



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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CEC15 Calendar Meeting Minutes

Approved at the CEC15 Calendar Meeting, February 25th, 2020

Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: I.S. 497 - 284 Baltic St, Auditorium

AGENDA (as posted)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (2 min)
2. Introduction to CEC15 (3 min)
3. President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President (10 min)
4. D15 Superintendent Report - Superintendent Anita Skop (15 min)
5. D15 Data Review (30 min)
 - a. Office of District Planning Presentation - Will Candell, Senior Assoc Dir of Planning
 - b. CEC15 Feedback
6. CEC15 Discussion on Participatory Action Research (20 min)
7. CEC15 School Liaison Reports and SCA Priority List Update (20 min)
8. PTA of P.S. 1 Request - Francisco Coatl and Claudia Cuateco (10 min)
9. Public Comment (20 min)
10. Adjournment

Call to Order at 6:35 p.m.

Interpreters were introduced

1. Roll Call

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President
Mark Bisard, Co-Vice President 1, IEP Rep
Antonia Ferraro, Co-Vice President 2
Bess Abrahams, Secretary
Kimmerly Scott, Treasurer
Krystal Casson, Parliamentarian
Anna Nadal Burgues, ELL Rep
Scott Powell
Kathy Park Price

Late:

Francisca Montana, BPA - arrived 6:45 p.m.

Excused: -

Absent: -

AA: Saida Barker

Special Guests:

D15 Superintendent Anita Skop



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2. Introduction - Antonia Ferraro introduced CEC 15 roll

3. President's Report - Camille Casaretti

- **District Comprehensive Education Plan (DCEP) review on Jan 7.** Similar in concept to a school CEP, this plan lists the annual goals for the entire District. This District Plan is used to report academic data to the State, and details academic goals that impact our schools.
- **Reminded attendees of the Jan 28,** School Construction Authority Capital Plan Presentation, which will be a Joint Meeting with the Presidents' Council. PTA leaders are encouraged to come to this meeting to learn about potential building improvements.
- **Reminded attendees of the Feb 4, school site selection Public Hearing:** Directly following, we will be conducting a **Town Hall in Sunset Park** to solicit feedback from our Sunset Park families on what type of programming and other services that they would like to see in the new schools that are opening in the coming few years.
- **The D15 Science Fair** which will be Saturday, May 2.
- **Chancellor's Town Hall** is scheduled tentatively for Wed, June 10.
- **Mark Bisard gave an Update on last year's D15 Diversity Plan Working Group:** The group is no longer funded but individuals are continuing to volunteer their time to meet and respond to policy questions. There is no regular meeting time/place or details on what gets responded to. CEC15 member Mark suggested the CEC think about our role with this body, and would like us to all be aware of when meetings are happening. Mark will follow up on getting CEC15 members information on upcoming meetings. It was suggested that CEC15 appoint a new delegate, even though no formal meetings are scheduled.

4. D15 Superintendent Report - Superintendent Anita Skop

- Announced principals retiring: Maria Nunziata of PS 130 will retire at the end of February, and Jacquie Nikovic of PS 24 will retire January 1. Names have been submitted to Central for Interim Acting Principals. Names will be announced as soon as the Superintendent gets clearance.
- Two Interim Principals will be officially appointed on December 18th: Jessica Knudson from PS 516, and Cristina Gonzalez from PS 94.
- Reviewed a change in the [Chancellor's Regulation C-30](#) of how the appointing process works. The CSA, UFT, DC3 and the D15 office are involved. After the Level 2 process occurs, the SLT will be informed. The SLT has one week to submit comments in writing. If there are no concerns then we can officially announce the person. These 2 principals are the first ones to be appointed under this new process.
- December 23rd is now a day off for students and teachers. Principals have the option to work on comp time.
- Schools are finalizing their Comprehensive Education Plans (CEPs) with Superintendent's support.
- Plans for the Science Fair are in progress. It is planned like a Science Saturday with interactive activities, not only displaying the science experiments.
- There was a visit from a representative of the Education Department of Fiji to the Brooklyn High School of the Arts and they were impressed with the quality of teaching and the programming.
- PS 676 has been selected to move to the next step in the Imagine Schools process. The team will convene in January.
- Thanks to the Principal Lanzilotto and Principal Spalding for the fantastic presentations at the Joint D15/D20 ELL Meeting and thank you to CEC members for their commitment. Best wishes for Happy Holidays.

***Superintendent Skop was asked to provide more information regarding how the success of PS676 will be measured in the Imagine Schools process.*



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5. D15 Data Review

Office of District Planning Presentation - Will Candell, Senior Associate Director of Planning & Yael Kalban, Executive Director of Strategy and Operations, Office of District Planning. (The Annual District Planning presentation is given to every CEC to review the needs and priorities of each District)

- Prior to the Presentation Mr. Candell gave a brief update on the SubDistrict 3 rezoning process, the bids for a Participatory Action Research (PAR) parenter to help in that process. DOE is soliciting bids regarding service providers skilled in the PAR processes.
- ODP presented the [D15 Data Review](#) including demographic information for D15.

Kindergarten capacity and projected Enrollment. Projections from 2019 to 2022 suggest enrollment in Kindergarten is projected to increase, and new capacity is going to meet that need in 2020-2021. At the middle school level, enrollment has leveled off a bit. Projection estimates there will be enough capacity to suffice middle schoolers.

Planning for new capacities. A 436 seat addition to PS32 is projected to open in 2020-2021. Several new buildings will open in 2021-2022 particularly in Sunset Park to relieve the overcrowding that exists in that area.

Diversity, integration and equity. In 2018-2019 D15 implemented a diversity plan for middle school admissions, including eliminating screening and seeking that each middle school hit a diversity target

Update on the Delay in Rezoning Process: (see more details in Agenda item 6 below.) Rezoning goal is to address disparities to create equity within all D15 communities. The DOE, is soliciting proposals for PAR (Participatory Action Research) and DEI (Diversity, Equity and Integration) approaches to reaching D15 integration goals. PAR will enable underrepresented communities to meaningfully participate, and shape the proposal and its intended result. DEI will ensure that the PAR researchers, and the community are really equipped to have conversations around equity and integration, will develop and push for the recommendations of the PAR researchers, and ultimately will collaborate with the implementation of the rezoning process proposals.

This process will result in a set of recommendations that will advance equity and integration, and inform of the DOE's proposal to the CEC for rezoning.

The DOE is looking to get information around a wide range of topics such as:

- Potential changes to admissions priorities to increase diversity and integration
- Direction, and magnitude of the potential zone line will be
- Ideas for interventions beyond admissions and zoning
- Support to be provided once rezoning is approved to actually implement the process to make sure it's functional, working, and serving interests that it's designed to do.

The PAR process looks to understand the specific needs, and priorities of the communities. PAR really focuses on equity and access, to really inform the thinking that the DOE is doing in collaboration with the CEC, and really inform the assumptions that will ultimately underline any proposal that is submitted to the CEC. The PAR process can lead to a rezoning proposal that is aligned with one of the two previously shared by the DOE, or an entirely different proposal.

PAR Estimated Timeline:

The PAR process is aligned with empowering communities advancing schools to greater equity and excellence.

- Late December: Scope of Service Needs Proposal deadline
- Early January: Vendor selection
- Late Spring 2020: DOE anticipates issuing formal rezoning proposals to CEC15, developed through the PAR process



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a. CEC15 Feedback

Q: CEC15 members questioned the accuracy in data around school utilization. In particular, discrepancies between [Blue Book](#) data in regards to:

- actual class sizes
- the physical footprint of a school
- school programming preferences/student needs.

A: Data presented is always a starting point, or flag, of where to find potential underutilization in sites but is not the only measure.

Members of the public commented on their frustration with the numbers, and inaccuracies, and how utilization data is not an accurate reflection or calculation of overcrowding.

CEC15 members suggested:

- ODP should share what other data is used to make the utilization decisions.
- ODP clarify why schools state tests scores are part of the presentation
- ODP should present data on Class Size

In regards to Boerum Hill School for International Studies: CEC15 will make a formal request for Space Planning to do a walk through of the building. There are 4 schools in this building and the utilization numbers appear to be inaccurate when combined together.

6. CEC15 Discussion on Participatory Action Research

Will Candell, ODP, explained that bids are coming in for DEI (Diversity Equity & Inclusion Training) and PAR (Participatory Action Research). The DOE is looking at Sunset Park and SubZone 3 as separate affected areas. This is the first time the DOE is engaging in these processes, therefore they wanted to start small and see how it unfolds and acknowledge that the two communities may have different needs and concerns.

CEC questioned:

- Who will be selecting the PAR vendors and what specifically is the roll the CEC. *A: DOE will be selecting the vendors with input from the CEC.*
- Are there two different PAR vendors for Sub Zone 3 and for Sunset Park. *A: Yes*
- Q: Could we look at the district as a whole?. *A: Too large of an area to conduct PAR. Logistical and staffing concerns were raised.*
- CEC Member commented that there is a need for increased DEI in all D15 schools.
- Discussion on the proposed timeline.
- Questions were raised about how the DOE plans on using CEC15 involvement.
- President Casaretti suggested CEC members and other stakeholders take steps to learning more about PAR. Francisca Montana had previously offered to assist in setting up speakers, and Maddy Fox from CUNY has also offered to assist in setting up speakers.
- President Casaretti suggested that CEC15 Liaisons break into smaller groups by SubDistrict in order to more accurately represent the individual communities as well as to form a better mutual understanding and collaboration with the Office of District Planning.



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- Suggestion to increase the communication around the rezoning to a much higher level. Is there a formal structure to work within the PAR deadline?
 - Francisca Montana declared that we are making history in the DOE using PAR, and that there will be mistakes, we're going to learn. Other agencies use this process. The communities get a lot out of it.
7. **CEC15 School Liaison Reports and SCA Priority List Update**
- Some members reported they got off to a late start in meeting with our Liaison Schools. Priority list of physical building needs is due to the School Construction Authority on Jan 8th.
 - **P.S. 15** - Kimmerly Scott reported that the windows are being replaced and the roof is being reviewed. **They need a working PA System installed. School is not ADA compliant.**
8. **PTA of P.S. 1 Request**
- Francisco Coatl and Claudia Cuateco were unable to attend. This item was moved to the Jan 7 agenda.
9. **Public Comment**
- Question about roll out and timing for Sunset park PAR and DEI process.
 - Comment was made to encourage DOE to have parent involvement in the PAR and DIE process
 - Public comments to DOE about outreach efforts (more grassroots, bottom up approach)
 - Public comment about PS172 school yard, with questions about the Mayors initiative and funding.
 - Public comment: Asked for a more specific breakdown of number of school buildings that house multiple schools

Camille Casaretti made a motion to adjourn.

Kimmerly Scott seconded the motion.

Adjournment at 8:35 p.m.