



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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CEC3 High School Admissions Committee Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2018, 6:30 PM

JOA – Room 204

154 W. 93rd Street

❖ **Attendance:** *Jean Moreland, CEC3 High School Admissions Committee Chair, Lucas Liu, CEC3 Multi-Lingual Committee Chair, Samuel Daunt, Director, High School Admissions, Gabriella Rosas, First Deputy, Office of Student Enrollment and 9 community members*

1. Update on Current Admissions Cycle:

1. December 3: Round 1 Applications due for 2019-20 school year
2. The policies are largely not changing. Applications will be online. The online interface works well on mobile devices too. 50,000 families have created an account so far (80,000 eligible families).
3. SHSAT testing still taking place.
4. Change: Everyone will get some sort of offer in March. 5% of students last year did not get an initial offer, This year, those who do not get match from schools listed on their application, will be made an offer to a school close to home. Enrollment may also look at the types of schools the student listed to inform their choice of an offer, but the main criteria is a school close by that has seats available. This process is done by humans, not computers.
5. Attendance at fairs is slightly up this year.
6. Question: Can high schools see what middle school students come from? Yes. Committee members thought this should be masked to remove bias.
7. Question: Do Specialized Schools place students in tracks based on the middle school they went to, course grades or test scores? Some of the specialized schools have a placement exam, often in math and foreign language, after admission to determine their class schedule.
8. Question: How are schools picked for diversity pilots? This is initiated by principals who would like to diversify their schools and then the DOE performs modeling exercises to make the final decisions.
9. Guidance counselors will have until mid-December to make changes to applications based on their review with families. Good idea to have PA presidents invite guidance counselors to speak at a PA meeting
10. Interview bias. Beacon has removed the interview this year. Bard still has an interview.
11. Committee requests: Rubrics for each school should be upfront and easy to find on DOE site. Can screened schools all have a common application? In past meetings, we've also talked about combining the specialized high schools and other schools into one application. Students choose one #1 school, so we don't have the situation where some students get 3 offers from their list and other students get zero from their list. Sam and Gaby said that this idea was one they liked a lot and had been discussing at central.

2. Follow up questions from October 24 DOE presentation of Specialized HS Admission proposal

1. After offers are made to the 7%, and potentially all do not accept, what happens to those seats? Those would probably go into the lottery portion for the rest of the seats.
2. How does the DOE define success for the SHSAT proposal?
3. Spreadsheet of questions was given to Sam to respond with answers in writing later (some requests very data oriented).
4. Can a student get into a popular high school if it's not rated 1 or 2 on their application, even if they are ranked high by the high school (regarding a NY Times article examining the algorithms used)? Sam said yes, it is the ranking of the school and the students ranking and they could still possibly get an offer if they ranked it low on their application, but they are ranked high by the school.
5. There is a randomized number generated for each student, if this number is lower for a particular student, and the ranking by the school higher, the student who ranked the school #2 could get an offer before the student who ranked the school number 1.

3. Action Items

1. Follow up on answers to submitted questions.
2. Contact other CEC's to see if they have similar concerns regarding high school admissions.
3. Contact high school superintendent to attend one of our meetings.