



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

March 25, 2025
Calendar Meeting

President's Report - Antonia Ferraro Martinelli

Welcome to CEC15's March Calendar meeting. I want to thank PS 676 and Principal Figueroa for hosting us tonight. Is there anything you would like to share, Principal Figueroa?

Good evening everyone. As always we have a very full agenda but I have some updates and acknowledgements.

I want to wish **Ramadan Mubarak** to our Muslim families. Ramadan concludes Sat, Mar 29 and is followed by Eid-al Fitr which is anticipated on Sunday Mar 30 or Mon Mar 31. The date depends on the sighting of the crescent moon, so I will recommend Nick Drake's song *Pink Moon* to Muslim friends celebrating beginnings and ends.

March is **Women's History Month**. Books by women are frequently banned. Judy Blume is one of the most banned authors in the United States. She is a national treasure. Her book "Are you There God? It's Me, Margaret" deals with puberty, menstruation, teen sexuality, and religion. One thing that made the book particularly controversial at the time is that Margaret is from a mixed religious household, something I related to as a child. Many of our D15 students are from mixed faith and culture households. While this theme may be less controversial today, the book was a rite of passage for my generation and I hope it continues to be for generations to come.

Add to chat:

<https://www.readtheprofile.com/p/judy-blume-one-of-the-most-banned>

<https://www.npr.org/2023/04/24/1171112806/judy-blume-are-you-there-god-its-me-margaret-for-ever>

March is also **Irish American Heritage Month** and who doesn't love a banned Irish female author? "The Country Girls" trilogy by Edna O'Brien was banned by the Irish censorship board for the books' frank discussions of sexuality and violence toward women. O'Brien wrote the first

book in 3 weeks, but faced threats and significant public disdain in Ireland. A priest even publicly burned the book. Her book is about fathers coming home drunk and beating their wives. It's about 14 year old girls walking to school and being followed by married men in cars. But it is also about leaving home in spite of the poverty to get an education, living with roommates, reading James Joyce, wearing lipstick, speaking too loudly in Irish idioms, drinking too much and somehow surviving it all.

Updates

Social Media

I received word today that in an effort to have more streamlined communication District 15 will no longer be using social media platforms. Please visit d15brooklyn.org for the latest district updates.

Librarians Equals Literacy shares that the New York City Council has set a hearing date—April 8th—for New York City Council [Intro 1125 The “Librarians Count” Bill](#).

To recap, Intro 1125 was introduced in November by Councilmembers Lincoln Restler and Rita Joseph, Chair of the Education Committee. It requires the DOE to report vital data on the number of school librarians/libraries in NYC public schools and who has access to them.

Librarians Equals Literacy will be rallying parents, students, librarians, and community members on the morning of April 8th at City Hall at 9:30am and then testifying at the hearing at 10am.

You can [sign up here](#) to get more information about joining us on April 8th.

CEC Elections are Underway

While the application period has ended, interested applicants are encouraged to also [apply](#) to the Borough President for an appointment.

Candidate forums are in full swing until April 2. Candidate forums are the opportunity to get to know the candidates running for Community and Citywide Education Councils. The District 15 Presidents' Council held two Candidate Forums last week and those videos are available [here](#).

The voting period runs from April 25 to May 13. You must have a NYCSA account to vote. **Please make sure you have a [NYCSA](#) account and that your child's information is connected to your account! You need a code from your parent coordinator to allow your child's data to be connected to your account. If you haven't used your NYCSA, it may be deactivated.**

Add to chat:

BP Application

<https://nycdoe.eballot.com/BPPA/en-BPApplicationForm>

Candidate Forums:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/education-councils/elections/candidate-forums>

Check your NYCSA Account!!

https://www.schoolsaccount.nyc/?link_id=2&can_id=5b2d0a9f37e91a08eccf05f58a403ad1&source=email-resolutions-workshop-today&email_referrer=email_2660047&email_subject=state-education-budget&&

CEC15 Vacancy

CEC15 currently has two vacancies on the council: one for the parent of an English Language Learner and another for the parent of a District 75 student.

Add to chat:

Please apply to the DOE directly at CCECinfo@schools.nyc.gov. Do not submit the application to CEC15. [Applications](#) in nine languages and all information about eligibility to CECs can be found [here](#). Please also visit CECd15.org to learn more about our organization.

Panel for Education Policy (PEP) Elections

If you are interested in serving on the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) as one of the 5 parents elected by the CEC presidents, please complete the application and send to PEPParentApplications@schools.nyc.gov by April 15, 2025.

Add to Chat:

Apply for PEP by April 15

[Applications](#) in nine languages and information about the Panel for Education Policy can be found [here](#).

You must have at least one child currently attending a public, non-charter school in NYC and reside in the borough you seek to represent.

PEP March Meeting

PISTnyc is encouraging families to testify at the next meeting of the PEP about upcoming school bus contract expirations. The contracts portion of the agenda will include discussion of GPS/routing contracts and these expiring bus company contracts.

Next PEP meeting is tomorrow, Wed. March 26 at 6pm **Bronx Career & College Preparatory High School** (800 Home Street, Bronx, New York 10456) Speaker sign-up will begin at 5:30PM, at the door, and will close promptly at 6:15PM.

Add to chat:

Whether you attend or not, you can **send written testimony to the 24 PEP members** using https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezM7S0zfCMXb_BiXecJSnxsfl1E27CbCTwT0TflzuZbe3cAQ/viewform

And finally, in my continuing segment called, **U.S. Constitution Watch**

Congressman Dan Goldman released a statement on the Trump Administration's Attempt to Dismantle the Department Of Education

Add to the chat:

<https://goldman.house.gov/media/press-releases/statement-congressman-dan-goldman-trump-administrations-attempt-dismantle>

And Tish James released a Response to the Dear Colleague Letter.

Add to chat:

<https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/publications/joint-guidance-re-school-programs-guidance-2025.pdf>

I'll turn it over to **Katina Rogers** who attended the March 20 **SCA Board of Trustees Meeting** in person at Tweed Courthouse.