



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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CEC3 High School Admissions Committee Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2018, 6:30 PM

PS75 - library

735 West End Ave.

- ❖ **Attendance:** *Jean Moreland, High School Admissions Committee Chair, Michael Kraft, PEP Member, and 9 community members.*
- ❖ **Review of Upcoming HS Events:**
 1. July 24: Specialized High School Admissions Workshop and Fair at LaGuardia High School 4-7:30 pm.
 2. September 26th CEC Meeting will now be a Chancellor's Town Hall with Chancellor Carranza
 3. October 17: Deadline to register for LaGuardia Auditions and/or SHSAT
 4. December 3: Round 1 Applications due for 2019-20 school year
 5. New DOE website has some links that lead to dead ends. Calendar of open houses and tours is not yet populated. Amy Basile is aware of this and has said it will be populated by end of August. Admissions application will be online this year. Sign up for email updates about high school admissions on new website.
 6. We are working on setting up a working group meeting with Amy Basile (Executive Director of High School Admissions) and her team in the coming weeks. This is a result of Stefanie Goldblatt's question to the mayor regarding D2 priority admissions at the town hall in June. This led to a phone call with Deputy Chancellor Josh Wallack's assistant. This meeting will not cover the SHSAT issue, but other items that the DOE has more direct control over: D2 priority, screening processes, a common application etc.
- ❖ **Review of new diversity pilot schools and data regarding 2018 Round 1 of high school admissions.**
 1. Additional schools will be participating in the diversity pilots this year. Depending on the school, from 26% to 69% of seats will be prioritized for applicants eligible for Free or Reduced Price lunch. The list is available on the DOE website, <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/meeting-student-needs/diversity-in-admissions>
 2. More schools are moving to the Educational Option ("EdOP") method of admissions where 50% of offers are to applicants who are randomly selected. 50% of offers are to applicants the school ranks. Seats are reserved by ELA category, 16% Low, 68% Middle, 16% High. In Manhattan there are 56 EdOp schools, 33 Screened Schools, 9 Audition schools, and 13 schools that are screened for language.
 3. The data we reviewed for Round 1 admissions was sorted by the schools that the most D3 students applied to. The DOE data lists D3 students as those with addresses in D3, it does not detail students that went to D3 middle schools but do not reside in D3. Beacon had the largest number of D3 applicants (547). There were 76 offers to D3 students (15% of Round 1 offers). There were 107 offers to D2 students (21% of offers). The second largest number of applicants (502) was to Millennium, a school with an admissions priority to students living or attending school south of Houston Street. There were 52 D3 offers (14%), and 205 D2 offers (57%). This data is on the DOE's InfoHub website. It includes middle schools and elementary schools as well. Jean handed out a version sorted by D3, and can circulate this as well.

<https://infohub.nyced.org/reports-and-policies/government/intergovernmental-affairs/student-applications-admissions-and-offers>

4. Millennium High School student, Maya Mesh, and her father discussed her grant to design a website that would have student and teacher reviews of high schools.

❖ **Review and discussion of efforts that would help D3 students (and others) and focus of conversation with the high school enrollment team**

1. The short list of items that we want to focus on for the continuing discussion with enrollment team (realizing that Specialized High School admissions requires legislative approval and is not intended as the focus for the upcoming session).
 - i. Making the process easier for parents: Schools should have “virtual tours” on their websites, as many families are unable to attend many of the tours/open houses offered and it would also help prioritize those they wish to attend. Open houses/tours could be streamed so that families could participate remotely.
 - ii. Change D2 priority schools to Manhattan priority. Principals at these schools have said they do not like the priority, it penalizes other Manhattan districts who do not have admissions priority to comparable schools in their own districts. It goes against the stated DOE objectives of removing barriers to access.
 - iii. Move to a common application encompassing both Specialized and other high schools. Families will have to make the difficult choice of their “true number 1”, but less families will be left out in the Round 1 process. Rather than some families getting 3 offers, and some getting none, you should have more families with offers in Round 1. We also discussed that the Round 2 process does not seem to have much value—as the multiple offers in the first round have not been resolved to reveal what’s truly open.
 - iv. Audit of the school’s rubrics. There are many ways in which parents distrust the admissions process. Many families question whether students are truly ranked on published rubrics or other factors such as relationships between middle and high school principals, sports recruiting, and the bias that interviews introduce. If we are to continue screening practices, rotating audits of rubrics would help give parents confidence that the rubrics are the true indicator for admissions. The emphasis on absences has also been troubling. Students are attending school when they are not well, as they fear they will be penalized in the screening process. There is not confidence that medical letters or issues are taken into account during the ranking process.
 - v. Requesting a large D3 school (not necessarily D3 priority, just located in the district). The move to smaller schools that share buildings have meant there are no economies of scale, and many schools cannot offer a range of AP classes and courses covering all disciplines (such as physics) that would give students the breadth of knowledge needed to prepare them for university. The fact that “enough high school seats exist” does not discount how far students are traveling to schools, the fact that so many small schools means that many schools cannot offer classes students want to prepare for college (even Beacon can only offer a limited number of students a physics class, for example). The Edward Reynolds Building on 102nd Street was discussed as it is a large building with a field that has a transfer school inside it now that does not use all the space. Sharon noted that this school is one that Gale Brewer has fought to save in the past. The MLK complex is the building in D3 that has the most space, but there are currently 6 schools in that space.

❖ **Action Items**

1. Once small-group meeting is set with Amy Basile’s office, Stephanie and Jean will update the group on the progress of the discussion of the above items, any new data we receive, and steps moving forward.
2. Set future meeting schedule and invite Fred Walsh (D3 High School Superintendent) to a meeting.