



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Vol. 19 (P) No. 1 Resolution on the School Nursing Shortage

Approved as amended at the April 17, 2019 CEC3 Business and Calendar Meeting by a Roll Call Vote of the CEC3 members present at the time of the vote (10 in favor / 0 opposed / 0 abstain)

Whereas, CEC3 has received information about multiple schools in District 3 that operate without onsite nursing personnel during school hours since the beginning of the 2018-19 school year,

And Whereas, Dr. Roger Platt attended the October 24, 2018 CEC3 Calendar meeting and declared that this nursing shortage is the worst that he has experienced in his tenure. Dr. Platt stated that he believed that several factors were the basis of the shortage, including the complicated employment structure, the shortage of nursing professionals available for hire, and increased need for nursing services to students.

And Whereas, Dr. Platt reported to CEC3 that the increase in the number of schools sites served, which includes all public, charter, private and parochial schools, is another main reason why some schools are not served every day. A total of 1400 full-time nurses are employed.

And Whereas, 700 additional temporary, or agency, nurses are needed on a daily basis to make up for the full-time shortage of nurses, in addition to regular staffing shortages related to vacations, sick days, jury duty, etc. However, the school system operates with approximately 50 fewer nurses than are needed each day because nursing agencies are also short staffed.

And Whereas, NYC school nurses are represented by two different unions and are therefore employed via two different employment contracts. Department of Education employs approximately 500 nurses and are represented by UFT. The Department of Health employs approximately 900 nurses which are represented by DC37. Pay, benefits, and pensions are more lucrative for nurses employed by the DOE.

And Whereas, the School Nursing department often does not know where the shortages will take place, making daily site management extremely complicated.

And Whereas, in addition to the site nursing shortages, nursing supervisor positions are unfilled in all five boroughs, stretching on duty nursing supervisors to cover an unrealistically large service area. In addition, approximately half of this work force is set to retire in the next 12 months, and no new supervisors have been hired since the beginning of the school year.

And Whereas, the demand for nursing and medical attention has reached an all-time high, with an increase in allergy and behavioral medication administration, as well as a rise in childhood diabetes and other conditions.

And Whereas, CEC3 sent a letter to Mayor De Blasio and Governor Cuomo in November 2018 outlining this nursing shortage as one of our five main concerns for this school year.

Be It Therefore Resolved that CEC3 calls on the New York City government to take immediate action to ensure that no school site operates without a nursing professional by the start of the 2019 school year,

Be It Further Resolved that CEC3 calls on the New York City government to provide salary and benefit parity to Department of Health nurses equal to the Department of Education contract. This contractual change should include a clause that this parity must be maintained in perpetuity,

Be It Further Resolved that CEC3 asks New York City and New York State officials to generate an employment pipeline for qualified nurses to service the public school system, including but not limited to tuition-reimbursement in exchange for service.

Be It Further Resolved that New York City Office of School Health be required to maintain a real-time technological application for school leaders and families to know when nurses are off site, what onsite services can be handled by regular school staff (epi-pen administration, allergy medication, etc.), and other pertinent information that informs parents of issues related to school health.