



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

CEC15@schools.nyc.gov | tel. 718-935-4267 | facebook.com/CECD15 | CECD15.org

October 8, 2024
Business Meeting

President's Report - Antonia Ferraro Martinelli

Welcome to CEC15's October Business meeting. L'shana tova to those who celebrated Rosh Hashanah this past weekend and Good Yuntif to those observing Yom Kippur on Saturday, Oct 12. I know these holidays come at a complicated and heart-wrenching time. I personally rang in the year 5785 at the home of another D15 parent who recently struggled with the decision to change her synagogue membership over divergent opinions of the war. Then on my walk home from the seder, I ran into a Yemeni parent, whose family has been impacted by that front in the war. So the pain is everywhere, but I'll offer my coping strategy, for what it's worth. Listen and be a little kinder to everyone.

Monday schools are closed for both Indigenous People's Day and Italian Heritage Day. As an Italian American I am proud and honored to share the day with the native people of this hemisphere and I want to thank the ancient first peoples for cultivating the plants that are so integral to Italian identity. Italians care more about food than anything else. Our identity is particularly entwined with the tomato and the pepper, not to mention chocolate and coffee, potatoes, fall squash and pumpkins and so many other species of plants. So thank you to our early Mesoamerican farmers who selected and breed these plants that are part of me.

I recently learned the origins of Italian American Heritage Day (formerly Columbus Day) and I want to share it here because in spite of all the emphasis on culturally responsive curriculum, this is not taught in schools. After a mass lynching of Italian Americans in New Orleans, Italian-Americans sought to weave themselves into the American story, by evoking Columbus. Sicilian laborers were accused, tried and ultimately acquitted of murdering a police chief. But, after the trial a mob burst into the holding cells and lynched 11 innocent men. At that time (1891), it was considered the largest mass lynching. In fact, at the early turn of the century, there were 87 recorded lynchings of Italians. So they were experiencing violence as newly arrived immigrants, and evoked Columbus to connect to this country. For me, Columbus' name obscured this event and the violent anti-immigrant sentiment at the turn of the century that comes full circle

today. And so for that reason and others, I think the evolution from Columbus Day to Italian American Heritage day is appropriate.

Now let's dive into the updates.

I'd like to introduce our new CEC members Dominika Jaworski Turkcan and Kwame Egerton

Dominika Jaworski Turkcan is the new MLL representative and a parent from PS 32. She will liaise with PS 1, PS 131, PS 154, MS 428

Kwame Egerton is a parent from PS 15. He will liaise with PS 32, IS 136, PS261/ D75 - 369, IS 136/MS 821

News from DOE Central

Chancellor David Banks is moving up his departure to Oct 16 instead of the end of the calendar year.

News about HS and MS admissions changes

The Middle school application process opens tomorrow, Oct. 9 and the HS admissions period is already open. There has been news about HS and MS admissions changes.

MS- Middle school admissions are now Citywide. Students can apply outside of their district. D15 students still have first priority to D15 middle schools before out of district students. I am concerned about the impact of this. While it may help D15 fill seats in our middle schools, it could come at the expense of middle schools in surrounding districts. Although the class size mandates could restrict that and make the change irrelevant.

HS- NYCPS also announced a new tool in the MySchools page that helps families understand the chances that their student will gain admissions to a particular high school. It appears as three bars. If all three bars are shown that means the student has a high chance of gaining admission. If two bars or one bar the child has lower odds of gaining admission.

And students can now rank more than twelve schools on their application.

Update from Comptroller Lander:

The Comptroller's office announced [a new online transparency tool](#) that shows how well City agencies are delivering services to New Yorkers.

Using data from the Mayor's Management Report and other City agency open data sources, this [interactive dashboard](#) shows whether agencies' performance is improving, declining, or staying steady.

Add to Chat:

Comptroller's Interactive City Agency Transparency Tool [HERE](#).

The New York City Independent Budget Office is on FIRE!!!

- They released a 2024 update for Education Indicators, a citywide overview of key education statistics. This report includes data on student demographics in public and charter schools, student performance on state tests and Regents exams, school staffing levels, and more.

IBO publishes its Education Indicators report annually in the fall, covering data from the previous school year. This year's report focuses on the 2023-2024 school year. Previous editions of Education Indicators can be found [here](#).

- A new Independent Budget Office report released provides a detailed explanation of how New York City school construction projects are funded and examines the building aid formula, which determines the amount of aid the State allocates to the City.

New York City school building projects are primarily financed through the issuance of City bonds. However, the State covers roughly half of the City's total debt service spending on school infrastructure through building aid revenue.

Add to Chat:

Read the IBO Education Indicators 2024 edition [here](#).

Read IBO's Construction explainer [here](#).

Share the DOEs response to CEC15's Resolution to Prevent and Respond to Hate Speech in New York City Public Schools

 **CEC 15 Response on Hate Speech Resolution.pdf**

The response is quite long. I will share it with the public in email so that everyone can read it in their own time.

Among our resolution's many asks, was an ask for African American History materials, including the vast contributions of African Americans to America from the country's inception. Over the summer the DOE **launched NYCPS Black Studies Curriculum**

The curriculum provides "a more inclusive set of perspectives throughout American history to further include the contributions of people of African descent in the U.S. and throughout the world. The curriculum, which is publicly available, acts as a supplement to NYC's current syllabus -- adding recommended reading lists, activities, full day lesson plans and additional units in addition to what students are already learning."

Add to chat:

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/new-york-city-schools-launch-black-studies-curriculum/story?id=113345044>

<https://www.weteachnyc.org/resources/resource/black-studies-as-the-study-of-the-world-a-pk-12-black-studies-curriculum-for-new-york-city-public-schools-full-curriculum-pk-12/>

And yesterday, the DOE announced an **Anti-Hate hotline**.

The Anti-Hate Hotline is staffed with New York City Public Schools employees and can be reached at **718-935-2889** and will be available Monday-Friday from 8am to 6pm. Incidents can be reported anonymously at the caller's request.

And finally the 16th Annual PTA Fun Run on Saturday, October 26, 2024

The Office of Council Member Shahana Hanif and the President's Council of District 15 are proud to host the **16th Annual Fun Run** at the Lefrak Center in Prospect Park (9am bib pickup, 10 am race start).

What is the PTA Fun Run? Why should we participate?

Every year the Brooklyn PTA Fun Run is a family-friendly event where Brooklyn PTAs and community members of all ages come together to run/bike/scoot/walk around Prospect Park loop road (approximately 3.3 miles). The goal of the Fun Run is to raise PTA funds for Brooklyn schools with Title I status in the last three years (i.e. 60% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch). The funds are distributed based on a school's participation rates - so start recruiting for your team today!

How to sign up your school team?

1. **Identify a parent or school leader as the Fun Run liaison, and have them fill out [Google Form link](#) by 9/25 for Fun Run organizers to share upcoming event information.**

2. Registration is priced at \$25 + processing fee for Single adults, other adults in a group or family are \$15 (\$10 discount). All children under 18 are \$5. Our pricing aims to balance fundraising with affordability. If you or a fellow runner are unable to attend due to the cost, please feel free to reach Mia Perez at mperez@council.nyc.gov for fee waivers.
3. Ask your family and friends to sponsor you! Sponsorship is available through the registration link. Sponsors should click 'Make a donation' and then write the name of the student/school they are supporting. Students who raise the highest amount get a special prize!
4. **Registration Link:**
 1. bit.ly/bkfunrun2024