



## 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)

January 30, 2024  
Calendar Meeting

### President's Report - Antonia Ferraro Martinelli

Principal Gonzalez -  PS94 CEC15 Presentation January 30 2024.pptx

Introduce Hetal Jani, founder and Executive Director of SPEAKHIRE (7:15 pm)

**District and Parent Leadership Summit** - *Last week I attended the District and Parent Leadership Summit at Boys and Girls High School. The event began with some stand up comedy and then we broke up into groups by district. We had a round table discussion that identified district strengths, challenges, and action items.*

**Strengths** - *our district events and DEI work*

**Challenges** - *focusing only on our geographic district, too much focus on high profile schools and communities and not centering HS enough.*

**Action Items** -

1. *Enhance Collaboration among Brooklyn North Districts, Presidents' Councils and CECs*
2. *Enhance Communications Protocols between District, Presidents' Councils and CECs*

***The Mayor made a few interesting announcements this week.***

***During the Mayor's State of the City Address, Mayor Adams referred to social media as a public health hazard and an environmental toxin.***

*Dr. Ashwin Vasan, NYC Health Commission issued an advisory officially designated Social Media as a public health hazard. He is creating a public health play book to address these digital toxins. Comm. Vasan believes that Social Media platforms are addictive, companies are monetizing children's privacy and jeopardizing mental health.*

*The Mayor and Health Comm. recommend delaying use of social media until age 14, citing that there is no safe age for initiation. The ages 8-14 are particularly important for social development. Age 14 is the transition to HS, but there is no data suggesting social media is safe for adolescents of any age.*



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*The issue of delaying use of social media platforms is inevitably tied to the use of phones and ipads because it can be terribly difficult to control what children do once they have access to devices. I have been hearing concerns from parents for a long time related to homework and digital devices. Families have conveyed to me concerns that the use of digital tech instead of paper and pen for homework enables distractions b/c children go to other websites and social media platforms. And it is academically not age appropriate to use tech rather than paper because children don't know how to type. Further, there are studies that show more brain engagement when a child writes than types. I am hearing from parents about this issue in schools. They want less google docs and more paper to pen. However, I will say that I have seen value in digital math programs used appropriately with instruction such as School of One, b/c it allowed individualization. I think it helped build math facts.*

*So I think we have to conduct a thoughtful audit of our tech methodologies and not just assume digital is better. It is a tool and we have to figure out when it is age appropriate.*

### **Then it was announced that due Mayor's Budget Cuts there will be reduced School Food Options - Chalkbeat**

**<https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2024/01/24/nyc-school-food-budget-cuts-mean-less-cookies-chicken/>**

***Because of the \$60 million dollar cut to the School Foods budget in November NYCPC is removing more costly items from cafeteria menus next month - like cookies, chicken dumplings, and bean and cheese burritos,'***

*Chicken dumplings, Chicken thighs, and chicken tenders seem to be a big bone of contention. Fries and grab-and-go salads will be cut as well. I have heard from principals that these items are the things that get kids to eat school lunch, so they are concerned that kids will simply not eat. For some students school lunch is their only meal of the day. This may be their only opportunity to get protein and fat, which are crucial for growing brains and bodies. This comes on top of reports that some of the spices used in the vegetarian meals are not palatable to Pre-k and K students. So I ask the Mayor and Chancellor to rethink the wisdom of some of their school food decisions. Especially chicken, it is the dominant protein in the United States. Meredith Kiely (OSF&N) will be attending our Feb 6 Business Meeting at 131 Livingston so we can speak to her more on this.*

*Bake Sale Waiver - And the Administration is weighing allowing a waiver to bake sale restrictions so that PTAs can somehow compensate for budget cuts by getting kids to supplement their own education through buying junk food. It's so misplaced, particularly when our mayor*



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*has a habit of manufacturing false budget crises, with the most recent budget cuts coming amid \$8 B tax surplus.*

### **NYC Reads Family Ambassador Program.**

The NYC Reads Family Ambassador Program will provide 10 weeks of training on the science of reading, equipping participants with the knowledge and tools to become effective reading partners and champions for children.

In addition to the training sessions, the program will feature monthly literacy events filled with engaging activities and opportunities for families to come together and celebrate the joy of literacy.

### **SIGN UP HERE:**

**<https://forms.office.com/r/5PQ67FVp1X>**

### **Governor's Budget**

*The governor's budget includes a 4 year extension of Mayor Control. The last day to submit a written testimony on Mayoral Control is tomorrow at 5pm Wed Jan. 31*

***Add to chat Mayoral Control Hearings -***

**<https://www.nysed.gov/new-york-city-mayoral-control-hearings>**

*The Legislature should reject Gov. Hochul's education cuts to NYC schools of \$123 million, and instead follow the current Foundation formula which would provide an additional \$345 million rather than the \$222 million she proposed.*

**Bylaws Committee Meeting** Fri. Feb 2 11:00 am - 131 Livingston St.