



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Joseph A. Fiordaliso
President

Nan Eileen Mead
First Vice President

Zoe G. Foundotos
Second Vice President

Kristen Berger
Secretary

Kimberly Watkins
Treasurer

Council Members: Noah Gotbaum Theresa L.C. Hammonds Pradnya Joshi
Daniel Katz Lucas Liu Vincent Orgera Vacant, *Student Member*

Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

Monday, April 11th, 2016

Joint Business and Calendar Meeting (6:30 PM)

PS 87, 160 West 78th Street
(Between Columbus & Amsterdam Avenues)

Business Minutes

(Approved at the May 11th 2016 Business Meeting)

❖ **Call to Order of Business Meeting - 6:40 P.M.**

❖ **Roll Call of Members**

Present: Kristen Berger, Joe Fiordaliso, Zoe Foundotos, Noah Gotbaum, PJ Joshi, Daniel Katz, Nan Mead, Vincent Orgera, Kimberly Watkins (9). Quorum was met.
Theresa Hammond arrived 6:45 P.M. Lucas Liu arrived 7:04 P.M.

DOE Staff: Ilene Altschul, District 3 Superintendent; D J Sheppard, District 3 Family Advocate

❖ **Approval of Minutes**

1. The March 8th, 2016 Business Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved, as amended, by the members present at the time of the vote: (10-0)

❖ **President's Report**

1. Items relayed under Old and New Business

❖ **Superintendent's Report – Ilene Altschul, District 3 Superintendent**

- i. 84% of all visits have been completed. 70/83 visits have been completed by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Cynthia Dickman, PLF.
- ii. Middle School offer letters will be distributed the week of April 18th
- iii. April 16th there will be a Spring 2016 Comprehensive Educational Planning Conference at Prospect Heights HS Campus. School Leadership Teams (SLTs) and District Leadership Teams (DLTs) will engage with NYCDOE staff in deeper discussions about comprehensive educational planning that is aligned with the Framework for Great Schools. Schools are strongly encouraged to attend this optional conference primarily for Core members of SLT (*i.e. Principal, UFT Chapter Leader, and PA/PTA President*) and a Title I Parent Representative from the school.
- iv. Summer school begins on July 7th and ends on August 11th for elementary and middle.
- v. 145/ West Prep – the gas meter will now be put underground.
- vi. Parent Teacher Conferences:
 - a. May 10th HS parent conferences
 - b. May 11th MS parent conferences

If you have any questions, please call Karen Butler at the CEC 3 office @ 212-678-2782 or email CEC3 at CEC3@schools.nyc.gov

Anyone wishing to speak during the Public Comment Portion of the Calendar Meeting must sign in by 8:00pm.

- c. May 12th Elem parent conferences
- vii. Middle School admissions meeting for 4th grade families on Thursday, May 26th at 6:00 p.m. at PS 75
- viii. Carland Washington is being honored as Arts Principal of the year through the Center for Arts Education Arts Jam 2016 at City Winery on May 9th, students will perform.
- ix. Algebra – all K-8, Middle schools and Secondary schools offer Algebra in grade 8

❖ Old Business

1. Opt-Out Forum and Next Steps
 - i. Should Opt-Out Forum be made an annual event? Council asked Member D Katz will explore the idea further, via his Common Core committee.
 - ii. Should there be regular CEC3 meetings on the topic and/or stand-alone community meetings?
 - iii. How can system be improved? Member D Katz responded that it depends on capacities of new vendor. State may want to move toward computer assisted testing, however there are glitches and there should be a paper and pencil backup; analyzing results on this scale takes a lot of time. Pearson has huge resources but even they were caught short. Assessments on this scale, with fast turnaround, are difficult.
 - iv. Listen for feedback from liaison schools. Resources and teachers have been used to correct the test; it takes away from child's education.
 - v. Council would like to receive notice of field testing. Superintendent Altschul is looking into it. Parents have no way of opting out of a field test because they receive no notice of when it will occur. Query as to why would a school take on a field test? They have to do it. In what statute is that mandated by the DOE or state? The Superintendent will find out. There are significantly fewer field tests this year. In the past DOE sent a letter to school, pay or submit teacher hours to correct test, the amount of teachers that are sent to correct test is based on total number in testing grade. The Superintendent will provide a breakdown of field test payments by school.
 - vi. Raw scores are not reported. If child gets same raw score two years running, their scale score could still be different. How can we get the breakdown of the score, which comes from the state, uploaded to ARIS? Member N Mead will send her information to Superintendent Altschul. Council endorses Member Katz's Common Core committee to take suggestions and work with them.
2. Draft Resolution Calling upon PEP to Revise Certain Sections of CR A-101 Admissions
 - i. At CEC3/CSD3 March 30th Joint Calendar Meeting, Council discussed Resolution and took it off the table. If in agreement to proposed changes, the resolution will be called to a vote and read into the record during the CEC3 Calendar Meeting. New edits that were made from the last meeting to this meeting are:
 - ii. Bullet point 4 has two edits clarifying the intent behind proposed suspension of right of return indefinitely, making it less absolute. *'Indefinitely'* will be removed and *'or less'* shall be added to '100%.'
 - iii. Bullet point 2 - Council discussion on whether school waitlists clear in numerical order? Are all waitlist parents given a waitlist number? Superintendent Altschul says that parents are not given a waitlist number but if parents ask, they will be told, however schools are honorable but if an issue is brought to her attention she will look into it. There is a shared system to make certain schools follow the numerical order. Of waitlist letters sent to parents by the DOE Office of Enrollment, a child's waitlist number is most likely not included. If family reaches out to school the school will provide it but if there is no inquiry, it is not offered. Council concurs that a child's waitlist number should be given proactively, therefore suggested addition to point 2: *'and parents shall be notified in writing or their child's waitlist position.'* and

'waitlist will be jointly supervised by Office of the District Superintendent and each individual school in the district to ensure..,' Superintendent Altschul will reach out to the Office of Enrollment to see if the waitlist number can be provided on the waitlist letter. Every CEC3 member should reach out to liaison school regarding waitlist.

- iv. Send the Resolution to and ask Deputy Chancellor Wallach to come to CEC3 meeting
- v. Put on resolution on CEC3 Calendar agenda to give public opportunity to comment.

- 3. High School Admissions Workshop on Sat., May 14th. 10-12 P.M, At PS 180 for 7th graders and their families. It is an introduction to the process. Stanley Ng, former CCHS member. Michael Kraft, D3 Liaison to CCHS and Elissa Stein, PTA President, Brooklyn Tech.

❖ **New Business**

- 1. Review of Liaison Assignments

New ELL Council Member Vincent Orgera requires liaison schools.

- i. Member N Mead will either co-liaison or transition off 145.
- ii. Member K Berger will transition West Side Collaborative
- iii. Member Z Foundotos will co-liaison with 75, which has a dual language program and 165, which would benefit from more support by virtue of its population.

- 2. Renewal School Strategy Discussion

- i. District 3 has two Renewal schools as well as a number of Focus and Priority schools, recognizing that Focus and Priority are state designations, suggestion is made that Council should focus on tools and resources to support these Focus and Priority schools. Superintendent Altschul notes that schools are identified based on lack of progress; she gives a lot of support, visits and outreach; any PTA support or other support would be welcome.

- ii. Are resources an SLT decision? Yes. Money should go toward helping the students. Focus and Priority are not just one year designations, after 3 years it's Receivership. Schools that don't meet participation list do not get off the list. Superintendent Altschul reports that without the testing there is a lack of indicators of progress. If parents opt out, schools won't get on the list. These schools could all potentially go into receivership based on test scores. The Superintendent believes that not taking the test is not the solution.

- iii. Council discussed whether giving these schools additional tools and support is also supporting test taking? Can anything change without changing the system? Member Katz responds that you can't pick apart the testing question from this. The accountability system that designates them is solely driven by the testing data. Every state has waivers, by agreement with Federal Dept. of Ed., to label 10% of their schools Focus, and 5% Priority. They are required, no matter how well those schools do, there is always a bottom 5%. The Federal DOE has come down harshly on those states that have not lived up to the waiver agreements. President Fiordaliso calls for a task force, meeting offline and/or with Presidents' Council, recognizing there may be limitations.

- iv. Discussion ensues on whether tutoring in the basics is simply teaching or teaching for the test? Member Katz feels that that is over-simplification, it implies children are not being taught. In-school factors account for max of 14% on test measure influences, not only classroom resources are necessary. Member suggests CEC3 work more with the parents. President Fiordaliso will schedule a follow-up meeting with Council and the Superintendent's office.

- 3. WESS Lunch Program

- i. Member N Mead will follow-up with Superintendent Altschul and Office of School Food to determine WESS eligibility for free lunch program. WESS doesn't have a free lunch program because they are 6-8 and are not a Title 1 school. Superintendent remarks that K-8 and 6-12 do not get free lunch. In FDAII and Wadleigh, only their

free introduced lunch qualified students receive free lunch. Discussion will continue offline and strategize.

4. CB7 Letter Regarding 163 Zone Construction
 - i. Letter to Mayor regarding Jewish Home Life development adjacent to PS163. CEC3 issued 3 letters last term supporting 163's *amicus brief*. Does Council want to align itself with CB7 letter? President Fiordaliso will talk offline with Member PJ Joshi, liaison for 163 and bring results before Council.
5. Member K Berger would like to attend and testify on behalf of Council, at next Tuesday City Council hearing re students with dyslexia and language based learning disabilities. Member will circulate language to Council re Resolution 1027.

❖ **School Liaison Reports**

1. 859 Special Music School, L Liu reporting: Meeting with engineers rescheduled for this week.
2. T Hammond reporting: Attended PS 241 Stimulate your Mind Exposition.
3. N Gotbaum reporting: Wednesday at 11:30, Public Advocate will be at Wadleigh library.

❖ **Committee Reports**

1. Middle School, K Berger, Chair, reporting: Two attendees at March meeting.
2. Health and Wellness, T Hammonds, Chair, reporting: they are meeting Thursday, April 14. Sarah Trongone spoke about Lunch 4 Learning some of which dealt with WESS lunch issue which committee will continue to pursue. Would like to hold a D3 Health Fair field day sometime in the near future.
3. High School Admissions, Z Foundotos, Chair, reported earlier under 'Old Business.'
4. Multi-Lingual, L Liu, Chair reporting: Parents for Russian Dual Language Program met with Superintendent Altschul and Principal Dr. N Russo. They will meet with Principal L Kaplan. Superintendent Altschul is interested in moving forward if a location can be found. Dr. Russo is interested. Get it up by 2017 for pre-K and K. Principal L Keville of 191 will meet with them.
5. Diversity, N Mead, Chair reporting: They met Friday. Several parents who sit on MSC Diversity Committee attended. New parent in Harlem who experienced pushback with enrollment; did not want to go to zoned school, discussed K enrollment and waitlist process. Member developed a school resources survey – what is important to parent when they look at a school. Some schools are overlooked because of test scores and are challenged with marketing, but have good resources. MS should be included as well as Harlem K-8s, 241, 242, 208.
6. Zoning, Member K Berger reporting for K Watkins, Chair: Their next meeting is Thursday May 5th 9AM. Sarah Church has been invited. Members D Katz & K Watkins looking at Blue Book Capacity changes and developing a spreadsheet which they will circulate to all of the Councils.

❖ **Adjourn Business Meeting 8:25**

CEC3 Action Items

- 1 Member D Katz' committee will explore the idea of making the Opt-Out Forum an annual event.
- 2 Member Mead will send breakdown of field test scores to Supt. Altschul and follow-up re uploading to ARIS.
- 3 Member Mead will follow-up with Supt. Altschul and Office of School Food to strategize WESS and lack free lunch program.
- 4 President Fiordaliso will speak with PJ Joshi re support of CB7 letter and 163 and report back to Council
- 5 President Fiordaliso will schedule follow-up meeting with Supt. Altschul and Council re CEC3 task force for identifying additional tools and resources to schools

6 Member Berger will circulate language to Council re City Council Resolution 1027

Superintendent Action Items

1. Will reach out to Office of Enrollment to see if waitlist number can be provided on waitlist letter to parents.
2. Will provide a list of field test payments by school to Council.
3. Will look into obtaining notice of Field Tests for Council.