



# COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

[CEC15@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CEC15@schools.nyc.gov) | tel. 718-935-4267 | [facebook.com/CECD15](https://www.facebook.com/CECD15) | [CECD15.org](http://CECD15.org)

## Business Meeting

Approved on 10/23/2018 at a Business Meeting

**Date: 09/06/2018**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Location: 131 Livingston Street, Room 508B**

### Agenda (as publicly posted)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes from August 14
3. President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President
4. Review of 80 Flatbush Avenue Statement to City Council and Vote
5. CEC15 Middle School Diversity Statement and Updates - Neal Zephyrin, CEC15 BP Appointee
6. Borough President Report and PS 896 Update - Elena Romero, CEC15 BP Appointee
7. CEC15 Calendar and Meeting Topic Discussion
  - a. Special Education Workshop - Nicole Brier
  - b. Grants & Funding Workshop - Camille Casaretti
  - c. Summer Camp Workshop - Elena Romero
8. Election of Co-Vice President 1 and Co-Vice President 2 Positions
9. Election of Committee Chairs
  - a. Communications Committee
  - b. Charters Committee
  - c. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
10. Finalize Selection of Schools Liaison
11. New Business
12. Adjournment

### Superintendent's Report - Anita Skop, 15 Superintendent

- Pascale Pradel is the new principal a P.S. 38. She is the former Assistant Principal at P.S. 107. Yolanda Ramirez has retired. Ms. Pradel officially took over as principal on Sept. 2.
- Jack Spatola has retired. Ms. Erica Gunderson replaced him as Principal of P.S. 172. She was his Assistant Principal.
- Jason Foreman is the new Principal of P.S. 154.
- Ruth Rodriguez-Rivera is the Principal of P.S. 896. The school had a low enrollment because they're only getting overflow students from P.S. 94 and P.S. 169, but their enrollment is still increasing. Ms. Rodriguez-Rivera informed her that she had enrolled 12 more students as of today. Superintendent Skop was at the school for the 1st day of school. It was a lovely 1st day of school for P.S. 896. Ms. Rodriguez-Rivera took the time to acclimate a student with an IEP to the school. She invited this student the day before the school's opening to show him around the school and introduce him to his teacher.



- P.S. 124 Principal Annabel Burell has resigned. Ms. Skop is delighted to announce that Maria Interlandi will be taking over as principal. Ms. Interlandi was the Director of Early Childhood for D15. Superintendent Skop has worked with her for 9 years.
- Superintendent Skop visited 6 different schools on the 1st day of school and visited 1 school today. Very optimistic for this school year. D15 had great opening of schools.
- Many middle schools took the time to acclimate students to the new school year. One school welcomed a homeless student by giving them a backpack and uniforms.
- This year 68% of the 8th graders from M.S. 447 stayed in the building to attend H.S. 656 for the 9th grade.

### **Comments and Questions from Council Members**

- CEC15 asked for confirmation that P.S. 896 will be a lottery school starting next school year. Superintendent Skop confirmed it will be a lottery school that will give preference to students in the surrounding area.
- Regarding the D15 Diversity Plan recommendations, CEC15 wanted to know Superintendent Skop's thoughts. She feels the plan will be approved but it will take some time.
- How is principal's success measured? The way a principal's success is measured is by New York State Law. Superintendents are only in charge of 60%. No principal in D15 is less than effective.
- Regarding the stories Superintendent Skop shared about some principals welcoming and supporting incoming students, what can be done to model this behavior with other principals? Many principals are implementing emotional support. When a child is having a bad day, she's asked principals to put the curriculum on hold and offer that student the emotional support they need.
- It was mentioned that during last meeting CEC15 requested a copy of the goals and vision for this school year. CEC15 asked when will the copy of goals and vision be shared with them. Superintendent Skop will share it with CEC15 at the next calendar meeting.

### **Call to Order at 7:04 p.m.**

#### **1. Roll Call - Scott Powell**

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President

Kathy Park Price, Co-Vice President

Scott Powell, Co-Vice President

Antonia Ferraro, Secretary

Lili Velez, Parliamentarian

Nicole Brier

Mark Bisard

Neal Zephyrin

Elena Romero



Absent:

Charles Star, Treasurer - Excused

Yanfeng Zhang - Excused

Invited Guests:

Anita Skop, D15 Superintendent

Jai Griem, Senior Liaison, Parent Leadership - FACE

**2. Approval of [Minutes from August 14](#)**

- Some edits were suggested. Some of the actions requested by CEC15 were not included in the minutes. If a council member asks for an action to happen it should be added to the minutes.

