - This training will provide basic skills for running a meeting to help incoming PTA members.
 - Participating parents will receive a stipend of \$50 for every half day workshop they attend.
 - He's asking for endorsement from CEC15

Motion to support the Sunset Park Parent Leadership Development Project - Camille Casaretti

2nd motion to support the Sunset Park Parent Leadership Development Project - Neal Zephyrin

Motion approved by all 8 members present.

11. Approval of Minutes from May 10, May 17 and June 8

- May 10 Minutes: Minor edits were suggested.

Motion to approve the Minutes from May 10 with suggested edits - Scott Powell

2nd motion to approve the minutes from May 10 with suggested edits - Nicole Brier

Minutes from May 10 were approved by all 8 members present.

- May 17 Minutes: Minor edits were suggested.

Motion to approve the Minutes from May 17 with suggested edits - Antonia Ferraro

2nd motion to approve the Minutes from May 17 with suggested edits - Scott Powell

Minutes from May 17 were approved by all 8 members present.

- June 8 Minutes: No edits were suggested.

Motion to approve the Minutes from June 8 - Charles Star

2nd motion to approve the Minutes from June 8 - Nicole Brier



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Minutes from June 8 were approved by all 8 members present.

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting - Elena Romero

2nd motion to adjourn meeting - Nicole Brier

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:00 p.m.

- Minutes submitted by Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant