



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Kristen Berger
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Council Members: Daniel Katz Michael McCarthy Jean Moreland Dennis Morgan | **Ilene Altschul**
Jane Sun Alana Metcalf, student member District 3 Community Superintendent

CEC3 Business Meeting Wednesday, June 6, 2018 6:30 PM

P.S. 166, 132 W. 89th St. – Cafeteria

(Approved at the September 12, 2018 Business Meeting by all Council members)

❖ Call to Order 6:50 PM

❖ Roll Call of Members

Kristen Berger, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu, Genisha Metcalf, Jean Moreland, Kim Watkin

Late: Manuel Casanova, 7p. Dennis Morgan, 7:30p

Excused Absence: Michael McCarthy, Jane Sun

Absent: Alana Metcalf, student member

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

❖ Approval of Minutes

1. May 16, 2018 Business Meeting minutes were approved by all council members present.

❖ Superintendent's Report

- Arts Fair – Thank you to Presidents Council Kerri and Jimmie Brown and all the volunteers including Genisha, Elizabeth Espert. Thank you to Charles DeBerry. Thank you to DJ and Tracy. Kudos to all the schools and their Arts teachers. Amazing displays of visual arts and performing arts including dance, choral, and instrumental.
- M185/M208- consolidation meeting next meeting will be on June 11th
- M165- families all received their offers. The majority are going to MHII, they are taking 30 8th graders and 27 7th graders, a handful are going to Dual Language & Community Action School, singles going to MS54, 191. Principal Lowe is hosting a dinner for incoming families and students. MHII will take the 5th floor.
- Middle School appeal offers went out today
- State Integration Pilot Planning team (CEC3 member Genisha Metcalf, Supt. Altschul, D3 Principals Carland Washington and Marlon Lowe, Crystal Lindsey, Office of School Improvement, and Mimi Fortunato from Fred Walsh's team representing high schools meeting is on June 12th at 2:00p. The Superintendent's team and Member Metcalf will be up in Albany on June 28 and 29

❖ Old Business

1. Middle School Admissions Initiative – Member and Middle School Committee Chair Berger, noted that May 21nd the 3rd and final simulation were shared. As a council we haven't worked our way through the simulation. The letter that the council sent to the Chancellor was more general with 3 high level goals because we had not yet seen any simulations. Email responses regarding the changes continued to come in after the May 21st meeting and the closing date of May 29th. As far as middle school, principals need advance notice so they can build out their individual screening policies and they have to be public to parents by beginning of school year in May and before publication of the Middle School Directory.

- ✓ Electeds, as far as financial supports, responded that their financial year begins Sept. 19 and this would be an early date for asking for those allocations. Our work as a council would be to usher schools through that process. They all have different specific needs.
 - ✓ The discussion will be in two parts, part 1 – the 3 scenarios and part 2 – school supports
- Supt. Altschul said her team and the principals are divided. She hasn't heard from everyone but the bulk are between choices B & C. Where they are in agreement is that everyone feels any one of them would be beneficial.
 - A is Economic Need Index (ENI)
 - B is test scores and grades
 - C is ENI and test scores and grades
 - Member Casanova preferred Scenario A because he felt B & C changed the 'rules of the game' but asked if under scenario A, if principals would be able to make a determination on how many level 1s and 2s they are able to have? Scenarios B and C were out, because they change the rules in how you calculate your final score in order to apply.
 - Supt. Altschul responded that this change would only affect parents applying for 2019-2020 school year. There is a year before they apply. Grades should be accurate not reflective of what will get them into a school. Grades carry a weight for the screening process, it is to identify who needs better support. It is to identify who are the students who are struggling. It is not for screening purposes but for prioritizing the 25% of seats offered.
 - A – 78% scoring level 1 & 2
 - B – 92% scoring level 1 & 2
 - C – 88% scoring level 1 & 2.
 - Each scenario has levels 3s & 4s.
 - Member Katz had a slight preference for Scenario A, it had the smallest percentage that gets no choice that they listed and a smaller number getting preferred school. Overall the change in schools is small. Scenario A, it is 9 schools that change, Scenario B, 8, Scenario C, 9. And 4 schools out of those 9 have no change at all. Main plan: Any of the 3 scenarios goal is to move that small cluster of schools that are low in the ENI, closer to rest of district. Any of the 3 scenarios accomplishes that.
 - Pres. Watkins: With the High School Initiative the mayor is targeting socio economic status in trying to foster integration through the most competitive high school leaving academic tracking in place. Elementary schools will continue tracking through its GnT program. Why do we believe that in middle school, those 3 grades should no longer have academic tracking?
 - Supt. Altschul: Our Middle School Choice schools did not resemble the district in all metrics raised the alarm. We believe students learn best in a diverse learning community that is why we focused on academic diversity shift. We have created a structure where we have very high and very low performing schools. We created the structure and we can create a different structure.
 - Member Watkins: The Mayor has proposed helping low performing students perform better
 - Supt. Altschul: We would never keep out low performing students. At Booker T, the school decides who is honor and who is academic. We have one school that is honors and high achieving. We didn't ask for a specialized middle school, it happened.
 - Kristen Berger said B had too much wiggle room but her concern with A, there is too big a group that falls through the gap.
 - Supt. Altschul said that low performing students who attend a low performing school do not fall into any group. Low performing attending a high performing school will be offered seats.

- Member Liu felt that the new plan discriminates against Asians who are also low income and he could not endorse any of the scenarios. You are going to be struggling once you are in. We are being asked to take least bad option. Principals chose to choose 3s and 4s.
 - Supt. Altschul responded that with blind ranking you won't be able to screen students in the same capacity.
- Member Berger remarked that a lottery was not popular but perhaps principals and parents would enter in to that conversation. Member Liu concurred that it comes closest to fairness and should be considered but none of this addresses academics.
- Member Metcalf felt Scenario A was the only one where we can control who gets left out. It had the least amount of impact. When you look at the specialized high schools, 45 schools from the entire city are the primary feeder schools and 4 of them are in D3.
 - Supt. Altschul reminded council that this is a simulation based on 2 years ago data. We don't know if it's still the same.
- Member Morgan felt all the scenarios were gestural but that Scenario A did disturb that feeder system.
- Member Katz said that it is going to be lifting engaged families out of the middle schools that are already struggling.
- Member Moreland said the Scenarios A & C were not that different. The principals had a stake in the game that it's not up to others to teach the neediest kids.
 - Supt. Altschul responded that we are looking at academic diversity and adding on a layer of socio-economic. The city has allocated 23 million for bias training and equity & access training for administrators, teachers, and guidance counselors. Training will begin this summer and it will be offered for all. She will be looking at what process is in place for academic intervention. What is the process for increasing family awareness re middle school admissions? How can we structure tours where schools are assigned days? She remarked that Center School will be following the plan a year after instituted. They will be listed as a D3 school, not a borough wide school.
 - AIS teams will be tracked and monitored and assured that there are teachers trained in several different programs to support all kids including: Baseline assessment to identify students, tutoring, professional development for teacher to assess learning development in classroom.
 - Superintendent has started discussions with PS 241 on creating a progressive, unzoned school. Next year we will be moving toward if school needs to be rezoned.
 - The Superintendent and council agreed that discussions have to start regarding developing a stand-alone middle school in Harlem, looking if K-8s are presently meeting the needs of district. We need to hear from parents and community people on what they need. The superintendent said that if we create a new middle school it should start from 6th grade as we want to grow and develop it. District Planning would give support.
 - Member felt that 241 was not the place to start and felt it should wait. It would be a loss for Harlem schools and let charter schools move in. Supt. Altschul said that more than one school would be truncated. State Integration Pilot Grant could provide money to support it.

❖ **New Business**

1. End of Year Event – A 'save the date' email will be sent to invitees. Council members were asked to consider an honoree and to send their thoughts to the CEC3 AA.
2. Superintendent Evaluation – Due June 29th. Members Watkins and Liu will write it and send draft to council.
3. July Election of CEC3 Member – Candidates will be interviewed and elected at the July meeting.
4. Marketing Expenses – Creating school flyers to reach out to more families and market schools.
5. Constant Contact Newsletter – CEC3 has engaged Constant Contact as their email vendor. All council members can use it to send email blasts.

❖ **Committee Reports**

1. Equity and Excellence, Co-Chairs Dennis Morgan and Genisha Metcalf: They have been addressing effective funding and want to hold more elected officials accountable. There are 4800 charter school students, 1000+ public school students in Harlem. Would like to track students who don't get their seat,
 - Supt. Altschul said that she has asked schools to track new admits coming from Charter Schools.
2. High School Admissions –
3. Multilingual – 242 will have Italian Dual Language.

❖ **Liaison Reports** ~ *none*.

❖ **Adjournment 10:00 PM**