



## COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

[CEC15@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CEC15@schools.nyc.gov) | tel. 718-935-4267 | [facebook.com/CECD15](https://facebook.com/CECD15) | [CECD15.org](https://CECD15.org)

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September 10, 2024

Business Meeting

### President's Updates - Antonia Ferraro Martinelli

#### Presidents Report 2024 09 10

Happy New School Year from CEC15. September is a whirlwind of new beginnings: new students, new staff, new procedures, new clothes, pencils and erasers. Our schools are super charged with the entropy of orientations and re-orientations. Amidst all the fresh starts, I wanted to update you on recent changes to the D15 Community Education Council.

#### Introduce New FACE Specialist Anthony Aguilar

#### Introduce new Family Leadership Coordinator Michelle Ortiz

#### DOE's Foundation Aid formula proposed changes

In August, the DOE presented their recommendations for changes to the Foundation Aid Formula at a CPAC meeting. I wish the DOE had offered to provide the presentation to CECs.

As you may know, Foundation Aid is the largest single stream of state funding (\$9.9 B) that NYC Public Schools receive and for the first time in two decades the state is reviewing the formula. The Rockefeller Institute gathered feedback this summer in order to make non-binding recommendations on potential revisions to the Foundation Aid formula. It's likely that these recommendations will factor into the Governor's education budget proposal for the next fiscal year.

To summarize what the DOE requested

1. Update "Successful School District" Model on which the formula is based to better reflect current costs and educational expectations
2. Provide support for STH and Foster Children (NYC added a city weight for 2023-24)
3. Expand and differentiate funding based on need (as NYC already does) for Special Ed and MLL students
4. Review Regional Cost index (costs have risen downstate)
5. Provide aid to support implementation of new class size mandates (est. cost \$1.4M -\$1.9)



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**The DOE announced the launch Chancellor’s Multilingual NYC Advisory Council for Boldly Reimagining Multilingualism in NYC Public Schools (NYCPS).** This advisory council will bring together a diverse group of students, families, educators, leaders, and community partners to develop recommendations on our system’s work to:

- Provide every NYCPS student with a pathway to multilingualism, and
- Reduce the dropout rate and increase the graduation rate for English Language Learners.

The application for the advisory council opened on August 29. [Apply here!](#)

Add to chat:

For more information, including a link to the application to share with your networks, is available on the [Multilingual NYC page](#) of our family site. The deadline to apply is [September 20](#).

If you have any questions please email [MultilingualLearners@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:MultilingualLearners@schools.nyc.gov)

**I met with Mia Perez**, Shahana Hanif’s Education and Land Use Director to discuss some priorities for the coming year, chief among them SCA accountability. We had a long discussion about ways that the City Council can hold SCA accountable.

The 3 person board of the organization is appointed by the Mayor which includes the Schools’ Chancellor and two others. It was reported again last week that one of the three trustee seats remains unfilled after a year. The organization clearly lacks oversight. We see it every day in the projects that drag on, are mismanaged, poorly executed, costing the taxpayer and preventing our children from full use of school buildings. And as our city works to comply with the Class Size Mandates we really need a competent, responsive SCA that partners with our schools. So I intend to reach out to more electeds on this front. I think this could be an excellent advocacy priority for our council at large and or our legislative committee.

Add to Chat:



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<https://nypost.com/2024/08/31/us-news/eric-adams-fails-to-name-nyc-trustee-to-oversee-billions-of-dollars-in-school-construction/>

At this point I would like to turn it over **Katina Rogers** for an update about PS 15.

**Update from PS 15** Our September Calendar meeting will be held at PS 15 on Tues. Sept. 24 so we can check in with the principal and school directly.

### **District 15 was featured in CUNY TV's Diversity in Education Special**

Both current and former CEC members were interviewed about the D15 Diversity Plan

You can view it on YouTube It's or throughout September on CUNY TV:

Add link in Chat:

YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9R\\_UvdAp7w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9R_UvdAp7w)

### **NEW Student OMNY Cards.**

NYC Public School students can use their OMNY Cards on subways and buses for four free rides a day, all year long, including weekends and summers.

