



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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Calendar Meeting Focus on English Language Learners Approved on 12/11/2018 at a Business Meeting

Date: 12/04/2018

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: P.S. 230, 425 McDonald Avenue, Multimedia Room

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. President's Welcome - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President
3. Superintendent's Report - D15 Superintendent Anita Skop
4. Essentials of Bilingual Programs - Cynthia J. Felix, Senior Director Bilingual Programs, Department of Education
5. Questions from CEC15 Members and Public
6. Public Comment Period
7. Adjournment

Call to Order at 6:43 p.m.

Roll Call - 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

Scott Powell, Member

Yanfeng Zhang, ELL Representative

Late:

Elena Romero, Co-Vice President 1

Absent:

Lili Velez, Parliamentarian - Excused

Neal Zephyrin, BP Appointee - Excused

Leela Gebo, Student Member - Excused

Invited Guests:

Anita Skop, D15 Superintendent



Cynthia J. Felix, Senior Director Bilingual Programs, Department of Education

Richard Guevara, Parent Leadership Liaison, Division of Family and Community Engagement

2. President's Welcome - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President

- CEC15 hosts meetings every month to discuss district concerns and inform our families, teachers, staff and community members about education issues happening in our school communities.
- CEC15 works with D15 Superintendent Anita Skop, who oversees all of our elementary and middle schools and 1 high school. We also work with Executive Superintendent Karen Watts, who oversees 7 community school districts and the high school district in Brooklyn North.
- Our district advancements in social and emotional learning are setting the stage for a successful integration of our middle schools.
- Many thanks to P.S. 230 Principal Maria Della Ragione for allowing CEC15 to hold our business meeting in this school and special thanks to P.S. 230 Parent Coordinator Jill Reinier for assisting with the set up and being here tonight.
- Excited to have Senior Director Bilingual Programs Cynthia Felix tonight to talk about ELL programs in D15. She will be presenting the different Bilingual Programs offered in D15.
- On Thursday we're having a Charter Committee Meeting at P.S. 32 at 9:00 a.m. All of our meetings are open to the public. There are 2 charters that have specified interest in D15. As far as we know they will open in their own space and will not co-locate with of our D15 schools. We will be reviewing a proposed CEC15 Resolution on Incoming Charters and two upcoming Charter Public Hearings.
- On Monday, there will be a Communications Committee Meeting at 131 Livingston at 9:30am.
- CEC15 Business will be on Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 131 Livingston Street, Room 504. The most vital item on the agenda is the review of CEC15's priority list that will be submitted to the School Construction Authority for building improvements. Every year, each CEC submits a list of requests that may be included into the Capital Plan. CEC15 wants to hear about any building related issues. The SCA will come to our Jan. 29 Meeting to present the Capital Plan for the next 5 years.
- A new grassroots team is forming called [NYC Healthy Food Alliance](#), led by P.S. 261 parent and food journalist Andrea Strong. They are working with the Borough President to improve the landscape of Brooklyn cafeterias and the eating experience for our children.
- Application for the next CEC term are coming in January. If you would like to be on the Community Education Council District 15 and represent your fellow parents, and school community members please look out for the paperwork coming soon. This is a volunteer position. If interested in learning more about what CEC15 does please visit our [website](#), check out the [CEC page](#) on the DOE website and speak with our Family and Community Engagement Liaison, [Richard Guevara](#).

3. Superintendent's Report - D15 Superintendent Anita Skop

- The middle school application process extended from Dec. 3 to Dec. 14. Parents will have the opportunity to add/edit their child's application. Any questions or concerns please contact your school's guidance counselor. This is an online application. Parents can also contact her office's Parent Support Coordinator Brenda Diaz for support. She is bilingual (English/Spanish).
- The Office of Student Enrollment is also helping support families. They have provided "pop-up" visits at 3 different school sites in D15. Office of Student Enrollment representatives helped parents with



submitting applications and answering questions. There were many language interpreters on site to help with translations. The “pop-up” visits were very successful. Over 100 applications were submitted during the “pop-up” visits.

- Many schools organized school tours and many students were able to visit middle schools with their classmates and teachers.
- The high school application deadline was also extended to Dec. 14.
- Had the 1st Youth Equity Congress on Nov. 26. It was attended by a number of students across the district. Students were accompanied by parent coordinators and principals. Students discussed bullying. They had a profound conversation. They showed empathy. They know that all students regardless of race/gender/income can apply to any school.
- Chancellor Richard Carranza and Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams kicked off Computer Science for All Week (CS4All week) by visiting P.S. 24. Lower and upper grades students participated. The instruction was done English and Spanish.
- There is a Chalkbeat [article](#) stating that D15 has the lowest suspension rate in the city.
- Had a Principal’s Conference on Nov. 29. ALL middle school principals reported seeing many parents from across the district who attended their school tours.
- Superintendent Skop attended an implicit bias training. All Board of Education personnel will be trained in implicit bias. This is a 5 hour training. 200 District 15 personnel attended training on the 6th of November, more are attending weekend training where they are paid per session.
- The Diversity Congress will meet on Thursday, Dec. 6. Last month M.S. 497 presented and talked about what they’re doing in their school. This session M.S. 821 will be presenting.
- Comment from CEC15 member: Parents need to know about the middle school application extension.
Answer from Superintendent Skop: We sent notice to all principals. Will ask the principals to send a reminder. Parents should ask their school’s counselors for help, if not comfortable with their counselors they can call and speak to Family Support Coordinator Brenda Diaz. The office number is 718-935-3424.
- Question from CEC15 member: Is there a way for CEC15 members to know when the Chancellor is visiting a D15 school? It will be great to have CEC15 members go and share how great the visit was.
Answer from Superintendent Skop: You’re right. I did not know until last minute but will try to give CEC15 a heads up.
- Question from CEC15 member: There are a lot of support services provided for students in the district. How do you measure the impact these initiative programs have? Anything you can share with CEC15?
Answer from Superintendent Skop: The information shared with me is private, I can share anecdotes with you but the actual information is private due to teacher rating privacy which may be used to measure the impact of professional development.

4. Essentials of Bilingual Programs - Cynthia J. Felix, Senior Director Bilingual Programs, Department of Education

- The Division of English Language Learners is now the Division of Multilingual Learners.
- Ms. Felix will go over the programs offered and the data. There is a QR code to download the presentation.



- The number of New York City School students (excluding Pre-K and Charter School students) citywide is nearly 1 million students:
 - 42.8% - Students who speak a language other than English at home
 - 15.3% - Students identified as English Language Learners
 - 48.5% - Students identified as English Language Learners (ELL) born in the U.S.
- There are 5,662 students enrolled in D15 that identified as ELLs:
 - 4,501 students are enrolled in elementary school
 - 572 students are enrolled in middle school
 - 589 students are enrolled in high school
- The number of ELLs with EIPs is 1,398.
- The D15 ELL population is divided into 3 ELL types:
 - Newcomer - new students receiving bilingual program services 0-3 years
 - Developing - students receiving bilingual program services 3-6 years
 - Long-Term - students receiving bilingual program services 7+ years
- The top 5 languages spoken in District 15: Spanish (51.7%), Chinese (30.3%), Arabic (6.87%), Bengali (1.45%), French (1.45%). Languages classified as “Other” have a combined 5.53%.
- District 15 currently has the highest ever graduation and lowest ever dropout rates.
- English as a New Language (ENL) - Formerly known as English as a Second Language (ESL)
 - Research-based program made up of: 1. Content area instruction in English with home language supports and appropriate scaffolds and 2. English language development.
 - ENL is delivered through a stand-alone model or an integrated ENL model
- There are 2 types of bilingual programs:
 - Transitional Bilingual Education Programs
 - Provide reading, writing, and other classes in English and the students’ home language.
 - As students’ English improves, time spent learning in English increases and time spent learning in the home language decreases.
 - Once the student is no longer identified as an English Language Learner, he or she will exit the program.
 - 301 students citywide in K-12 are enrolled in this program. Eight D15 schools offer this program for students K-12 in Arabic, Chinese and Spanish.
 - The program composition is 100% ELLs.
 - Dual Language Programs
 - Integrates students who are native English speakers and native speakers of another language for all or most of their content area instruction.
 - 50% of the students are ELLs of target language and 50% are non-ELLs.
 - 244 students citywide in K-12 are enrolled in this program. Thirty one D15 schools offer this program for students Pre K-12 in Spanish, Chinese and French.
 - The program composition:
 - One Way - The majority of the students are dominant in the other/target language, including the non-ELLs.



- Two Way - Approximately 50% of the students are ELLs who speak the same home language and 50% are English Proficient and are learning the target language.
- Research shows that children who know more than one language have intellectual, educational, personal, social, and economic advantages that will continue their lives.
- Children usually take 3-4 years to learn a second language.
- Parents who are interested in establishing a Dual Language/Two-Way Program in their schools may take the following steps:
 - Gather information about Dual Language/Two-Way Programs from various sources.
 - Speak informally to other parents who may have a similar interest.
 - Speak to the Principal or other school supervisor or administrator about the possibility of planning a Dual Language/Two-Way Program.
 - Ask that the School Leadership Team include planning a Dual Language/Two-Way Program as an issue for discussion at one of its meetings.
 - Speak with teachers who may be interested in planning a Dual Language/Two-Way Program.
 - Arrange visits to established Dual Language/Two-Way Programs.
- For more information please email Cynthia Felix at CJFelix@schools.nyc.gov

5. Questions from CEC15 Members and Public

- How can ELL parents help and volunteer at schools? *A: DOE is creating a booklet with resources and apps to support and help parents. There's a family literacy program, which is a pilot program helping non-English speaking families get reading strategies in English. The DOE is hoping to expand the program to Brooklyn. My office is putting together information to help give tips to ELL parents on how to help in classrooms. Will send the resources to CEC15. The DOE is sending emails to teachers who are not certified.*
- How can DOE motivate and promote dual certification for teachers? *A: To teach a dual language program teachers need dual certification. There's a shortage of dual certified teachers in NYC. The DOE is offering free subsidized education to teachers to get additional certification in all CUNY schools. We're reaching out to principals. The more teachers know the more teachers will come to get certified. Spanish is taught in all CUNY. The DOE is trying to get different venues to get teachers certified online. Queens College is the only one that does it online but does not offer it in all languages.*
- Why are there so many ELL kids with IEPs? *If they need the program that's great, but the DOE should make sure these kids are not mislabeled. A: Some students are mislabeled. In many cases there may be a language issue not a speech issue. D15 Superintendent Skop commented that all children must be evaluated in their home language.*
- Why are charter schools excluded from the data you provided? *A: Charters use their own online survey to identify ELLs. We have no jurisdiction over it.*
- A CEC15 member urged the DOE to rethink how to fund dual language programs. The non-ELL students are not funded so the program falls apart. *A: The DOE is looking to redefine the programs. We are asking the schools what programs they need, the DOE will provide funding for the program. Schools need the funding to fund these programs. The DOE is trying to expand the foreign language program to middle schools so all middle schools can offer a foreign language to all students. We have*



partnered with NYU but the dually certified teachers come at the elementary school level. It's harder to find dually certified teacher for middle and high schools. Once we can see that the DOE can fund the programs we'll see if we can expand to middle schools.

- CEC15 members suggested separately branding bilingual programs which suggest “remedial” and dual language programs which suggest “college prep”.
- Can parents transfer their children to a school that offer a bilingual program? A: By law, ELL students can be transferred to a school that offer a bilingual program if their zoned school does not offer it.

Camille Casaretti introduced Richard Guevara, Parent Leadership Liaison, Division of Family and Community Engagement

- Mr. Guevara has been working with the Division of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) for 3 months.
- He will be CEC15 FACE liaison from now until June when the CEC elections are over. CEC15 Face liaison Jai Griem is currently working on the CEC elections, but will work with CEC15 again once elections are over.

6. Public Comments

- A D15 teacher said this was great information. She is a bilingual program teacher.

Issues/concerns with some incidents that happened last week that caused 4 schools in the Brooklyn downtown area to be evacuated

- There are 3 high schools in the area. There have been some behavior issues after dismissal from schools.
- All incidents happened outside of schools after school hours.
- The NYPD is having a community meeting to address these issues.
- As CEC members, the council would like to know what the district is doing to address these issues.
- CEC15 wants clarity when it comes to communications between schools, students and families.
- There was a suggestion to bring police officers to schools to provide safety information, but this should be done at the discretion of the schools' principals.
- CEC15 discussed what should be done to help with these incidents with D15 Superintendent Skop.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting - Elena Romero

2nd motion to adjourn meeting - Mark Bisard

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:54 p.m. by all 7 members present

- Minutes submitted by Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant