



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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APPROVED at the CEC15 Jan 12, 2021 Business Meeting

November 2020 Calendar Meeting

Via Teleconference

Tuesday, Nov 17, 2020 - 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (2 min)
2. Introduction to CEC15 (3 min)
3. Teleconference Protocol (2 min)
4. President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President (5 min)
5. Office of School Foods and Nutrition - Meredith Kiely, School Food Supervisor, Office of Food and Nutrition Services (10 min)
6. District 15 Report - Superintendent Skop (10 min)
 - a. General Public Comment (10 min)
 - b. CEC15 Member Questions and Comments (10 min)
7. PAR Team Presentation (60 min)
 - a. Public Comment (15 min)
 - b. CEC15 Member Questions and Comments (15 min)
8. New Business (5 min)
9. Adjournment

Call to Order at 6:34 pm

1. Roll Call

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President
Tia Schellstede, VP2 & BPA
Antonia Ferraro, Co-Vice President 1
Kimmerly Scott, Treasurer
Bess Abrahams, Secretary
Cateia Rembert, Parliamentarian
Ivan Banda, BPA
Claudia Lechuga, Member
Mark Bisard, IEP Rep.

Absent:

Krystal Cason, Member

3. Introduction to CEC15: read aloud

4. Teleconference Protocol: read aloud

5. President's Report



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- November is Family Empowerment Month and the DOE will be hosting trainings, offering resources, and various supports designed so that families and school staff can better partner to support children. You can find all these resources in [this](#) link:
- Thurs, Nov 19 at 6:30 p.m. CEC15 is hosting a Know Your Rights Forum with the Mayor's Office on Immigrant Affairs.
- CEC15 is currently seeking a member to represent our ELL students and families. We need your help in finding a candidate. The ELL Member must have a student that qualifies for ELL status, or has received ELL services within the last 2 years.
- Our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion series just finished our 6th session of 8. Videos can be found on the CECD15.org webpage. Our next sessions are on Mon, Nov 30 and Dec 14. All of these meetings are held on Monday afternoon at 1pm. Our next session topic is *Moral Imperatives: Orientations Toward Helping Others and Developing Concepts of Social Equality*
- Tonight the Participatory Action Research Team will be presenting their initial recommendations on their outreach to school communities in the Subzone in the northern part of our District. They've done a stellar job at reaching as many people as possible during the pandemic and we appreciate all of the work that they have done so far in engaging community members around the potential rezoning of the 7 elementary schools that include PS15, 29, 32, 38, 58, 261, and 676 in the areas of RedHook, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, Cobble Hill and Boerum Hill.

6. Office of School Foods and Nutrition - Meredith Kiely, School Food Supervisory, Office of Food and Nutrition Services.

The Office of School Foods and Nutrition reports very minimal waste of food and that in D15 there are 5 community feeders. Sunset Park High School is the largest, with 200 feeders

7. District 15 Report - Superintendent Skop

Forgoing a formal report Superintendent Skop agreed to answer questions about pressing concerns. A summary of Superintendent Skop's responses to questions are outlined below.

To expedite the use of grant money to provide internet access in shelters CEC15, in conjunction with FACE, will explore the cost, feasibility and logistics of offering hot spots.

Regarding technology and its distribution in schools with large requests pending the Superintendent reported that 3 categories of students are being prioritized: English language learners, children with learning differences and those students in temporary housing. Further, a number of under resourced schools in Sunset Park and Kensington are also prioritized.

In response to some schools need for additional guidance on setting up technical equipment/laptops etc and troubleshooting, Superintendent Skop reported that the BCO is offering schools a technology expert called a "Single Point Of Contact" (SPOC) in order to streamline the support. There's also people at the BCO level, who are offering training at the school level.

Regarding COVID testing and repercussions for those that don't opt in, Superintendent Skop reported that at this point in time there are no repercussions if a child is not tested. The same thing holds true for teachers.