**Motion to approve minutes from August 14 with suggested edits/additions - Elena Romero**

**2nd motion to approve minutes from August 14 with suggested edits/additions - Neal Zephyrin**

**Minutes approved by all 9 members present.**

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

- LEEP Update:
  - She would like to submit a statement to the Board of Regents on the LEEP Charter Application. CEC15 has received a number of postcards in the mail in opposition to this charter school.
  - In their letter of Intent to the Board of Regents they state that in 2016, LEEP Founder and President Roberto Gutierrez applied to the Texas Education Agency to open a similar school in Texas, but it was not approved. Mr. Gutierrez was also a proposed trustee of a proposed New York Flex Charter School, which submitted a full application to the NYS Board of Regents in March 2011 that was not approved. That proposal is unrelated to LEEP Dual Language Academy.
  - The Letter of Intent reflects significant modifications since the Texas application, including an entirely different application group; a clearer description of the academic model; and more detailed plans for literacy instruction; curricula, and teacher development.
  - They received \$100K from Carnegie and \$215K from School Venture Fund. It's important to see what other funding sources they have. If they are not financially sound they risk closing right away which causes distress to families.
- Andrea Strong, the PS 261 Wellness Chair will be presenting at our November Business Meeting about a D15 Wellness Program Proposal that she drafted. She is working with the Borough President's Office on this idea which would involve sharing of resources with all of our D15 schools.
- The City Council Education Committee met earlier today. There were a number of proposals that passed that will assist the district with overcrowding, allow for more transparency, address funding within subdistricts and improve school siting.
- Thank you to Kathy for starting the Garden Train Crawl to promote D15 gardens.



**4. Review of 80 Flatbush Avenue Statement to City Council and Vote - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President**

- City Council will be voting on the 80 Flatbush Avenue proposal in the coming weeks. She believes the meeting will be on Sept. 20. Council Member Levin has said that he wants Alloy to redesign the plan to shrink down to 12 FAR and lose the commercial space. Ms. Casaretti drafted a [statement](#) from CEC15 which she read to those present.
- A council member suggested to Ms. Casaretti to fact check everything and cite where she found all statistics.

**Motion to vote on Camille Casaretti reading this statement during the City Council meeting - Mark Bisard**

**2nd motion to vote on Camille Casaretti reading this statement during the City Council meeting - Elena Romero**

**Motion passed by unanimous vote by all 9 members present.**

**5. CEC15 Middle School Diversity Statement and Updates - Neal Zephyrin, CEC15 BP Appointee**

- The general mood regarding the D15 Diversity Plan recommendations is positive.
- Hopefully there will be an announcement from the DOE in a week. The DOE does not want to go past September without an announcement. The process seems to be moving along.
- The recommendation to remove screens will probably be in effect by 2019. Other recommendations will take effect over time.
- Council Member Brad Lander came out in support of the plan. Many people did not know that this process was taking place throughout the year. CM Lander's goal is to promote this plan and have D15 support it. He wrote a joint letter with CM Menchaca.
- CEC15 would like to see a preview of the plan before the DOE makes the announcement. CEC15 members asked Jai Griem, FACE Senior Liaison, Parent Leadership, to please ask the Chancellor's Office to share their final decision of the plan 24 hours before it is released to the press.
- CEC15 discussed the possibility that some of the recommendations may not be in the final plan. Lili Velez, CEC15 Parliamentarian, volunteered to create a survey where CEC15 members can pick their top 3 priorities from the D15 Diversity Plan recommendations.
- CEC15 is committed to desegregation.

**Open Meetings Law - Jai Griem, Senior Liaison, Parent Leadership - Division of Family and Community Engagement (FACE)**

- Ms. Griem urged CEC15 members to please make sure they follow the Open Meetings Law.
- Best practice is to draft a statement and discuss it during the following meeting. It is reasonable to draft a document ahead of time, but it needs to be read during a calendar meeting and get public comments from those present and then vote by roll call.



### **CEC15 Middle School Diversity Statement**

- Neal Zephyrin read the statement.
- CEC15 asked for public comments from those present. Parents present were glad that CEC15 is supporting this plan.
- CEC15 discussed turning this [statement](#) into a [Resolution regarding Middle School Diversity](#).