When your child taps their new Student OMNY Card, they can:

- Ride MTA subways and buses for free, up to four times a day
- Use their Student OMNY Card all day (not just during certain hours)
- Tap to ride every day of the year, even on weekends and holidays (not just school days)
- Use the same card for the entire year, including over the summer

Add link in Chat:

**Learn more about Student OMNY Cards on our [website](#):**

**And many of our children are excited about their new Student OMNY Cards.** My daughter told me she is going to go everywhere! But as excited as some students are, others are left out. I am hearing feedback from parents of students with disabilities who receive busing, that the distribution of OMNY cards is discriminatory, particularly for students who receive busing. These students do not receive the benefit of busing from afterschool programs or to and from Saturday programs or weekend school events and during the summer.



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I inquired about this and the response was that:

*For students receiving busing, but participating in afternoon or weekend activities, schools can request 2 trip OMNY cards via an online form. That is a separate OMNY card meant specifically for this purpose.*

I received some great feedback from a parent that *They need to add this to the OMNY section on the NYCPS website. Parents shouldn't have to figure it out.* And that even with this remedy it is not quite equal. *Because a student is provided busing their access to a student-issued MetroCard should not be limited and families should not have to go through an online form to access a limited MetroCard. There have been recent reports of parents having to take their children to school in car service because of the failures from OPT and these families have yet to be reimbursed for the cost of transportation.*

This is something I am going to continue to keep an eye on and it could be a good resolution as well. Vanessa volunteered to work on it, but I am hopeful that the DOE will be responsive and a resolution won't be necessary.

### **Have D15 Schools lost After-school programs due to state funding shifts? No.**

District 20 reached out to me because some of their schools lost afterschool programs.

The NY State Office of Children and Family Services had recently consolidated two funding programs into a streamlined initiative known as the New York State Learning and Enrichment After-School Program Supports, or "LEAPS" — forcing providers to reapply.

The District 15 office confirmed that none of D15's after schools were impacted by this.

### **COMMUNITY AVAILABILITY SESSION at PS 372 regarding the Gowanus Canal Area Wide Soil Vapor Intrusion Investigation**

Join DEC and DOH to learn about the Gowanus Canal Area Wide Soil Vapor Intrusion Investigation.

Thursday, September 19, 7-9 p.m. P.S. 372 – The Children's School Gymnasium – 215 1st Street

### **6. Candidate Interview (18 min)**



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*First I want to re-update everyone on the CEC15 member vacancies. Lauren Barkan, our IEP rep, resigned effective July 2nd, and Mamun Rashid, our MLL rep resigned July 16, so, last month we announced two vacant seats and began accepting applications.*

*(Lauren Barkan was the IEP representative. According to FACE, the next CEC member, who is currently the parent of a child with an IEP, with the most votes becomes the IEP rep. That member is Nancy Randall. Nancy became the IEP rep and the seat became available to a general member. In the case of the MML seat, we do not have another parent who qualifies as an MLL representative parent, so in order to qualify a candidate must be the parent of a student who is a designated English Language Learner.)*

*We sent out an email blast to announce the vacancies with flyers in 6 languages. An evening of interviews took place Tues, Aug. 13 and at our August Business Meeting on Aug. 20. We announced a deadline of Sept 3 to accept final applications. We received 3 more applications and this will be the final interview. In total, we received 1 application for the MML seat and 10 applications for the general seat. Members of the public can read all the candidates' statements in the document that I will drop in the chat.*

*Drop Link in chat*

[☰ 2024 - 25 CEC15 Candidate for vacancy statements](#)

*Candidates will be asked 6 questions and have 3 minutes to answer each. Candidates do not have to use all of the allotted time. If there is additional time at the end, we will take a question from the public.*