Regarding video tours, and virtual parent teacher conferences Superintendent Skop believes the ability of people to schedule a 10 minute meeting with a teacher virtually is a wonderful opportunity, and believes they are here to stay. She also believes virtual meetings and tours are here to stay. Regarding the consistency of video tours across the different middle schools, the



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Superintendent committed to supporting schools by reaching out to make sure schools get what they need to minimize disparities in budgets, technical know-how other factors that may increase unnecessarily competition between schools

Regarding related services during COVID the Superintendent shared the link below:

[Special Education Guidance in Response to the Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Outbreak in New York State](#)

8. PAR Team Presentation

Findings:

- Families want their children to access to a thriving school close to home: prioritize educational equity
- Desire for Equity-Based Integration and a call to disrupt “zones of exclusion”
- Elementary schools as community-engaged sites of place-based community-building.

Initial Recommendations:

- PS676 should be centered in any rezoning
- Repair and renovate The Footbridge, The Hamilton Ave 9th St crossing and create a Red Hook Park at the base of The Footbridge on The Red Hook side.
- Support PS676 and the Red Hook Community to consider and explore transforming PS676 into a middle school.
- Increase educational access across the subzone. One of the core visions for the PAR project work has been to support enrollment of schools across the sub districts that are often underutilized or overutilized. Particularly for PS 29, 32 38, 58 and 261. To achieve this goal, two items are recommended.
 - First, implement a plan for all schools residing in the sub district that gives priority to students eligible for free and reduced price lunch, multi language learners students in temporary housing NYCHA residents and students with disabilities.
 - Second, enhance equity and access for other district 15 families who live outside of the sub district and MS priority criteria if there are seats still available if PS 676 transforms into a middle school. If PS 676 becomes a MS, ensure that families currently zoned for PS 676 have access to PS 15
- Establish an equity council to address inequity more comprehensively. This equity council would include parents, students educators and a DOE representative, with support from community based organizations to establish an ongoing commitment to equity and integration.
- Given its central and pivotal location, Brooklyn New School will be invited to join in this local work and think through its current enrollment and admissions practices in relationship with local communities, especially Red Hook.
- Resource each school to develop a plan of action for school based racial justice and equity work to ensure each school is prepared for a diverse learning community.
- Support all schools and outreach efforts to increase awareness for priority eligibility for out of zone students by establishing a family Resource Center to carry out this mission.
- Critically consider issues of equity and integration within each school in relation to discipline practices, specialized programs like G&T and dual language schools as a means to transition to restorative justice practices.
- Staffing - hire more BIPOC teachers and staff to support culturally responsive and anti racist curriculums.

Next steps:

- The PAR team will continue to engage, in detail, with all decision makers and stakeholders.

b. CEC15 Member Questions and Comments

Regarding a review of what the process is like at this stage.

ODP: take those recommendations and continue to work collaboratively with the PAR team and superintendent. To come up with a draft plan.



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Regarding geographic limits, a map, and what are the specific boundaries.

ODP: These initial recommendations that have been put forth are very helpful in developing a potential plan. One of the big questions we were grappling with in the initial iteration of this project was sort two different conceptions of options: individual zones (which was meant to be responsive to having a defined geographic priority) and a larger shared zone that would work more like the middle school process and be similar to a “controlled choice” setup. The recommendations will be reviewed and a plan will be presented to the CEC.

Regarding Enrollment.

ODP: There's an obvious desire to support enrollment. The admissions process, and what the map will look like will be a next step in the process.

Regarding Admissions for next year.

ODP: The timeline has been affected by COVID. The process for next year (2021-22) hasn't been released yet, but as of today, the current map will be utilized.

Regarding Special Education, and access:

Resources will be needed. PS133 has been working with NY Appleseed. The DOE has the recommendations from the team to determine such resources.

Regarding PS29.

PS29 will remain closed due to COVID concerns until after Thanksgiving.

Regarding incorporating plans with the DOT when it comes to the foot bridge, and overall increasing transportation in and to/from Red Hook.

ODP: Once ODP has all that information, the office will be in a better position to be able to advocate.

Regarding Students with Disabilities (SWD's):

D15 diversity plan did not place SWD's in the priority group because every school must meet a student's IEP. SWD's *are* placed in the priority group for this elementary rezoning because there was enough parent feedback to raise a flag, and make it part of the plan.

9. Adjournment

Adjournment 9:12 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting Camille Casaretti, Antonia Ferraro second motion.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Saida Barker, Administrative Assistant.