**Motion to turn the CEC15 Middle School Diversity statement into a resolution - Scott Powell**

**2nd motion to turn the CEC15 Middle School Diversity statement into a resolution - Nicole Brier**

**Motion passed by unanimous vote by all 9 members present.**

### **6. Borough President Report and P.S. 896 Update - Elena Romero, CEC15 BP Appointee**

#### **Borough President Report:**

- Elena Romero and Neal Zephyrin attended the 1st Brooklyn President meeting of the fiscal year last night.
- They were given the list of meetings for the rest of the year. Possible topics to be discussed during the meetings throughout the year are: school budgets, capital funding, school zoning, the D15 Diversity Plan, school resource fair, and a summer programs fair.
- The summer camp fair will probably be hosted at Borough Hall this school year. It will be open to the public.

#### **P.S. 896 Update:**

- The Working Group met on Aug. 29 at the Center for Family Life.
- There will be 2 classrooms on the first floor.
- The lunchroom is currently a multi-purpose room. SCA will finish construction of the school by next year. There is currently no kitchen in phase I. Food will be coming from Sunset Park H.S. everyday for breakfast and lunch. There will be express breakfast and bag lunch. The school will have 2 food service coordinators.
- The school does not have outdoor recess space this year. Students will have gym everyday and periods for play.
- Principal Ruth Rodriguez-Rivera finalized a contract for 30 weeks for music instruction with 3rd Street Music Settlement.
- The Principal has also met with [Sunset Spark](#), which will also offer creative technology classes for the school.
- P.S. 896 website is officially live: <https://ps896.org/>. Two logos have been approved.
- The school is facing parking issues. No parking for teachers and staff. DOT is no longer giving teacher parking. Any help will be greatly appreciated. CEC15 discussed ways to help the school with the parking issues.
- The school admissions will be through lottery next year.
- An official ribbon cutting ceremony will take place towards the end of September. No date has been set yet.



## **7. CEC Calendar and Meeting Topic Discussion**

- CEC15 approved the tentative CEC15 meeting dates from January to June 2019.
- Due to time restraints discussion on workshops was tabled for a later meeting.

## **8. Election of Co-Vice President 1 and Co-Vice President 2 Positions**

*To be elected candidates must have at least 6 votes.*

### **Co-Vice President 1:**

- Elena Romero nominated herself.
- Kathy Park Price nominated herself.

**Nominations for Co-Vice President 1 were officially closed.**

**9 members present.**

**6 votes for Elena Romero. 3 votes for Kathy Park Price.**

**Elena Romero was elected Co-Vice President 1**

### **Co-Vice President 2:**

- Nicole Brier nominated herself.
- Kathy Park Price nominated herself.

**Nominations for Co-Vice President 2 were officially closed.**

**9 members present.**

**1st Round of Voting: 5 votes for Nicole Brier, 4 votes for Kathy Park Price**

**Nicole Brier withdrew herself as candidate.**

**2nd Round of Voting: 9 votes for Kathy Park Price**

**Kathy Park Price was elected Co-Vice President 2**

## **9. Election of Committee Chairs**

*To be elected candidates must have at least 6 votes.*

### **a. Communications Committee**

- Kathy Park Price nominated herself.

**Nominations for Communications Committee Chair were officially closed.**

**All 9 members present voted. Vote was unanimous.**

**Kathy Park Price was elected Communications Committee Chair.**



**b. Charters Committee**

- Antonia Ferraro nominated herself.

**Nominations for Charters Committee Chair were officially closed.**

**All 9 members present voted. Vote was unanimous.**

**Antonia Ferraro was elected Charters Committee Chair.**

**c. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee**

- Neal Zephyrin nominated himself.

**Nominations for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Chair were officially closed.**

**All 9 members present voted. Vote was unanimous.**

**Neal Zephyrin was elected Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Chair.**

**10. Finalize Selection of Schools Liaison**

**All 9 members present voted to finalize the selection of schools liaison. Vote was unanimous.**

**11. New Business**

- CEC15 discussed holding a meeting to inform possible candidates for CEC15 what it means to be in the CEC.
- D15 School Garden Consortium is hosting a 1st Annual Brooklyn School Gardens Crawl on Sept. 29. Kathy Park Price asked CEC15 members if they would be in favor of adding the CEC15 logo as a sponsor to this event.
- Kathy Park Price was asked to remove CEC15's contact information from the Garden Train's website and newsletter communications.

**All 7 members present voted to add the CEC15 logo as a sponsor to the 1st Annual Brooklyn School Gardens Crawl. Vote was unanimous.**

**12. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn meeting - Camille Casaretti**

**2nd motion to adjourn meeting - Kathy Park Price**

**Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:11 p.m.**

- Minutes submitted by Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant