



## COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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July 19, 2022

Calendar/Business/Annual Meeting

### President's Report - Camille Casaretti

Good Evening everyone and thank you for joining us tonight. I'm Camille Casaretti, the President of CEC15. We are grateful for your time and for making space for these important conversations during this lovely summer evening. Wishing everyone well and I hope you are staying safe as the pandemic is still with us and numbers are going up. Please continue to mask for a friend.

I want to start out with a few words of gratitude and thanks for Supt Anita Skop, who left a legacy that we will uphold in District 15. Anita led with kindness and love, changing hearts and minds with every person she touched. This extraordinary woman developed and created much of the equity work that District 15 has become known for. Our District will continue on this path, learning about each other and supporting one another, centering children and our historically underrepresented families. The CEC15 vision statement was a collaborative effort, inspired by Supt Skop's exceptional work and her philosophy on life. We are lucky to still have access to her as she moves into a new role at the DOE, serving others as she best served District 15 families.

I'll share our CEC15 Vision Statement that can be found on the CECD15.org website:

<https://cecd15.org/cec15-mission-%26-bylaws>

*CEC15 is dedicated to a meaningful, innovative and inclusive way of educating children that allows students to thrive in every aspect of their enriched academic, social and emotional growth. Our collaborative, successful and high achieving schools embrace diversity in every form and encourage each of our students to explore their interests in finding and nurturing their many hidden talents. In partnership with families, our school leaders and educators help our children and young adults find their voice, build self-confidence and develop their ability to become independent thinkers and productive, caring people responsible for shaping an equitable society.*

*We believe that every child has an innate capacity to love learning, is filled with possibility and has the potential for greatness. We are committed to supporting that greatness.*

*We invite all members of our school communities to partner with us in making this vision a reality.*



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It's important that we keep returning to this vision statement to guide our work.

In planning for the 22-23 school year, a calendar is now posted on our CECD15 website with our monthly meeting dates. Please save these dates, share them with your schools, and plan to participate fully. Everyone is welcome here.

I'm happy to announce that we are planning a Joint Town Hall with our three community boards, CB2, 6 and 7. This Joint Town Hall is tentative scheduled for Tues Sept 27 at 6:30pm. Since many of our students are attending schools outside of their community board district, it makes sense for all three CBs to come together and listen to the voice of our community around education goals and needs. I hope you will join us and please share this information.

Another Save the date is for the CPAC General Membership Meeting on August 11, 2022, 9:30 AM

You can watch the live stream of the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCidrkVTeLRgYjBs93Mmd7vQ>

August's Theme is Student in Temporary Housing & Safety Concerns. This Council is made up of the Presidents' Council Presidents, all of whom are elected parent leaders.

We will be having our August CEC Meeting on the 23rd. Look for an invitation coming soon.

We are also hoping to have a Fall Meet & Greet event with elected officials, Principals and our new PTA Executive Boards. Congratulations to all those who have made this enormous commitment as the parent representatives of our district schools and to our children.

As representatives of this district there is a lot of advocating to be done and much of our work happens through Resolutions. We are grateful to the many people on the ground who have helped us to craft these documents. Thank you for sharing your stories and helping us to help you.

There were a lot of changes to the Education Law recently. We spoke about a few of them at our last meeting. One that hadn't been mentioned was a loophole that we brought to Senator Liu regarding a change to the definition of an existing school building. Because of this loophole, charter schools can take space in a new school with no regard for public hearings. In an effort to promote transparency and community engagement we are demanding that this loophole be closed. With so many new buildings coming on line in D15, we can not have our plans changed in the months prior to a new school opening. We hope you will support this change in the law.



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As many of you know there was a rally at Tweed yesterday to restore the budget cuts. The mayor has until August 1st to restore funds and right now, he doesn't seem to want to budge. We need your voice and your advocacy to help fund our schools NOW. Forcing Principals to make critical spending decisions in the final hour, without access to their School Leadership Team is an outrage. This is literally the opposite of what any school community would want and it's all because of Mayoral Control.

**We drafted a Letter to Mayor Adams** which we will share now again at our Business Meeting, where I would like to call a vote.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V6Xtta5z8TqWISYYmZ01h3MEnaSsIh8uGP9GnLu4JM8/edit?usp=sharing>

CM Hanif is leading a parent forum on Thursday night at the Carroll Gardens Library 6 to 7:30pm. You are all invited to attend. She will be letting us know what the best and fastest way to have our voices heard will be. Don't let that deter you from writing and calling the Mayor directly.

There is also a Panel for Education Policy Meeting tomorrow night, that will be remote at 6pm, speaker sign up starts at 5:30. You can speak directly to the Chancellor in this space.

One of our Queens leaders put it best this morning:

*Mayoral control creates incentives to make voters think that the mayor is fixing everything, even when the mayor doesn't have the power to fix everything. A just Fair Student Funding formula would likely show that the system needs more money, and mayors aren't likely to let that happen.*

So until we #End Mayoral Control, we need to continue to speak out and have our voices heard.