



Business/Calendar Meeting
Approved on 09/06/2018 at a Business Meeting

Business Meeting

Date: 08/14/2018

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 July 17 and July 31
3. President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President
4. Sunset Park Updates - Elena Romero, CEC15 BP Appointee
 - a. PS 896 (Former St. Agatha's school)
 - b. Percent for Art
5. WXY Working Group Update - Neal Zephyrin, CEC15 BP Appointee
6. Selection of School Liaisons
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

Call to Order at 6:44 p.m.

1. Roll Call - Camille Casaretti

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President

Kathy Park Price, Co-Vice President

Antonia Ferraro, Secretary

Charles Star, Treasurer

Lili Velez, Parliamentarian

Nicole Brier

Mark Bisard

Yanfeng Zhang

Late:

Elena Romero

Absent:

Scott Powell, Co-Vice President - Excused

Neal Zephyrin - Excused



2. Approval of Minutes from July 17 and July 31

- Minutes July 17: Edits were suggested

Motion to approve minutes from July 17 with suggested edits - Lili Velez

2nd motion to approve minutes from July 17 with suggested edits - Nicole Brier

Minutes approved by all 9 members present.

- Minutes from July 31: No edits

Motion to approve minutes from July 31 - Lili Velez

2nd motion to approve minutes from July 31 - Nicole Brier

Minutes approved by all 9 members present

3. President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President

- Due to time constraints, Ms. Casaretti will speak briefly during New Business

4. Sunset Park Updates - Elena Romero, CEC15 BP Appointee

PS 896 Updates

- Former Saint Agatha School
- Principal Ruth Rodriguez-Rivera
- The school name has been approved by the initial reviews and requires just the Chancellor's signature. PS 896 will be called the School of Creativity and Innovation (SCI). The name could be changed in the future through a longer process.
- Principal Rodriguez-Rivera has obtained two partnerships for the students that will allow for media instruction and music instruction. She will be meeting with additional organizations to obtain a visual arts residency.
- The SCA has provided a tentative date of August 21 for the principal to be able to enter the building.
- Principal Rodriguez-Rivera is organizing a family event for the last week in August.
- The school's Community Working Group has not met since late June and is expected to meet soon. They have a tentative meeting date of Aug. 22 or 29.

Percent for Art Update

- Attended the July 24 meeting at [Department of Cultural Affairs](#), 31 Chambers Street, Room 201 for the selection of the artist/work for the upcoming Sunset Park School 15K557 (the Police Castle on 43rd and Fourth Avenue).
- Committee includes: Elena Romero (as Community Superintendent D15 Representative); Kendal Henry, Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), Percent for Art (Chairperson). Voting panelists included: Tania Duvergne, Public Art for Public Schools, NYC School Construction Authority; Jackie Change, artist and educator; Ed Rawlings, Rawlings Architects; Penelope Umbrico, artist; and Reina Shibata, Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), Percent for Art. Advisory Panelists from Department of Cultural Affairs, Percent for Art, and Public Art for Public Schools and NYC School Construction Authority were also in attendance.



- Three artists made presentations and were interviewed remotely. Committee later convened, discussed proposals and their presentations and voted.
- Seattle-based artist Val Britton was chosen for the next phase. She has a BS from the Rhode Island School of Design and a MFA from California College of the Arts. Her past clients have included: Facebook, San Francisco International Airport, and Energy Center in Houston.
- The proposed artwork is for the lobby of the building-primarily the ceiling and upper walls of the lobby.
- PS 557, the former Police Precinct, has an anticipated opening of Fall 2021.
- Ms. Romero will continue to sit on other art projects for Sunset Park and other public schools. She will be sitting as a non-voting member for another upcoming art project for PS572Q/Parcel F.
- A meeting is scheduled for August 22 at the Department of Cultural affairs.

Development Coming to Sunset Park

- A huge building development is coming to Sunset Park in D20. It will be on Fort Hamilton and 62nd Street.

5. WXY Working Group Update, Neal Zephyrin, CEC15 BP Appointee

- Neal Zephyrin is at Brad Landers' D15 Middle School Diversity Plan Discussion at the Brooklyn Public Library as a CEC15 Representative. Update has been postponed to next Business Meeting.

6. Selection of Liaison Schools

- It was suggested that PS 133 be added back to the School Liaison list because many D15 children attend that school.
- MS 464 is removed because it does not have D15 Superintendent Anita Skop as the superintendent.
- Members had a discussion on which schools they will liaise this fiscal year. They will finalize their decision next Business Meeting.

7. New Business

- Council Member Brad Landers' Office received about 85 calls concerning the D15 Diversity Plan final report. About $\frac{1}{3}$ of the calls were supportive, $\frac{1}{3}$ were concerned and had a lot of questions and $\frac{1}{3}$ opposed the plan's final report.
- CM Landers called for a meeting tonight with the WXY and DOE to explain the final report to Park Slope families.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting - Elena Romero

2nd motion to adjourn meeting - Antonia Ferraro

Meeting adjourn by unanimous consent at 7:47 p.m.

Minutes by: AA Francisca Andino



Calendar Meeting

Date: 08/14/2018

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: 131 Livingston Street, Room 508A

Calendar Meeting Agenda (as publicly posted)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Welcome - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President
3. Superintendent Report -Donalda Chumney, Principal Leadership Facilitator D15
4. LEEP Dual Language Academy Presentation - Roberto Gutierrez, Founder and President & Michael Regnier, Chief Operations Officer
5. Questions and Comments from Council Members
6. Public Comments
7. Adjournment

Call to Order at 7:48 p.m.

1. Roll Call - Camille Casaretti

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President

Kathy Park Price, Co-Vice President

Antonia Ferraro, Secretary

Charles Star, Treasurer

Lili Velez, Parliamentarian

Nicole Brier

Mark Bisard

Elena Romero

Yanfeng Zhang

Absent:

Scott Powell, Co-Vice President - Excused

Neal Zephyrin - Excused

Invited Guests:

Donalda Chumney, Principal Leadership Facilitator D15

Robert Gutierrez, LEEP Dual Language Academy, Founder and President

Michael Regnier, LEEP Dual Language Academy, Chief Operations Officer

2. Welcome - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President



- Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and introduced Donalda Chumney.

3. Superintendent Report - Donalda Chumney, Principal Leadership Facilitator D15

- Superintendent Skop is attending Council Member Brad Landers' Diversity Meeting.
- The D15 Diversity Plan final report looks promising. Has met with leaders of the DOE Office of Enrollment to make sure that a timeline can be implemented. Waiting to get feedback from the Chancellor's Office.
- Only 3 parents have approached the Superintendent's Office with issues that are very personal to them regarding middle schools.
- P.S. 172 Principal Jack Spatola has decided to retire. He has been with the DOE for 48 years. His Assistant Principal Erika Gunderson will take his place as Interim Acting Principal.
- P.S. 38 Principal Yolanda Ramirez will retire. Pascale Pradel will take her place as IA Principal.
- Michael Buckley is leaving his position as Principal of P.S. 154 and will be replaced by Jason Foreman.
- The Principal for P.S. 896 is Ruth Rodriguez-Rivera.
- M.S. 51 Principal Lenore Berner has accepted a coaching fellowship for this school year. Her most senior Assistant Principal Greg Stanislaus will be the Interim Principal for the year until she returns.
- H.S. 656 Daniel Vecchiano will lead a District-wide chorus. All D15 students will be invited to join.
- P.S. 154 had an increased Fall enrollment of 85 seats.
- Ms. Chumney and colleagues from her office have extended a great amount of support to PS 124. They have met with the Principal. They have made some curriculum and hiring adjustments.
- Chancellor Carranza has announced a [new school support structure](#). Superintendents and Field Support Center Executive Directors will report to nine Executive Superintendents. The new Executive Superintendent will be a representative of District 15 in addition to D15 Superintendent Anita Skop. An Executive Superintendent will be assigned to Brooklyn North.
- CEC15 brought up concerns regarding the traffic lights cameras. Will the DOE provide additional crossing guards? Will Superintendent Skop have a plan to supplement when students are back in school? What's being done and what can CEC15 do to help? Ms. Chumney will ask Superintendent Skop about her plan.
- CEC15 requested a copy of the Superintendent's goals and vision for D15 schools for this school year.

4. LEEP Dual Language Academy Presentation - Roberto Gutierrez, Founder and President & Michael Regnier, Chief Operations Officer

- Three members of their Board of Directors are here: Joaquin Matias, Melissa Jarvis-Cedeno, Magdalena Varela-Hand.
- A new charter school is being proposed to the NYS Board of Regents to open in August 2019 with entering grades K and 1. Plans to grow out to K-8 over time.
- Looking to locate in an independent facility, not an existing or newly constructed district building.
- The educational program is a research-based Spanish language immersion. The dual language program will be a whole-school design.
- The 90:10 (90% Spanish, 10% English) model will be used, in which 90% of the school day in Kindergarten is in Spanish, evening out to 50-50 by 4th grade. The students will maintain 50-50 through



8th grade. Children who speak Spanish at home or English or any other language will be able to use this program.

- A culturally responsive curriculum will be provided, expanding [Core Knowledge](#) to include a wide range of Latino history and culture.
- They will welcome all children - ICT classes on every grade, robust special education services, bilingual outreach, and enrollment priority for English Language Learners (ELLs) and Multilingual Learners (MLLs)
- They have reached out to Voces Ciudadanas and Melissa Harris at the DOE Office of School Charters. They said Ms. Harris will write a letter of support. They seek to serve Sunset Park families.
- [NYSED and the Board of Regents](#) would be their authorizer. The final vote is in Nov. 2018.
- For more information please visit www.LEEPacademies.org or call 917-819-LEEP (5337)

5. Questions and Comments from Council Members

- CEC insisted on the hiring of State Certified Teachers. Mr. Regnier replied that they would look into university partnerships.
- The concern was raised that charter schools take resources from public schools. The seats that are taken by Charters draw funds from the public school budget. Answer: The budget is a real concern. LEEP representatives said that they asked parents in Sunset Park where their children go to school and most parents said their children go to school far from their neighborhood due to overcrowding.
- Regarding the building lease, where is the money is coming? Answer: [Carnegie Corp](#) and [New Schools Venture Fund](#). There will be no for profit vendors. Mr. Gutierrez - self investment and family friend invested.
- Regarding discipline and use of uniforms, they will use restorative practices and a responsive classroom approach.
- How many LEEP schools exist? Answer - this is the first one with the LEEP name.
- The whole concept of charter schools is to share ideas with the District. How do you see yourself offering best practices to our district? Mr. Regnier reply - Can share info on PROSE schools and State Grant Programs. The P in our name is for partnership. Partnership includes district schools. We'll give people the blueprint and let them run with it.
- What is the length of the charter? Answer: 5 year charter request for K-4th grade.
- Why not a magnet school model? Answer: This was the fastest way for us to open. They are open to the idea of working with the DOE on another school in Jackson Heights.
- CEC15 requested a copy of the letter of support from Ms. Harris.

6. Public Comments

- Some people in attendance shared their concerns about LEEP charter school and other Charters coming to D15. Parents interested in LEEP expressed their support.
- Representative from PS24 voiced discontent about funds being taken from the district by Charter Schools and discussed declining enrollment at PS24 due to gentrification.
- Pres. Casaretti read an email from a D15 parent with questions about the logistics and other concerns regarding the Middle School Diversity Plan.
- Discussion about CEC Statement on Diversity Plan. Waiting on the draft from Neal Zephyrin. Will review over email. CEC15 may ask WXY to meet with them.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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- CEC15 asked for DOE to confirm the accuracy of LEEP's representation and the possible support from the Office of Charter.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting - Mark Bisard

2nd motion to adjourn meeting - Elena Romero

Meeting adjourn by unanimous consent at 9:07 p.m.

- Minutes submitted by Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant