



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

Calendar Meeting

Approved on 12/11/2018 at a Business Meeting

Date: 11/08/2018

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: P.S. 32 - 317 Hoyt Street, Auditorium

Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Welcome - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President
3. Introduction of CEC15 Student Member
4. D15 Superintendent Report - Anita Skop, D15 Superintendent
5. Contracts for Excellence Funding Public Information Process - Anita Skop, D15 Superintendent and Laurita Moye, Budget Director, Office of Field Support
6. Office of District Planning - Will Candell, Associate Director of Analytics and Max Familian, Associate Director of Planning
7. Questions from CEC15
8. Public Comments
9. Adjournment

Call to Order at 6:41 p.m.

1. Roll Call - Camille Casaretti

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President

Antonia Ferraro, Secretary

Charles Star, Treasurer

Lili Velez, Parliamentarian

Nicole Brier, IEP Representative

Mark Bisard, Member

Scott Powell, Member

Yanfeng Zhang, ELL Representative

Leela Gebo, Student Member

Late:

Neal Zephyrin, BP Appointee

Absent:

Elena Romero, Co-Vice President 1 - Excused

Kathy Park Price, Co-Vice President 2 - Excused



Invited Guests:

Anita Skop, D15 Superintendent

Laurita Moye, Budget Director, Office of Field Support

Max Familian, Director of Planning, Office of District Planning

Will Candell, Associate Director of Planning, Office of District Planning

2. Welcome - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President

- District Planning is here tonight to give a presentation.
- There will be a presentation on Contracts for Excellence (C4E)
- On November 5th CEC15 had a [presentation](#) from Office of Enrollment on the Mayor's plan to eliminate the Specialized High School exam (**SHSAT**). At that meeting CEC15 asked the DOE to come back again. CEC15 has also been in touch with Assemblymember Simon's office and they have invited CEC15 to a forum on SHSAT at P.S. 9 that will be held in January. A flyer will be sent via email with more information. There will be opportunities for parents to voice their opinion on the proposed plan in an open forum but that should not limit them from writing to CEC15 via [email](#) or coming to any of CEC15 [Calendar Meetings](#) to discuss whatever is on their mind. CEC15 has not come to any conclusions nor has the council formulated an opinion on this topic. CEC15 looks to the public for feedback. Anyone in attendance tonight is welcome to speak during the public comment period or on the December 4th meeting when CEC15 will host a meeting on English Language Learners and Bilingual Programming.
- Other exciting things happening in December include the Hour of Code initiative during Computer Science Education week. Most of our D15 schools participate in this fun way to introduce children to computer coding and learn about computer science.
- We have a special guest here tonight who is now part of our CEC15 family. Our new Student Member, Leela Gebo.

3. Introduction of CEC15 Student Member

- Leela Gebo is a senior at Brooklyn Tech High School.
- She's in AP Capstone Research class. She's working on a research for this class and being part of CEC15 will help with her research.

4. D15 Superintendent Report - Anita Skop, D15 Superintendent

- Superintendent Skop will be presenting the Contracts for Excellence Funding with Budget Director Laurita Moye.
- District 15 has been waiting a long time for the full complement of the funding from the State.

5. [Contracts for Excellence Funding](#) Public Information Process - Anita Skop, D15 Superintendent and Lauriat Moye, Budget Director, Office of Field Support

- Due to a November 2006 Court of Appeals decision that states all public school students are entitled to a sound basic education, the New York State Legislature passed legislation requiring that each school district that has at least one school that requires academic progress or is in need of improvement would



receive an increase in foundation aid and a portion of that foundation aid would be subject to the categorical spending requirements of the Contract for Excellence (C4E).

- Under State Law these funds must be distributed to schools that meet certain requirements.
- C4E Requirements:
 1. Funds must support specific program initiatives:
 - a. Class Size Reduction
 - b. Time on Task
 - c. Teacher & Principal Quality Reviews
 - d. Middle & High School Restructuring
 - e. Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten Programs
 - f. Model Programs for English Language Learners
 2. Funds should be used towards meeting schools' overall education goals as outlined in the School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP) and must be allocated predominantly to students with the greatest educational needs and
 - a. English Language Learners
 - b. Students in Poverty
 - c. Students with Disabilities
 - d. Students with Low Academic Achievement or At Risk of Not Graduating
 3. Funds must supplement, not supplant, local funding or other grants:
 - a. Expenditures made using C4E funds must supplement funding provided by the school district; however certain expenditures may be paid for with C4E funds even though they were originally paid for by the district or by other grants. For example, if a program had been funded by a different grant, but that grant funding has been cut, then C4E funds can be used to fund the program.
 - b. For new or expansion of existing programs only
- The total funding is \$531 million. State C4E funding breakdown 2018-19:
 - \$183 million is for unrestricted funds which are not subject to C4E rules and may be used as needed. This money is embedded in Fair Student Funding, which is the primary funding source for schools. Details for **Fair Student Funding** can be found by visiting:<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/funding/funding-our-schools>
 - \$348 million is for restricted funds which must comply with C4E guidelines. This money is distributed through school allocations.
- Expenditures for the \$348 million restricted funds are allocated as follows:
 - \$5 million for Assistant Principals and Principals
 - \$327 million for teachers
 - \$13 million for pupil personnel service providers
 - \$3 million for other than personnel services
- Schools in District 15 were allocated discretionary C4E funds. Schools have proposed to spend those funds as follows:
 - 34% for class size reduction
 - 35% for model programs for ELLs
 - 6% for teacher and principal quality initiatives



- 25% for time on task
- For the 2018-19 school year, the will continue its efforts to reduce class size.
- The district is not at the point where they have sufficient funds for reducing class size. Principals usually assign another teacher and or paraprofessional to classrooms with the highest number of students to reduce the student/teacher ratio.
- The DOE will take public feedback into account in the coming months. The deadline for submitting public comments will be December 31, 2018. Educators, parents, and all other members of the New York City community with feedback should email ContractsForExcellence@schools.nyc.gov
- Since 2008 the district has not received the full complement. The funds the district had was used for maintenance and not to expand programs.
- Not every school in the district will receive C4E.
- Question from CEC15: Why do schools have to wait until January to get funds for special needs students? *A: Schools can request a loan that the DOE would provide to help them fund the services needed for special needs students. Once they receive the funding that money will be allocated to pay for the loan. Schools need to contact Budget Director Laurita Moye.*

6. [Office of District Planning](#) - Max Familian, Director of Planning and Will Candell, Associate Director of Planning

- The Office of District Planning used to be in located with the Office of Space Planning, but now they're in the Division of School Planning.
- The Office of District Planning focuses on 4 main priority areas:
 - Overcrowding and Transportable Classroom Units
 - School Scale and Sustainability
 - Programmatic Needs
 - New and reconfiguring schools
- In collaboration with school communities, Superintendents, and partner offices, the Office of District Planning develops and proposes important school changes. The following levers are used to address pressing district needs and improve educational options and learning conditions for students: Rezoning/unzoning in partnership with CEC, merger, closure, new school, grade reconfiguration, re-siting, new program, enrollment planning and redesign.
- There are 27 schools in District 15 that are over-utilized, 5 buildings are under-utilized.
- Kindergarten enrollment currently exceeds Blue Book capacity in D15, although efficient programming allows schools to optimize the use of space to accommodate overall kindergarten demand.
- The Office of District Planning has seen a decline in elementary school enrollment in District 15 and this is a trend they are seeing citywide as well. The Office of District Planning projects this decline to continue for the next few years, at which point they expect it to stabilize.
- Middle school enrollment has been increasing over the past several years across D15. Enrollment is projected to stabilize in the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.
- District 15 needs to address overcrowding at elementary school level: 22 out of 26 district elementary schools are over-utilized. The district also needs to address the increasing middle school enrollment. Over the past 5 years, middle school enrollment has increased by 23%.
- In the next 5 years, 5 schools are projected to open, 3 of those schools will be in Sunset Park.



- Several new, expanding, or existing charter schools have requested space in multiple districts in Brooklyn. Success Academy Myrtle Middle School has requested space in D15. The NYCDOE will continue to evaluate potential options and, if applicable, would issue a proposal pursuant A-190.
- For any questions please contact Max Familian, Director of Planning, at mfamilian2@schools.nyc.gov or Will Candell, Associate Director of Planning, at wcandell@schools.nyc.gov

7. Comments from CEC15 Members

- CEC15 requested to please be notified when a charter request for space in D15 is submitted. CEC15 would like to have input before space is approved. *Answer from District Planning: We will make an effort to notify CEC15.*
- CEC15 Member Scott Powell contacted all schools in D15 to get their utilization/capacity numbers. The numbers reported by almost all of the schools are very different from the numbers reported by [SCA](#). The CEC and the district have been basing policy on ODP data that is nowhere near reality, and the students and their families have been suffering accordingly. *Answer from District Planning: SCA uses numbers based on building capacity. The way they calculated numbers is very transparent. You can go on the [blue book](#) website to review the numbers. District Planning does not set capacity, SCA does. SCA calculates capacity at much lower numbers than the UFT's maximum students per class calculations.* CEC15 questioned the numbers provided by SCA and the purpose of using figures that do not reflect real use.
- What is overutilization supposed to mean? *A: The SCA generates a capacity for each school building through a formula that takes into account a variety of factors and presumes 20 students per class in grades K-3 and 28 students per class in all other grades. Overutilization is a designation that occurs when a building serves more students than the capacity of the building.*
- When asked about overcrowding issues in Sunset Park - *Answer from District Planning: Overcrowding is a challenge in Sunset Park. We'll continue to evaluate space and create programs with the neighborhood. We worked closely with the Superintendent and CEC15 regarding P.S. 896. Unfortunately there was not enough time to open it as a "choice school" in time for the Kindergarten applications which is why it opened as an overflow school. It will be a choice school by 2019-20 school year.*
- CEC 15 Member Scott Powell added that when Sunset Park schools were asked to report their enrollment and capacity, not one said they were overcrowded and did not have room for more; Sunset Park schools are not overcrowded, contrary to what the ODP has been telling the CEC and the District for at least 5 years. That is even without the addition of PS 896.
- District Planning asked CEC15 to please send them a list of questions the council may have.

Request to amend agenda to include vote to add Travel Expense for the Administrative Assistant to the budget.

- Administrative Assistant has had to pay for cab service out of pocket to transport supplies to meetings.
- CEC15 Treasurer Charles Star proposed to move \$200 from the purchase order line to add travel expense for the AA.



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

Motion to take \$200 from the Purchase Order line and move it to Travel Expense for the Administrative Assistant - Charles Star

2nd motion to take \$200 from the Purchase Order line and move it to Travel Expense for the Administrative Assistant - Scott Powell

Motion passed by unanimous vote by all 6 members present.

Request to further amend the agenda to include approval of November 5th Business Meeting Minutes.

- Approval of [November 5 Minutes](#): Some edits were suggested

Motion to approve the November 5 Minutes with suggested edits - Camille Casaretti

2nd motion to approve the November 5 Minutes with suggested edits - Charles Star
Minutes approved by 6 members present.

8. Public Comments

- No public comments

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:55 p.m.

- Minutes submitted by Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant