



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Noah Gotbaum
Vincent Orgera,

Pradnya Joshi
Declan Saint-Onge, *Student Member*

Daniel Katz

Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

CEC3 BUSINESS MEETING 6:30PM

CALENDAR MEETING 7:00 PM

Wed., Dec. 14th, 2016

PS 76 – 220 W. 121st St.

(Between Adam Clayton Powell and Frederick Douglass Blvds)

Calendar Meeting

(Approved at the 1.25.17 CEC3 & CSD3 Presidents' Council Joint Calendar Meeting)

Calendar Meeting

❖ **Call to Order 7:35 PM**

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

Excused Absence: Joseph Fiordaliso, Noah Gotbaum, PJ Joshi, Vincent Orgera

Meeting Chaired by Kim Watkins, First VP in absence of Council President J Fiordaliso

DOE Staff: Ilene Altschul, D3 Superintendent; DJ Sheppard, D3 Family Coordinator

❖ **Approval of Minutes**

1. Sept. 14th, 2016 Calendar Meeting Minutes approved by all members present.
2. Oct. 19th, 2016 Calendar Meeting Minutes – approved by all members present.

❖ **President's Report – deferred**

❖ **Superintendent's Report**

- Supt. Altschul and her PLF have conducted a total of 30 school visits. By the end of the month all schools will have had 1 visit, some will have had 2 visits.
- Through the Chancellor's Innovation Grant, started working with Metamorphosis consultant focused on grade 5 and 7 to increase math discourse and critical thinking. 12 schools are participating with principals and teachers. Principals are also participating in the math action inquiry work to further this work within their schools.
- PS 191 – Superintendent with Charles Taylor and Andrew Chu. Looking to add a Mandarin (as a foreign language) program to Kindergarten and Pre-K pending budget and securing of a teacher. Attended the Pre-K Directors Tour. Holding weekly tours for incoming families.
- PS 145 is on track to have Russian Dual language Kindergarten. It is in the kindergarten directory. They are slated to receive Project ELLevate Grant pending the enrollment of Russian ELLs. Principal Russo visited the Russian Dual language program at PS 200 in District 20. Principal Muniz graciously hosted Dr. Russo and a team of teachers and will be developing a

partnership. Supt. Altschul is having a conference call with the PreK office tomorrow to discuss opening the Russian PreK as well.

- Spelling Bee is February 11th at PS 208 10:00 a.m. for Grades 3-5. 1:00 p.m. for Grades 6-8
 - Walk-through at PS 241 with CEC tomorrow at 10:30 a.m.
 - Community Meeting at PS 452 is scheduled for December 19th at 5:30 p.m.
 - Joint Public Hearing at M044 is January 5th at 6:00 p.m.
 - Joint Public Hearing at M084/M247 is January 10th at 6:00 p.m.
 - PEP vote is January 18th at Taft Educational Complex at 240 East 172nd Street Bronx, NY
 - PS 149, Sojourner Truth and PS 334, Anderson school, both in District 3, began their collaboration during the 2015-16 school year when the Student Council at Anderson held a clothing drive to support the need of the 149 community. The students were primarily in need of clothing for their school uniform, therefore the drive focused on new or gently used navy colored clothing. PS 149 Principal Claudia Aguirre also shared her number one item for her wish list, which was a school washer and dryer for families. The PS 334 community was able to secure a brand new unit, which was delivered in the middle of February 2016. Now in its second school year, the principals of both schools are brainstorming ideas to continue for this year's collaboration. Principal Aguirre states, "The donations from the Anderson School community have helped our families during times of need. The partnership has had a positive impact on student attendance and enhanced our students' sense of well-being. Access to warm socks, coats, pants, and shirts is something that our families do not take for granted. The biggest gift has been the smiles on our students' faces when we are able to meet their needs and get them back in the classroom with their classmates."
 - The PS 87 school community, as part of community building, makes donations to one selected school each year. PS87's most recent Book Fair enabled the school to donate about \$400 and four large boxes of books totaling \$1500 to PS 369, Young Leaders Elementary School in the Bronx, District 7. PS 87's PTA also participates in *School 2 School* which has raised almost \$14,000 for 27 different projects at 11 different schools largely in the South Bronx. Lastly PS 87 has made several small donations to PS 191 in District 3. These donations have included carpets, toys, and small furniture items. Last year, many PS87 families raised money for the "Pop-up library" as well as donating books and time in setting up the library and labeling books.
 - *K Berger added that PS 9 does a book drive and donates books each year to a school. This year PS 9 is donating books to PS 145. Previously they donated to PS 191 and PS 242.*
- **Superintendent Altschul elaborated on the many D3 Harlem School collaborations:**
- All of the schools in District 3 have created triads or quads to collaborate and share best practices. The Principals identified an inquiry topic and during the school year they visit each other's schools, share steps that they have taken that have been successful or they discuss as a "Problem of Practice." Some have set up inter-visitations to the schools and developed partnerships amongst teachers.
 - Examples of this work include **West Side Collaborative, Wadleigh Secondary School, Community Action Middle School, and Mott Hall II** are conducting a quad inquiry study where they explore teacher practices that impact student learning for a wide range of learners within a classroom. They engage in discussion of professional literature and school visits to further explore ways to engage students at all levels and strategies for school leaders to build teacher capacity in this area.
 - **PS 199, Manhattan School for Children and PS 166** work together to create supports for their teachers in designing tools, that allow for transfer of writing strategies during writing

workshops. These “tools” become part of students’ repertoire and are available to use through each unit.

- **Principals of Dual Language Middle School, MS 256 and West Prep Academy** focus their efforts on sharing the work they are doing with MSQI in each of their schools, specifically strengthening Academic Vocabulary through strategic reading interventions and direct-content area vocabulary instruction. They started to look at strategies to strengthen student learning in the form of Academic Parent-Teacher teams and the implementation of Socratic Circles in the content areas beyond ELA.
 - **PS 452, PS 185 Early childhood Discovery and Design and PS 191** sharing best practices to increase student independence. Each triad/quad is provided time within our Principals’ Conferences to discuss and then share-out and grow as a learning community.
- **Work to increase enrollment at D3 Harlem schools:**
- We are dedicated to supporting all schools in the northern part of District 3. This includes a renewed focus on increasing enrollment at PS 241, PS 76, PS 242 and PS 149 by working closely with stakeholders at each school and providing additional supports. Superintendent Altschul will be meeting with each school community to develop a plan to address challenges at these schools and raise awareness of the strong academic programs offered through outreach to families and pre-k centers, increasing the amount of tours at each school and launching a marketing campaign to increase enrollment. Holding a meeting with Stakeholders on December 22nd to begin this discussion.
 - **P.S. 241 and P.S. 76** will continue to build a strong partnership and share resources, specifically related to the STEM curricula. P.S. 241 hired an instructional coach to support teacher pedagogy this year, received a State Violence Prevention grant and is working with the Leadership program to provide supports during the school day as well as academic and enrichment programs after school. P.S. 76 is continuing its partnership with Harlem Children’s zone who is offering academic intervention services during the school day and after school as well.
 - **Special Programs at PS 76:** The Carmel Hill Fund/Accelerated Reader Program, Harlem Lacrosse and Leadership, Southeast Bronx Youth Coalition Inc., The Administration for Children's Services Neighborhood Network Providers, Insights @ New York University, Project Eye 2 Eye, The Leadership Program, America Reads with Columbia University, Arts Horizons, and Periwinkle National Theater, Colgate - "Healthy Smiles. Social Emotional Program "4-Rs with Fordham University and NYU and Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility.
 - Extra-curricular Activities:, Bridging the Gap, Intramural Athletic Program, Attendance Improvement Dropout Prevention Program, , College for Every Student (CFES), STEM @ 3 pm,
 - Partnerships: Harlem Children's Zone, Harlem Lacrosse and Leadership, Healthy Harlem, Harlem Commonwealth Council - STEM @ 3pm, Community Impact, America Reads, Project Eye to Eye, Friends of the Children, No C Campaign, 121st Street Block Association, Manhattan District Attorney's Office, and the 28th Precinct Community Council, Kids @ Hope.
 - Sports: Baseball, Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Cheerleading Team, Swimming, Tennis, Volleyball, Basketball, and Football, Champs Sports: Flag Football, Fitness Club, Track and Field
 - We also provide individual Tours for families by appointment, participation in D3 Elementary School Fair.

- **P.S. 242** is an Accredited International Baccalaureate school and instruction at the school focuses on inquiry-based learning. The school also works closely with Harlem Children's Zone to provide supports to the students through programs such as MyOn and iReady that are utilized during the school day and in a variety of after school programs.
- As part of the renewal school program, **P.S. 149** has received targeted supports to revitalize the school's curricula, including off-site professional development and on-site consultation. The school is also focused on increasing attendance as well as arts and academic enrichment, and has a teacher center that provides support for teachers particularly with unit planning. Harlem Children's Zone works collaboratively with the school as the Community Based Organization to provide afterschool programs, mental health services with NY Foundling, coding, sports and arts programs.
- **P.S. 185** is continuing to build on the success of its engineering and robotics programs, using the KIBO 'blocks to robots' program. The school also partners with P.S. 208 to ensure high-quality afterschool programs for its community and was recently named an "Inside Schools Pick" by Inside Schools. PS 185 is looking for help with our online presences, developing a school website and with designing postcards for advertising the school.
- **Sojourner Truth School's Initiatives:**
 - Ongoing Core Academics:
 - Teachers College Reading and Writing Project
 - Hydroponic Garden: students have harvested cucumbers, chard, tomatoes, basil for salads and healthy shakes; next harvest is scheduled for late January
 - Teen Thursdays: Middle school students are presenting their culminating projects at the Morris-Jumel Mansion on Dec. 15 at 6:00pm after seven weeks of study
 - Academic Enrichment:
 - Lego Robotics: Grades 2 and 3
 - Writopia Writing Lab: Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
 - Coding: Grade 7
 - Attendance Incentive Initiatives:
 - Go Skate in line skating program: Grades 2, 3,4,5,6
 - Super Soccer Stars: Grades 1-6
 - Arts Enrichment:
 - Alvin Ailey Dance Institute: Grades 2-8
 - Young People's Choir: Grades 3-8
 - December Community Partnership Projects:
 - Times Warner Cafeteria Rainbow Mural, Dec. 13
 - WeWorks Young Entrepreneurs Workshop for grades 5 and 6, Dec. 15
 - Mercer Global Consultant Group Elementary School Bulletin Board Painting Project, Dec. 8 Mizuho Bank Story Book Themed Holiday Book Reading Party for grades K and 1, Dec. 14 ESPN Gingerbread House Making Party for middle school REACH values winners, Dec. 20 NY Cares Holiday Craft Party for 12:1:1 SE classes, Dec. 22
 - Health Initiatives:
 - NYSmiles provided three days of on-site dental care to over 110 students in grades K-8 providing cleanings and fillings during the month of December.

- **PS 180**

- Dual Language Program has been popular and parent interest is high.
- Parent led School Tours is a friendly way that we welcome and encourage new parents to the community to enrolled their children in 1801.
- Use of translators in various languages during events to communicate and welcome parents of diverse populations.
- Student led Middle School Tours so that parents are encouraged and impressed with the leadership role that students take in our school community
- Community Invitations to School-wide events and activities i.e. Science Fest (Fair of Science and Technology), Music Recitals, Performances and Book Fair

❖ Zoning Discussion

1. DOE D3 Rezoning Proposal Central Park North – W. 124th St.

- The DOE has taken the rezoning of the northern part of D3 off the table and targeted a weekend in March for a summit for Harlem schools. CEC3 thanks the DOE for taking this step. We need a comprehensive solution for equity in our schools and we need to talk directly about how the charter schools are affecting the schools in our neighborhood, particularly the northern portion. What is the strategy for making the schools stronger? What are the gaps? We need to address the student population loss. We need to hear from parents regarding what kind of schools they want. The next step for CEC3 is the Zoning Committee carrying on these conversations and digging deeper. There should be a new way to promote our schools, we need to find other ways to characterize schools beyond where do black, brown and white kids go. We need to listen. We need new thinking. Parent attendee confirms that they want to be heard.
 - Supt. Altschul: This is my 5th year as Superintendent. The work being done at the schools in Harlem has been rigorous but it has not impacted enrollment. I want to commend the principals and teachers who have worked so hard. There needs to be a big push on what can be done to increase enrollment. We need to think about what is our first step and where do we go? We need to hear from different voices. We need work around marketing. I want to highlight some of the work that has been done around the schools; have tours in their schedule. We want outreach to families. Though the 241/76 consolidation was withdrawn, schools will work collaboratively. Principal DeBerry is looking into STEM program. 76 has a strong collaboration with Harlem Children's Zone, sports teams, work with leadership program. PS 242 became an accredited baccalaureate program; it's the only one in city. They use iReady. PS 149, a renewal school, 1 has had a huge turnaround in their curriculum. K-8 uses Teacher's College Reading and Writing Project. They have a hydroponic garden; they have teen Thursday; they have coding in grade 7. They have Alvin Ailey Institute. There is a Teacher Center to support teacher pedagogy. We are educating the whole child in all of our schools. PS 185 – partnering with 208 for afterschool program. PS 185 was reviewed by Inside Schools and identified as an Inside Schools pick. They regularly schedule tours. How can we get businesses to partner with the schools?

- How much funding from elected officials is coming into the neighborhood? In the middle part of the district we hit up the council members lefts and right.
- Principal DeBerry, PS76: We get a lot of our funding from MBP Brewer. She provides us with assistance every year, for the last 3 years. Received \$165,000 to upgrade auditorium.

❖ Public Comment

- Inyanga Collins, PS76: Thanks for taking the time to listen to our concerns. What can I expect going forward?
 - Supt. Altschul: We will be holding stakeholder meetings and speaking with the principals so we can identify our next steps, then bring in the key stakeholders. Those conversations should be happening thru the SLT, the PTA and then getting it to the CEC.
 - K Watkins: Timeline for school zoning is Summer/Fall. Talks have to happen now from grassroots level.
- Mark Diller CB7, Education and Libraries Committee: He will try to get word out. There is a meeting is on Monday at PS 191 at 6:30, hopes folks come out.
- Theresa Hammonds: Pleased that the merger is not happening and that we will look at it more closely. We must stay engaged. It is not done. Zoning Committee meetings are open to everyone. We've been asleep at the wheel. The current DOE model may not work for our children. This is an opportunity to use this as a new model but it will take engagement.
- Joyce Johnson: Produce a public calendar. Produce a marketing piece on the wonderful things the Harlem schools have done.
- Daviena Dewear: We should be marketing public schools, charter schools send me booklets and notes telling me how great they are. We (also) need to do a lot of things manually; the web doesn't reach every parent. Send out more flyers on how great our schools are.
- Reeshemah Brightley, PS76: Open house once a week is good, but some families cannot come. Work with CBOs, create a newsletter, in terms of marketing, get college students who get credit for helping, have workshops for parents with toddler, that's where parent engagement starts.
- Genisha: Accountability on charter school side. - Is there anything DOE can do to make accountability more stringent on charter school? They are not accountable to anyone.
 - Supt. Altschul: Those are conversations that schools have. These concerns have come up but we don't oversee the charter schools, we don't have the ability to hold them accountable. We welcome all schools. We are in the process of getting information from DOE Charter Office to find out what is going on. I'm trying to get Pres. Fiordaliso in touch with someone now.
 - D Katz: The Charter School law comes down to us from Albany. Large charter schools are shielding themselves behind an opaque state law.

❖ Adjournment 9:10pm