



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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

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March 12, 2024
Business Meeting

President's Updates - Antonia Ferraro Martinelli

Good evening everyone. Thank you all for joining us. I wish Ramadan Kareem to our Muslim families. The holiday began yesterday.

I want to highlight some upcoming events:

Tomorrow Wed. Mar 13 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm - District 15 PB/SEM Share Fair - Brooklyn Army Terminal BAT Entrance 80 58th St. If you would like to volunteer please see Neal Singh when you arrive.

Thurs. Mar 14 Dyslexia Awareness Day

Share in Chat

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeOz1b2qZGrn1W_nop2vOeGHHBKLZn1dY_xdNgooWAq0MmVYA/viewform?link_id=4&can_id=5b2d0a9f37e91a08eccf05f58a403ad1&source=email-dyslexia-awareness-day&email_referred=email_2238176&email_subject=dyslexia-awareness-day

Literacy Academy Collective will provide a free bus to go to for Dyslexia Awareness Day in Albany, NY. They will hear from NYS legislators and organizations about literacy laws and better learning practices. They will provide breakfast, lunch and a snack for the day. Adults are welcomed. Children are welcomed but MUST be accompanied by an adult. Children will be given a note to be excused from school.

Date: Thursday, March 14th, 2024

Location Pick up: Adam Clayton Powell Building 163 West 125th Street New York, NY 10027

Departure Time to Albany: 7am SHARP

Arrival Time: NYC: 5pm

If you have questions contact us: info@literacyacademycllective.org

Wed. Mar 20 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Communications Committee meeting - 131 Livingston & Zoom

Fri. Mar 22 11:00 am - 1 pm Legislative Committee meeting - 131 Livingston & Zoom

Mon Mar 25 Joint D15 PTA Presidents' Council/CEC15 Meeting - Zoom

Tues. Mar 26 6:30 pm - Calendar Meeting - PS 230 At that meeting, Supt. Alvarez will be discussing the D15 Literacy Plan Implementation

Universal Screeners

District 15 is planning a Family Workshop on Using Universal Screener Data to Inform Instruction, for April 9, 2024, from 10 - 11 am. I will share my screen so you can pick up the QR code from the flier. We will also share the flier on our website and in email.

Covid Relief Funds

Over the last few years, the NYC Department of Education has been using \$7 billion in temporary federal COVID-19 relief funds for important programs, such as 3-K, preschool special education, 450 school social workers, community schools, school nurses, restorative justice, 60 school psychologists, 75 coordinators working in



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homeless shelters, bilingual staff, translation and interpretation, dyslexia and literacy initiatives, and more. The federal funds will run out in June 2024, and there is not yet a plan for what comes next. The State Budget is due April 1 and the City Budget is due in June. There is little time to act.

Loss of Covid Relief Funds will impact District 15 schools. I know our Superintendent will be working with principals to mitigate this as much as possible but the threat is real. Remember those shelter coordinators we fought for? They could be gone, along with many other vital programs.

We could lose:

- *16 social workers*
- *restorative justice at 9 schools*
- *3 shelter-based coordinators*
- *3 Learning to Work programs*
- *3 community schools*
- *bilingual programs at 3 schools*
- *2 - 3K integrated classrooms*
- *1 pre-K special ed program*

Please take a look at the one-pagers that illustrate the risks to programs in schools in District 15. City Council will hold hearings on March 18th. Speak out! Tell them what's at stake for your school.

Testify at the City Council Education Budget Hearing (3/18): *The City Council education budget hearing is taking place on March 18th. You can testify (read a statement of up to two minutes) in person at City Hall or via Zoom. While the hearing starts at 10am with the NYC Department of Education's testimony, public testimony is scheduled to begin **after 2:30pm and will likely last into the evening**. It would be great to have parents, students, educators, advocates, and others talk about the impact of losing one or more of the education programs on the chopping block.*

Add to chat:

1. ***Read Advocates for Children's Tip Sheet on Testifying:*** *We have step-by-step instructions for signing up to testify and testifying. <https://bit.ly/AFChowtotestify>*
2. ***Sign Up For An Optional Prep Session:*** *<https://forms.office.com/r/yn4fQQVmtM>*
3. ***Register to Testify:*** *<https://council.nyc.gov/testify/>*

IBO- Independent Budget Office Resources will be presenting at our March 26 meeting at PS 230

Last year IBO created a video series called [Demystifying School Budgets](#) available on You Tube that walk through how to find and read a school budget. We've also recently published two reports: a report on NYC funding for early childhood programs called [Drifting From the Plan: Changes to Early Childhood Budgets](#) and another on the impact



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of expiring federal funds called Programs At Risk: Assessing the Impact of the Mayor's PEG and Expiring Federal Covid-Era Funds On the Education Budget.