

## SUMMARY May and June CEC 3 Middle School Committee Meetings

### **June CEC 3 Middle School Committee Meeting**

June 15, 2020 6:30 pm

Zoom meeting

Between 40-50 participants from 8 elementary schools and 5 middle schools.

The Middle School Committee meeting was organized around developing a VISION for our Middle Schools. The discussion was broken into three parts.

The first Question was ‘what is our Vision for Our Schools’ (prompts: What do you want in your ideal middle school? What adjectives can you use for that learning environment? Perhaps, list the major assets of your current school)

The major themes from this category is that families envisioned schools with compassion and rigor. Compassion encompasses comments about being recognized, being welcomed. Rigor includes the desire for engaged students, nurturing curiosity and critical thinking.

The second question look at our Vision for school enrollment (Who is in our schools? Who is not? Are there unique characteristics to the school population?)

Parents envision diverse schools – especially “as far as people and their backgrounds” a few people stated they want a representative image on NYC. Some mentioned ‘classmates interested in learning’ and ‘excited to come to school’, or academic diversity.

Finally, we looked at the Vision for admissions (How can the admissions process support the vision for the school? How does it support the enrollment?)

Parents envision an admission process that is less stressful- this encompasses less direct competition as well as greater transparency and speed. Continuity is valued either from elementary school or attending school with their sibling. Parents/ students opinion should matter- they should help to select the school and their preference can help determine if it is a good match

One surprising set of concerns was around bullying, and that students and families value a safe and welcoming space

### **May Middle School Committee Meeting Notes**

May 22nd, 2020, 10 am

Zoom Meeting

Attended by over 70 people, very few signed in with their school affiliations

More of an open-ended meeting with less direction. Parents discussed changes to the Middle School Admissions process for the 2021—22 academic year. 88% of all D3 Middle Schools are currently screened, the primarily data points they use in their screening metrics will not be available for the

current school year. These include attendance records, state test scores and final report card grades. There remain many questions as to how this interacts with D3's current middle schools diversity priority in middle school admissions. The goal of the current diversity priority that the schools of district three should reflect the families of district three.

The primary discussion was in the specifics around what metrics may be used for MS admissions in the future. Most of the speakers in the meeting wanted to explore ways to best replicate the current admission process and discussed whether the DOE could substitute 3<sup>rd</sup> grade test scores for 4<sup>th</sup> grade test scores, or use a combination of marking periods that excludes the final marking period this current semester (that could be any combination of the first two marking period this school year &/or first marking period this upcoming fall semester). Parents expressed a desire for some sort of ranking system, where their preference have an impact on where their student is matched to. There was brief discussion of lottery-based admissions process but no elaboration on what priorities may be included within a lottery-based process. Other ideas to include in a screening process include supplementary requirements- which could encompass interviews, schools based tests or writing samples. It was widely noted that different students have different academic needs. There was a discussion of upcoming meetings with the DOE around admission changes.