



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](https://www.facebook.com/CECD15) | CECD15.org

March Calendar Meeting Minutes

APPROVED at the May 5 Business Meeting

Zoom Live Teleconference

Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Time: 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA (as posted)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (2 min)
2. Teleconference Protocol (3 min)
3. President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President (15 min)
4. D15 Superintendent Report - Superintendent Anita Skop (20 min)
 - a. CEC Questions and Comments (20 min)
 - b. Public Comment Period (20 min)
5. Old Business
 - c. Vote on [Jan 7 Meeting Minutes](#) and [Jan 7 Special Session Minutes](#) (5 min)
6. New Business
 - d. Legislative Committee (20 min)

Presentation and Public Comment on Adoption of ECC Resolutions

1. [Charter School Accountability Resolution](#) in support of legislative bills to create more transparency and accountability for charter schools.
2. [Campaign for Fiscal Equity Resolution](#) calling for the State legislature and the Governor to allocate monies owed to our students as a result of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity settlement.

Adjournment

Call to Order at 6:35 p.m.

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 Cason, Parliamentarian
Tia Schellstede, BPA
Ivan Banda, BPA
Kathy Park Price, Member

Excused:

Scott Powell, Member - Tech issues



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2. Teleconference Protocol Review - Krystal Cason, Parliamentarian

The health crisis that began a short time ago has worsened and CEC15 will be practicing Social Distancing until further notice. CEC15 is trying teleconferencing for the first time and live streaming through Facebook as well.

CEC15 Parliamentarian, Krystal Cason, reviewed the General Rules of Engagement and the expectations for the Public Comment Period. Participants on the teleconference were asked to respect the privacy of others, please do not include names of children or staff when making comments. Where answers can not be given in session, we will endeavor to provide them in our weekly eblast or in an upcoming meeting. Please sign up for CEC15 emails at cec15@schools.nyc.gov

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

- We are all taking this pandemic seriously and recognize that this transition presents unique challenges for lots of people in lots of different ways. Some of us are working from home, some are out of work, some of us are experiencing space constraints, and many of us are having complications with technology whether it be through the devices that we may or may not have, or through internet connections or lack of.
- This is only a partial list of what we all are facing, and it's normal to feel easily frustrated or anxious. Please be sure to treat yourself well during this time. We are all here for each other. Reach out for support, only you know when you need that break.
- CEC15 members have been helping with, and working on conditions as they arise. We are here to support you. If you need help please reach out to us. Every CEC Member has a liaison school. Reach out individually or write to cec15@schools.nyc.gov.
- We understand that schools provide more than an education, and with the closure of our schools buildings we have to find ways to replace some of the services that families rely on like meals, healthcare and other related services. Superintendent Skop will address much of this in her report.
- City Council Member Lander and City Council Member Menchaca will be hosting a Zoom webinar in Spanish this Friday at 3pm for parents to ask questions and have their concerns addressed regarding student learning and other community supports that are available.
- The New York State budget will be hit hard, and our schools cannot be made to bear the burden of these inevitable budget cuts. Every state throughout the country will be experiencing the same hardships. CEC15 members will be learning more about the DOE Fair Student Funding this Thursday night. I would encourage all CEC15 Members to participate in this virtual meeting. I would encourage school community members to reach out to their assigned CEC Liaison with budget related questions, or ways that we can better support public education.
- If you are not receiving emails from CEC15, please sign up on our website CECD15.org, follow us on Facebook, or link your google calendar to ours. Our next teleconference will be on April 7 at 6:30 pm. Please save the date.
- In closing, I would like to share that I am so impressed with everyone who has really gone above and beyond to care for students in the best ways possible. Thanks to everyone who made remote learning a reality in such a short time frame. From the Chancellor, to the Executive Superintendent, our Superintendent Anita Skop and her staff, our Principals, Teachers, Staff and especially our School Foods Workers and Custodians who are on truly on the front lines of this pandemic. These challenges are real and you all are very much appreciated.

4. [D15 Superintendent Report](#) - Superintendent Anita Skop

- All schools in District 15 distributed the most of the technology that they had in their buildings to students to use at home (IPADS, Chromebooks, laptops) in the planning week when staff were in the buildings using the Grab and Go feeding opportunity to expedite this. Usage agreements were translated in District and were available in Spanish, Mandarin and English.



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- As some students did not yet have technology and schools wanted to ensure that they had work to begin the out of school period, physical paper packets were available, both school specific and on the DOE website which were also given to students or mailed to their homes.
- The Department of Education has contracted and purchased 300,000 hot spot equipped IPADS to distribute to students who request them. This was done to address concerns raised that some families may not have devices while others may not have WIFI.
- All they need to do is to go onto the DOE website and apply or Call 718-935-5100 push choice 5 and apply by phone
- **The rollout of the IPADS has begun in prioritized order:**
 - Students in Temporary Housing
 - Foster Children
 - Students in NYCHA Housing, Students with Disabilities, ENL students
 - There are plenty to go around and parents can still apply.
- Please reach out to Ursula Koffer for further information on WIFI needs. ukoffer@schools.nyc.gov

Two somewhat more difficult concerns to address that have arisen in our immigrant communities:

- Parental fears that by going online they are alerting ICE as to their status and their location
- The very real and already impactful Food Crisis for many low income families across the district but especially in Sunset Park
- Please note that there is no capacity to have any connection to any student as they are going through a google email and not a personal email.
- **THE REC CENTERS IN DISTRICT 15 ARE AS FOLLOWS:**
 - BISHOP FORD-K280, K437-PS 130/MS 839-CATON AVENUE
 - The REC centers are designed to support the children of first responders and are open from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. There have been very small numbers of students in attendance at both sites. This is true in Brooklyn North as well and has been acknowledged by the Mayor, but they are being assessed and will be consolidated as necessary.
- **The Grab and Go sites are as follows:**
 - PS1, PS10, PS15, PS38, PS94, PS 124, PS 130, PS131, MS136, PS 169, PS 172, PS230, PS295, MS497, PS676, Cobble Hill HS.
 - These sites enable students and/or their parents to come and get 3 meals: a breakfast and two lunches per child of any age.
- **Students in temporary housing**
 - Students in temporary housing are prioritized as the first recipients of the Hot Spot IPADS.
 - Initially there was a concern that arose in that many shelters did not allow use of WIFI. However, that has been addressed and it has been turned on in all shelters.
 - Additionally, teacher outreach to students who do not have technology by phone has been consistent as we roll out the technology.
 - Lastly, the efforts for food distribution have been shared district wide so that STH students can be impacted as well.
 - Please reach out to Brenda Diaz for further information on food needs. bdiaz14@schools.nyc.gov
- **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**
 - Students with disabilities are required to receive their mandated services as per their IEP digitally. These include service providers, speech, PT, OT, etc.
 - ICT Classes are shared with the two teachers and they plan accordingly to meet the individual student needs.



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- **MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS**

- Students who are multilingual learners are required to receive their mandated services as per their class and category.
- Dual language and Bilingual classes are following the established curriculum that they have.
- Principals are required to adapt their learning plans to assure that these students' needs are addressed appropriately.
- Many teachers are in direct contact with their families to ensure their needs are being met.

- **Protocols for Teachers**

- Teachers define their own schedules for online live-streaming and their instructional practices.
- Some teachers are heavily into live-streaming as a learning protocol and others are fearful that parents will film them and critique their work.
- Principals have the right to ask teachers to invite them into a live streaming session, much the way the Superintendent invites the Executive Superintendent to my meetings.
- *Please reach out directly to the Superintendent if you have any concerns as to instructional practices.
askop@schools.nyc.gov

- **SPRING BREAK**

- The Governor announced today that instruction and all other support protocols were to continue for students from April 1, 2020-April 14, 2020
- This would mean there would be instruction during what would have been Spring Break.
- THE CHANCELLOR AND THE CENTRAL OFFICE HAVE NOT YET ANNOUNCED A RESPONSE OR ANY POLICY DECISIONS.

- a. **CEC Questions and Public Comments**

Guest participants of the teleconference asked questions and made comments via the chat. Some were able to call in. Superintendent Skop graciously answered all questions. Topics included:

- Return to School Date: Currently, NY State is supposed to go back to school on April 15th, and the city on the 20th.
- Grading Policy: No talks yet about grading policy. June Regents haven't been canceled yet. No talk about summer school or matriculation. There is going to be a lot of work around Portfolio. The Superintendent doesn't think there will be extra tests: State exams have been canceled. D15 has been a District that looks deeper than just testing, but a wider criteria.
- Technology: District is trying to figure out what the most vulnerable need is by doing prolific surveys: first to the staff, to confirm that they have technology that is working, then reaching out to the families. Teachers are doing this individually. There is a survey that will look at the percentage of kids who are engaged on a daily basis. The Superintendent is sure that most of the schools have a clear sense of what is needed and what is working because of the amount of surveys Central has sent, but also the Superintendent is making daily 1 on 1 calls to see what is working and what is not.
- D15 Needs: Still working on how many students need ipads. The schools have given out much of their own technology. The delivery roll out looks slower than it actually is: priority to students in shelters, then foster care, and so on. 2600 were rolled out last week, this week the rest.
- Wi-fi providers: It was suggested that providers who are offering free service for 60 days close out the accounts after a certain time. People may not close the accounts and get into debt.
- Device Delivery: 26k were delivered citywide last week, 50k this week, total of 76k. There are many more devices than applications. Schools gave out most of their technology. Application and commitment letters are being translated into different languages.
- Special Education: According to requirements services have to be delivered in person, however, anything that happened in school ICT, SETS, OT, etc. will now happen virtually. All outsider providers had to go through parental approval to be able to deliver the services virtually. The conversation has been around how to deliver the services in the virtual world, so the children will get exactly what is mandated in the IEPs, and so it's monitored. If the parents feel they're not getting the services, email the Superintendent at askop@schools.nyc.gov. The City must give students the services written in the IEP.



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- [Google Classrooms](#) offers a drop down menu with a To-Do list. Parents and students can see what is due and when.
- [Headphones](#) might be covered under COVID19 expenses for schools to distribute those among the students who need them.

5. Old Business - Tia Schellstede, BPA

a. Vote on [Jan 7 Business Meeting Minutes](#) and [Jan 7 Special Session Minutes](#)

A draft of the Jan 7 Business Minutes were sent out previously via email for review and posted on the CEC website.

Antonia Ferraro offered edits: under number 2, 4th bullet: according to the Principal and Custodian the gas smell was due to a fire drill.

Mark Bisard made a motion to Approve the Jan 7 Business Minutes with edits.

Krystal Cason seconded the motion

8 in favor

1 Abstains: Tia Schellstede

0 opposed

The council voted to Approve the Jan 7 Business Minutes.

A draft of the Jan 7 Special Session Minutes were sent out previously via email for review and posted on the CEC website.

Camille Casaretti made a motion to Approve the Jan 7 Special Session Minutes with no edits.

Kimmerly Scott seconded the motion

8 in favor

1 Abstains: Tia Schellstede

0 opposed

The council voted to Approve the Jan 7 Special Session Minutes.

6. New Business

e. [Legislative Committee - Legislative Chair Antonia Ferraro](#) (20 min)

i. Presentation and Public Comment on Adoption of ECC Resolutions

1. [Charter School Accountability Resolution](#) in support of legislative bills to create more transparency and accountability for charter schools.
2. [Campaign for Fiscal Equity Resolution](#) calling for the State legislature and the Governor to allocate monies owed to our students as a result of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity settlement.

Adjournment 8:14 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Saida Barker CEC15 Administrative Assistant