

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

September Business Meeting

Via Teleconference

Tuesday, September 9, 2020

CEC15 President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President

Welcome to the CEC15 September Calendar Meeting and thank you for taking the time to join us this evening. I am Camille Casaretti, President of CEC15 and I hope everyone is feeling well and that you and your loved ones are staying safe. A good and sweet new year to those celebrating Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

The school year has begun and it's off to a tumultuous start with more than half of nyc students working fully remote from home. Our youngest and most fragile learners began in person learning last week and our middle and high school students will begin this week. We want to hear your back to school stories. Write to us at cec15@schools.nyc.gov.

District 15's Superintendent Anita Skop is here with us tonight to give the D15 District Report and to share details on how the start of the school year is going and to let us know what we, as parents, can do to create a supportive learning environment for our children. We also have representatives from the Office of District Planning and the Participatory Action Research Team, that will give us updates on how community outreach in the northern part of our district is going around the possible rezoning of seven District 15 elementary schools.

Our CEC Members have been assigned liaison schools and have been reaching out to D15 Principals to schedule meetings in hopes of providing support where needed. You can find your school liaison [here in this link](#).

CEC15 School Liaisons:

Camille Casaretti: MS136, PS261, MS821

Antonia Ferraro: PS32, MS88, PS124, PS676

Mark Bisard: MS51, PS146, PS154

Bess Abrahams: PS118, PS169, PS295 + MS443, MS839

Krystal Cason: PS38, PS39, MS447 + HS656

Kimmerly Scott: PS29, PS58, MS442

Ivan Banda: PS1, PS94, PS230, MS497

Tia Schellstede: PS107, PS131, PS321, PS516,

Cateia Rembert: PS10+K280, PS15, PS130

Claudia Lechuga: PS24, PS172, PS896

Our email addresses are on the CECD15.org website. Please do reach out to your school liaison and introduce yourself. We want to work closely with your school, your SLT and your PTA. Feel free to make introductions if you are able to.

We also know that our schools and teachers need a lot of support in this transition to remote learning. The Brooklyn North Office is offering a large variety of ongoing Professional Development classes. The schedule can be found on their website: <https://brooklynnorth.strongschools.nyc>

Our families need support, too. Last Monday, during our weekly Diversity, Equity and Inclusion session, we were visited by Dr. Susan Green, Senior Administrator of Social Emotional Learning and Design at the Department of Education along with two representatives from Sanford Harmony. Their social emotional learning program for Pre-K-6th grade students is designed to foster inter gender communication and understanding, connection, and community, both in and outside the classroom, and develop boys and girls into compassionate and caring adults. You can learn more by Visiting SanfordHarmony.org

Social Emotional Learning Resources:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BMy-KV5WrFMuMa7W-deJMKwTWXwT3LmEgqSE85nlook/edit?usp=sharing>

We invite you to attend our weekly Monday afternoon sessions that are running from Sept 14 through Nov 16. This D.E.I. series is an opportunity for school community members and incoming families to learn about efforts surrounding advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion in District 15 and throughout the city. In some of our sessions we will have updates on the D15 Diversity Plan and or the SubDistrict 3 elementary school rezoning. I would encourage you to share the information you receive at the DEI sessions, and here today, and ask your friends and school community members to participate in our District meetings.

Each of our District schools has a diversity or equity committee. School community members are welcome to attend these meetings and share their best practices with us at any time.

DEI Session Topics

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_3LIS32iwWUEGKOAKBbYLdGfcu2WwovgL2vDPajK1Tw/edit?usp=sharing

Other upcoming meetings include an Education Council Consortium Meeting with Chancellor Carranza scheduled for this Saturday morning. Education Council Consortium is an organization made up of current and former members of Community Education and Citywide Councils from across the City with a mission to elevate the voices of parents in advocating for changes at the systems level in public education in NYC. The link has been shared with our CEC15 Members. Please plan to attend.

The Chancellor said we've had a billion dollars in cuts from the DOE, and school budgets have been untouched, yet our schools need more funding than ever before. Stripping down our Public Schools to a bare minimum is just not going to work. Now is the time to give NYC schools the funding that they need and deserve to allow all students to return to school in a safe, caring and protected environment.

CEC15 wrote a letter to Governor Cuomo in the late Spring about the State Ed Budget. The ECC will be sending a follow up letter requesting more money be set aside for our schools. Everyone should be writing to your elected officials to demand proper and adequate funding of our schools. This letter will be shared with the community and you can use it as a template for your own requests.

If you are not currently receiving emails from CEC15 please write to us at cec15@schools.nyc.gov and we will add you to our mailing list.

Another other upcoming meetings is on Thursday, October 1 at 6:30 pm

The Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE@schools.nyc.gov) is having a Meeting Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8447879393> and we will be discussing a Charter School Hearing that is taking place tomorrow night.

Please keep in mind that CEC15 is still seeking a English Language Learner Representative and a Student Member for the Council. The ELL Member must have a student that qualifies for ELL status, or has received ELL services within the last 2 years. The student member must be an entering High School Senior that lives in District 15. If you have someone you would like to nominate for either of these volunteer positions, please write to CEC15@schools.nyc.gov. There is a simple application to fill out that is posted on our website CECD15.org and an email will be going out again with all of the information.

I'm going to have to excuse myself from this meeting around 6:55 to sign onto a call with the NYS Board of Regents about the announcement from the Council of School Administrators. I'll be back on as soon as possible. Our Co-VP will run the meeting in my absence.

Before I sign off, I want to acknowledge how hard our Principals and school staff have been working to get this year started in a safe and effective way. There have been a lot of changes and we have so many team players here in District 15 that really love children and you can see that very clearly.

As always, thanks to the leadership of Superintendent Skop and her incredible team. And wishing all of our parents a happy fall. CEC15 is here to support you now and always.

Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President
CamilleCEC15@gmail.com