



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

154 West 93rd Street New York, New York 10025 - Room 204 Tel (212) 678-2782 Fax (212) 678-2804 Email: CEC3@schools.nyc.gov

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Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

Middle School Committee Meeting Notes

November 15, 2016, 9:30 am, Joan of Arc Complex
154 W 93rd Street, Room 204

Attendance: 14 people total inclusive of: Kristen Berger (chair), Ilene Altschul (District Superintendent), Matt Angell (D3 ISC), Caitlin Caldwell (Principal, MS 247)

Access to D3 Middle School Admissions Rubrics

- Committee generally did not feel that District 3 needs the granular data disclosed recently in District 2. D3 parents reiterated the need to keep information about the admissions process clear. By working with the currently disclosed information it is hoped to enhance families understanding of the admissions rubric without overwhelming them with too much detail that is not readily comparable between schools. There was also some concern expressed that any information shared must be done in an equitable manner so as not to exacerbate disparities amongst students in the application process.
- Arlene Helleman, a PS 87 parent, is willing to collect and collate information regarding Middle School admissions rubrics for students who do not have 4th grade state test results. This will be shared at a PS 87 testing forum in the new year. The CEC 3 Middle School Committee will help to disseminate that information.
- Wide support was expressed for the Middle School information packets distributed by the District Office at the MS Principals Forum in Sept 2016. It is hoped that this can be built upon to include more detailed information about each school's admissions rubrics, including the weight given to each component of the selection criteria. The committee would like to see this resource shared more widely; acknowledging that not all families can attend the principal's forum. The Middle School Committee will continue to work with the district office to enhance the information in the D3 supplement and provide greater clarity on admissions rubrics.

Potential of Dual Language Middle School being moved to the O'Shea Complex

- If the DOE final proposal is approved by CEC 3 Dual Language Middle School (MS 247) will move from its current home on W 92nd street, where it is co-located with PS 84, to the O'Shea Complex on W 77th Street where it will be co-located with the Computer School (MS 245) and the Anderson School.
- There are many benefits to Dual Language in moving to the new location.

- Firstly, it is an appropriately sized school. Dual Language Middle School has a similar footprint to PS 452, the school vacating the space. Dual language will not have to change its enrollment but will be able to expand slightly and have greater access to a few more classrooms.
- Dual Language is currently in an elementary school building and would be better served in a building built for Middle School students. Classroom size will be larger and better able to accommodate Middle School students.
- MS 247 has a robust dance program and will be able to take advantage of the dance studio they will have access to in the new building. They further will be able to use the enlarged and middle school appropriate science lab in the new building.
- Dual language will be able to work collaboratively with the other Middle Schools in the building. This may entail working on shared professional development and peer learning for teachers or enabling students to work together. This has direct positive impacts on extracurricular and after school programs as the spaces and student bodies are better able to share or overlap as they are meeting the same age group needs.

Data requests to examine segregation in D3 Middle Schools

- Looking forward to our future meetings the Middle School committee will continue to request further data from appropriate bodies. We continue to need greater clarity on how and specifically to whom the Special Education Priority applies. To help examine the segregation in the district the committee is looking for data to see how students of different demographics are applying to Middle Schools and their acceptance rates. We seek to understand if there are trends or potential barriers to students coming of particular elementary schools, or to students of specific demographic or economic backgrounds. This data is best understood, in schools that have a ranking priority, broken down by how students ranked the school.

NEXT Middle School Committee Meeting: December 15, 2016, 6:30 pm at Joan of Arc Complex, Room 204