



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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January 28, 2025
Calendar Meeting

President's Report - Antonia Ferraro Martinelli

Welcome to CEC15's January Calendar meeting. We are here at MS 88 with Principal Aileen Mitchell. Principal Mitchell always welcomes our district into their space for so many events. Thank you Aileen.

Last Friday we had a great showing at our CEC15 Legislative Breakfast. At least 80 people registered. Many elected officials, school staff and parent leaders shared their vision for the district. Comptroller Brad Lander kicked things off. Donovan Swanson led the effort on behalf of Borough President Antonio Reynoso. Andrew Gournardes, Bobby Carroll, Marcela Mitaynes, Rita Joseph, Alexa Avilés, and Shahana Hanif all spoke along with staff from various elected officials offices. Our Superintendent Rafael Alvarez spoke, as did Principals and Parent Leaders from PS 958, PS 261, Librarians Equal Literacy K497, PS10, PS 169, PS 295, PS/MS 676, PS 15 Parents to Improve School Transportation (PISTnyc), Brooklyn High School of the Arts all spoke. A range of topics were discussed including SCA accountability, Libraries, Arts funding, protecting migrant and asylum seeking families, School transportation, the importance of Title One Funding, the importance of Mental Health Professionals & Mandated Services, and the need to revise Building Utilization Plans in collocated buildings.

The day was truly a team effort. Thank you to our AA Chenise Powell for her many hours of work on this event. Thank you to the Presidents' Council Co-Presidents Elton Dodson and Liz Sanders and CEC members for their vital support and assistance. Thank You to **Chobani** and **Russ and Daughters** who provided the food. And thank you to **Books Are Magic** who provided some of the banned and challenged books that we raffled off throughout the event.

As our district will continue to celebrate the diversity of our district, I would like to continue the book raffle at meetings. We'll announce another one at a future CEC meeting. Tonight I feature two banned books to celebrate Black History Month and Lunar New Year which begins tomorrow, Wed Jan 29.

“All Because You Matter” by Tami Charles offers love, hope and affirmation through the Black experience.

“Drawn Together” by Minh Le tells the story of a grandson and grandfather, struggling to communicate across a language barrier, but find connection through art.

These are really beautiful books.

CCEC Elections

Chancellor Ramos announced the beginning of the biennial Community and Citywide Education Council (CEC) election season. Our FACE Liaison Anthony Aguilar will give an overview of CCEC elections at our Feb 11 Business Meeting.

Add to Chat:

Families are encouraged to join an information session, taking place daily, to learn more about election protocol. Information about this, as well as the structure and roles of Community Education Councils, the election process, eligibility guidelines, key dates, and frequently asked questions at schools.nyc.gov/Elections2025. Applications can be submitted online at schools.nyc.gov/elections2025 from January 13th through February 16th.

The councils seeking candidates are:

Community Education Councils (CEC)

Each CEC has 10 elected members who are, or were at the time of election, parents of students in grades Pre-K-8 in district schools, and two Borough President appointees. The CECs work closely with the district superintendents, approve school zoning lines, hold hearings on the capital plan, and provide input on instructional and policy issues.

Citywide Council on High Schools (CCHS)

The CCHS has 10 elected members, two from each borough, who must be the parents of students currently attending a public high school. Three members are appointed. One by the New York City Public Advocate, one by the Citywide Council for Special Education, and one by the Citywide Council for English Language Learners. The CCHS advises on education policy and issues involving high school students.

Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL)

The CCELL has nine elected members, who must be parents of students currently or recently classified by the DOE as English Language Learners. Two members are appointed by the New York City Public Advocate. The CCELL advises on education policy and issues involving students in dual language or English as a New Language (ENL) programs.

Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)

The CCSE has nine elected members, who must be parents of students receiving special education services paid for by the DOE. Two members are appointed by the New York City Public Advocate. The CCSE advises on education policy and services for students with disabilities.

Citywide Council for District 75 (CCD75)

The CCD75 has nine elected members, who must be parents of students in a D75 program. Two members are appointed by the New York City Public Advocate. The CCD75 advises on education policy and services for students with disabilities who attend a D75 program.

2025 Selection Process Schedule:

- January 13 - February 16: Candidate application period
- February 28 - April 2: Candidate Forums
- April 25 - May 13: Parents vote online
- May 14 - June 2: Run-off elections, if necessary
- June: Election results announced
- July 1: Members-elect take office

Dr. Cristina Meléndez Appointed Deputy Chancellor of FACE

Before the holidays, Schools Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos also announced the appointment of Dr. Cristina Meléndez as Deputy Chancellor of the Division of Family, Community, and Student Empowerment for New York City Public Schools (NYCPS).

Add to Chat:

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT ANTONIO REYNOSO'S FY26 CAPITAL FUNDING

City Agencies, Nonprofit Organizations, Cultural Institutions, and Public Schools Are Eligible to Apply. Applications Close on February 20, 2025, at 5pm ET

*****APPLICATION AVAILABLE ONLINE [HERE](#)*****

*****FLYER [HERE](#)*****

To Find Eligibility Information and Apply:

Visit <https://www.brooklynbp.nyc.gov/departments/budget/>

Deadlines:

February 20, 2025, 5pm ET: All applications requesting funding from Borough Presidents (including those also requesting funding from City Council and/or DCLA) must be submitted.

March 20, 2025, 5pm ET: All applications requesting only City Council and/or DCLA funding must be submitted.

Add to Chat:

AQE Advocacy Day on Tuesday, February 4, in Albany

Meet with elected officials to demand the investments necessary to build a more equitable public education system for all New York's children.

AQE training session on January 22 or January 27. You'll learn how to effectively communicate with elected officials and advocate for your community's public schools and students.

PC interview PS896

I interviewed another PC candidate before the holidays at 15K896 with Principal Ruth N. Rodriguez-Rivera. The Candidate had already been a DOE employee. She was a school secretary until 2022 at Frank Sinatra and as a parent she served as PTA treasurer at PS 172.