



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 - SCA Presentation of the New FY2020-2024 Capital Plan Approved on 02/12/2019 at a Business Meeting

Date: 01/29/2019

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: P.S. 131, 4305 Fort Hamilton Parkway - Auditorium

Agenda (as publicly posted):

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President
3. Superintendent's Report - D15 Superintendent Anita Skop
4. Presentation of the New FY2020-2024 Capital Plan - School Construction Authority
5. Questions from CEC15 and Public
6. Charter Committee Presentation - Antonia Ferraro, Committee Chair
 - a. Resolution to Oppose an Increase in the State Charter Cap and City Charter Subcap
 - b. Resolution on Evaluation on Charter Applicants in District 15
7. Comments from the Public on Charter Resolutions
8. Vote on Charter Resolutions
9. Public Comment Period
10. Adjournment

Call to Order at 6:37 p.m.

1. Roll Call - Camille Casaretti

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President

Antonia Ferraro, Secretary

Lili Velez, Parliamentarian

Yanfeng Zhang, ELL Representative

Mark Bisard, Member

Scott Powell, Member

Leela Gebo, Student Member

Late:

Charles Star, Treasurer

Absent:

Elena Romero, Co-Vice President 1/BP Appointee - Excused

Kathy Park Price, Co-Vice President 2 - Excused

Nicole Brier, IEP Representative - Excused

Neal Zephyrin, BP Appointee - Excused



Invited Guests:

Anita Skop, D15 Superintendent

Yvette Knight, Project Support Manager, School Construction Authority

Tamar Smith, External Affairs Manager, School Construction Authority

Chris Bortle, Deputy Director of Facilities - Brooklyn North

Amendment to the Agenda - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President

- Suggestion to have D15 Superintendent Anita Skop give her report after the SCA presentation

Amendment to the agenda approved by 6 voting members present.

Amended Agenda:

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

- CEC15 members are currently in the last year of their 2 year term and an election for new members will begin on February 14. If any D15 parent would like to run for an Education Council seat on CEC15, or any of the 3 citywide parent councils they should visit schools.nyc.gov/run2019 for more information.
- Thanked Principal Hatzimichalis and the P.S. 131 staff for use of their school for this meeting. P.S. 131 is one of our most welcoming and engaging elementary schools. They have incredible arts and curriculum programs.
- There are great things happening in D15 and CEC15 is trying to share that information with the D15 community. We have been sending out D15 Events Information. Ms. Casaretti encouraged attendees to please share their school events with CEC15 to share with the D15 community.
- We have representatives from the School Construction Authority who will explain the 5 Year Capital Plan Budget and will detail some of the improvements, repairs and replacements that will be coming to our D15 schools over the next few years.
- CEC15 has been gathering information on all D15 school buildings in order to create a priority list of requests for the School Construction Authority.
- Reso A applications are open now. Only principals and school leaders can advocate for these requests. These requests go through the Borough President's Office and City Council. The deadline for



the Borough President Reso A is February 13 and the deadline for the City Council Reso A Request is February 19. Please discuss any proposals with your school principals before submitting.

- Also on the agenda is the vote on two CEC15 Resolutions created by the CEC15 Charter Committee. We have received a lot of feedback by email already and will take more comments this evening before the vote. Anyone who would like to make a comment please limit it to 2 minutes.

3. **Presentation of the New FY2020-2024 Capital Plan - School Construction Authority (SCA)**

Presentation Yvette Knight, Project Manager, SCA & Tamar Smith, External Affairs Manager, SCA

- 34,616 seats to be completed or anticipated for award, including approximately 8,300 Pre-K seats.
- 184 Temporary Classroom Unit (TCU) removal projects at 63 schools and 77 in process at 30 schools.
- Over 60,000 lighting fixtures have been replaced.
- 105 boiler conversion projects completed and/or in process.
- D15 schools that opened during the FY2015-2019:
 - P.S. 516 located at 4222 4th Avenue. Opened September 2014.
 - Parkside Community Complex (P.S. 130 & M.S. 839) located at 713 Caton Avenue. Opened September 2015.
 - P.S. 896 located at 736 48th Avenue. Opened September 2018.
 - Pre-K Center - Educational Campos located at 500 19th Street. Opened September 2015.
 - The Little Brooklyn Pre-K Center 1 located at 173-177 25th Street. Opened September 2015.
 - P.S. 58 Pre-K Center located at 131 Union Street. Opened September 2016.
 - The Little Brooklyn Pre-K Center 2 located at 305-307 Third Avenue. Opened September 2016.
 - The Little Brooklyn Pre-K Center 3 located at 219 25th Street. Opened September 2017.
- D15 schools expected to open during the FY2020-2024:
 - P.S. 32 addition, currently in construction, located at 317 Hoyt Street. Expected to open September 2020.
 - K671, in construction, located at 836-841 5th Avenue. Expected to open September 2021.
 - K730, in construction, located at 4525 8th Avenue. Expected to open September 2021.
 - K557, in construction, located at 4302 4th Avenue. Expected to open September 2022.
- Capital Improvement Projects are projects where major renovations and improvements are done to a school building.
- Principals and custodial staff are encouraged to be available when SCA visits the school.
- Issues with safety in school buildings get a rating of 4 or 5 and are moved to the top of the list.
- 96 Capital Improvement Projects were awarded to D15 for a total of \$202,656,736.
- Many of the projects are based on technology. The Brooklyn Borough President is very generous especially if it is a technology project.
- The DOE and the SCA are proposing a \$17 billion capital plan for the FY2020-2024.
- The highlight of how this money will be spent is as follows:
 - 3-K & Pre-K Programs - \$550 million
 - New Capacity - \$7.88 billion
 - Technology Enhancements - \$750 million
 - School Accessibility Program - \$750 million
 - Electrical Work to Support A/C in For All Initiatives - \$284 million



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- D15 needs 2,308 seats. SCA is looking for sites for more schools. At this moment there are 2 projects scheduled that will bring a total of 1,280 seats. As the year goes by more projects will be added.
- SCA Contact Information:
 - Yvette Knight: (718)472-8199; yknight@nycsca.org
 - Tamar Smith: (718)472-8025; tsmith5@nycsca.org
 - CEC Building Comment Form Information: (718)472-8709; council@nycsca.org
 - To suggest sites: sites@nycsca.org
 - SCA website: www.nycsca.org

4. Questions from CEC15 and Public

- Q: Regarding the School Accessibility Program, could you talk about how schools are chosen in terms of priority? A: There is a team that determines that. They assess the need for accessibility for each school. Every district has an accessibility school at every level. The team meets regularly to assess the need for accessibility for each school. They also need to check what's feasible in a school building. Elevators affect the structure of the building and there needs to be enough space to install an elevator.
- Q: There are many buildings with scaffold and covered tarps. How can we find out how long a school building will have this coverage? A: Ask the principal or contact Ms. Knight for the information. SCA holds biweekly meetings regarding buildings undergoing work and principals are invited to attend. SCA involves schools to be part of the project.
- Q: Only \$150 million will be allotted to class size reduction, why is the amount so small? A: Some schools have new buildings with more classrooms so they will not need the funding. The money goes to certain schools that need help with class size reduction.
- Q: Many schools have asked for improvement in the kitchen. Does that fall under mandated projects? A: No, that is not a mandated project. Those schools should consider submitting that through Reso A.
- Comment: Very happy to see that K557 is under construction. But I am very disappointed with the design of the building.
- Q: Do you discuss with the community the environmental impact when there's construction at or near a school? A: The Community Board can request a meeting, but we ask that is done during the day. Meeting requests should be done through an elected council member or community boards.

5. Superintendent's Report - D15 Superintendent Anita Skop

- Superintendent Skop has met with the Office of Student Enrollment. They report that there was a 50% or more growth in applications for each middle school. The outreach from the Office of Student Enrollment was great. The pop-ups were great and helped over 100 families. Parents took the opportunity to apply for an average of 6 schools.
- P.S. 516 Principal Jill Smith is relocating and will be leaving the school the end of February. The Assistant Principal, Jessica Knudson, will be the new principal.
- P.S. 131 Principal Ruth Quiles retired. Stamatina Hatzimichalis is the new principal.
- P.S. 94 Principal Jeanette Caban will retire by the end of March. Superintendent Skop will share the name of the new principal when the central office approves.
- The state has changed the criteria for ESSA. Previously the standard was student proficiency, this year changed to school growth.



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- Three schools are on the list. P.S. 676 has had 3 Principals in the last 9 years. It's a small school with a new principal since late winter of 2017. It is under review. The officials that visited the school were impressed. The formal report from their visit will come back in a month or so. P.S. 15 is an anomaly. Two years ago they had a sizeable increase in student performance, but there has not been growth. They are being penalized for their successes of 2 years ago. Another school is K497. This is an extraordinary school that has grown.
- CEC15 Member Mark Bisard voiced concerns about the district's response or lack thereof regarding the CSI list. The superintendent contended that the schools were not shamed. Mr. Bisard disagreed.
- Test scores and absences do not impact a teacher's performance grade.
- Never had a D15 school fall under the CSI list.
- A D15 parent in attendance expressed concerns that this list will put pressure on schools to work on test prep. Superintendent Skop said that district schools that focus on test prep get a bump but that is not sustainable. D15 schools on the list will not be test prep schools. Schools should focus on quality instruction. Children need to have comprehension skills and that does not come with test prep. D15 will not become a test prep district.
- Another parent expressed their concerns that by making the list public those schools are being shamed. Superintendent Skop said this is a state process and D15 is part of that process, but what we do as a district to support the schools is what matters.
- NYC Chancellor Carranza will not tolerate charter schools that denigrate public schools.
- It was suggested that CEC15 could write a resolution in support of our D15 schools.

6. Charter Committee Presentation - Antonia Ferraro, Committee Chair

a. Resolution to Oppose an Increase in the State Charter Cap and City Charter Subcap

- Charter Committee Chair Antonia Ferraro presented the [CEC15 Resolution to Oppose an Increase in the State Charter School Cap and City Charter School Subcap](#). The resolution was read to those in attendance.

b. Resolution on Evaluation on Charter Applicants in District 15 - TABLED until future calendar meeting

7. Comments from the Public on Charter Resolutions - The floor was open for public comments.

- Members of the public gave comments.

8. Vote on Charter Resolutions

Motion to vote on Resolution to Oppose an Increase in the State Charter Cap and City Charter Subcap - Charles Star

2nd motion to vote on Resolution to Oppose an Increase in the State Charter Cap and City Charter Subcap - Antonia Ferraro

Resolution passed by a vote of 7-0.

CEC15 will vote on Resolution on Evaluation on Charter Applicants in District 15 future calendar meeting TBA.

9. Public Comment Period



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- No comments

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting - Camille Casaretti

2nd motion to adjourn meeting - Lili Velez

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:39 p.m.

- Minutes submitted by Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant