



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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May 14, 2024

Business Meeting

President's Updates - Antonia Ferraro Martinelli

Good evening everyone. Welcome to CEC15s May Business Meeting. I hope everyone enjoyed Mother's Day and was able to recharge a bit during the Spring Break and the Passover Holiday. Before we proceed with our agenda, I need to update you all on our member vacancy situation. At our April Calendar meeting, CEC15 voted to approve a candidate to fill the vacancy whose application was provided to the CEC in error by FACE. In fact, the DOE provided us with two ineligible candidates. FACE Deputy Ex Dir, Jessie Mojica, is here to explain the error.

Jessie Mojica

According to our bylaws, we must hold a special election at a calendar meeting to seat the new member. This is not a calendar meeting, but I did allow space on the agenda to go into executive session if Council members feel they need to come to a consensus about how to move forward.

Presidents' Report 2024 05 14 (cont.)

Update on Shelters:

I have heard reports that families in shelters have been receiving 24 hr eviction notices. I have reached out to our Superintendent for more detail on this. These students will have to adjust to a new school with weeks to go before the end of the year. And our schools continue to deal with a revolving door of students. It is hard to see how this benefits the Mayor, but it is certainly a lose - lose policy for the families and schools involved.

Update on HS Admissions: Chancellor Banks announced that he is weighing different models to reinstate a District 2 priority. District 2 is the largest district in Manhattan and has a lot of highly sought high schools. Their high school enrollment dwarfs all other districts at 32,471 and they have approximately 9,000 empty seats. It is a very gerrymandered district, with few low income neighborhoods. When the priority was initially dismantled, high schools in the district saw their demographics diversify. 70 years after Brown V Board of Ed studies show that segregation is increasing in large districts. New York City schools remain intensely segregated. It is disappointing that this chancellor is rolling back even minimal efforts at integration. Given recent Congressional interest in equity in education, I am wondering when Congress is going to call hearings on school segregation. This change would limit access to D2 high schools for families who reside outside of D2 and we have limited



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time to weigh in on the proposal. Therefore I have added a letter from NY Appleseed to the agenda that I hope the council will vote to favor.

Budget Update:

CEC 15 recently sent out information from Advocates for Children about how to get involved in the continued fight to restore funding for education programs funded by Covid Relief Funds.

Mayor Adams recently released his Executive Budget, which includes more than \$500M for important education programs currently funded with expiring federal funds including 3-K and preschool special education programs, 500 school social workers and psychologists, more than 100 community schools, 100 shelter-based community coordinators, Learning to Work, literacy and dyslexia programming, bilingual programs, and translation and interpretation.

While this is a significant and positive development that will benefit hundreds of thousands of students, there is still work to do! Some programs that were supported with expiring federal or city dollars were left out of the budget: like restorative justice, Student Success Centers, the Mental Health Continuum, and immigrant family communication. And funding for other programs does not go far enough to cover the gap. These programs include: 3-K/Pre-K, preschool special education, and community schools. The Emergency Coalition to Save Education Programs' statement in response to the Mayor's budget is [online](#).

There is a Rally and City Council Education Budget Hearings on Wednesday, May 15.

Add to the Chat

We hope that you will continue to advocate for funding for important education programs for NYC students as the Mayor and City Council negotiate the final budget over the next two months.

- 1. Attend a Rally to Save Education Programs on 5/15: Join the Emergency Coalition to Save Education Programs on the steps of City Hall on Wednesday, May 15th, at 9am as we call on city leaders to save important education programs. Register [here: bit.ly/3OrD3G3](https://bit.ly/3OrD3G3)**
- 2. Testify on 5/15: The City Council education budget hearing is taking place on May 15th. You can testify (read a statement of up to two minutes) in person at City Hall or via Zoom. While the hearing starts at 9:30am with the NYC Department of Education's testimony, public testimony is scheduled to begin at 2:30pm and will likely last into the evening. It would be great to have parents, students, educators, and others talk about the impact of losing one or more of the education programs on the chopping block. You can register to testify at <https://council.nyc.gov/testify/>. Advocates for Children's guidance with tips on how**



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to register and how to testify is available online. If you'd like sample testimony, please reply to this email.

3. **Email City Leaders: Mayor Adams' proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025 includes funding to continue many important education programs, but others are still at risk of deep cuts. Email city leaders and ask them to save education programs that are providing critical support to New York City students and families.**

Resolution Responses

 [CEC 15 Response to Resolution on Expired Federal Relief Funds.pdf](#)

 [CEC 15 Response to Resolution on Class Size.pdf](#)

 [CEC 15 Response to Resolution on Traffic Safety.pdf](#)

Events

Tues. Jun 4 Contracts For Excellence Special Session, 6:30 pm - 131 Livingston St

Sat. Jun 8, D15 Learning Together - PS 32 11:30 - 2:30 pm

CEC15 and the Presidents' Council will have tables. I will be manning the table along with Elton Dodson to listen to families. Please let me know if any of the members can be there as well.

May is Jewish American Heritage Month and Asian American and Pacific Islander Month. May 6th was Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah). It is therefore fitting that tonight we will read our *Resolution to Prevent and Respond to Hate Speech in NYCPS*. We will not vote tonight. We will solicit public comment and then vote in the Calendar Meeting on May 28 at Sunset Park High School.