

February Calendar Meeting

Via Teleconference

Tuesday, Feb 23, 2021 - 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

President's Report - Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President

Welcome to the CEC15 February Calendar Meeting. I'm Camille Casaretti, President of CEC15, and I am so glad you all are able to join us this evening. We are excited to welcome members from the District 15 Presidents' Council, our District parent leaders.

Tonight we will be reviewing a letter about funding from the Presidents' Council and another from CEC15 to Gov Cuomo about funding issues. We are working on a draft Resolution regarding the same.

Now, almost a full year into the pandemic, the devastating impact on our communities is unfortunately becoming more evident in the mental health of our students. The DOE is sponsoring a multitude of parent and family workshops through the Child Mind Institute. These online sessions have been well attended and are full of very important strategies and supports that can help you during the pandemic, during remote learning and into the future.

CEC15 is also hosting a Health & Wellness event this Thursday at 12pm. Please join us and share the information with your families. Details [are posted on the CEC15](#) so you can publish it through your own channels.

Additionally, we will be starting our Ad Hoc Committee Team Meetings this week. Tia Schellestede has offered to lead the Financial Inequities Team and I will be leading the Whole Child Focus Team. We are really excited and grateful to have so many parents who are interested in participating. We are still seeking a few educators or administrators so that we can have more well rounded conversations, so if you know someone who can give a couple of hours a week of their time to either of these topics please reach out to cec15@schools.nyc.gov.

As you know, this month we are celebrating Black History month and there have been tons of resources coming out of the DOE and our schools have been doing a wonderful job with the lessons. Superintendent Skop will be able to share more details on District Wide events that they have been sponsoring.

There was a big announcement that Middle School students who opted into blended learning will be returning to the classroom this week. Make sure you have your signed consent form for Covid testing. That must be submitted asap. You can find the form on the DOE website or log into your NYCSA

Account. If you don't have a NYCSA account you should contact your parent coordinator as soon as possible. The DOE will be using this method for communications soon, and you will also need to sign into your NYCSA account if you want to run for a seat on the Community Education Council or vote in the upcoming elections. This year all parents are encouraged to vote for your future CECs. Please make every effort to use the power of your voice through the voting process.

As elected parent leaders for District 15, our Council term will be ending on June 30 and the new council will begin on July 1. If you would like to run for a seat on CEC15 or on any of the Citywide Councils the application period is open only until Feb 28. Take this opportunity to become a District leader. You can find more information about roles and responsibilities on the DOE website or on our website CECD15.org. You might have been discussing the CEC elections in your School Leadership Team meetings or at your PTA Meetings. With so many parent leaders in District 15, I'm sure next year's team will be incredible. There's so much progress toward equity here in District 15, where everyone is really looking out for each other.

Speaking of which, CEC15 still has a bit of money in our budget and we have slated some of those funds to parent and student workshops. If any of our school leaders have ideas for workshops please reach out so that we can set up some support sessions. We want to make sure that our children are being given opportunities to grow and thrive as best they can at this time.

It's so important that we continue to see them as the incredible little people that they are, full of talent and promise. Many are really struggling and it's not fair to push them. We need to make our struggling students our first priority and find every way we can to make sure they stay the course. If you feel like your child needs extra attention, please reach out to your teacher, principal or parent coordinator. There are a lot of remediation services at our schools, and many of our schools have access to mental health service providers. No one needs to suffer, we are all experiencing the trauma, please reach out for help if you need it. The entire world has been adversely affected by the depth of this virus but we are all here for each other.

Superintendent Skop said at the District Leadership Team meeting that we have to be the bringers of hope. If we all continue to work together and stay positive we will come out of this stronger.