



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

Minutes Approved at the Feb 23 CEC15 Calendar Meeting

February Business Meeting

Via Teleconference

Tuesday, Feb 09 2020 - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Introduction to CEC15
3. Teleconference Protocol
4. President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President
5. High School Updates from Superintendent Janice Ross' Office - Jen Goldberg, Director of Advanced Academic Access
6. SCA November Amendment
7. Discussion on CEC15 Budget Modification
 - a. Public comment vote
 - b. CEC comment
 - c. Vote on CEC15 Budget Amendment
8. CEC PAR/SubDistrict 3 Team Update
9. Old Business
 - a. Approval of Minutes - Bess Abrahams, CEC15 Secretary
 - i. [2021 01 07 Business Minutes](#)
 - ii. [2021 01 26 Calendar Meeting Minutes](#)
 - b. Other
10. New Business
 - a. Update on Ad Hoc Committees - Camille Casaretti
 - b. State and City Education Budget discussion
 - c. Tom Sheppard, letter about Federal Aid CEC Presidents' Appointee, Panel for Educational Policy
 - d. Other
11. Adjournment

It is anticipated that CEC15 will vote to go into an Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel. Members of the public are not permitted to attend an Executive Session.



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Call to Order at 6:32 pm

1. Roll Call -

Roll call vote:

Present:

Camille Casaretti (President)

Antonia Ferraro (Co-Vice President 1)

Kimmerly Scott (Treasurer)

Iván Banda (BP Appointee)

Claudia Lechuga (Member)

Bess Abrahams (Secretary)

Mark Bisard (IEP Rep) Cateia Rembert (Parliamentarian)

Krystal Cason (Member)

Absent:

Krystal Cason (Member) - absent

Cateia Rembert (Parliamentarian) - absent

2. Introduction to CEC15: read aloud

3. Teleconference Protocol: read aloud

4. [President's Report](#) - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President

5. High School Updates from Superintendent Janice Ross' Office - Jen Goldberg, Director of Advanced Academic Access

6. SCA November Amendment

- [Site Selection Hearing](#)
- [FY 2020 – 2024 Five-year Capital Plan Proposed Amendment](#)
- [SCA Contact Information](#)
- [SCA's Industrial & Environmental Hygiene \(IEH\) Division](#)
- [Resolution A \(Reso A\) Capital Funds](#)
- [Public Art for Public Schools](#)

a. Members Questions: Summary of member questions and answers to those questions

Regarding the impact of recent losses in enrollment in some schools: Since the SCA works with long term trends, it was noted that even before COVID enrollment in ES was slightly going down and MS



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enrollment grew as the wave of increased enrollments graduated up. Further, more schools have been built. Trends have to be watched and SCA staff is balancing that with not overreacting to an unusual situation.

Regarding the leasing of St Francis Xavier School: SCA is closed with the Diocese to lease the site.

Regarding accessibility at sites: There is a lot of catching up to do. SCA has an accessibility team, and they will follow up with the names of the people on this team.

Regarding the scaffolding on BNS and contractors without masks on site: Safe Work Plan protocols are in place and should be followed. If someone is seen not wearing a mask, for example, reach out to DSF.

Anyone found not wearing a mask will not be allowed to work at the school. People who are not abiding by the protocols will be removed from the job.

7. Discussion on CEC15 Budget Modification.

FACE will follow up regarding information on how to support schools/shelters/students who do not have access to wifi, and if the CEC can purchase hotspots or use part of its budget to help alleviate the issue.

- a. Public comment
- b. CEC comment

Part of the CEC budget includes the purchase of Google drive storage, as well as \$4500 for other expenses. CEC budget reallocation options will be further discussed in consultation with FACE for presentation to the council and public at a future meeting.

8. Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes - Bess Abrahams, CEC15 Secretary
 - i. [2021 01 07 Business Minutes](#)

Motion to approve the [2021 01 07 Business Meeting Minutes](#) - Antonia Ferraro

2nd motion to approve the [2021 01 07 Business Minutes](#) - Bess Abrahams

The [2021 01 07 Business Minutes](#) unanimously approved by 8 members present.

- ii. [2021 01 26 Calendar Meeting Minutes](#)

Motion to approve the [2021 01 26 Calendar Meeting Minutes](#) - Antonia Ferraro

2nd motion to approve the [2021 01 26 Calendar Meeting Minutes](#) - Bess Abrahams

The [2021 01 26 Calendar Meeting Minutes](#) unanimously approved by 8 members present.

9. New Business

- a. Update on Ad Hoc Committees - Camille Casaretti



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To date, 10 people from the public have signed up and has been shared via email to CEC members. CEC members are needed to lead the various AdHoc Committees.

b. State and City Education Budget discussion

Letter from PTA presidents on school budgets

We, the concerned PTA presidents within Brooklyn School District 15, are writing to bring attention to the dire financial crisis schools across the city, including in our district, are facing this year. The situation is exacerbated by our state government's refusal to give schools their fair share of federal funds along with the call for schools with Covid-related enrollment loss to "owe" funds back to the DOE.

The DOE is attempting to reclaim these funds due to decreased enrollment at a time when our Covid-related expenses to running safe schools are skyrocketing. Owing the city funds, in some cases upwards of \$600,000, due to temporary enrollment loss will create a catastrophic downward spiral for our schools. When schools lose critical funding, we also lose the ability to retain our families, resulting in even more funding loss. The current system is untenable and adding financial stress during a pandemic is simply indefensible.

Our school administrations are taking on heroic efforts to simultaneously fund two brand-new and completely different school models during this time: hybrid and remote. The costs of running these programs effectively are unprecedented and required a wild reimagining of what the definition of school is. Our city leaders have a mandate to ensure our students are academically and emotionally supported, engaged and educated during this time of crisis. Schools need additional technology, additional resources to meet the emotional strains brought on by the pandemic and additional staff. To accomplish this, our schools need an increase in funding, not cuts.

We are calling on our city and state leaders to create a new model for funding and to adopt provisions to hold schools harmless for any drops in enrollment, especially during the pandemic. We are also calling on our state government to give schools their fair share of federal funds. Last year, our government cut school funding by the same \$1.1 billion that the federal government granted.

Our children are living through a once-in-a-century pandemic. Many of them have lost close family members and friends to this virus. This is not the time to have them suffer additional cuts in their schools as well.

Some of our schools are facing this crisis of "owing" funds. Other schools do not—but we are standing in solidarity with all schools, parents, and educators across the district and the city in saying no to these outrageous moves, no to cuts, and yes to investment in our schools and our children.

*D15 Presidents Council Secretary Justin Krebs
MS51 PTA Co-Presidents Zoe Kashner and Leila
Ligougne
MS88 PTA Co-Presidents Linsey Laidlaw &
Jasmina Nikolov
PS29 PTA Co-Presidents Marie Isner and
Shannon Mulholland*

*PS107 PTA President Jennifer Jerutis
PS 118 PTA President Chris Shott
PS130 PTA President Mel Wadle
PS261 PTA President Supriya Doshi
PS295 PTA Co-Presidents Maria Fusilero and
Katrina Motch*



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PS32 PTA Co-Presidents Ryane Montanez & Lincoln Ritter
PS38 PTA Co-Presidents Christine Bateup and Jessica Smith
PS39 Parents Association
PS 58 PTA Co-Presidents Molly Rayo & Negar Treister

PS230 PTA President Erica Vichness
PS321 PTA Co-Presidents Lauren Gropp Lowry & SaSaDi Odunsi
PS896 PTA Co-Presidents Kathleen Iverson and Perla Salazar

- 15 schools signed on. This issue was posed to the chancellor this weekend. Verbally, he stated that if he were to hold schools harmless for lost enrollment, the schools that needed the funding for new students wouldn't have it.

A [spreadsheet](#) to report the amounts owed by schools to date shows that PS 58 owes the most, with PS29 and PS 321 close behind. There is a pattern of lost enrollment in the more affluent schools as those are the families with more flexibility to work from home and transfer out of the city. CEC's upcoming calendar meeting is a joint meeting with the president's council where this issue will be discussed more.

- On March 18th, there will be a "Charters 101" town hall with members of the ECC Charter Committee. Of note, Governor Cuomo never gave public schools their CARES Act money, even though Charters received both federal PPP and CAREs. Further, Cuomo appears to have a number of gifts for the Charter industry in his budget including the re-issuance of zombie charters (charters that were relinquished or closed) and shifting the entire burden of rental reimbursements on private space to NYC with the stated intention of creating more charter co-locations.

- c. Ask from Tom Sheppard, PEP Parent Rep asked CEC15 to sign onto a [letter about Federal Aid CEC Presidents' Appointee, Panel for Educational Policy](#)

Motion to sign on the [Letter about Federal Aid CEC Presidents' Appointee, Panel for Educational Policy](#) - Camille Casaretti

2nd motion to sign on the [Letter about Federal Aid CEC Presidents' Appointee, Panel for Educational Policy](#) - Antonia Ferraro

Signing on the [Letter about Federal Aid CEC Presidents' Appointee, Panel for Educational Policy](#) unanimously approved by 8 members pres

- d. Other

Announcement about Mental Health meetings on Feb 11 with CEC13 and Assembly member JoAnne Simon



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At 8:34 pm, Camille Casaretti made a motion to go into an Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters. The FACE representative Steve Wieser, and the AA were invited to the Executive Session.

Antonia Ferraro 2nd the motion

Vote was unanimous to go into the Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters.

At 8:59 pm, Antonia Ferraro made a motion to end the Executive Session.

Camille Casaretti seconded the motion.

Once out of the Executive Session, it was announced that CEC15 Member Cateia Rembert has resigned. Cateia was a very active member and staunch education advocate and she will be missed. We will initiate a search for a new member starting immediately.

11. Adjournment 9:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting - Camille Casaretti, 2nd motion, Kimmerly Scott

Minutes respectfully submitted by Saida Barker, CEC15 Administrative Assistant