



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Joseph A. Fiordaliso
President

Kimberly Watkins
First Vice President

Zoe G. Foundotos
Second Vice President

Kristen Berger
Secretary

Lucas Liu
Treasurer

Council Members: Manuel Casanova Noah Gotbaum Pradnya Joshi Daniel Katz
Dennis Morgan Vincent Orgera, Declan Saint-Onge, *Student Member*

Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

Joint CEC3 & CSD3 Presidents' Council Calendar Meeting CALENDAR MINUTES

Wed. Jan. 25, 2017

6:30 PM

P.S. 415 Auditorium - 215 W. 114th Street

(Approved at the Feb. 15, 2017 CEC3 Business & Calendar Meeting by a unanimous vote of the Council Members present (9 in favor | 0 opposed)

Meeting Called To Order - 6:37 P.M

Roll Call:

Present: Kristen Berger, Zoe Foundotos, Daniel Katz, Dennis Morgan, Vincent Orgera, Kim Watkins (6).

Kim Watkin's FVP chaired until arrival of President Fiordaliso.

Joe Fiordaliso, 6:44 PM, Lucas Liu 7:20 PM

Excused Absence: Manuel Casanova, Noah Gotbaum, PJ Joshi

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

Approval of Minutes

1. Nov.9, 2016 Calendar Minutes
2. Nov. 22, 2016 Calendar Minutes
3. Dec. 14, 2016 Calendar Minutes

Calendar Meeting Minutes of Nov. 9, Nov. 22 and Dec. 14, 2016 were unanimously approved by Council Members present (6) at the time vote.

CSD3 Presidents' Council

- a. Jimmie Brown, Title 1 VP Presidents' Council reported in absence of Presidents' Council Chair Kerri Keiger
 - The approval of minutes was tabled due to lack of quorum.
 - Changes to the Presidents' Council budget were remarked upon (*on file*).

6:44 P.M. - FVP Kim Watkins turned the meeting over to President Fiordaliso

President's Report

1. Council President Fiordaliso reported on the chain reaction caused by the passed Council resolution opposing the nomination of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Education; to date, approximately one half dozen CECs have passed almost identical resolutions.
2. Council President Fiordaliso remarked on the second effort, led by Council member Dan Katz calling for the resignation of Carl Paladino from the Buffalo School Board. The Council letter was sent to every media outlet in the Buffalo area.
3. On behalf of the Council, President Fiordaliso thanks PS 76 Principal DeBerry and his staff for the extra-curricular help with the Legislative Breakfast to be held this

Friday. Chancellor Farina, elected officials, principals and many more will be in attendance.

Superintendent’s Report – Ilene Altschul, District 3 Superintendent

- a. Superintendent Altschul made the following announcements:
 1. Superintendent and PLF, Cynthia Dickman have completed 41 school visits.
 2. M145, M191, M256, M087 had QRs completed. Every Focus, Renewal or Priority School received a QR this year.
 3. Twitter account - Twitter Handle is @NYCDistrict3
 4. District 3 website <https://sites.google.com/site/nycdistrict3/home>
 5. Held Teacher Tenure Workshop on January 19th
 6. State Parent Testing meeting January 31st at JOA at 6:00 p.m.
 7. Transfer Process and FAQ was shared with families at PS 191, PS 452, PS 199 and PS 87. It was shared with other principals at PS 166, PS 163, PS 75, PS 84, 145, 165 if parents are inquiring.

Rezoning Timeline	Action
First Week of March	Families of current K-4 grades students who have a new zoned school will receive a communication from Office of Student Enrollment.
April 7, 2017	Deadline for families to indicate interest in transferring to their new zoned school.
Early May	Families receive decision letters from the NYCDOE.
May 26, 2017	Deadline for families to accept offer and pre-register at offered school.

This year the process is being handled by the Family Enrollment Center and not by the school parent coordinator, it may help deter use of fraudulent addresses in a catchment area

- i. Ira Mitchneck, Presidents’ Council Treasurer asks if there is any initial feedback from K-Connect. PS9 was concerned with the number
 - o Superintendent Altschul responds that she does not yet have the numbers and will share them when she does. K-Connect is closed.
- ii. Council, recognizing that the transfer process will include upper grades, does the DOE intend to fill K classes up to 25 students and upper grades up to 32 students?
 - o Superintendent Altschul responds that they have to go by the UFT regulation which is 32 seats. 32 seats will not be exceeded in a class.
- iii. President Fiordaliso asks for assurance that K sections at PS199 will be capped at 5.
 - o Superintendent Altschul will check on get back to Council.
- 8. Scheduled a visit with CEC to PS 149 for February 1st at 9:30 a.m.
- 9. PreK application period has opened on January 17th and closes on February 24th
 - o Superintendent Altschul confirmed that:
 - PS199 has 4 preK classes
 - PS452 has 3 preK, can go to 4
 - PS84 has 2 preK, can go to 4 depending on need
 - PS76 has 1 less class but can go back
 - There are no other preK changes

Old Business – none

New Business

- 1. M256 Name Change to Lafayette Academy (03M256 Principal Zager Name Change Letter on file)

- a. M256 Principal Brian Zager spoke about the many reasons for the requested name change of 03M256 from *School of Academic and Athletic Excellence 03M256* to Lafayette Academy. Recounted how the school had gone through many lowered transformations until, during 2013/2014 school year, it received a “D” rating on its Progress Report, A Quality Review and was also on the Potentially Persistently Dangerous list.
- b. Principal Zager, as part of the new administration in 2014-15, has helped turn the school around. In the 2 years since the new administration, the last Quality Review helped turn the school around. During the 2014-15 school year, the school earned a “Proficient” rating and received a “Proficient” rating in a majority of the categories. Each category has consistently improved and with it, the rating. According to the Learning Environment Survey the parents felt safe and confident sending their students to school.
- c. The French Dual Language Program has prospered. 3 sections out of 7 is a dual language class receiving multiple subjects in French.
- d. In the last 2 years M256 has changed greatly and a name change to *Lafayette Academy*, for the American Revolutionary hero, abolitionist, advocate of the Declaration of Independence, friend of the Founding Fathers and friend to the nascent America, Marquis de Lafayette, will greatly serve to reflect that M256 is, in most ways, a new school.
- e. The school has received the French Foreign Ministry Award.
- f. This year, students are putting M256 down as first choice
- g. The reputation that 256 has does not represent where they are now.
 - Discussion ensued
 - President Fiordaliso remarks that changing a school name is governed by Chancellor’s Reg. 860.
 - Superintendent Altschul remarked that they’ve brought the proposal to Council because *School of Academic and Athletic Excellence* does not capture the true essence of the school. A name change should take effect Sept/Oct and a ribbon cutting to get as much notice would be a good step toward rebranding.
 - President Fiordaliso makes a motion to shift order of agenda and move the Public Comment up. Motion passes.

Public Comment

- Sean West, Dean M256: The staff fully supports the name change. I’ve seen the change and growth of our school.
 - Naomi Fraser, 8th grade parent: I was previously an 84 parent. I applaud changing the school’s name. It’s taken quite a while for 84 parents to come around to seeing the new M256. Thanks to the school’s leadership Interest from the community has been tremendous.
 - Suzy Brown, PTA President, 256: Everyone is delighted with the school. It’s incredibly diverse. We all support the name change.
 - Jessica Bruno, 8th grade parent 256: Lafayette was a great role model. It was her child’s second guess for the school name. She fully supports the name change
 - Tom Bretz, 6th grade parent 256: Supports the proposal. The reputation of the school wasn’t good but 5 months into the school year, he couldn’t be more delighted. Everyone is accessible. The school does not deserve the poor reputation. A name change can accelerate getting the word out.
2. Commissioner Elia Meeting at Tweed (***New Business cont’d***)
 - a. 2ndVP Zoe Foundotos reported on her attendance at the meeting which Chancellor Farina and Commissioner Elia and DOE Charter School

Coordinator Kennedy, held for CEC Presidents and members. V Orgera and N Gotbaum also attended. DOE Coordinator Kennedy was under attack from all CECs there. Although he reviews all 52 Charter schools, the information is not published.

School Liaison Reports

1. PS 859 – Council Member Liu reports that the SCA has stopped working on the ventilation issue. In two years they may have a solution in play but for now, the SCA has walked away from it.
 - a. Superintendent Altschul: The SCA has tried many strategies previously and now they are putting in for an upgrade so it will take some time to complete. The short term solution is to use classrooms on the first floor.

Committee Reports

1. Middle School Committee, Kristen Berger Chair: They met last week and put together a Middle School Forum which will be held on a weekend day in order to attract more parents. They are nailing down the question of “why D3 has no diversity in middle school?” Feb. 15th is the next meeting. They are also working with Council Member Foundotos, Chair, HS Admissions Committee, to hold 2 high school admissions workshops; June 3 for 6th graders and June 10th for 7th graders.
 - Discussion ensued regarding work and professional development for middle school guidance counselors.
 - a. Superintendent Altschul: We are working with MFSC to work with our guidance counselors to make them more aware of what the options are. Three forums were held in different locations for all guidance counselors and to make them aware of middle school programs
 - b. In response to Ms. Foundotos, CEC3 High School Admissions Committee Chair, asking about high schools and how guidance counselors can learn about high school programs, Ms. Altschul responded that she will bring up Council support at the DLT meeting.
2. Multilingual Committee, Lucas Liu Chair: PS 87 Spanish Dual Language Program families are concerned that 4th and 5th grade SDLP classes may run into problems. Will there be support from the district that they won't be in jeopardy?
 - a. Superintendent Altschul: 4th into 5th grade, there are only 16 students. If 6 accept a transfer to Center School that leaves only 10. It's not fair that other 5 grade classes are at 32. We are looking at different strategies and yet these students could continue with their Spanish language instruction. A lot of PS 87 kids tend to go to Center School for 5th grade. PS 145 is opening the Russian Dual Language Program in Kindergarten
 - b. Mr. Liu spoke with Sofia Pappas, Head of DOE Early Childhood Education and was unsuccessful in getting her to reconsider new preK dual language classes.
 - c. Russian Dual Language Program will start this Fall with 41 kids signed up. Mr. Liu has a Feb. 1st meeting with Council Member Daniel Dromm to talk about funding and looking at lobbying for stipend for dual language teachers. Superintendent Altschul comments that the NYS Certification process for dual language teachers is lengthy. Teachers must have passed all tests.
3. Charter School Committee
 - a. Joe Fiordaliso reporting: Given that D3 is ground zero for charter schools, the Charter School Committee held a meeting Jan. 5th at PS241. NYS Regent Nan Mead attended as did both public and charter school parents. Charter school parents said they chose to send their child to a charter school because it was an option. Handouts included information on charter school and enrollment trends, While charter school enrollment has skyrocketed, Harlem public school enrollment has plummeted. The

committee goal is how to market and brand D3 schools to make them more attractive. The short term goal is to work closely with Harlem Schools Summit

4. Zoning Committee

- a. Kim Watkins Chair: The committee met two times in January. On Jan. 13th approximately 25 stakeholders attended. The committee's work is now focused on Harlem. The numbers are grim at the 6 schools in Harlem. There are 7 charter schools, 13 schools taking K kids in Harlem alone.
- b. Saturday, April 1 the Harlem School Summit will be held at PS 242. Harlem Children's Zone is offering childcare.
- c. Feb. 10, 9AM at PS242 is the next Zoning Committee meeting.

Roll Call Vote

1. M256 Name Change to Lafayette Academy
 - a. The motion to support the name change of M256 to Lafayette Academy was approved unanimously by all Council members (8) present at the time of the vote:
8 Yes: K Berger, J Fiordaliso, Z Foundotos, D Katz, L Liu, D Morgan, V Orgera, K Watkins / 0 No / 0 Abstain.

Adjournment 9:05pm