

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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September Business Meeting

Via Teleconference

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

CEC15 President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President

Welcome to the CEC15 September Business Meeting and thank you for taking the time to join us this evening. I am Camille Casaretti, President of CEC15. I hope everyone enjoyed the Labor Day weekend. We're at the start of this new and very unusual school year.

The [2020-2021 School Year Calendar](#) was posted last week on the DOE website. If you haven't seen it yet, I'll drop it in the chat for you.

https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/news/2020-2021-school-year-calendar?fbclid=IwAR3MsEe7ccFeghkgfhCxo0pNd02SRKiBVV3Ep89coQox_Is-Fx3GKfj_vvU

As you know, there has been a Revised Reopening Timeline for the start of school. Today, school staff returned to the school buildings to get their classrooms ready, prepare for their classes, and receive professional development to prepare for re-opening. This will continue through September 15. We are looking forward to hearing how it went today. I'm sure we'll be getting a lot of feedback in the coming days. If you were in a school building today and want to share your thoughts about how this first day went, please feel free to use the chat or write to us at cec15@schools.nyc.gov.

The school year will begin with remote instruction for all students on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. An important focus of this orientation period will be on the social and emotional well-being of students and families.

That same evening, Wednesday, Sept 16, District 15 will be hosting a **Chancellor Town Hall from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm**. Flyers will be going out today in english, spanish, chinese and bengali. Please spread the word and invite your District 15 friends and families. We will be collecting questions in advance of the meeting and asking the Chancellor to incorporate the answers into his introductory statements.

Then on Monday, September 21, 2020: All schools will begin full-day teaching and learning! Blended learning will begin, and schools will begin welcoming students to in-person instruction.

It's very important that families sign up for a New York City Schools Account (NYCSA) account so that the DOE can contact you quickly to share information, including about confirmed COVID-19 cases in your child's school.

Your NYCSA account can also help you find your child's grades, test scores, schedules, transportation information, and more— from anywhere, and in all nine standard DOE language translations.

We are hearing that there has been an increase in the numbers of families that are opting for remote learning. Any student can opt into fully remote learning at any time. Please reach out to your Principal if you want to opt into fully remote learning.

Last week, Superintendent Skop offered us a Presentation on how school budgets work, This was a very informative workshop and we are very grateful. To access the recording use this link.

Budget Meeting

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/2-x7Lu2u729OWo2VwkCOd48fINS9T6a8gScY-fcPnkjaPpMknKJwe2OTudqIEUGE>
passcode: q@F8Fhv8

I would encourage all CEC members to review this information. It will be helpful to understand how the money flows to our schools. In a call with Assemblymember Simon this week, I expressed my concerns around state funding for education and how to raise revenue. She said that Gov. Cuomo appears to be holding out for Federal funding and said that it will be difficult to get anything passed that resembles a tax. Even if it passes the Senate and Assembly, the Gov can still veto the law.

We discussed student learning and the importance for literacy coaches. She said we really need to bring in more coaches to help students with reading. Having the right curriculum is crucial so that children don't get lost.

Assemblymember Simon also asked about having an October joint meeting with District 13. A town hall concept for the emotional aspect of coping with covid and the impact on schools. She wants to help parents understand their rights around iep services and the students that require therapy.

Lastly, on a call this morning with the Office of District Planning and the Participatory Action Research Team, we heard that conversations around the rezoning of 7 elementary schools in SubDistrict 3 will continue. These schools include: PS 676, PS 15, PS 32, PS 58, Ps 29, PS 38 and PS 261.

A survey has been sent out to the public. I'll drop that in the chat:

<https://district15parproject.org/>

If your child attends any of the 7 schools or you have a young child and are zoned for any of these schools, please do fill out the survey, and plan to attend the next CEC15 meeting on September 29. There will be a review of the work done to date and the PAR Team will be updating us on their progress with community outreach.

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