



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](https://www.facebook.com/CECD15) | CECD15.org

Business Meeting - Joint Meeting with CEC13 Approved on 11/05/2018 at a Business Meeting

Date: 10/23/2018

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: P.S. 133 - 610 Baltic Street, Auditorium

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Presidents' Report - Ayanna Behin and Camille Casaretti, CEC13 and CEC15 Presidents
3. Reso A Funding Updates - Jeff Lowell, Deputy Policy Director, Office of the Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams
4. Discussion about Dyslexia - Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon

Break out of Joint CEC13 and CEC15 Meeting

5. Approval of Minutes from September 6, September 25 and October 9
6. Budget Readjustment - Charles Star, CEC15 Treasurer
7. CEC15 Representation at Presidents' Council - Nicole Brier, CEC15 IEP Representative
8. Garden Crawl Report - Kathy Park Price, CEC15 Co-Vice President 2
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

Call to Order at 6:39 p.m.

1. Roll Call

CEC13 - Ayanna Behin

Present:

Ayanna Behin, President

Meryem Bencheikh, 1st Vice President

Cynthia McKnight, Borough President Appointee

Matrice Sherman, Member

Absent:

Christina Protano, 2nd Vice President - Excused

Ivana Espinet, Recording Secretary - Excused

Benjamin Greene, Treasurer

Faraji Hannah-Jones, Member



CEC15 - Camille Casaretti

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President
Kathy Park Price, Co-Vice President 2
Antonia Ferraro - Secretary
Charles Star, Treasurer
Nicole Brier, IEP Representative
Mark Bisard, Member
Neal Zephyrin, Borough President Appointee
Scott Powell, Member
Yanfeng Zhang, ELL Representative

Absent:

Elena Romero, Co-Vice President 1/Borough President Appointee - Excused
Lili Velez, Parliamentarian - Excused

2. Presidents' Report - Ayanna Behin and Camille Casaretti, CEC13 and CEC15 Presidents

- This is a calendar meeting for CEC13 and a business meeting for CEC15. The meeting will begin as a joint meeting for both CECs but after the presentations both CECs will break up into their own group to conduct their meeting.
- Jeff Lowell from the Brooklyn Borough President's Office is here to give a presentation on Reso A funding and Assemblymember Jo Anne will talk about her bill on Dyslexia.

3. Reso A Funding Updates - Jeff Lowell, Deputy Policy Director, Office of the Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams

- Wants to make sure all D13 and D15 schools apply for capital funding.
- Resolution A (Reso A) projects are school-specific capital improvement or enhancement projects that are funded by individual grants from New York City Council Members or Borough Presidents.
- Many schools qualify for capital funding. The application to apply takes less than an hour to complete.
- Some projects take a couple of years to get funded.
- Make sure to apply for things that are capitally eligible. Examples projects that are capitally eligible are: Improving auditoriums and gymnasiums, upgrading libraries, building science labs, refurbishing playgrounds, providing mobile science carts and supplying technology equipment.
- Air conditioning units, library books and photocopiers are not capitally eligible.
- All projects must meet a minimum cost requirement of \$35,000.
- The application period starts in December. Talks with the School Construction Authority (SCA) should start before applications open. Applicants should get a capital estimate from SCA to make sure enough money is requested for the projects.
- After applications are submitted there is a waiting period. City budget must be approved before any decisions are made.
- Schools receive notifications that their projects will be funded during the summer.



- Once the money has been allocated SCA is responsible for scoping out the project and overseeing the design and construction.
- Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams has given over half of the budget to schools.
- Reso A can't cover air conditioning units, but will it cover wiring for the units? Wiring could be a capital funding project, maybe central air but that's too expensive.
- How about curtains for an auditorium? Total auditorium update yes, but not curtains.
- If the school has a project in mind, they should reach out to SCA to ask if that project qualifies for Reso A funding.
- Would soundproofing a classroom qualify? If the minimum cost is \$35,000 it might be approved, but the school should check with SCA first. This is a permanent improvement to the building, it could probably be approved.
- Is there a limit on how much to ask? There is no limit, but there is a limit on the city budget.
- Schools can apply for more than one project.
- For any questions regarding the capital application process please contact Josh Levin, Director of Capital Budget and Economic Development at 718-802-3853 or email him at joshualevin@brooklynbp.nyc.gov to discuss the Borough President's capital program.
- If there is project that was funded more than 5 years ago, but a school is still waiting for this particular project let the Borough President's office know and reach out to the district's council member.
- Applications will open in December but the deadline will be in February. Please visit Brooklyn-usa.org to find out when applications open. You can also sign up for the [Brooklyn Borough President's Application Notification](#).
- CEC15 President Camille Casaretti - If submitting a project with the Borough President please inform your CEC so they can advocate for your project. CECs also submit a list of projects to SCA and knowing what schools are submitting it's very helpful.

4. [Discussion about Dyslexia](#) - Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon

- Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon wants to make sure she and her office help facilitate to get the information out in schools.
- If we call things by the correct name then we can get a handle of what we're dealing with. Teachers need to use the correct terms for disabilities to better teach their students with disabilities. Her bill is to make sure Dyslexia is call by the right word and that the correct word is used in IEPs.
- Lt. Governor of California Gavin Newsom is dyslexic. He shared his experience growing up with dyslexia during an [interview](#).
- Dyslexia is a specific, language-based learning disability which is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition, spelling and decoding, verbal memory and processing speed. Secondary consequences may include: problems in reading comprehension, reduced reading experience, negative self-concept and decreased motivation.
- Dyslexia is not caused by a lack of motivation. It is not a visual problem. It is not a problem of laziness and it is not caused by parents not reading to their child. Dyslexia is not outgrown. Dyslexia is not a rare condition and it is not a lack of intelligence.



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- Prevalence of including more children in general education classes, every teacher student or 5 in their class. Many will go unidentified until it's too late and they will continue to struggle with reading. It reduces the number of children who will need intensive individualized instruction.
- Goals promoted by the Dyslexia Guidance Memorandum Law:
 - Accurate diagnosis of Dyslexia - More specific than learning disability classification
 - Targeted treatment
 - Early intervention
- The bill makes sure the State issues a [guidance](#) on dyslexia to provide information to schools. Specific provisions of the Law are to use the words Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia in NYSED to consult with stakeholders/interested parties.
- What evidence based education should look like:
 - A school climate where everyone in school is on board
 - The word dyslexia is consistently used
 - Small classes
 - Evidence-based methods
 - Knowledgeable, flexible, caring teachers
 - Consistency in instruction across all classes
 - A community to join where students know they are not alone
- Resources:
 - [Eye to Eye](#)
 - [Advocates for Children of New York](#)
 - [Understood.org](#)
 - [National Center for Learning Disabilities](#)
 - [Everyone Reading](#)
- Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon introduced Noah Rosenfeld, an 11th grade student.
 - Noah was diagnosed with Dyslexia when he was in the 3rd grade. He was terrified to read out loud when he was in 1st and 2nd grade. He thought there was something wrong with him. He is happy that he was diagnosed early because he was able to get early intervention.
 - Noah urged parents to have an open mind. There is nothing wrong with their child. Yes, it will take extra work but parents should work with their children.
- The [Wilson Reading System](#) breaks down language and helps students with the 5 pillars of reading: Phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and reading comprehension.
- The goal is to have parents and teachers recognize what is Dyslexia. Teachers need to know why students are making mistakes.

5. Approval of Minutes from [September 6](#), [September 25](#) and [October 9](#)

- Minutes from September 6: Edits were suggested

Motion to approve the minutes from September 6 with suggested edits - Charles Star

2nd motion to approve the minutes from September 6 with suggested edits - Camille Casaretti

Minutes approved by all 9 members present.



- Minutes from September 25: Edits were suggested

Motion to approve the minutes from September 25 with suggested edits - Camille Casaretti

2nd motion to approve the minutes from September 25 with suggested edits - Charles Star

Minutes approved by all 9 members present.

- Minutes from October 9: No edits

Motion to approve the minutes from October 9 - Nicole Brier

2nd motion to approve the minutes from October 9 - Antonia Ferraro

Minutes approved by all 9 members present.

6. Budget Readjustment - Charles Star, CEC15 Treasurer

- The budget update that the Senior Grant Officer sent needs to be updated. The line for the P-Card needs to be readjusted.
- CEC15 Administrative Assistant Francisca Andino will contact Senior Grant Officer Carol Slocombe regarding the CEC15 budget update.

7. CEC15 Representation at Presidents' Council - Nicole Brier, CEC15 IEP Representative

- CEC IEP Rep, Nicole Brier is the Presidents' Council Secretary. She asked CEC15 members if she could speak on behalf of CEC15 at Presidents' Council meetings.
- PTAs will be pairing up this year. PTAs that are not doing well will be paired up with PTAs that are doing well.
- All CEC15 members are welcome to attend Presidents' Council meetings.
- Only PTA Presidents will speak during Presidents' Council meetings. The public will be able to speak during the "Public Comments" period at the end of the meeting.
- As per the CEC15 bylaws, the CEC15 President is the Presidents' Council liaison. The CEC15 President can nominate anyone to attend in his/her stead. The Co-Vice Presidents are available to attend as CEC representatives should the need arise, but if the president is going or chooses a designee, that person is the official representative.

8. Garden Crawl Report - Kathy Park Price, CEC15 Co-Vice President 2

- The Garden Train hosted its first ever Garden Crawl on Sept. 29.
- Chancellor Carranza supported this event. D15 Superintendent Anita Skop was there among elected officials.
- Districts 3 and 13 are talking about starting their own Garden Train.
- CEC15 members asked Kathy Park Price to remove CEC15 contact information from the Garden Train website and newsletter communications.

9. New Business

- CEC15 Member Mark Bisard requested Review of District Goals to be added to a meeting agenda. Review of District Goals will be added to the November 5 CEC15 Business Meeting agenda.



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- CEC15 Member Scott Powell would like to review the D15 schools enrollment and capacity during the November 5 CEC15 Business Meeting.
- Per the DOE, P.S. 133, BCS 448 and P.S. 372 will need to be removed from the CEC15 School Liaisons List. These schools are not under D15 Superintendent Anita Skop's jurisdiction. P.S. 133 is a District 13 school, BCS 448 is under the High School Superintendent jurisdiction and P.S. 372 is a District 75 school.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:32 p.m.

- Minutes submitted by Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant