

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Jill Rackmill  
**Co-President**

Kristin Savov  
**Co-President**

Michelle Lee  
**Vice President**

Jonathan Zacks, IEP  
**Treasurer**

Vacant  
**Secretary**

Kamar Samuels  
**Superintendent**

## Council Members:

Yael Denbo

Wendyliz  
Martinez

Felcia Amos  
Reese, ELL

Noah  
Odabashian

Ana  
Quiñones  
Greenfield

Vacant  
BP  
Appointee

Vacant  
BP  
Appointee

Vacant  
Student Member

Vacant  
D75

## Meeting Minutes: CEC3 Annual & Calendar Business Meeting

Date: July 15, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM

Location: Hybrid (In-person and online)

Chair: Jill Rackmill

### I. Annual Meeting Roll Call

Members Present:

- Jill Rackmill
- Ana Q. Greenfield
- Noah Odabashian
- Jonathan Zacks
- Michelle Lee
- Wendyliz Martinez
- Yael Denbo
- Kristin Savov (online)
- Felicia Reese Amos (arrived at 6:44 PM)

Quorum confirmed (8 members present)

### III. Election of Chair Pro Temp

Jill requested a volunteer for Chair Pro Temp (to preside over the officer elections).

Yael Denbo volunteered.

Vote conducted via show of hands.

Outcome: Yael Denbo elected Chair Pro Temp, Election Procedures Overview (Read by Chair Pro Temp Yael Denbo) Nominations for President

Slate Nomination: Jill Rackmill and Kristin Savov

Individual Nomination: Noah Odabashian

- Jill Rackmill outlined her leadership experience and commitment to pragmatic, inclusive work.

- Kristin Savov supported continued improvements and administrative follow-through.

First Round of Voting for President

Votes:

- Slate (Jill & Kristin): 6
- Noah Odabashian: 2
- Abstain: 1

Outcome: No candidate received required 7 votes → No President elected

## VII. Open Discussion & Second Statements

A brief round of follow-up remarks by Noah, Jill, and Kristin:

- Noah offered support for the slate if collaborative values were affirmed.
- Jill expressed support for information transparency and consensus-building.
- Kristin echoed commitment to teamwork and division of responsibilities.

## VIII. Second Round of Voting

Votes:

- Slate (Jill & Kristin): 8 votes (unanimous, including Noah)

Outcome: Jill Rackmill and Kristin Savov elected as Co-Presidents

- Jonathan Zacks was elected Treasure with 9 votes
- Michelle Lee has been elected Vice President with 8 votes Yes and 1 abstain

Adjournment

## **Calendar Meeting**

Call to order/ Roll call: Members Present:

- Jill Rackmill
- Ana Q. Greenfield
- Noah Odabashian
- Jonathan Zacks
- Michelle Lee
- Wendyliz Martinez
- Yael Denbo
- Kristin Savov (online)
- Felicia Reese Amos

### ❖ **Presidents Report**

Co-president Jill Rackmill gave a brief welcome to new council members that has joined Community Education Council 3. Co- President Jill Rackmill thanks Superintendent Kamar Samuels for continuing his unwavering support to the

Harlem schools and new programs intended for P.S. 149, P.S 241, P.S 242 and helping Mott Hall II open in the fall in the P.S 76 school building

### ❖ **Superintendent Report, Kamar Samuels**

#### [Superintendent Report](#)

Superintendent Kamar expressed pride in the Council's election process for Co-Presidents, Vice President and Treasure.

- Commendation was given to Noah Odabashian for his collaborative work last year.
- Jill Rackmill was acknowledged for stepping into a leadership vacuum for the CEC 3 last year and ensuring rezoning votes were passed unanimously.
- Congratulations were extended to Jill Rackmill (President) and Kristin (Co-President) on their election. Kristin was thanked for her astuteness in data review and advocacy for the district.
- Superintendent Samuels expressed excitement to work with the new team, emphasizing the district's commitment to serving parents and the community.

### **II. District Performance and Challenges (Kamar Samuels)**

- Last year was challenging due to unexpected transitions within the CEC and the Department of Education, which caused delays in work.
- Hope was expressed for a different climate in the upcoming year, acknowledging planned transitions and ongoing work.
- A key challenge for the upcoming year is the "class size work" in the district, which will require real engagement and partnership to address tough questions.
- The Superintendent emphasized the open approach of the leadership team to all conversations.
- The "secret sauce" of the district was identified as the amount of time spent engaging with parents and the acceptance of varying opinions to achieve policy changes and student achievement for everyone.

### **III. Review of Past Events & Initiatives (Superintendent Kamar Samuels)**

- **Fabulous Events at Year-End:**
  - Robotics Expo at Columbia University: Well-attended, showcasing the spirit and impact of the grant for the district's work.
  - Civic Share Fair: Well-attended, featuring amazing soapbox speeches by students (from computer school).
- **Working Groups:** The primary vehicle for addressing work this year will be the established working groups.

