



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

154 West 93rd Street New York, New York 10025 - Room 204 Tel (212) 678-2782 Fax (212) 678-2804 Email: CEC3@schools.nyc.gov

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Vacant Seat

Pradnya Joshi
Declan Saint-Onge, *Student Member*

Daniel Katz

Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 3

Wednesday Sept. 14, 2016

6:30 P.M. Business Mtg | 7:00 P.M. Calendar Mtg

Joan of Arc - Auditorium

154 W. 93rd St., New York, NY 10025

(Between Columbus & Amsterdam Avenue)

Business Minutes

(Approved at the CEC3 Sept. 28th, 2016 Business Meeting by all Council Members present, 9)

❖ **Call to Order 6:41 PM**

❖ **Roll Call of Members** Kristen Berger, Manuel Casanova, Zoe Foundotos, PJ Joshi, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu, Kim Watkins, (7). A quorum was reached
Kim Watkins, Chair

Excused Absence: Vincent Orgera

❖ **Approval of Minutes**

1. August 17, 2016 Business Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved by all Council members present at the time (7).

❖ **New Business**

1. School Liaison Assignments

- Welcome to new Council Member Manuel Casanova
- Announcement of resignation of MBP Council Member Theresa Hammonds and liaison reassignment of her and former member Nan Mead's schools.
- Member Manuel Casanova to liaison with PS76, PS145 and PS333
- Member Zoe Foundotos liaison to PS241
- Member Kim Watkins to assume MS860 FDA II
- Volunteer needed temporarily for PS185 and PS208 until a new council member joins the Council. No volunteers at this time.

2. Water Testing Information

- Member Dan Katz reports concern on a recent New York Times article questioning the methodology of the DOE's testing for lead levels in NYC public schools water supply as being flawed. D3 Superintendent Altschul was requested by Council to look into the matter. Questions to be answered:
 - a) How widespread is the issue of the flushing of taps before a sample is drawn?
 - b) How viable are current numbers on lead in district 3 water?
 - c) What is the timetable for appropriate water testing in the district?
- Supt. Altschul introduces John Hession, Deputy Director, of DOE Facilities | Manhattan
- John Hession, Deputy Dir.: There was no incorrect water testing done in our schools according to the Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene regardless of what the NYT article stated. He is not permitted to comment on the article, questions would have to be directed to the DOE Press Office. Methodology explained:
 - a) Contractor does a first water draw.
 - b) Water is run for 30 seconds.
 - c) 2nd water draw is performed.
 - d) DOE lowered the EPA lead level standard of 20 ppb to 15 ppb (*parts per billion*)

- e) If water is above 15 ppb, the fixture is shut off until DOE Facility plumbers replace all the involved parts, the water is retested and fixture will be reopened if levels are satisfactory.
 - In response to repeat of question re incorrect testing methodology as reported by the NYT, Mr. Hession repeats that there is no extensive flushing done before testing. The water in the pipes is tested. Repeats testing protocol as above.
 - Council says it is contradictory to what the NYT article reported and to what they've heard in the past, that the water is run and then tested. Mr. Hession responds that Council may be confusing that with the Water Flushing Program after holidays or weekend, water flushing is done but that is not water flushing protocol.
 - There is continued disagreement on the reporting in the NYT article and Mr. Hession's reporting of DOE water testing protocol. Mr. Hession stands firm on there being no extensive flushing prior to water testing.
 - The time frame for the next round of testing? Testing will continue every two years according to DOE protocol.
 - Council finds the answers unsatisfactory. Member K Watkins requests that all of D3 schools be retested and Mr. Hession report to the Council in October or November with an updated report. Council is in agreement.
 - President. Fiordaliso requests an official response from the DOE to Council on the NYT story.
 - Council will send a strongly worded letter to top Doe officials and City Council that Council needs clear answers and transparency with response to water testing and that retesting of water in D3 schools be done ASAP even if off schedule.
3. October Meet and Greet
- Oct. 6th at 5:30 PM, CEC3 Meet and Greet at Joan of Arc Complex

❖ **Adjournment of Business Meeting 7:10 PM**

ACTION ITEMS
1. Letter to top officials at DOE and to City Council requesting clear answers and transparency with regard to D3 water testing and also requesting a retest of water in all D3 schools ASAP
2. John Hession, Deputy Dir. DOE Facilities-Manhattan will return in October or November with an updated report.
3. Liaison assignment for PS 185 and PS 208