



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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President

Nan Eileen Mead
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Kimberly Watkins
Treasurer

Council Members: Noah Gotbaum
Daniel Katz Lucas Liu

Theresa L.C. Hammonds Pradnya Joshi
Vincent Orgera Vacant, *Student Member*

Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

Tuesday, March 8th, 2016
Business Meeting (6:30 PM)

Joan of Arc, 154 West 93rd Street
(Between Columbus & Amsterdam Avenues)

Business Minutes

(Approved at the April 11th, 2016 Business & Calendar Meeting)

❖ **Call to Order 6:46 P.M.**

❖ **Roll Call of Members:** Kristen Berger, Zoe Foundotos, PJ Joshi, Lucas Liu, Meeting Chair First VP Nan Mead, Vincent Orgera, Kim Watkins. A quorum was present.

T Hammonds, J Fiordaliso, N Gotbaum arrived after Roll Call.

Excused Absence: Daniel Katz

DOE: Ilene Altschul, D 3 Superintendent, DJ Sheppard, D 3 Family Advocate

❖ **Approval of Minutes**

1. February 3rd, 2016 Business Meeting. Motion to accept the meeting minutes approved the by consensus of all members present at time (6-0).

❖ **President's Report**

❖ **Superintendent's Report**

- Claudia Aguirre has been appointed as principal at M149 Sojourner Truth effective March 1st
- D3 Superintendent will proceed to the SLT consultation on March 15th for Wadleigh
- 72% of all visits have been completed. 60/83 visits have been completed by Superintendent Altschul and D 3 Asst. Superintendent Cynthia Dickman, PLF.
- Pre K application closes on March 9th
- Newly released Priority And Focus Schools Data:

Priority and Focus Schools- District 3 status remains a Focus District

DBN	2015-16 NYSED Status	2016-17 Accountability Status
03M145	Local Assistance Plan	Focus School
03M149	Focus School	Focus School
03M191	Good Standing	Focus School
03M208	Focus School	Focus School
03M256	Local Assistance Plan	Focus School
03M421	Focus	REMOVED

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.

03M241	Good Standing	Priority School
03M415	Focus School	Priority School
03M860	Priority	REMOVED as of 7/16

- Priority Schools – Lowest 5% performing in the State
Focus Schools – Lowest 10% with focus on subgroups in the State
Local Assistance Plan – Do not meet one subgroup area, need support
Based on 2014-2015 data

All Focus schools were identified due to Hispanic subgroup and economically disadvantaged 145 and 191 black subgroup; and 149 identified school with disability subgroup. Frederick Douglas Academy II (MS860) remains under receivership until June. They come off receivership effective July 1st 2016 PS241 was a school in good standing, but has moved to priority school (bottom 5%), it dropped severely. Wadleigh was a Focus school and is now a Priority school.

District 3 has 2 Priority schools, 5 Focus schools. Priority and Focus are state designations. The guidelines for Focus or Priority School: 2014-15 ELA and Math scores performance index, the cutoff point is unknown. All 5 Focus schools in District 3 are economically disadvantaged: PS145, 149, 191, 208, 256 – they will get additional funding to support programs because their population has more needs, e.g. special ed. 241 and Wadleigh 415 are the 2 Priority schools, they will also get additional funding. Local Assistance Plan means the school did not meet any one subgroup area and needs some support. It has to do with not making enough progress in one subject.

Data on Local Assistance schools and Reward schools have not come out yet.

Council Member T Hammonds queried Ms. Altschul on use of does with data? How does the Superintendent move forward with the information and, if a school is Focus or Priority school, what is the monitoring period? Priority schools receive support from the City; if a school is struggling, the State designation doesn't matter, the Superintendent will support them. Schools on Renewal are identified as Priority. FDA II was identified as a Priority school by the State, they receive extra programming, extra support from the district.

Priority schools, schools that have been Priority for 2 or 3 years, who don't meet benchmarks that were set, enter receivership. M241 and M415 are newly identified Priority schools and are not subject to receivership rules. These labels have been used for 4-5 years. Labeling offers schools extra support in the form of money which they receive in September. The funding source is different from Fair Student Funding.

A Reward school is a school in top 5% .Information on which schools are identified as Reward schools comes out in August.

Priority schools are based on 2014-2015 data for Elementary/Middle School and needed a combination of growth from 2013-2014 and 2014-15 above 50%. M241 and M415 Wadleigh did not meet this criterion and also didn't meet criterion for HS data but did meet graduation rate; they met 2 of three benchmarks for Priority designation.

Superintendent Altschul will get back to the CEC3 on how funding is determined.

- HS Admissions- Round 1 response due by March 30th
- Round 2 HS Fair will be held at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Education Campus (122 Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan) on March 12th and 13th
- Summer in the City - New curricula for mandated students in 3-8 including literacy, math, STEM and DOE-developed units of study in Social Studies.
STEM Enrichment for non-mandated will expand from last year in grades 2-10 engaging them in hands-on, high-quality STEM instruction including Engineering is Elementary, Little Bits, Science of Smart Cities, and i2Learning, as well as Lego Robotics.

Renewal high school students will have access to programs to prepare them for college-level work. Students who participate in SITC will have opportunity to visit cultural institutions and museums.

D3 Summer School sites:

PS 163 for elementary

MS 54 for middle school

PS/IS 76 (new site) will accommodate both elementary and middle from PS 208, PS 241, PS 242, 76, 180 – (these schools previously went to summer school in D5)

Wadleigh/FDA II

For the most part but not exclusively, D3 teachers fill D3 summer school spots.

❖ **Old Business**

1. Discussion of Districtwide Priority Capital Improvements

- SCA will return, they are waiting for signed WESS lease then can bring completed documents. Superintendent Altschul gave SCA next two CEC3 meeting dates, March. 30th and Apr 11th, SCA will let CEC3 know.
- Council Treasurer K Watkins followed up on Blue Book Working Group question posed to SCA, looking at capacity; does reduction in capacity have any effect on Capital Plans assessment of the district as a whole and assessment over the next 5 years? 199 and 191 capacity has decreased 200 bodies worth. Capacity utilization numbers are skewed.
- Suggestion is made to follow-up with a letter to SCA informing them of CEC3 passed resolution regarding the opening of new school on W.61st St. September 2017. Shell will be delivered July 1. Paperwork happens after and takes time.

❖ **New Business**

1. Community Correspondence

- Letter from PS 145 PA and streamlining how Council files communications e.g., letters sent via snail mail and/or email to limited Council members. PS 145 PA sent a letter, via email to limited number of Council members re PA's desire to address equity and diversity. Arrival by USPS at Council office received later and not distributed to Council due to oversight. First VP N Mead responded to the 145 PA President and is presently in direct communication with her however, during public comment at CEC3 Zoning forum 145 PA remarked that the 145 community had not been adequately notified of the two Zoning Forums. N Mead comments that on Jan 30th she gave 145 PA President both dates of zoning forums. Council discussion ensues re timeliness of CEC3 notification to the D3 community. Member T Hammonds remarks that one of the voices we haven't heard enough of over the course of zoning timeline are the voices of black and brown parents in these schools. CEC3 should send a second notice pro forma. It's also a function of being a school liaison. CEC3 should be emailing the parent leaders at their liaison schools. Member N Gotbaum remarks that if something is addressed to Council it shouldn't be one member responding and/or responding offline, Council should fashion a collective response especially in terms of zoning. Agreement on Member's point. 145 specifically (and 75 earlier) asked that we set up a task force on Controlled Choice. Member N Gotbaum says that there are 2 issues, one is outreach to community who feel disenfranchised and two, how we communicate to schools that reach out to us. It calls for a set response protocol: When something comes from PA or SLT, whoever is the recipient, forward it to the Council and correspondence of a significant nature will now be forwarded to CEC3 AA Karen Butler and/or distributed to Council. AA will be point of distribution to Council. AA will respond with a "thank you, we have received your letter" on behalf of Council, Council can choose to respond or not respond as a group. Council plans to circulate all liaison school correspondence to AA Karen Butler. When a school takes a position, we need to consider the response; segregation and lack of diversity in D3

is brought up as one issue. The zoning forums are meant to be informative, they are at the starting line.

2. DRAFT Resolution Calling upon PEP to Revise Certain Sections of CR A-101 Admissions discussion
 - In November, CEC3 voted on 199/191 situation. To effect change on admissions policy PEP has to change Chancellor's Regulation A 101 Admissions. Resolve Point 1 – open houses are not stipulated in A 101, but are recommended in CEC3 Resolution. Superintendent comments that holding two open houses may burden principals if parents eligible and un-eligible just show up. Open houses are after school, they are publicized. Tours during school day accommodate 25 people. Middle School committee has had issues with whether or not open houses are well publicized and with tours, parents getting blocked from full tours. DOE has information on school choice, but only highly motivated parents will be able to choose good schools. What can CEC3 do to make registration easier; it should not just be online. Suggestion re including something about the A101 Dual Language Program making it easier for families to go to schools for which they are not zoned, Member N Mead says that is the spirit of point 5, Blue Book under-enrollment, in the draft resolution. Response is that seats may be available in a dual language program where otherwise child is waitlisted. It does not work the same for GNT (Gifted and Talented) program which is City placement, schools cannot place children there, you must apply. Council discussion on whether resolution should or should not suggest eliminating Right of Return. Member N Gotbaum feels that the suggested elimination of Right of Return will discourage parents from selecting a different school, even for a short time. Member N Mead feels that elimination of Right of Return forces parents to make a decision and if child is in another school then stay and invest in that school. Member suggests using “qualifying” language and Council will send edits to resolution to N Mead. Point two, supervision of waitlists by Office of Superintendent, will be ongoing as they do it anyway. Superintendent iterates that numbers cannot be played with; system is managed by Office of Enrollment. A waitlist is managed by the school but overseen by the Office of Enrollment. You cannot jump the system.

❖ School Liaison Reports

1. 859 Special Music School – HVAC system issue is on-going. Conflicting info on end system. The letter to get electeds signing on is dragging due to information change. Letter hasn't changed much in content.

❖ Committee Reports

1. Middle School- K Berger, Chair reporting – Next meeting March 22nd 6:00 PM.
2. Health and Wellness, T Hammonds, Chair reporting: Met two weeks ago. 3 people attended. One from MS54. Committee came up with a mission statement, goals and objectives and will survey parents to get sense of how they perceive health and wellness, i.e. gym, diet, mental health services. They will also survey principals on how they prioritize health and wellness. Committee will meet with Nancy Easton from WITS = Wellness in the School. Member N Gotbaum can give them an introduction. . Next meeting is March 24th 9:00 AM, changed from March 17th.
3. Multi-Lingual, L Liu, Chair reporting: Committee met on Feb. 25th. Yalitz Vasquez Johnson, Milady Baez' COS, spoke to group re dual language program. Committee reached out to Superintendent Altschul. Focus on 3s and 4s who will become 4s and 5s that will show they have enough kids to support and sustain the program. They can't pick the schools they'd like, they have to accept what is available and go where there's space. Member N Mead spoke to Dr. Russo at 145, follow-up discussion needed. Superintendent Altschul's concern is if we have English speaking families that are interested in speaking Russian? It needs to be sustainable. 342 and 191 are schools being considered.
4. Diversity – N. Mead, Chair reporting: No meetings set.

5. Zoning – K Watkins, Chair reporting: March 15th second of School Zones, School Choice informational sessions. Michael Alves is not attending, John Britton, civil rights attorney will be attending. Clara Hemphill is out of the country, so Mahalia Watson, Rene Kathawala, will attend. J Britton will explain what Controlled Choice is. March 1st session, 112 people, not including children, in total attendance. Discussion ensues on need to consider what the next steps are after Mar. 15th and end of school year? After March 15th at next CEC3 Calendar meeting invite people to comment. Member query if setting up a task force would mean anything? Response is that the Zoning Committee isn't advocating for solution, they are trying to get information out to the community and bring information in. Split siding is off the table because DOE says it's off the table. The DOE is aware of what is going on and someone from the DOE will be attending on the March 15th forum. Superintendent Altschul is starting a diversity task force for Elementary and Middle School principals; the first meeting is this Thursday. 14 rsvp'd. Suggestion is made that after the 15th, Council put out something on our findings and what we think Controlled Choice is. K Watkins responds that she will do that at March 30th calendar meeting. Member L Liu urges Council to put together some sort of timeline of what we are going to try and achieve and hold to it so that come September we are ready to be close to voting. Member urges CEC3 to come up with proposals, not wait for the DOE. Suggestion that lines can be shifted to give more population to 252 over 199. We would at least have a temporary overcrowding solution. Nov. 1st is latest date we can vote on a zoning plan. K Watkins will report back if she gets any additional information from the district office but after 15th, Zoning Committee will compile a report that she will present to CEC on March 30th Business/Calendar meeting, CEC3 can decide after that if they want to put anything to a vote after the school year. Member again urges CEC3 to come up with a timeline as they cannot afford to wait until September. By Oct. 1st proposals should be final.

❖ **Adjournment 9:03 pm**