



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

CEC3

Special Calendar Meeting Minutes Draft

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017, 6:30 PM

P.S. 185/ I.S. 208 - Auditorium

21 W. 111th St., NYC 10026

(Approved as amended at the January 17, 2018 CEC3 & CSD3 Presidents' Council Joint Calendar meeting by all Council members present)

Special Calendar Meeting

- ❖ **Call to Order 7:19P**
- ❖ **Roll Call of Members** Kristen Berger, Manuel Casanova, Inyanga Collins, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu, Michael McCarthy, Genisha Metcalf, Jean Moreland, Dennis Morgan, Jane Yan Sun, Kim Watkins
DOE Staff: Ilene Altschul, D3 Superintendent; DJ Sheppard, D3 Family Leadership Coordinator
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes**
 1. Oct. 11, 2017 Business Meeting Minutes were not presented
- ❖ **Office of District Planning Presentation (*on file*)**, Eric Herman, Associate Director of Planning, Dave Harrington Analytics, ODP NYCDOE
 - Office of District Planning is in the Division Space Management
 - Main Priorities:
 - Address school under-enrollment
 - Address school over-crowding
 - Programmatic needs like Gifted and Talented
 - New and Reconfigures schools
 - Levers for change like re-zoning or consolidation are to address and improve educational options
 - District 3 had increased enrollment around 2008, in 2014 enrollment declined
 - District 3 is diverse
 - K capacity is sufficient into the future
 - 6th grade capacity is sufficient into the future
 - Schools with less than 250 enrollment are looked at to see if they are able or provide services. Four schools in D3 have enrollment below 250: PS185, PS 208, STEM Institute of Manhattan and PS 242. There was a conversation with Chancellor Rose on how to support those schools: K-2 and 3-5 are merging. Consolidate 185 and 208 to provide a continuous elementary school education.
 - Renewal Schools: PS149 and Wadleigh
 - PS 165 currently has 34 students in 6th grade. In order to address decreasing enrollment, the DOE is considering truncating the middle school grades.

Council Discussion:

- What is enrollment planning?
Mr. Herman: Working with Office of Enrollment for proper amount of sections. The focus is on creating sustainable schools.
- PS241 would like preK as a way to boost enrollment

- Superintendent Altschul: There are preK sections in that part of the district that are not filling.
 - Mr. Herman was asked about the process for both proposals for 165 and 185/208 and said that both proposals go through Chancellor's Reg. A190- Educational Impact Statements and a buildings utilization plan are posted at least 45 days before a vote. Both of these proposals that are being looked at will be voted on Jan. 24th. Hoped that parents will have a chance to meet with the Superintendent and discuss their concerns. After proposal is posted additional community meetings are offered. The Joint Public Meetings will be held at the schools and members of the community can make a formal comment on the proposal and offer concerns.
 - Superintendent Altschul remarked that though the proposals have not been posted yet, they are openly discussing it.
 - Council member noted that the northern community is being given only one month to comment on the proposal before PEP votes on it while people in the south of the district got 12 months to comment on what was going on down there. What makes you more comfortable giving people in the northern district only one month?
 - Supt. Altschul responded that she has been meeting with SLTs and PTAs as requested, it has been discussed as an idea so it wouldn't be a surprise. It gives us this month, December and part of January to hold as many meetings as needed. We make ourselves available to be able to answer questions and work with them. Council Member remarked that he went to meetings for months and doesn't think it is equitable.
 - Council member remarked that schools marked for changes are co-located with charter schools. Whose responsibility is it to look at why is there is a decrease demand for schools, particularly when they are clustered in a particular community?
 - Mr. Herman responds that they are 100% looking at demand for these schools and what the enrollment is. Going forward, 165 will have a smaller footprint and should MH2 want to fill that space, that will be as much as 2 sections per grade.
 - Supt. Altschul added that they would have the ability to expand but it depends on if the need. They are planning on offering additional seats but at this time neither the demand nor the need is known. Council member noted that middle school applicants applying to MH2 are applying based on current size and that because of overlap of the ,middle school application process and possible truncation proposal, those applicants don't know how large that school may be. The Superintendent's said that her goal is to provide all students with a strong middle school experience.
 - Council member asked if there are any changes for Wad leigh's middle school in addition to the other schools. Is there something happening at Wadleigh?
 - Mr. Herman responded that at this moment there is no proposal for any change in 2018 for Wadleigh.