- Harlem Working Group: Shifted to focus on building schools with rigorous programming. Launched the Renaissance Collective group in Harlem, focusing on 3 schools to build enrollment in themed ways (more details to come).
- Mid-District and Southern District Working Groups: Expected to be the nexus of the class size work due to anticipated challenges and conversations.
- **Attendance Focus:**
  - District attendance went over 90% for the school year, which is the first time since the pandemic.
  - Chronic absenteeism was reduced by 4 percentage points, reaching its lowest point since the pandemic.
  - Mariela Graham clarified that chronic absenteeism was at 29.9% when presented at the June CEC meeting, indicating that the last weeks of school significantly impacted attendance numbers.

#### **IV. Math Engagement & Regents Scores (Deputy Superintendent Mariela Graham)**

- Deputy Mariela Graham will be leading the math engagement work more earnestly this year.
- Future CEC 3 meetings will aim to bring classroom-level problems and paragraphs to discussions.
- District 3 schools performed better than the citywide average on the June Algebra Regents scores (D3 average: 71.8; Citywide average: 64).
- **Algebra Regents Question Analysis:**
  - **Question 1 (Representing a Function):** This question had the fewest correct answers for D3. Deputy Superintendent Mariela explained the "vertical line test" (for every  $x$ , there's only one  $y$ ). Options A and B were identified as functions where a vertical line intersects only once. Option D, where a vertical line intersects twice, is not a function. The correct answer was "2 A and B Only".
  - **Question 2 (Radicals in Denominators):** D3 performed similarly to the city average on this question (80% correct). Mariela explained the method of rationalizing the denominator by multiplying by  $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}}$ , resulting in  $5\sqrt{2}$ .

#### **DCEEP Goals & District Priorities**

- The district's four priorities were presented to principals last week, consistent with summer planning.
- **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) for Literacy:**
  - Focus on foundational literacy, including the science of reading and phonics in early grades.
  - Improved guidance, support, and clarity on using data from screener assessments (given 3 times a year: fall, winter, spring) for intervention.

- Second year of elementary school curriculum "Wit and Wisdom" rollout will continue.
- Middle school expansion will involve rolling out the "Expeditionary Learning" literacy curriculum.
- City has committed to funding coaches for elementary schools (Wit and Wisdom) and middle schools (Expeditionary Learning).
- **Transdisciplinary Work:** Continues, with two new schools (PS 165 and PS 75) applying to become IB schools. This learning approach is encouraged across all schools, regardless of IB status.
- **Math Engagement:** District 3 will begin a focused effort on this.

- **CEC 3 Bylaws Amendment Proposal**

**Adjournment 8:44PM**

## **Business Meeting**

Call to order/ Roll call: Members Present:

- Jill Rackmill
- Noah Odabashian
- Jonathan Zacks
- Michelle Lee
- Wendyliz Martinez
- Yael Denbo
- Kristin Savov (online)
- Felicia Reese Amos

### ❖ **Budget Discussion**

- A motion was made to allocate funds for Constant Contact (\$100/month for newsletters and meeting announcements to over 2,500 people).
- Wix (website design) is paid through April of next year (\$800/year).
- GoDaddy hosts the website and provides 13 mailboxes, costing \$1,100/year for CEC3.org email addresses.
- Local transportation: Funds (\$300) were requested for Lloyd to take Ubers home after late meetings. This budget item aims to ensure safe transport for staff, especially after late meetings.
- Childcare: Possibility of having DOE employees provide childcare in the meeting room or another building room was discussed. Council members can also receive up to \$50 for childcare per night.
- Passing the budget allows access to funds for the year, and changes can be made later.

### ***Approval of CEC 3 budget***

- Jill Rackmill, Noah Odabashian, Jonathan Zacks, Michelle Lee, Wendyliz Martinez, Yael Denbo Felicia Reese Amos, Kristin Savov (online)

8 yes

### **New Business**

- ❖ **Experience share and tips for new members was informed by co-presidents and council member Noah Odabashian**

### **School Liaison Assignments**

- Deputy Supt Mariela Graham stated that weekly check-ins with the CEC 3 Presidents are conducted, which fosters transparency and diverse perspectives.
- Learning opportunities for CEC members are being considered, and the district aims to be more proactive in this area.

- Michelle Lee will handle liaison assignments.
- The current list of liaison assignments will be circulated, and members can fill it out.
- At the next meeting, adjustments can be made if assignments don't work for individuals.
- Members can express interest in specific schools they wish to liaison for.
- PS 333 (Manhattan School for Children) was mentioned as a school with a lovely garden, an IB program.
- Council member Felicia Reese Amos expressed interest in liaising for PS 333.

#### ❖ ***Reimbursement Forms***

Information was handed out by the AA to new and returning council members.

#### ❖ **Meeting dates and locations**

Co-presidents and council members discussed dates for CEC 3 upcoming calendar and business meeting dates. Were as some dates will have to be changed due to upcoming holidays / NYCDOE school calendar SY 2025-2026

**Adjournment 9:28PM**