



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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| Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 3 CALENDAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017

P.S. 180

370 W. 120th St.

(Approved as amended at the Nov. 21, 2017 Calendar meeting by all Council members present)

❖ Call to Order 7:18 PM

❖ Roll Call of Members Kristen Berger, Manuel Casanova, Inyanga Collins, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu, Mike McCarthy, Jean Moreland, Dennis Morgan, Kim Watkins Genisha Metcalf 8:00 PM

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

❖ President's Report

- Supt. Altschul and her team and custodial staff have helped 3 schools move and did a remarkable job.
- PS 191 added a Gifted and Talented 3rd grade section
- Since the rezoning PS 199 and PS 87 are still crowded but they are moving along.

❖ Superintendent's Report

1. Introduction of new school leaders:

- Andrew Sullivan – started July 24th Andrew has been the Assistant Principal at Community Action for 12 years and is fully dedicated to the community to further the work around curricula and instruction, supportive environment and strong family and community ties. In his role as Assistant Principal, Andrew has developed a rapport with the families, students and staff His experiences and vision will provide continuity and strategic supports for all students towards effective academic and personal behaviors. Andrew will continue to set high expectations and delve deeper with the teachers to enhance their practices in utilizing discussion rubrics to increase student discourse across all content areas.
- Kristina Jelinek- started on August 24th Kristina Jelinek has a diverse background through her previous leadership and instructional positions; they include working with Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners and Gifted and Talented Students. Kristina is dedicated to ensuring a robust curricula for all students at the Dual Language Middle School. In Kristina's position as the Assistant Principal in a K-8 school, she was responsible for overseeing the Middle School, located in a separate building. She provided ongoing feedback and ensured that the teachers were engaging all students in high-level work and providing opportunities for students to take ownership of their own learning. She brings with her a strong understanding of the standards across content areas. She will continue to utilize the advisory program to support students in their development of academic and personal behaviors. Kristina values professional development and building capacity of teachers aligned with their expertise. She will continue to support the professional learning of all teachers to ensure that they are meeting the individual needs of all students.
- Jeneca Parker- Started on August 28th Jeneca has a diverse background with leadership work and instructional support across all grade levels and subgroups including Students with Disabilities as she

worked as the Assistant Principal in a District 75 school. Through her experiences with The Leadership Academy, Bank Street and as an Instructional Coach she brings a wealth of knowledge in curricula and instruction and ensuring that all students are cognitively engaged in rigorous work. Jeneca values professional collaborations and learning and is excited to further support the work of the administrative/leadership team, grade teams and department teams at PS/IS 180. Jeneca is excited to work with the active parent/family community and to build on that partnership to ensure that the school is meeting the needs of the all students and that there are strong community ties with learning experiences inside and outside of the classroom. Jeneca will continue to set high expectations and delve deeper with the teachers to enhance their instructional practices across all content areas.

2. 6 new Interim Acting Assistant Principals:

- Nicole Chandonnet, Assistant Principal (IA) of 03M334, The Anderson School
- Aline Fanord, Assistant Principal (IA) of 03M076, A. Phillip Randolph
- Kerry Powers, Assistant Principal (IA) of 03M333, Manhattan School for Children
- Michelle Roberts-Bacchus, Assistant Principal (IA) of 03M415, Wadleigh Secondary School
- Jill Sinnott, Assistant Principal (IA) of 03M258, Community Action Middle School
- Rebecca Tatistcheff, Assistant Principal (IA) of 03M291, West End Secondary School

3. Introduction of Student CEC member- Alana Metcalf, Special Music School

4. Smooth opening- We had a very smooth opening across the district. The Superintendent's team and she were out at all schools making introductions to all the new teachers and invited them to the Meet and Greet with the UFT on September 28th. In addition, on September 7th there was a ribbon cutting at M191 Riverside School and M452 had a pizza party and open house. Curriculum night was a huge success. Newly painted yard.
5. M452 has been having some issues with busing. Thank you to Sharon Lustig, PC and Jill Gabin and the SLT transitioning committee who have been communicated on any concerns. Supt. Altschul has been working with Central and OPT on addressing the busing issues.

6. Celebrations:

Congratulations to the following schools on their State Accountability Status as a Reward school:

- 03M163, Alfred E. Smith
- 03M166, Richard Rogers School
- 03M243, Center School
- 03M452
- 03M859, Special Music School

Congratulations to:

- 03M165 - Showcase Schools
- 03M247, 03M163, 03M191, 03M185 - Learning Partner Schools
- 03M247, 03M250, 03M256, 03M421 - MSQI schools

7. PS 145 opened their Russian Dual Language PreK and K, In addition, PS 145 has a comfort dog as part of the social/emotional program. Her name is Lux.
8. PS 165 has been accepted to present at the NCTM Regional Conference on October 18-20th on Developing Language Acquisition for English Language Learners through the Use of Number Talks. Ms. Castellano and 2 teacher leaders will be attending and presenting.
9. Schools participating in Computer Science for All: 03M84, 03M180, 03M256, 03M421, 03M241
Other schools invited were 76, 208, 245 and waiting to hear their decisions.

- i. Council questioned why 76, 208 & 245 had not had a decision as yet and Asst. Supt. Dickman responded that their applications had not been received and they have been contacted to see if they will be participating. The deadline for the application is tomorrow. If they are interested, there can be a short extension for their registration.
- ii. As part of the Equity and Excellence Initiative, CS4All's goal is to ensure all NYC public school students learn computer science, with an emphasis on female, black, and Latino students. Through this work, students will be better prepared to utilize computer science after graduation.

10. State test data

- **ELA** Overall District increased 4% in ELA compared to the city with 2.6% In ELA overall level 1's declined by 2.2% to 14.8% and level 2s declined by 1.9%. The students are really moving along the continuum.

- In ELA Grade 3 had a slight decline and grade 6 decreased by 4.6%. Largest gains were in grade 7 and 8. Citywide grade 7 declined.
 - In ELA 28 schools stayed the same or showed some progress; 4 schools declined. Greatest progress M241 16.8%, M452 12.8%, M258 with 10.4%
 - All subgroups made progress including ELLs, SWDs, F/RL, Black, Hispanic, Asian, White
 - **Math** – overall district increased 3.3% compared to the city with 1.4%
 - Level 1s declined by 0.7%, and level 2s declined by 2.6%, All grades except grade 6 and 8 made progress. Similar to citywide with grades 4, 6 and 8 showing a decline.
 - 22 schools stayed the same or showed progress; 10 schools declined. Greatest progress in M145 20.3% increase, M241 with 9.3% increase, M208 with 8.4%
 - All subgroups made progress including ELLs, SWDs, F/RL, Black, Hispanic, White, Asian
 - i. Member Katz asked if the state and city give anybody guidance on how to deal with the reliability of results. There isn't more consistent test conditions.
 - Supt. Altschul responded that this is not the only data source we have and that, as Superintendent, she would be remiss if she did not bring the data to the Council.
 - ii. Member Morgan asked about Asian and White students vs. Black and Hispanic students and what's being done at a district level to address issues of disparity.
 - Supt. Altschul said there is some concern and they are looking closely at it. One of the biggest goals this year is to start looking at diversity and how they are addressing the needs of students. It will take time to see the impact but they are taking steps toward making changes.
11. Diversity work with Principals/APs and Jonathan Foy, Senior Advisor for Race and Equity Office of Leadership, on Courageous Conversations with Principals and Assistant Principals. This will be a focus at every Principal and AP meeting.
12. Principal Advisory Group working with Supt. Altschul on developing the professional focus question and framing of this work:
- How do we ensure that all of our students receive a comparable education regardless of the school they attend or where they live?
- It is imperative that we address the disparities and
- recognize our individual bias that we bring to our schools;
 - work with our parent communities to reduce and address their bias that impact their decisions; and
 - work with our staff to reduce and address their bias that impact the education that they are providing all of our students.
 - In response to a question from Council about comparable education, Supt. Altschul said that she has no power over funding. If a school is not being given the funding they should have, she can advocate on their behalf. Small schools tend to have a more difficult time because funding is driven by the number of students.
 - Member Moreland lodges objection to fact that parents make up the excess in schools, i.e. libraries and their librarians.
13. Looking to Partner/collaborate with NY Historical around equity and access, social justice and tying it into history. Working with Parent Coordinators, Presidents Council and Parents.
14. Held 1st quarterly meeting with Katie and Lydia Kontos. Started working with Kaufman and DOE legal on the development of the MOU. They are hoping to have an agreed upon MOU in September.
15. Upcoming dates:
- Middle School Principal Forum- September 27th at 6:00 p.m. at PS/IS 76
 - Middle School Fair- October 10th at 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at PS 242
 - Elementary Admissions Event- October 24th at 6:00 p.m.
 - Harlem Link Charter hearing- renewal and revision – Tuesday October 17th

