



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

154 West 93rd Street New York, New York 10025 - Room 204 Tel (212) 678-2782 Fax (212) 678-2804 Email: CEC3@schools.nyc.gov

Kimberly Watkins
President

Kristen Berger
First Vice President

Manuel Casanova
Second Vice President

Lucas Liu
Treasurer

Genisha Metcalf
Secretary

Council Members: Inyanga Collins Daniel Katz Michael McCarthy Jean Moreland | Ilene Altschul
Dennis Morgan Vacant, ELL Member Vacant, student member District 3 Community Superintendent

COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 3 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2017

P.S. 75

135 W. 97th St.

Business Meeting:

❖ **Call to Order 6:40 PM**

❖ **Roll Call of Members** Kristen Berger, Manuel Casanova, Inyanga Collins, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu, Mike McCarthy, Jean Moreland, Kimberly Watkins

Genisha Metcalf 7:00 PM

Excused Absence: Dennis Morgan

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

❖ **Approval of Minutes**

1. July 19, 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as amended by all Council members present.
2. July 19, 2017 Business Meeting Minutes were approved as amended by all Council members present.

❖ **Old Business**

1. Committee Overview – Review of CEC3 Committee Chairs:
 - (a) Mike McCarthy, Charter School Committee; Dennis Morgan, Diversity, Equity and Balance Committee
 - (b) Kristen Berger and Jean Moreland,, Middle School and High School Admissions Committees are working in tandem until a High School Admissions Committee chair can be appointed
 - (c) Lucas Liu, Multilingual Committee Chair
 - (d) Zoning Committee Chair, to be determined
2. School Liaisons
 - (a) The CECE School Liaisons list will be published on the website
 - (b) Returning Council members did not necessarily stay with the same school
 - (c) Each of the 7 schools in Harlem north of 110th St. received a different liaison.
3. Goals
 - (a) Using the CEC3 established mission listed on the CEC3 website and 3 guiding principles of engagement, commitment to transparency and communication and pursuit of equity, excellence, diversity and justice for the children in District 3, the Councils goals which have been drafted are a work in progress but tantamount is increased engagement of parents. CEC3 has been looking into producing a newsletter.
Discussion ensues regarding CEC3 verbiage:
 - (i) Member I Collins questions choice of word use “diaspora” in goal number one, diaspora usually refers to the African diaspora and she feels is inaccurate in this context.
 - (ii) Member Collins asks if Harlem schools means D3 families in Harlem schools or Harlem families in Harlem schools. Not sure it’s the right thing to pull downtown families into Harlem schools. Member Watkins remarks that that is part of the discussion.
 - (iii) Member G Metcalf comments that we shouldn’t separate schools out, if outside Harlem parents send their child to Harlem schools that is not necessarily a bad thing, i.e. PS180 has many preK students from outside the zone which leads to additional resources. There is a

benefit to having more of a mindset that we are one district. Schools should be equally competitive, looking at raising the bar for all D3 schools collectively will not separate out one school.

- (iv) Member K Berger comments that District 3 Harlem Students, referring to the portion of D3 in Harlem is the verbiage she uses. Our only authority is only over D3 and that is why we mostly focus and the verbiage refers to D3.
- (v) Member Collins said that there should be consistency in CEC3 verbiage. If CEC3 means D3 Harlem, they should say D3 Harlem. If CEC3 wants to increase the overall saturation rate of Harlem, CEC3 should say Harlem.
- (b) Member Berger remarked that she was remiss in not including the Middle School goal but that the goal is to help students and families equitably navigate the middle school process.
- (c) The CEC3 Goals will continue to be refined and posted to www.cec3.org

❖ **New Business**

1. The question is brought up whether CEC3 will consider filing in support of the PS163 Amicus Brief.
 - (a) CEC3 will invite a lawyer to present as well as a representative from Jewish Home Life at the next meeting.
 - (i) Member M McCarthy explains that either side can ask a special interest group to file a “friend of the court” (*Amicus Brief*) which says you agree with the position but there is a difference between standing up in support and signing your name. He is hesitant, CEC3 does not have enough information and Council agrees to invite both sides to a discussion.
 - (ii) Member M Casanova said that the Council has three options: passing a resolution in support of the Amicus Brief, writing a letter or filing in support.
 - (iii) Member Watkins notes that the TCU’s (trailers) have been removed from 163 in anticipation of the SCA making the blacktop over into a garden. It is not known if the new construction will have any impact.

❖ **Adjournment of Business Meeting 7:15 PM**