



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

Joseph A. Fiordaliso
President

Nan Eileen Mead
First Vice President

Zoe G. Foundotos
Second Vice President

Kristen Berger
Secretary

Kimberly Watkins
Treasurer

Council Members: Noah Gotbaum Theresa L.C. Hammonds Pradnya Joshi Daniel Katz
Lucas Liu Vacant, *ELL Member* Vacant, *Student Member*

Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

Calendar Meeting

Thursday November 19, 2015, 6:30pm-8:30pm

PS87, William T. Sherman
160 West 78th Street, New York, NY 10024
(Between Columbus & Amsterdam Avenue)

MINUTES

1 CEC3 Calendar Meeting called to order 6:44pm

2 CEC 3 Roll Call of members

Present: Nan Mead, Joe Fiordaliso, Zoe Foundotos, Kristen Berger, Noah Gotbaum, Theresa Hammonds, P.J. Joshi, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu and Kimberly Watkins. A quorum was present.

Excused Absence: Theresa Hammonds

DOE Staff: Ilene Altschul, District 3 Superintendent; DJ Sheppard, District 3 Family Advocate; Sarah Turchin, DOE Office of District Planning; Hallie Martin, DOE Office of District Planning

3 Approval of Minutes

3.1 The council unanimously approved the minutes from October 28, 2015 Joint CEC/President's Council Meeting

3.2 Amended November 16, 2015 Special Calendar Meeting minutes to delete PJ Joshi present, keep only notation that she had an excused absence. Council unanimously approved after amendment.

4 President's Report

4.1 AA Candidate Interviews- The subcommittee interviewed four candidates. Found a unanimous finalist and hope to present to the council at business meeting December 9th.

4.2 ELL Member- We have a candidate and will schedule meeting the candidate at our December 9th Business Meeting

5 Superintendent Report

5.1.1 The Superintendent's office is still trying to reach out to the interested student member but are having a hard time reaching him.

5.1.2 Superintendent Altschul has conducted 12 school visits and Deputy Superintendent Dickman has completed thirteen.

5.1.4 All of the District 3 CEPs are complete and they are currently working on the DCEP.

5.1.5 All of the D30s for interim acting principals are moving along and all schools have completed their level one interviews. Cynthia Dickman is conducting the level one interviews in conjunction with SLTs. The District Superintendent conducts the Level two interviews with at least two candidates, she then sends her recommendation to the DOE for approval candidates and then conducts a final consultation with the SLT.

5.1.9 Renewal schools Update- Please see amended addition in Minutes December 9, 2015 CEC 3 Calendar Meeting

6 Old Business

6.1 The DOE did not make its final presentation on its zoning plan to the CEC3, as was planned, this evening. Council President Fiordaliso communicated the council's disappointment after all of the work members and parents have contributed to the process. He stated that as a council they remain committed to a solution on both the short term and the long term and would characterize the council as undeterred by this news

6.2 Zoning Presentation, Sarah Turchin, DOE Office of Planning

6.2.1 S. Turchin began the discussion by noting that the DOE has been working closely with the community and the CEC. The DOE has been unable to reach consensus with the CEC on a course of action and they believe they need more time to work with the community to develop both long term and short term solutions. The DOE felt a map at this point was taking away from the meaningful discussion we need to have about solutions for this district.

6.2.1.1The DOE will continue to work with the district and noted that as they have been working many ideas have come to the table which deserve due diligence and further investigation.

6.2.1.2The DOE will be convening meetings at PS 191and PS 199 in planning for 2016 school year. This will include programmatic supports at PS191 and support for wait listed families at PS 199.

6.2.1.3S. Turchin stated that the DOE wants to drill down on details of programmatic supports for 191 and that as there was no consensus on a line for PS 452 they would wait to have a longer term solution.

6.2.1.4Both S. Turchin and the District Superintendent Altschul noted that it is anticipated that there will be a waitlist at PS 199. It is hoped more families list second choice schools and that this will demonstrate commitment on those families part to their second choice schools. S. Turchin noted that even in the absence of a rezoning PS 452 will still grow to three sections, as per their footprint.

6.2.1.5Council President Fiordaliso clarified that as there has been no zoning change for PS 452 the DOE will use its authority under the existing EIS so that it carries three sections across all grades. District Superintendent Altschul stated that PS 452 will be used as an overflow site until it fills its EIS for three full sections.

6.2.1.6S. Turchin reiterated that the Office of District planning will not revoke the right of return as it is a Chancellor's Regulation. To assist families in filling out the Kindergarten Applications this year, particularly families likely to be on a waitlist, the DOE plans to work through the Office of Enrollment with the Community Board and the local elected officials to hold 'prospective parent stakeholder meetings'.

6.2.2 Council Member Gotbaum requested that the CEC be invited on a walk-through of the O'Shea complex.

6.2.3 Council Member Gotbaum observed that the Office of District Enrollment has not satisfied the CECs request for information to make sufficiently informed decisions for rezoning (and to the O'Shea Complex in particular). S. Turchin responded that her office will continue to attend zoning meetings to share their data and discuss it further. They will schedule a meeting in their office with the CEC to clarify information requests and fulfil them to the best of their ability. Regarding rezoning to the O'Shea complex the Office of District Planning remained concerned that if the CEC is looking at a wider rezoning for the long term they could not commit to buildings rezoned in this round that they would not be rezoned again.

