



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 | CECD15.org

September 24, 2024
Calendar Meeting

President's Report - Antonia Ferraro Martinelli

Tonight I have to begin with the breaking news (that I read in Politico at 4pm) that Chancellor David C. Banks is stepping down. He has decided to retire. As you know, there is a federal investigation into a potential bribery scheme involving his brother Terence Banks. I have no other information at this time and direct questions to our Superintendent. So before I dive into this meeting, I want to give Supt. Alvarez a chance to answer questions specific to this turn of events.

Welcome to the first Calendar meeting of the 2024-25 school year. I hope everyone had a smooth transition back to school. September is all about fresh starts. I consider September the true beginning of the year, not January.

My name is Antonia Ferraro Martinelli and I am the president of CEC15. Many of you already know me from my prior 7 years of service to the council. And to those I have not yet met, I am excited to meet you, your school staff and your families in the very near future. I liaise with the schools PS 118, PS 107, PS 958, and 75K721. I want to reintroduce all the members of CEC15:

- ★ [Antonia Ferraro Martinelli](#), President & Borough Pres Appointee - PS 118, PS 107, PS 958, 75K721
- ★ [Leslie King](#), Vice President 1 - PS 24, PS 38, MS442 + 75K053, 75K372
- ★ [Vanessa Gonzalez Ueoka](#), Vice President 2 - PS 39, MS 447, HS 656
- ★ [Nancy Cruz](#), Secretary - MS 51, MS 88 + 75K053, PS 295, MS443
- ★ [Katina Rogers](#), Treasurer - PS 15, PS 94, PS 169, PS 516
- ★ [Jonathan Davis](#), Parliamentarian - PS 130, IS 497 + 75K368, MS 839, 75K368
- ★ [Hans Arrieta](#), Member & Borough Pres Appointee - PS 10, PS 124, 75K373
- ★ [Donalda Chumney](#), Member - 75K371, Little Brooklyn Pre-K Center, PS 676, PS 172
- ★ [Nancy Randall](#), IEP Rep - PS 29, PS 58, PS 456, PS 896 + Annex
- ★ [Danley Vidal](#), District 75 Rep - 75K403, PS 321, PS 230, PS 146
- ★ Vacant, Member
- ★ Vacant, ELL Rep

We do have two vacancies that we will vote to fill later this evening.

Principal Cavanagh makes brief remarks

New Family Leadership Coordinator Michelle Ortiz mortiz57@schools.nyc.gov

Happy Hispanic Heritage Month to everyone. In honor of the month I listened to the book, “How the Garcia Girls lost their Accents” by Dominican- American author Julia Alvarez. And yes, I said “listened”. As the parent of a dyslexic child, it is completely valid to listen to books. For me the book was about the developing identities of four adolescent girls caught between the pressure of transition to a new culture and the power of parental approval. But unfortunately, this is considered a banned book.

This happens to be Banned Books Week! Brooklyn Public Library is celebrating the freedom to read with events around banned or challenged books from [September 22–28](#)

I have also brought Charlotte’s Web with me tonight. It is one terrific book but it is also a banned book. So, kids it must be good.

What else am I reading or listening to?

“The Anxious Generation” Jonathan Haidt

If you want to understand where our educators are coming from on cell phone restrictions, read this book.

Last Friday evening, I attended **PIST (Parents to Improve School Transportation)** meeting last Friday evening.

PISTnyc.org had about 200 people on the call. I heard about Parents waiting over a year for reimbursements. Children wetting themselves on 3 hour bus rides? Parents that are unable to track their driver because the bus drivers are not being trained to collaborate with the VIA app. And the VIA app itself seems to be inoperable for many parents. There are children with route numbers but no bus. The busing issues seem endless and all compounded by a driver shortage.

Needless to say, PISTnyc is doing an impressive amount of advocacy. They are educating and advocating for busing for their families, who often have children with special needs. PISTnyc emphasizes that families “advocate for themselves, but not by themselves.” PISTnyc is here so you don’t have to advocate alone.

PIST’s work includes:

Forums to clear up routing issues –something OPT should have organized.

Add to Chat:

Transportation Assistance Form September 2024 / Formulario de Asistencia de Transporte septiembre 2024

This form is to collect information to assist families with transportation issues for the 2024-25 school year.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeD0DibIfV4KEUDNguS94AyD262jCrEXiIXRah81KmDpuBlw/viewform>

Route Action Steps

<https://www.pistnyc.org/events/action-steps>

#Wheresmybus nationwide social media campaign because families across the nation are struggling with school transportation.

The organization filed an OCR complaint against the DOE a year ago on the grounds that the lack of appropriate busing violates civil rights of students. There has been no response.

<https://nylag.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/OCR-Complaint-Busing-for-Students-with-Disabilities-in-NYC.pdf>

Rita Joseph holding hearings on Sept 30th on Bus Accountability

<https://council.nyc.gov/testify/>

And of course PISTnyc spoke of the inequities with the **2 Trip OMNY cards. We will share a resolution on the OMNY cards later in the evening.** Thank you to Vanessa for her work on that.

In my opinion, 2 Trip OMNY Cards don't cut it! Give the OMNY card to all students.

Add link:

This is a link to the form to apply for the 2 trip OMNY card. Your school must apply for you, but you can read all the stipulations.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=tyxJGEXvYUWFcQxC5fesB1OzYbv6QS5EmEt0KjdVZitUN0xYN0IITFgwM1NTQlpHU1hHUUc0MVk0Ny4u&route=shorturl>

*CEC15 continues to receive feedback on this policy and recommends that families **directly share feedback on OMNY cards to the Office of Pupil Transportation at pupiltransportationteam@schools.nyc.gov or call them at (718) 392-8855.***

16th Annual PTA Fun Run

The Office of Council Member Shahana Hanif and the President's Council of District 15 are proud to host the **16th Annual Fun Run on Saturday, October 26, 2024** at the Lefrak Center in Prospect Park (9am bib pickup, 10 am race start).

What is the PTA Fun Run? Why should we participate?

Every year the Brooklyn PTA Fun Run is a family-friendly event where Brooklyn PTAs and community members of all ages come together to run/bike/scoot/walk around Prospect Park loop road (approximately 3.3 miles). The goal of the Fun Run is to raise PTA funds for Brooklyn schools with Title I status in the last three years (i.e. 60% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch). The funds are distributed based on a school's participation rates - so start recruiting for your team today!

How to sign up your school team?

1. Identify a parent or school leader as the Fun Run liaison, and have them fill out the [Google Form link](#) by 9/25 for Fun Run organizers to share upcoming event information.
2. Registration is priced at \$25 + processing fee for Single adults, other adults in a group or family are \$15 (\$10 discount). All children under 18 are \$5. Our pricing aims to balance fundraising with affordability. If you or a fellow runner are unable to attend due to the cost, please feel free to reach Mia Perez at mperez@council.nyc.gov for fee waivers.
3. Ask your family and friends to sponsor you! Sponsorship is available through the registration link. Sponsors should click 'Make a donation' and then write the name of the student/school they are supporting. Students who raise the highest amount get a special prize!
4. **Registration Link:**
 1. bit.ly/bkfunrun2024

PEP meeting is tomorrow Wednesday, September 25, 6pm at the High School of Fashion Industries (225 West 24th Street, New York, New York 10011). Speaker sign up is from 5:30 - 6:15pm.

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Next week is **Rosh Hashanah. Schools are closed on Oct 3 and 4.**