



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 | CECD15.org

Business Meeting

Approved on 11/08/2018 at a Calendar Meeting

Date: 11/05/2018

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: 131 Livingston Street, Room 508A

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes from October 23
3. President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President
4. Plan to Improve Diversity at Specialized High Schools - Sarah Kleinhandler, Senior Executive Director, Office of Student Enrollment and Nadiya Chadha, Director, Enrollment Research Policy, Office of Student Enrollment
5. Wellness Kids Pilot Program - Andrea Strong, P.S. 261 Wellness Chairperson
6. Alliance for Quality Education - Kindeya Chiaro, New York City Campaigns Organizer
7. Review of District Goals and CEC Goals - Mark Bisard, CEC15 Member
8. D15 Schools Enrollment and Capacity Review - Scott Powell, CEC15 Member
9. Vote to Amend the Budget to Add Travel Expense for the Administrative Assistant
10. New Business
11. Adjournment

Call to Order at 6:37 p.m.

1. Roll Call - Antonia Ferraro

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President

Kathy Park Price, Co-Vice President 2

Antonia Ferraro, Secretary

Lili Velez, Parliamentarian

Yanfeng Zhang

Late:

Scott Powell

Mark Bisard

Absent:

Elena Romero, Co-Vice President 1 - Excused

Charles Star, Treasurer - Excused

Nicole Brier - Excused



Neal Zephyrin - Excused

Invited Guests:

Gabrielle Ramos-Solomon, First Deputy, Office of Student Enrollment

Nadiya Chadha, Director, Enrollment Research Policy, Office of Student Enrollment

Andrea Strong, P.S. 261 Wellness Chairperson

Kindeya Chiaro, Alliance for Quality Education

2. Approval of Minutes from October 23

- No edits

Motion to approve the minutes from October 23 - Lili Velez

2nd motion to approve the minutes from October 23 - Antonia Ferraro

Minutes approved by all 7 members present

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

- Reso A application will open in December.
- Nominations for the Big Apple Awards are open. The deadline is November 26. Please nominate your favorite teacher. For more information please visit schools.nyc.gov/BigAppleAwards.
- Applications to become a CEC member will open on February 14, 2019. For more information please visit nycparentleaders.org/community-education-councils or email Elections2019@schools.nyc.gov to join the emailing list.
- Chancellor Carranza [appointed](#) Hydra Mendoza as Deputy Chancellor for Community Empowerment, Partnerships, and Communications. You can meet her at the ECC Meeting this Friday night.

4. Plan to Improve Diversity at Specialized High Schools - Gabrielle Ramos-Solomon, First Deputy, Office of Student Enrollment and Nadiya Chadha, Director, Enrollment Research Policy, Office of Student Enrollment

- Sarah Kleinhandler, Senior Executive Director, Office of Enrollment, could not make the meeting tonight. Gabrielle Ramos-Solomon came in her place.
- The Office of Student Enrollment is engaging with communities, advocacy groups, and alumni groups across the city to better understand their needs, hear any concerns, and gather their feedback on this proposal.
- Students can apply for 8 [specialized high schools in New York City](#) by taking the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT). These 8 testing schools are:
 - The Bronx High School of Science
 - The Brooklyn Latin School
 - Brooklyn Technical High School
 - High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College of New York
 - High School of American Studies at Lehman College
 - Queens High School for the Sciences at York College
 - Staten Island Technical High School
 - Stuyvesant High School



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

- Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts is not part of this proposal because this school requires an audition to apply not a test.
- The goals of the [Mayor's Plan](#) are to:
 - Use multiple factors for admissions, not the SHSAT
 - Maintain the academic rigor of the Specialized High Schools (SHS).
 - Increase diversity at the SHS.
- There are two parts to this proposal.
- Part 1 of the proposal:
 - Expand the Discovery program to 20% of seats at each SHS. The Discovery program is a summer enrichment program that helps high performing, disadvantage students gain admission to SHS. Each SHS is in charge of running their own Discovery program.
 - Target students at high-poverty schools. A high-poverty school has an Economic Need Index (ENI) of at least 60%. This estimates the percentage of students in a school who face economic hardship. Look up any school's ENI on the school performance [dashboard](#).
- Part 2 of the proposal:
 - Phase out the admissions test, SHSAT, in over 3 years.
 - Make SHS offers to the top 7% of students from each DOE public middle school.
- New York State Law currently requires that SHSAT is the sole criterion for admission to the SHS.
- **In order for any of these changes to go into effect, the New York State legislature must vote to change state law.**
- Regardless of any changes to state law, the DOE will launch Part 1, expansion of the Discovery program, in the summer of 2019. This will increase the number of middle school and Brooklyn schools representation.
- SHS demographics will mirror NYC demographics more closely: 36% point increase in offers to Black and Latino students, 18% point increase in offers to female students, 21% point increase to low-income students.
- There will be more diversity of home languages represented at the SHS.
- What else is the DOE doing?
 - Expanding early education
 - Offering more challenging coursework
 - Increasing school funding
 - Creating more access across the city
- For any questions please email: diversity@schools.nyc.gov

Questions and Answers:

- Q: Is there larger version of the Discovery program being offered in Brooklyn? A: *Each SHS is in charge of running their own Discovery program. The goal is to expand the program to 20% of seats.*
- Q: Why isn't the DOE creating more SHS or adding more seats? Why isn't that a discussion? A: *There are significant high quality schools in NYC that go unnoticed.*
- Q: If it's a capacity issue why not make more SHS? A: *We will take that as feedback.*
- Q: Why does NYC have these schools? Why have a test? A: *In 1971 a law passed that makes the SHSAT the only measure that can be used to admit students to SHS.*



- *CEC15 voiced concerns about taking away the SHSAT and replacing it with Standardized State tests causing overemphasis on testing. How would replacing one test with another help to increase diversity?*
- *Q: What happens to opt-out families? We have a high number opt-out students. A: We'll get back to you.*
- *Q: Why does the Discovery program come after the SHSAT and not before? A: Schools are required to give these tests.*
- *Q: Are the participants in the Discovery program guaranteed a spot in a SHS? A: Yes, as long as the student follows the criteria.*
- *Q: What do you think the impact will be on enrollment if you take the top 7% of each middle school and put them together and make offers to the top 25% of students city-wide? What would you project the impact would be if you are using the same rubric? A: The top 25% makes up 90% of the seats, the remaining 10% of seats will be entered into a lottery. The answer to the second question is unknown. We will take a look at it.*

CEC15 President Camille Casaretti asked the presenters to please come back to present this proposal again.

5. [Wellness Kids Pilot Program](#) - Andrea Strong, P.S. 261 Wellness Chairperson

- Presented 2 school food menus: a regular menu and an alternative menu. The alternative menu is a healthier choice for kids.
- Only 14 schools in D15 use the alternative menu. The goal is to increase the number of schools that use the alternative menu.
- What we feed our children can change their world. Kids want to eat food that tastes good and it's possible for healthy food to taste good.
- A combination of a healthy diet and physical activity has significant benefits for children.
- Goals for District 15:
 - Increase participation of D15 schools using the Alternative Menu by 20%
 - Explore funding sources for inserting nutrition and wellness programs such as Fan4Kids and Wellness in the schools into all D15 schools (free for Title 1 schools)
 - Encourage schools to adopt free nutrition/healthy eating workshops and assemblies for schools/parents/families
 - Work on increased messaging to kids and parents about the positive changes that can come from using this menu
 - Encourage creation of Wellness Councils across the District with mentoring
- Does a school have to have a kitchen for alternative menu? No. If a food item needs to be cooked in a kitchen there are substitutions that can be used.
- How do schools apply for the alternative menu? Ask the school principal. This is a decision made by the principal and they can request the alternative menu. If a school building is a co-location, the whole building must agree to use the alternative menu.
- Why is the alternative menu opt in and not opt out? All schools in NYC get the regular menu. Schools have to request the alternative menu.



- CEC15 President Camille Casaretti suggested adding a salad bar to the goals.

6. [Alliance for Quality Education](#) - Kindeya Chiaro, New York City Campaigns Organizer

- Alliance for Quality Education is a small non-profit organization.
- One campaign this year is Schools, Not Jails. This campaign's main goal is to divest from the criminal justice system and invest in public schools.
- Another campaign they are working on is the [Campaign for Fiscal Equity](#). There are inequities in school across the state. There are weights that determine how much money schools receive.
- The Campaign for Fiscal Equity was created by parents who filed a lawsuit against the State of New York claiming that all children have the right to a sound and basic education. Parents won this lawsuit and schools were ordered to receive \$5.5 billion increase in Foundation Aid statewide over the course of a four year phase-in from 2007 to 2011. However, during the fiscal crisis from 2009 to 2012 the state froze funding. Schools are still owed \$4.1 billion in Foundation Aid, most of which is owed to districts with high percentages of Black, Brown and low-income students. Schools in NYC is owed \$1.6 billion, \$200 million is owed to Brooklyn schools.
- The legislation is blocking these funds coming to public schools. Schools are not able to make changes to their buildings without these funds.
- The Alliance for Quality Education supports the Safe and Supportive Schools Bill. This bill looks to end suspensions for Kindergarten to 3rd grade students.
- They are also backing Culturally Responsive Education. Curriculum should reflect the students. New York State public schools should offer a variety of classes, curricula, projects, books and resources that are grounded in the rich diversity of the New York State student population.
- Parents being involved helps. Right now is the time to fight for education.
- Parents can [sign up](#) for [Education Warriors](#), an 8 week community and skills building series that covers public speaking, education policies, facilitation and community organizing. The first meeting will be on November 29 at 6:00 p.m. The location has not been determined.
- Every year Alliance for Quality Education goes to Albany for Lobby Day. This year Lobby Day will be January 14, 2019. They provide buses to take those interested to fight for public education. This is an all day event.
- For the first time ever the DOE is working with Alliance for Quality Education. There are talks of doing a town hall with the DOE but it has not been confirmed.
- Does Alliance for Quality Education have a report card to grade those elected officials that support public school education? The organization will work on creating one, at least one for D15.

CEC15 President Camille Casaretti made a motion to amend the agenda to include a report on the D15 Equity Congress by CEC15 Co-Vice President 2 Kathy Park Price.

Equity Congress Report - Kathy Park Price, CEC15 Co-Vice President 2

- D15 Superintendent Anita Skop created the Equity Congress. The Equity Congress is made up of 1 representative from each D15 school's Diversity Committee. They will have monthly meetings. Meetings have been scheduled from now to May.
- Their last meeting was on Thursday, November 1 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



- Superintendent Skop told everyone in the meeting that they are ambassadors for their school and urged them to bring back this information to their schools.
- Superintendent Skop asked Equity Congress members to commit to the monthly meetings and be prepared to bring ideas.
- Their last meeting's presentation was led by M.S. 497 Principal Nicole Lanzillotto. Next meeting's presentation will be led by M.S. 821 Principal Jennifer Spalding. Each school will be in charge of leading a presentation.
- CEC15 members discussed possibly getting feedback from their liaison schools regarding their Diversity Committees. Does every school have a diversity committee? If forming a Diversity Committee was mandated by the Superintendent, will there be accountability for those schools that do not follow up and form the committee?

7. Review of District Goals and CEC Goals - Mark Bisard, CEC15 Member

- CEC15 would like to participate in the review of District goals.
- CEC15 should have a mid-year check in with the superintendent to discuss the goals. Do the members really understand the goals?
- Was overcrowding mentioned in the District goals?
- CEC15 Member Mark Bisard would like to send a survey to CEC15 members to get their feedback/input on District goals.
- CEC15 should push to get a clear vision of the goals.
- District goals should be an ongoing item on the agenda.
- What is the DOE doing outside of standardized tests to assess students? CEC15 should have a meeting to discuss student assessment. We need adequate answers.
- Should CEC15 members create a document for the mid-year check in? Mark Bisard and Scott Powell will work on the document.
- CEC15 will review the District Comprehensive Education Plan (DCEP) and the notes from the last District Leadership Team (DLT) meeting that CEC15 President Camille Casaretti attended on Oct. 29.
- There should be an alternative assessment that principals can subscribe when assessing students beside the standardized tests.
- CEC15 needs to create an action plan.

8. D15 Schools Enrollment and Capacity Review - Scott Powell, CEC15 Member

- CEC15 Scott Powell put together data collected from most D15 schools to review the schools' enrollment and capacity.
- After comparing the numbers, the data from District Planning is not accurate. The difference in numbers in many schools is huge.
- The real capacity number has bearing on policies. Elementary schools students whose zoned schools are overcrowded shouldn't attend schools far from their neighborhoods if there are seats in neighboring schools.
- This document is to get a correct picture of how many students schools can accommodate and to confirm if schools are overcrowded.
- Middle schools seem to be at capacity.



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 | CECD15.org

- All schools should have a consistent metric set at a consistent capacity in classrooms.
- If the numbers from District Planning and the actual numbers from the schools do not match, how can CEC15 use this information? CEC15 is considering writing a letter as a council to the Chancellor and perhaps write a resolution. This round of data shows that parents are given the wrong information.
- CEC15 will ask the Office of District Planning to explain why the numbers do not match.

9. Vote to Amend the Budget to Add Travel Expense for the Administrative Assistant

- Due to lack of time the vote to amend the budget to add travel expense for the Administrative Assistant has been tabled to the next Business Meeting on December 11.

10. New Business

- No new business

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:21 p.m.

- Minutes submitted by Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant