



# COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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## Middle School Committee Meeting

March 12, 2018 9 am

Joan of Arc Complex, 154 W 93<sup>rd</sup> Street, Room 204

**Attendance:** 13 participants inclusive of Committee Chair, K. Berger & District Superintendent, I. Altschul

### Changes to Middle School Admission Process

Superintendent Altschul reviewed changes to admissions process for admission in **September 2019**.

All of NYC will **eliminate revealed ranking in Middle Schools applications**. This is a move to 'blind ranking' and means that schools will not see how a student listed them on their application form. The Office of Enrollment will still be using students ranking preference to make a middle school match.

The district may layer in additional requirements. There is significant concern that blind ranking alone may lead to increased segregation in D3 middle schools. **The Superintendent is discussing an idea to to increase academic diversity across all District 3 Middle Schools.**

After several Principal meetings, the following idea is being evaluated, before making a final decision the Superintendent's office is requesting feedback:

To have an academic diversity floor where 10% of all incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders will have an average ELA and math score of level 1 and 15% of all incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders will have an average ELA and math score of level 2. *Please note: The average score is based upon the student's 4<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and math score. Both scores will be averaged to become one composite score for middle school enrollment consideration.*

All D3 Middle Schools already have a 'Special Education target' to match the district average (it is currently 19%). Students who fulfill part of that target may fill two categories. For example, a student with a level 2 and a special education classification will be counted toward both the 'Special Ed target' and the 'level 2 floor'.

Note: As happens today, each middle school will develop their own rubric for admissions. These rubrics may include interviews or tests.

**Changes in D3 middle school configurations** were also noted. PS 165 will not be serving Middle School grades in 2019. Mott Hall 2 will be expanded by 2019 serving three additional sections across 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grades. West Prep will be serving an additional section in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Wadleigh Middle School may potentially be truncated.

**Final Recommendations** should be submitted to the DOE in **May 2018** for changes in the Middle School Directory.

Questions from attendees.

Parents raised many questions and concerns about how this change would happen and the potential impacts. These are some of the major themes that emerged from the meeting:

Office of Enrollment Algorithm: How will the algorithm at Office of Enrollment work? Are students ranked by school, then matched filling the academic diversity requirements first, and then the rest of the population?

Is the “floor” the percentage of offers made, or the percentage of students actually sitting in the classroom on the first day of school?

How do you ensure that students are not sent to school they did not rank? Schools want students who want to be there.

School Rubrics: What will the rubrics look like at individual schools? How will this contribute to diversity? Will students become ‘just a number’?

Measurement: What are we putting in to measure the outcome of such changes? What will be considered success?

Recruiting Strategies: What is the DOE doing to help schools recruit a wider range of students?

Timing for Changes: When does a decision need to be made? Can it be phased in? Can it be delayed to develop more comprehensive plan? What if we delay and there are full cohorts of students going through the MS process without the benefit of this adjustment? What if delay just leads to continuation of status quo?

School Supports: How are schools prepared for cultural & academic changes to incorporate a wider range of students.

## **Feedback**

The D3 Superintendent’s Office is seeking direct feedback from parents to understand parent’s preferences and concerns. To facilitate this communication the Superintendent’s office has set up a dedicated email address. **Please be sure to email the office at [D3feedback@gmail.com](mailto:D3feedback@gmail.com) with your opinion!**

## **Further Information**

More information is available on the middle school page of the CEC3 website: <https://www.cec3.org/middle-school-committee>

DOE Office of Enrollment presented to the CEC 3 Calendar Meeting on December 13, 2017 available here: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a806f4\\_d11955dfb017455699445573d48a8480.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a806f4_d11955dfb017455699445573d48a8480.pdf)