



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Treasurer

Council Members: Manuel Casanova Noah Gotbaum Pradnya Joshi Daniel Katz
Dennis Morgan Vincent Orgera, Declan Saint-Onge, *Student Member*

Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

CEC3 Resolution Vol. 17 (A) No. 4

Resolution Calling For A Streamlined Process For Member Reimbursement

Approved at the April. 26, 2017 CEC3 Calendar Meeting by a roll call vote of the Council members present at the time of the vote (7 in favor/ 0 opposed / 0 abstained)

(Absent from vote: Gotbaum, Katz, Morgan)

Whereas, members of the Community Education Councils and Citywide Councils (collectively “the Councils”) serve without compensations;

Whereas, duties as members of the Councils include meetings above and beyond the monthly meetings of the Council, including but not limited to meeting with representatives from the NYC Department of Education central offices, Community School District offices, Parent-Teacher Associations, Community Boards, and offices of various elected officials;

Whereas, performing duties incur expenses, such as for transportation and childcare;

Whereas, the Councils are each provided with \$20,000 annually from the City as operating budget that includes reimbursement for members;

Whereas, there is a maximum monthly expenditure amount for members of the Councils (\$125 per month for members, \$200 for President);

Whereas, to receive reimbursement for even the smallest of expenses (e.g., a 5-minute taxi ride) requires supporting documentation in the form of a meeting agenda, sign-in sheet or email communication between the parties;

Whereas, not all meetings attended by members of the Councils are “formal” meetings with agendas, sign-in sheets or email communication;

Whereas, while the City imposes a highly bureaucratic oversight on expenses incurred by volunteers on the Councils, the City appears more lax with its multi-million dollar contracts, some of which are with entities with questionable ethical conducts (e.g., Custom Computer Specialist’s contract of 2015) or for work of questionable value (e.g., ARIS database project of 2008);

Whereas, many members of the Councils find the requirements for documentation beyond receipts and reimbursement forms insulting and view such requirements as evidence for lack of trust and disrespect for their professionalism and commitment;

Therefore be it resolved that the Community Education Council District 3 (CEC3) requests the Department of Education to streamline the reimbursement process so that:

1. Members need only to submit receipts and the reimbursement forms;
2. Members can request reimbursement for any expenses incurred during the current fiscal year so long as the requests are submitted before June 30th;
3. Reimbursement requests approved by either the President or the Treasurer should be honored;

Therefore be it further resolved that the CEC3 urges the Department of Education and other involved agencies to be respectful of the commitment and professionalism of volunteers who serve on the Councils when developing fiscal policies.