



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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CEC3 Middle School Committee Summary

September 25, 2017 9am, Joan of Arc Complex Room 208

Attendance: Kirsten Berger, Middle School Committee Chair, Ilene Altschul, CSD 3 Superintendent, Matt Angell, CSD3 Field Support Liaison, and seventeen community members

Changes to Middle School Admission Process

The committee discussed changes coming to the Middle School Admissions policy for Fall 2019. As per the DOE Diversity Policy (Equity and Excellence for All: Diversity in New York City Public Schools, 2017) the city is eliminating revealed Middle School ranking for all schools. District 3 currently uses revealed rankings; a number of district middle schools only select students who rank them first or first /second.

Many questions were raised as to how this would be implemented in District 3. The time line for implementation is clear from the DOE (“Admissions process for students entering middle school in Fall 2019”) however, the time lime for developing new strategies and informing parents are not yet apparent.

Questions included:

- How schools will manage increased applicant pools
- How parents will be fully informed of the new process
- How this new policy will contribute to increased diversity, as per the policy

Many concerns were raised about the outcome of the ‘blind’ ranking system:

- That new policy does not exacerbate school segregation
- That this does not lead to the elimination of all screens
- That new policy does not overly rely on test and report card scores
- That the outcome does not “lower the bar” as to admissions and academic standards in schools
- That the roll out is done in a timely manner so that administrators and families have time to adjust to understand the new system

Superintendent Altschul stated that she is scheduling several group meetings for principal to work out how they can best implement the new application process holistically. She further affirmed that the intent is to work in conjunction with the Middle School Committee to develop the best solution for District 3 students.

- ❖ CEC 3 to request Office of Enrollment give a presentation to the committee about the ‘blind’ ranking system.

CEC3 Middle School Committee launches the 2 Tour Challenge.

The Middle School Committee is launching a “2 Tour Challenge” to encourage greater awareness of the Middle Schools in the district. One of the outcomes of the MS Diversity Forum in May 2017 was concern that families self-select into specific Middle Schools; this process contributes to the racial and economic segregation seen in District 3. Committee Chair Berger had heard of a 2 Tour Pledge from Integrated Schools and adapted it for District 3 Middle Schools.

The 2 Tour Challenge is to:

VISIT 2 Middle Schools you were not planning to

FIND 2 great things about those schools and

TELL 2 friends about what you learned

- ❖ CEC 3 Middle School chair to develop flier and distribute through D3 District Office and family advocate, through CEC 3 public events and on social media.

Potential Truncation of PS 165/ Expansion of Mott Hall II

The DOE is looking into truncating PS 165, currently a K-8 school, making it a K-5. In turn the co-located school, Mott Hall II (a 6-8), would expand and occupy those classrooms. The current plan is for the changes to be effective by September 2018. If enacted it will effect the families currently applying to middle school and all of the students currently enrolled in PS 165’s sixth and seventh grade.

Mott Hall II expansion. The expansion is anticipated to increase Mott Hall II by one section in both 7th & 8th grade and add one- two section to the incoming 6th grade

The intent is to support PS 165 allowing them to concentrate on and thrive in the elementary grades. It would also allow a flourishing, diverse Middle School with increased demand to expand.

Committee voiced concern for families effected by this change and would like to ensure that families are made aware of it in a timely manner in order to inform their Middle School selection process.

- ❖ CEC3 MS Committee to schedule meeting to engage families directly effected by this change