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We have engaged in discussions with the KIPP in public CEC forums, as well as, in private meetings regarding their school proposal within District 3. Based on those conversations and after analyzing their written proposal we do not believe that KIPP Beyond is right for the District 3 community.

Their written report has some fundamental misunderstandings about our community and where it is currently at, and it also wholly admits that KIPP doesn't currently have a plan to address the needs of the students they intend to attract, but rather would only work towards that goal in the future.

The first fundamental misunderstanding is the intentions of our District diversity initiative and the data used to support it. While the mathematics within the proposal are accurate, they do not capture the purpose or context of those figures. For instance, KIPP goes into detail about the number of students affected based on simulation data. This data was only meant to give our community a sense of the possibility but was based applications completed without any additional safeguards for fairness. Applications for middle schools have changed significantly during this year's process due to the safeguards put in place such as blind admissions and priority for low socio-economic low performing students. It is also far from the only effort District 3 has put in place to support all students.

We have provided, and continue to provide, training for all school leaders in addressing disproportionality and implicit bias. We have established teams in every school to look at underlining systems and processes that impact student achievement. We are providing implicit bias training for every single staff member in District 3 through the end of the year. Through grants from the State of NY and grassroots efforts, we have been able to engage our community on the topic of diversity and actually address some of the underlining causes of our own disparities.

Whereas KIPP in their proposal believes they can "over time... provide opportunities for us all to learn from each other on what it takes to provide a high-quality education in diverse settings." Our community is already currently deeply engaged in this learning. We have parents, school leaders, and community stakeholders all collaborating on the evolution of our District. We believe that after looking at KIPP'S proposal that they are intentionally crafting their message to the portions district who spoke out against our own proposals.

Our principals and schools are thoughtful in their process and this report neglects to accurately inform the public about changes schools have made to their screening process and misleads on the impact screening has across the student body in most of our schools. Just because a school has a screening process does not necessarily mean anything about the eventual population of

students that attend. Furthermore, most of our schools have significantly reduced their screening processes given the new metrics and systems involved in admissions this year.

The report consistently misrepresents current enrollment patterns within our district and the space available to accommodate another middle school. The report uses overall geographic enrollment in K-12 as a figure to support their size when that number in no way adds any relevance to their proposal. Nor are the enrollment patterns for middle school and the number of middle schools relevant to their proposal because their proposal is for a 5-8 school that attempts to lure in students a year before our process. There is only 1 school, The Center School, that is a 5-8 model and they accept approximately 60 students each year into their 5th-grade class. The KIPP proposal would more than double the number of students leaving their elementary school in 5th grade and accept over 30% more students than our single 5-8 school. Current space for an additional middle school within DOE buildings is also of concern as we have no current building with the capacity to house an additional 365 students.

Were the KIPP Beyond proposal be approved it would undermine the efforts of our community and our schools in addressing the current issues facing our students. It would place misguided trust in an outside organization as the solution to a problem when our dedicated, existing public schools have done so much already to address the same issues. Adding another school to our current options of schools is not something our district needs to address the issue of diversity. Our path forward in this work lies in the hands of our amazing community and not with an outside organization making promises they admit they don't currently know how to keep.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ilene Altschul".

Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent