



# COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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## Calendar Meeting

Approved on 10/23/2018 at a Business Meeting

**Date: 10/09/2018**

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

**Location: M.S. 136, 4004 4th Avenue - Auditorium**

### AGENDA (as publicly posted)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Welcome - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President
3. D15 Superintendent Report - D15 Superintendent Anita Skop
4. Office of Enrollment Presentation - Matt Brogini, Senior Director of Middle School Admissions
  - a. Learn About the D15 Middle School Admissions Process
  - b. How Will the Admissions Process Affect Your Family
5. Questions from CEC15
6. Public Comments/Questions
7. Charter Committee - Statement on LEEP Dual Language Academy Application with public comments and member vote
8. Adjournment

### Call to Order at 6:37 p.m.

#### 1. Roll Call - Antonia Ferraro

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President

Antonia Ferraro, Secretary

Charles Star, Treasurer

Lili Velez, Parliamentarian

Nicole Brier

Mark Bisard

Neal Zephyrin

Scott Powell

Yanfeng Zhang

Late:

Elena Romero, Co-Vice President 1

Kathy Park Price, Co-Vice President 2

Invited Guests:

Anita Skop, D15 Superintendent

Karen Watts, Brooklyn North Executive Superintendent



Matthew Brogini, Senior Director of Middle School Admissions, Office of Student Enrollment

Andrew McClintock, Director, Office of Student Enrollment

Sadye Campoamor, Director of Community Affairs, Office of Student Enrollment

## **2. Welcome - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President**

- There are 32 Community Education Councils across the 5 boroughs. Each one is comprised of a group of 11 elected and appointed parents with children enrolled in district elementary and middle schools. The election process for the next 2 years will begin in January. If parents want to contribute to the positive change happening in their district they should consider running for one of the seats.
- Each CEC Member is assigned to a few different schools in District 15. Please refer to the school liaison list on the [website](#).
- Grateful to have representatives from the Department of Education come to speak about the Diversity in Middle Schools Admissions Policy.
- We continue to get positive feedback from the majority of stakeholders in our District and praise from those outside of our District. In District 15, we are lucky to have so many families, teachers and staff that are united to each other by bonds that go deeper than where we came from, or how much money we make. We overcome our differences by focusing on what we have in common with humility, patience and kindness. If we continue to move in this direction Equity and Unity for All will be possible.

## **Logistics for the Meeting - Lili Velez, Parliamentarian**

- Comment cards are on the table and being passed around for anyone who has a comment/question they would like to submit.
- Office of Enrollment will give their presentation. No questions will be asked during their presentation.
- After the presentation comment cards will be collected while CEC15 members ask questions.
- Public comments/questions will open after CEC15 asks questions.

## **2. D15 Superintendent Report - D15 Superintendent Anita Skop**

- Every few years the Superintendent's office reflects on their vision for the District and revises it. [D15 vision for 2018-19](#) is to ensure that every child is provided with an educational experience that is meaningful, innovative, enriched and grounded in uncompromising standards of academic achievement and ensure their scholastic, social and professional success. Tonight, D15 is taking huge steps to make this a reality for all.
- We believe in all our children. Superintendent Skop is hoping for a future where every child is given the tools they need to be successful.

**D15 Diversity Plan - Andrew McClintock, Director, Office of Student Enrollment & Sadye Campoamor, Director of Community Affairs, Office of Student Enrollment**



- Both Mr. McClintock and Ms. Campoamor were part of the 16 person working group that helped steer the community engagement process. It was a year long process in collaboration with school leaders, educators, parents and guardians, students, and community members. The goal is to increase diversity in all District 15 middle schools.
- The Working Group held 4 public workshops throughout the year.
- The plan is divided in 2 parts: Integration and Inclusion.
- Integration includes:
  - Equitable admissions
  - Access to information
  - Transportation
- Inclusion includes:
  - Integrated schools
  - Restorative practices
  - Collaboration and engagement
  - Inclusive classrooms
  - Resource inequity
  - Students with special needs and physical access

### **3. Office of Enrollment [Presentation](#) - Matthew Brogini, Senior Director of Middle School Admissions**

- There are 11 great middle schools in District 15
- Students will apply for middle schools online. All 5th grade students will have access to the middle school app by the end of October. The app will include as options every middle school the student is eligible to attend.
- Each student can add up to 12 middle school choices to their application. Each middle school should be placed in the student's true order of preference, with the favorite school as number 1.
- Will the D15 Plan change how students apply to middle school? No. The only change in the application process is that all families across the city can apply to middle school online.
- The first step for parents in the application process is to access and review their child's application. By the end of October parents will receive information on how to create a MySchools account and access their child's personalized online middle school application. Parents should make sure all information is correct.
- There are 3 types of middle school options for D15 students:
  - District Schools - District 15: Open to all students who live and/or attend a public elementary school in D15. If a child lives in one district but attends school in a different district they can apply for both districts.
  - Boroughwide Schools - Brooklyn: Open to all students who live or attend a public elementary school in Brooklyn
  - Citywide Schools: Open to all students who live in NYC



- Charter schools are not included in the D15 Middle School Admissions process. They have a separate admission process.
- How should parents choose where to apply? Parents should consider the following:
  - Travel - Parents should visit the schools to see how long the commute would be for their child.
  - Programs and courses offered - All 11 middle schools in District 15 have distinctive programs and After School programs. Parents should look into which schools offer specific academic courses, clubs, activities, or sports that appeal to their child.
  - School size - Find out how many students go to the school.
  - Mission and vision - Look into what makes the school special.
- Deadline to submit application is December 3. Students will receive offers in April.
- After adding their child's favorite schools on their application, parents should consider adding more choices to the application. Place choices on application on true order of preference. Adding more choices can help increase the student's chances of getting in a school of their choice.
- While the Office of Enrollment can't guarantee students will get in their top choice school, they can guarantee that every child will get a school placement. The Office of Enrollment will try to place the child at their highest choice available.
- Will the D15 Diversity Plan change how students are matched to a middle school? Yes. To ensure that all students have access to all D15 middle schools, two key changes are being made:
  - No more screened schools - All district middle schools in D15 will now use an open admissions method. Schools will no longer screen or select students based on their academic records. If a school has more applicants than available seats the school will match with applicants by random selection.
  - Diversity in admissions priority - 52% of seats to:
    - Students from low-income households (who qualify for federal free and reduced price lunch program)
    - Students in temporary housing
    - English Language Learners
- Each student will be assigned a random number. This will be done exclusively by computer. The random number is used to determine which students are matched with seats during random selection.
- Each middle school has a specific number of seats available for incoming students. Available seats are divided into two groups:
  - One group of seats is reserved for students who are part of the general education population and students who receive special education instructional programming for 20% or less of their academic program.



- The 2nd group of seats is for students who receive special education instructional programming for more than 20% of their academic program.
- D15 Middle School Fair will be on Oct. 17 at M.S. 88 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. M.S. 88 is located at 544 7th Avenue.
- Learn more:
  - 2019 NYC Middle School Directory - [schools.nyc.gov/Middle](https://schools.nyc.gov/Middle)
  - Middle School Admissions Email List - [schools.nyc.gov/connect](https://schools.nyc.gov/connect)
  - Your Zoned-School - [schools.nyc.gov/Find-a-School](https://schools.nyc.gov/Find-a-School)
  - D15 Working Group's Recommendations - [d15diversityplan.com](http://d15diversityplan.com)
  - How Do Students Get Matched? [vimeo.com/288796889](https://vimeo.com/288796889)
- Get help with your child's application:
  - Contact your child's school guidance counselor
  - Visit a Family Welcome Center - [schools.nyc.gov/WelcomeCenters](https://schools.nyc.gov/WelcomeCenters)
  - Call the Office of Enrollment at (718)935-2009

## 5. Questions from CEC15

- If parents don't have access to a computer at home can their child's school's guidance counselor or parent coordinator help them register? The application is mobile/tablet friendly so many parents will be able to register using any one of those devices or they can go to their school's library and use the computers there.
- D15 Superintendent Anita Skop made it clear that schools have been instructed to give parents choice and support. No guidance counselor should limit children or discourage them from applying to the school they want. She urged parents to call her office at 718-935-4317 if their children are discouraged to apply to a certain school.
- Some parents don't know how to register online for a school tour. What should they do? Parents can arrange tours through the Superintendent's office. Some teachers are taking students whose parents can't accompany them on school tours. If parents have any problems arranging tours they can call her office or email her at [ASkop@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ASkop@schools.nyc.gov).
- Now that every child has universal free lunch how will the Office of Enrollment know which students come from low income households? Families are asked to please fill out the school lunch application. This not only help schools get the funding they need but also helps determine which children are in low income households.
- How does D15 make sure to have interpreters available during these school tours? Most of these schools have their own staff that can translate during tours. Parents can call the schools or the Superintendent's office to arrange ahead of time.



## 6. Public Comments/Questions

Below please find some of the questions they were asked during the public session:

- Will any consideration be given to sibling preference so siblings can attend the same middle school? No. Unfortunately there's no sibling priority for middle schools throughout the city.
- Why does it take so long to get an offer? This is a citywide process. It takes time to reach out schools to see how many seats they have.
- If a citywide school is ranked on top of the list of school choices, will that affect the rest of the choices? If the child does not match a citywide school it does not affect the rest of the list. Students are in line depending on their assigned number. If the random number assigned to the child is low, it will put them ahead of other children with a higher number.
- How is the application process less arduous for 5th graders and their families? Reference letters and interviews are factors that put stress on a 9 or 10 year old. Taking away the screening helps. D15 has the largest number of "opt-out" students in the city. Children are not penalized because their parents have two jobs and can't attend a tour. The gate has been opened to offer an equal playing field.
- Will there be busing? The DOE is working with the Office of Pupil Transportation, the Superintendent's office and middle school principals to see how it might look, but currently there is no busing available.
- What else is the plan doing to address equity and diversity in schools? Every school is given money based on their student population. The less children in free/reduced lunch program the less money the school receives. Filling out the lunch application is very important. Making the schools more diverse will help address equity.
- How are teachers trained in diversity? D15 teachers in every school is dealing with a diverse population. No child is the same as the other. Teachers are capable of teaching very different children. Please take the opportunity to find out what's happening in the schools.
- What if my child does not get matched to any school on the application? The child will be matched to a school in the district with available seats.
- Will the DOE release the student's rank number? No, that information will not be shared.
- Will students get one overall ranking number or will it change for each school? Students will get one number that will be used for all schools.
- Is the 52% priority admission a quota that needs to be filled in each school? What if it isn't? Does that open it up to the general lottery? If there aren't enough students in the admission priority to fill the 52% then the remaining seats will be given to students in the general admission group.
- Are there enough seats in D15 middle school to give a seat for all applicants? Yes, there will be a seat for every child who is zoned for District 15 for middle school.



- Are there middle schools with a Chinese dual language program? No middle school in the district currently has Chinese dual language. A few middle schools have a continuation of dual language. It's hard to find highly qualified teachers for dual language middle schools.
- My child has a learning disability, how should choose a school? If your child has an IEP look into schools that have settings recommended in the child's IEP. Speak to the guidance counselor to find out which schools will fit with your child's needs. All middle schools have ICT classrooms.

*All comment cards submitted will be sent to the Office of Student Enrollment.*

**7. Charter Committee - Statement on LEEP Dual Language Academy Application with public comments and member vote**

- Council members Antonia Ferraro and Elena Romero will be attending the LEEP Dual Language Academy Charter School public hearing on October 11. They will read a statement on behalf of CEC15.
- Antonia Ferraro read the [Statement](#).

**CEC15 Members voted to have Antonia Ferraro and Elena Romero read the Statement on Leep Dual Language Academy Charter School on behalf of CEC15.**

**Vote was unanimous.**

**8. Adjournment.**

**Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:24 p.m.**

- Minutes submitted by Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant



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