6.2.4 Council Vice President Mead declared that there was not consensus amongst the council to reject a plan to rezone to PS 452 and faulted the DOE for not even presenting a rezoning option to vote on to see what the council supported.

6.2.4.1 Council President Fiordaliso furthered the point that there may have been consensus to pass a rezoning if the DOE had been willing to compromise just as the CEC was. He noted that to the families and schools involved a limited rezoning of even some families would be meaningful.

6.2.5 Council President Fiordaliso asked for clarity on the DOEs stance on the six recommendation the CEC voted on at the Monday November 16th Special Calendar Meeting.

6.2.5.1 Council President Fiordaliso clarified that S. Turchin had already stated that the DOE outright rejects the CEC 3 recommendation to suspend the right of return to any overcrowded school.

6.2.5.2 On the call by CEC 3 to cap at five the number of kindergarten sections at PS 199 S. Turchin agreed that the department is refusing to accept that recommendation. S. Turchin elaborated that without a very large rezoning they would not be able to cap PS 199 at five kindergartens as according to the Department there is space for six kindergartens.

6.2.5.3 The DOE supports CEC 3s recommendation to preserve priority one sibling status as a result of any zoning change (aka- sibling grandfathering).

6.2.5.4 On the CEC3 recommendation that offers are made by August 1st to all wait-listed families. DOE will continue trying to make offers as early as possible.

6.2.5.5 On the recommendation by CEC 3 that no new residential construction shall be zoned to any schools that is overcapacity. DOE does not support the recommendation as they have publicly stated that they do not differentiate between old building and new buildings.

6.2.5.6 On the recommendation to move PS 191 to the new Riverside Center building upon completion and placement of PS 342 into PS 191's current building. The DOE is open to that and happy to continue to work with the principal and community on the issue.

6.2.6 In conclusion, DOE commits to put in writing the their commitment to District 3 schools to fulfil UFT requirements of a cap of 25 students per section for Kindergarten and 32 students per section for grades 1-5. Further the DOE will commit to capping PS 199 at 6 kindergarten sections.

7 New Business

7.1 December Elementary School Fair-

7.1.1 Council Treasurer Watkins asked Superintendent Altschul about holding the elementary school fair earlier, sometime in December. Superintendent Altschul announced that District 3 is not planning on holding an elementary school fair this year. This was a decision from the DLT made recently in response to the shift in the opening of Kindergarten connect. It was felt it did not meet a significant need and it has had low attendance. It was primarily to promote unzone schools and programs; such as magnet schools, gifted & talented and dual-language programs. As the district no longer has magnet schools this may not be necessary but the district continues to support all the schools in outreach publishing tour dates, doing emails blasts and encouraging them to reach out the PreK centers. Superintendent Altschul told the CEC that she is happy to support the CEC promoting school application process or holding a school fair but it will be difficult to coordinate with principals.

8 Public Comment

8.1.1 Marcy Drogin- PS 87 parent, Stated that she is disappointed in DOE position to do nothing. She fully agrees that a 452 rezone is meaningful; it is disheartening that DOE doesn't make tough decisions. For example PS 199 should not keep 6 K sections, to come without agreeing to councils recommendations is unacceptable.

8.1.2 Ujju Aggarwal- member of Parents Leadership Project- Said that members of the PLP have experiences discrimination time and time again accessing District 3 schools, as they documented in their task force document. It is great more and more people have recognized need for long term solutions to address diversity. She would like the CEC and the district to consider controlled choice, as they have submitted this request to CEC in the past.

8.1.3 Emmaia Gelman- PS 75 & PS 145 parent, Noted that she cares about controlled choice and works with the parent leadership project. Feels it is a relief to have stopped this process that was so focused on only lower end of district. She hopes to advocate for place to talk about controlled choice and sees the CEC as a forum for more information, stated that it is the CECs job to talk about segregation as a crisis.

8.1.4 Wendy Hutter- PS 199 PTA, Notes that we are missing a huge opportunity to do something which would be better than nothing. Feels there is an opportunity now to do something in the short term. She asks where the accountability is in the system. She is disappointed as a parent that DOE has made it a parent issue to solve.

8.1.5 Liz Sutherland- PS 199 parent. Feels as a parent we have committed a lot of time and energy and we have been disrespected by this outcome. Notes that the idea that 199 can still take in six kindergarten classes is ridiculous as they do not have space. She noted that right of return is very important to the PS 199 community and jeopardizes their planning for the future. She commented that Chancellor's Regulations, like any document can be amended and updated. She asks DOE to allow the District Superintendent to have say on school based opportunity in times of crisis until bigger issues get resolved. Additionally asked for specific support for the PS199 parent coordinator to deal with the large wait list.

8.1.6 Erick Shuffler, Parent PS 199, Noted that UFT contract was a document that was overrun by DOE and as such it shows the Chancellors Regulations can be modified as well. He feels that if you are a high performing school in NYC you are not a part of the DOE or mayors agenda. The DOE is relying on parents to get so fed up they leave system. As parents we have committed dozens of hours, at end of the day DOE walked away. Concerned that it doesn't matter because DOE is not going to listen to us but at some point we as parents who have committed to this system have to matter.

8.1.7 Karren Mohan, future kindergarten parent- Highlighted the interrelated issues of diversity and zoning. He noted that he did not attend both Diversity and Zoning Committee meeting because he did not want to muddy the water. As a parent applying to Kindergarten this year he asked what kind of support parents can receive as to how best fill out there Kindergarten applications

9 Adjournment 8:32 pm