❖ Public Comment

1. Sharon Chisom, 165 PTA & SLT: Speaking only for the elementary school parents of 165, they are in favor of the middle school being truncated. They've lost teachers and hope this will not be a drawn out process.
2. Claudette Abney, 208: Does not like the idea of a merger. What's going to happen to 208? Concerned for legacy of 208.
 - Mr. Herman responded that the DOE does not look at this as a loss or a phase out, they believe it will make both schools stronger.
3. Michelle Ryan: Are most people in D3 that MH2 expansion is a possibility? How detailed is proposal?
 - Mr. Herman responded that the proposal will discuss the impact on both schools in detail. Supt. Altschul said that the school was selected based on its success, they want to be able to maintain the space based on district needs..
4. Julia Ivashina, MH2: Found the presentation empty as no details were given. What action can we take to make plans clear and transparent?
 - Supt. Altschul responded that she met with the MH2 SLT in June to discuss the idea that was being proposed. The PTA was made aware of the meeting and there was

- more than one. We were getting feedback in an informal way. DJ Sheppard offered that there will be a PTA meeting at MH2 tomorrow and she and Council Member Kristen Berger will be in attendance and happy to take questions.
5. David Molyneus, MH2: So 165 will cease to exist and MH2 will increase in size, what is the rational?
 - Supt. Altschul: The school will be able to offer additional programming and will be able to enhance the programming already in existence.
 6. Sofia Fofana, MH2: Her daughter had to be screened to go to MH2. This will lower MH2 grades. MH2 is rigorous, Global Scholar kids can't compete. Believes that, because it's convenient, most of the kids will be dumped in their school. Why aren't they sent to Andersen or Computer?
 7. Elisa Sansone, MH2: Agrees with the previous parent. It doesn't seem appropriate to the learning environment for either school. The timeframe seem absurdly short and unfair.
 8. Deborah Shapiro, MH2: Will MH2 still be able to hire the teachers they want to hire? Yes, the administration will stay the same. 2 more sections is a radically different MH2 than what exists now. We picked MH2 because we believed that is where our kids fit. Where do we send our grievance?
 - Mr. Herman responded that feedback should go the Office of District Planning and to the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP). Supt. Altschul responded that every students in 6th & 7th grade at 165 will receive an application listing every school that has space availability. They will be matched as best as possible. Not every child will go to or choose MH2.
 9. Sule Mitchell, 208: Against merger. A bridge class was never mentioned. Who chose this? She feels Supt. Altschul's responses are inadequate.
 10. Shanti Mena, MH2: Is there more data coming. Will tonight's feedback be integrated into the proposal?
 - Mr. Herman: The proposal comes out in December because it takes time to consider and incorporate all the findings regarding the performance of the school. Council Member responded that the hold-up was not with the Superintendent's office but with the Office of Enrollment.
 11. Melissa Chu, PTA Pres. 185: Love's her school. Would love the consolidation to happen.
 12. JoEllen Bagayoki, MH2: Extra kids will require extra help
 - Supt. Altschul: More students equals more funding which can be utilized for different programming and support services.
 13. Cheryl and William de Jong Lambr, MH2: Is it possible Global Scholars will not phase out 6th grade?
 - Supt. Altschul: The proposal is for a truncation, phasing out is difficult for the students.
 14. Jim Staneck, MH2: It feels like it is a done deal. There was very little information in the proposal. We didn't get real information until people started asking questions. There is no screening process, we are not given time, it's pushed through.
 15. Heather Lottner, PS165 – In favor of truncation
 16. Indira Beshli, PS165 – She has 3 children in the school who are doing well, she's against truncation.
 17. Dellys Colon, PS165 – Against truncation. She has one child in 7th grade
 - Council Member comments that the Chancellor's A-190 regulations are a floor not a ceiling. It doesn't mandate that impact statements be only 45 days before the PEP

❖ **Adjournment 9:22P**