❖ **Public Comment**

1. Wendy Lamont: PS 87 overcrowding is still real. Classes are over 25. One child has lunch at 10:45 and the other at 1:45 and they've lost their crossing guard. They've called the precinct.
 - i. Council will follow up.

❖ **Old Business**

1. CEC3 Letter to SUNY Charter Schools Institute
2. CEC3 Letter to SUNY about Charter School Teacher Certification.

- i. CEC3 composed a letter to the SUNY Chancellor objecting to the renewal of Success Academy 4 and another letter objecting to Charter School Teacher Certification by charter schools. SUNY seems to consider sufficient publication of the renewal on their website engaging with the public. Council will continue is oversight. Both letters are posted on www.cec3.org.

❖ **New Business**

1. PS 163 / Jewish Home Life Construction Project, speakers: Bruce Nathanson, Senior Vice-President of The New Jewish Home (formerly Jewish Home Lifecare), Rene Kathawala, Pro Bono Counsel, PS 163 SLT & Friends of PS 163
 - The Resolution in Support of the Friends of P.S. 163 Amicus Brief (*on file*) is read into the record
 - In June CEC3 was contacted by the Friends of P.S. 163 Rene Kathawala, pro bono attorney, to become a part of the Amicus Brief. The first conversation on this topic was Aug. 9th, Council agreed they wanted to hear more. In 2014 CEC3 passed a resolution on this project, tonight does not negate that resolution. Tonight is due diligence.
- ✚ Bruce Nathanson for NJH: New Jewish Home Is one of the largest, not-for-profit elder care systems serving New Yorkers of all faiths and ethnicities. Average age of clients is 78. The 97th St. site was formerly the site of a parking lot and is adjacent to PS 163. Current location operates at 60% efficiency which negatively impacts the quality of life of residents. The new living center will have 414 beds, 245 of those for long-term care. The Living Center will be operated in a greenhouse model of care. Since the early stages of project conception NJH has actively sought to engage parents and administrators of PS 163. We have met with stakeholders on diverse occasions to share our plans and incorporated feedback into the plans where feasible. Educational institutions have always co-existed with construction activities, we are committed to the safety of students. The NYS Dept. of Health has completed an Environmental Impact Statement for the project and has issued its findings under the State Environmental Quality Review Act. We have taken a number of efforts to mitigate construction impact to 163 and not interfere with the education of students which includes a 10 point program: 1. Installation of noise attenuating windows, 2. Insulation of new a/c units, 3. Relocation of the construction crane, 4. Installation of a cantilevered acoustic fence and sidewalk bridge, 5. Schedule certain construction activities in accordance with the school calendar, minimizing inconvenience, 6.inclusion of noise source materials, 7. Maintaining an 8 foot wide pedestrian path to the school, 8. Inclusion of vertical slab and slab netting, 9. NYS Conservation approved Remedial Action Plan and construction Health and Safety Plan, 10. Implementation of community air (?) plan during soil removal activity. New Jewish Home is sensitive to PS163, the goal is to carry out construction in the safest manner possible with the least destruction possible.
- ✓ Rene Kathawala for PS 163: The construction will impact the students of 163. We started to look at the situation honestly, assuming the developer would do the right thing by our children. They never responded to two key issues we raised.
 - 1) The noise level, according to the noise impact experts, will go up 800% - noise is algorithmic, a 5db increase doubles what you hear in your ear. Right now it's at 35db. They said it would go to 55db for 9 months at some point. We believe it will go as high as 80-85db. Even by their numbers it is a quadruple effect for the children. They haven't probably mitigated the noise and it will have tremendous impact on our children. Reading and learning comprehension can be delayed by up to 8 months due to excessive noise
 - 2) Lead Dust – The site was used as parking lot for 40 years when leaded gasoline was in use, that residue seeped into the ground. The JHL expert failed to address what you do to prevent lead dust from seeping onto the school site. Young children in contact with lead suffer irrefutable long-term harm. Based on the record that has been presented to the court, mitigation has not been done. We can testify to long discussions with various entities within the City, they failed to offer reasonable mitigation that we were requesting. We are not against JHL, we believe they should do the right thing. We believe the Council should sign the Amicus Brief that (MBP) Gail Brewer's office is preparing.
- Council Discussion
 - i. Who else is signing on to the Amicus Brief?
 - ✓ Rene Kathawala: We have no say in what Amicus Brief say or do. There will be 3 different Amicus Briefs submitted on our behalf. We request that the Council receive the Amicus Brief, read it, you will see that it's a broad collection of elected officials and

nonprofit organizations interested in school safety. There are a couple of briefs the council can sign onto.

- ii. What happens next?
 - ✓ Rene Kathawala: The Amicus Briefs have to be submitted before Oct. 10. All argument takes place in Albany before Nov. 16. This is the final issue. The question in this case is whether the construction should happen safely would allow the children to work.
- iii. Elaborate on preventative measures on keeping the lead dust from getting into the school
 - ✚ Bruce Nathanson: The windows will provide a layer of protection. The site will have all kinds of protocols to keep the dust in place, part of the NYS Action Plan and Construction Health and Safety Plan. A robust watering program, a continuing monitoring process. The protocol was written by the Dept. of Health.
 - ✓ Rene Kathawala: They don't know protocol. It challenges the fundamental assumption on environmental law. Proper corrections would cost about 2M, the project itself costs 250 and they are fighting us to provide those basic mitigations.
 - ✓ The SCA issued a memo in which they did do an analysis of the site and said things would be fine but offered no support for their conclusions.
 - ✓ Mr. Kathawala hopes the case will stand on what is good law, on what a developer needs to do.
 - Supt. Altschul offered that the DOE does not take a stance on outside construction.

❖ Public Comment

1. Man to NJH: Is this the type of environment you would send your kid to? Would you be sitting on the same side as these parent if you had to send your child to this school?
 - ✚ Mr. Nathanson: Construction happens in NYC all the time.
2. Nicky, Pres. PTA 163: Mr. Nathanson has spoken before. The first time it was brought to my attention is when I was dropping my kids off and construction had started and I couldn't hear myself talk and it was only 30 feet from the school. This isn't about money it's about the safety of our children. We are hoping the council will come on board with our Amicus Brief.
3. Katherine: The injustice of this project is not just the children, I worked in nursing homes before. 5 nursing homes (?) have written against this project. You do not put frail, elderly people in a 20 story building from which they cannot be evacuated. They are also segregated from normal life in a 20 story building. It will warehouse them. In May or June of 2014 we proposed a different project under a licensed architect. We are for a humane project. They can rebuild on 106th St. and do it in a humane way. The lead is transmitted on shoes, shopping carts, clothes, etc.
4. Ms. Armstrong, Park West Village: We are concerned about the additional traffic on 97th St. from ambulances. It is already a busy area. We are not opposed to a nursing home. Jewish Home has a wonderful past reputation. On 106th St. they would have had 3 more times the space. We are on our way to the court of appeals.
5. Josh: Google "JHL Chetrit Land Swap." They are getting paid over 30M for their current location. That is why they are not building on 106th St. We tested noise levels with their noise attenuated windows which seal hermetically, we can't do that. Further, projected tested noise levels were 55dbs were in my kid's classroom. They (JHL) walked away from negotiations.
6. Tammy, Chief Experience Office, JHL: In charge of client satisfaction. This is greenhouse project model. It transforms elder care. There are less depressive symptoms. It is not a traditional nursing home.
 - P.S. 163 is one of the most diverse schools in the district. This is something that affects thousands of families, taking action in this way says that we those support families

❖ Roll Call Vote

1. The motion is called
2. Resolution in Support of the Friends of P.S. 163 Inc. Amicus Brief is passed unanimously by all Council members present Yes = 10 / No = 0 / Abstain = 0.

❖ **Adjournment of Calendar Meeting 10:10 PM**