 COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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**CEC3 High School Admissions Committee Meeting**

**Minutes**

April 9, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

JOA, Room 204

154 W. 93rd Street

* *Attendance: Jean Moreland, CEC3 High School Admissions Committee Co-Chair, Deirdre Garrett-Scott, CEC3 High School Admissions Committee Co-Chair, Kim Watkins, CEC3 President, and 15 community members*

1. Data: Reviewed enrollment data showing how many students from each D3 school got offers to one of their top 3 choices, got a specialized high school offer, or did not get an offer to a school on their application.
	1. Discussed differences from last year (last year some students got “no offer”, not reflected on this sheet but could be extrapolated by subtracting 4 from column 1
	2. Noted that Computer School had a larger than usual number of students without a match from their list. Reviews of applications so far have shown many students applying to the same highly selective schools. Anecdotally, some families did not know about the Diversity Pilot at Manhattan Hunter Science, and may not have known about the change in Millennium priorities.
	3. Discussed how guidance counselors need to play a bigger role in reviewing student’s applications to make sure they’ve fulfilled extra requirements (essays, etc.) and/or are aware of pilots or other changes that may affect their ranking. Extra requirements often due before the December deadline for applications. So alerts at the entry of application into myschools account wouldn’t help in that scenario. Schools with extra requirements should allow submission after December 1st deadline. Parents pointed out that most schools have part-time guidance counselors, only a couple days per week. It was suggested maybe interns could help. This should be a discussion point for the May meeting when someone from the enrollment office is scheduled to attend.
	4. Discussed “batched rankings”, where a high school will rank 50 (for example) students as number 1, as their grades and scores are virtually the same. How does this impact those not in the first batch? Need enrollment to describe exactly how this works in the algorithm, as some parents think it is a disadvantage to certain students.
2. Principal Brian Zagar of Lafayette Academy discussed the movement to expand to a 6-12 IB format school. He has met with the principal of Boerum Hill High School in Brooklyn, a K-12 French IB school and intends to meet with the principal of Clinton as well (a 6-12 IB Spanish school). He acknowledged that a key component to the DOE allowing the expansion will be an increase in enrollment, motivated parents and believes a creative approach is the next wave.
3. Data: At the May meeting, a representative from DOE Enrollment will be present to discuss their interaction with guidance counselors, the data they have compiled for us, and how this year’s cycle has been.
	1. Questions:
		1. What was the drop in offers to D3 students at Millennium, given the last minute admissions priority change?
		2. What happened with LAB and Museum School issues? What processes will be put in place to avoid these mistakes in the future? Will LAB now be overcrowded?
		3. How does batch ranking affect the algorithm?
		4. Is one application with Specialized High Schools and others together still being discussed? Would number of ranked schools need to increase in this scenario?
		5. Diversity/integration among other high schools: What is happening/not happening besides voluntary pilots? Do we have results from these pilots?
		6. Any changes for next cycle?
4. CEC3 Resolution:
	1. Reviewed a new draft of the HS Admissions resolution that will be voted on at the April 17th calendar meeting. Jean and Deirdre have been individually working with each CEC3 member to forge consensus. In order to get this consensus, we have focused on the perceived lack of college-prep programming (ie AP, early college and IB) across high schools and the resulting competition for a small number of schools. We will not weigh in for or against the mayor’s proposal, but only point out how it will exacerbate this completion and disadvantage D3 students in the process. Additional points will be the district priorities and the complexity and lack of transparency in the process.
		1. Discussion to change the title from HS Admissions to “Resolution on HS Equity and Excellence” or something similar. Put the points on diversity and equity closer to the beginning.
		2. Point out that the mayor’s proposal shows many more students are ready for high quality, college-prep programs than the number of seats that currently offer this.
5. Next Steps:
	1. Jean and Deirdre continue work with CEC members on resolution vote
	2. Finalize day and time for enrollment to come to May meeting.
	3. Committee working group will continue to schedule meeting with elected officials to push for D3 access to great seats.
	4. Need to start planning annual High School Admissions workshop, usually held the beginning of June.