Community Education Council
DISTRICT 13
NYC Department of Education
Parent Volunteer Organization

355 Park PL, Room 115
Brooklyn, New York 11238

Ph: 718-636-3284 ext. 1151

CEC13@schools.nyc.gov
www.CEC13brooklyn.org

Council Executive Board

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Cynthia McKnight

First Vice President
Ben Greene

Second Vice President
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Recording Secretary
Dr. Meryem Bencheikh-ellis

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Superintendent
Meghan Dunn

Chancellor
Melissa Aviles-Ramos

CEC 13
Business & Calendar Meeting
January 21st, 2025 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting

CEC District 13
Business & Calendar Meeting Minutes

Date: January 2025
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: MS 915, Dean Street (Hybrid Meeting)

I. Call to Order

The January Business & Calendar Meeting of CEC District 13 was called to order by **President Cynthia McKnight**. Members and attendees were welcomed, and appreciation was extended to the principal and staff of **MS 915** for hosting the meeting.
A **land acknowledgment** was shared, recognizing that Brooklyn and New York City are located on Indigenous land. The council also acknowledged **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** and January recognitions.

II. Roll Call / Attendance

CEC Members Present:
Cynthia McKnight (President), Ben Greene (First Vice President), Faraji HannahJones (Second Vice President), Jordan Feigenbaum (Member), Kimberly Steger (Member), Dr. Meryem BencheikhEllis (Recording Secretary), Alicia Gittebs (Member)
Additional members joined during the meeting. A quorum was established.

District Leadership & Guests:
Meghan Dunn, Superintendent, District 13 (via Zoom)
Valentina Cuellar, School Construction Authority (SCA)
Yvette Knight, SCA Director
District staff, principals, PTA leaders, community members

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III. School Construction Authority (SCA) Presentation

The School Construction Authority presented the **FY 2025–2029 Capital Plan** overview.

Capital Plan Highlights:

- Total five-year capital plan: **$20.5 billion** citywide
- **$6.98 billion** allocated for new school capacity
- **$1.40 billion** for school electrification to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- **$1.25 billion** for technology upgrades
- **$800 million** for accessibility improvements
- **$150 million** for cafeteria enhancements
- **$40 million** for physical education space upgrades

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP):

- Projects prioritized using the **Building Condition Assessment Survey (BCAS)**
- Focus on buildings rated **4–5** in architectural, mechanical, or electrical condition
- Includes roofs, heating systems, flood mitigation, safety upgrades, playgrounds, gyms, and auditoriums

Accessibility:

- Determined by DOE's Office of Accessibility Programming (OAP)
- Accessibility solutions vary by building (ramps, elevators, bathroom upgrades)

Resolution A (Reso-A) Funding:

- School-specific projects funded by City Council, Borough President, or grants
- Encouragement for schools to engage elected officials for targeted enhancements

MWLBE Participation:

- SCA reaffirmed commitment to Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises
- District 13 currently includes **3 MWLBE firms across 5 projects** totaling **$1.31M**

CEC Capital Requests:

- CEC Capital Request forms due **January 17, 2025** for February amendments
- Requests submitted after the deadline will still be considered

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IV. District-Specific Facilities Discussion

Council members raised concerns regarding:

- Aging electrical systems in several District 13 schools
- Cafeteria modernization needs (salad bars, seating, water fountains)
- Playground safety, drainage issues, and sinkholes

SCA and Division of School Facilities (DSF) clarified:

- Safety concerns should be escalated first through custodial engineers and DSF
- Urgent conditions may be escalated to SCA as **life-safety issues**
- Ongoing discussions acknowledged regarding **PS 307 playground conditions**

V. Building Equity Together (BET) Presentation

Representatives presented **Building Equity Together (formerly FIRE – From Integration to Anti-Racism)**, a six-session parent and caregiver training series.

Program highlights:

- Builds cross-community relationships and leadership
- Focuses on equity, anti-racism, and inclusive school engagement
- Topics include outreach, meeting facilitation, language justice, and interrupting bias
- Sessions run **February–May 2025**, primarily on Wednesday evenings

Council members discussed sustaining equity work amid shifting political climates and emphasized the importance of community organizing and policy advocacy.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent **Meghan Dunn** shared updates and introduced district initiatives.

Facilities & Funding Opportunities:

- District presentation scheduled for **January 27** for principals, PTA presidents, and parent leaders
- Information on external funding opportunities, including a **$25,000 Two Trees Foundation grant**

District 13 AIM – Math Assessment & Instructional Support:

- Presentation by district math leadership and SOLVED partners
- AIM assessments administered to grades **3–5** to track math progress
- Data dashboards used to inform professional learning and coaching
- Math coaching models include individualized school coaching and grade-level cohorts
- Saturday collaborative sessions support teachers in analyzing data and addressing misconceptions

District leadership emphasized an **asset-based approach** to instruction and ongoing efforts to move students toward proficiency.

VII. Council Announcements & Updates

- **Chancellor's Town Hall:** January 30, 6:30–7:30 PM at **PS 3**; community attendance strongly encouraged
- Appreciation expressed to **Brooklyn Bank** and **PS 44 Principal Cotton** for holiday support and toy distribution
- Schools asked to notify CEC13 when applying for elected-official funding to support coordinated advocacy

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VIII. Additional Council & Community Updates

- **PSAL Resolution:** Draft resolution addressing equity in high school athletics to be shared and presented for a future vote
- **KidsRise Scholarship Accounts:** Families encouraged to activate kindergarten and early-grade accounts
- **CEC Election Season:** Community members encouraged to apply and consider running for CEC seats

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IX. Public Comment

No public comments were recorded.
