



# COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Nan Eileen Mead  
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Daniel Katz Lucas Liu

Theresa L.C. Hammonds Pradnya Joshi  
Vincent Orgera Vacant, *Student Member*

**Ilene Altschul**  
*District 3 Community Superintendent*

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

### Wednesday June 1, 2016 Business Meeting (6:30 PM)

Joan of Arc, 154 West 93<sup>rd</sup> Street  
(Between Columbus & Amsterdam Avenues)

### Minutes

(Approved at the July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 CEC3 Business Meeting by all Council Members

*present 8-0)*

#### ❖ **Call to Order 6:44pm**

❖ **Roll Call of Members:** Kristen Berger, Joe Fiordaliso, Zoe Foundotos, Theresa Hammonds, Nan Mead, Vincent Orgera Quorum was reached

**Late:** PJ Joshi@6:47p, Lucas Liu @ 6:52p,

**Excused Absence:** Dan Katz, Noah Gotbaum, Kim Watkins

**DOE:** Ilene Altschul, D3 Superintendent, DJ Sheppard, D3 Family Advocate

#### ❖ **Approval of Minutes**

1. May 11<sup>th</sup> 2016 CEC3 Business Meeting minutes approved unanimously by Council members present (6-0).

#### ❖ **President's Report**

1. Parent leadership at 452 requested President Fiordaliso, as liaison to 452, to moderate school community discussion tomorrow at the school regarding re-siting issue. President Fiordaliso accepted and his sole role will be as moderator of discussion.
  - a. President Fiordaliso on the record. 452 community needs to have this conversation about everything that has been brought up, as a school and administration community without outside interference and influence. As moderator of the 452 forum tomorrow, I am not going to exert my own feelings and beliefs on their process. They have to come to some sort of resolution, whatever that is and then bring it to the Council. No one in D3 should be weighing in in an inappropriate fashion to sway or weigh in with PTA to shut down opposition from parents who have concerns, or, conversely, "squeeze" the PTA to bring them to their knees, . This community needs the opportunity to have this discussion and bring it to a head without outside interference.
  - b. Member Liu comments that it is not for CEC3 to say whether another school should be moved, the principal asked for the school to be moved, it is not in the CEC3 purview to put a recommendation out there for any school to be moved? Response is that when the DOE presented this at the Zoning Committee meeting the option to move a school into a different building was part of a larger strategy that included rezoning. We also have a decent amount of leverage when it comes to approving zoning lines so,

**If you have any questions, please call Karen Butler at the CEC 3 office @ 212-678-2782 or email CEC3 at [CEC3@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CEC3@schools.nyc.gov)**

Anyone wishing to speak during the Public Comment Portion of the Calendar Meeting must sign in by 8:00pm.

technically, while it might not be within our purview, we do have leverage. When 452 opened it was painfully obvious 452 would not accommodate three schools operating at full capacity. Younger grade families seem to be against moving. Prior to the principal offering to move, there wasn't a plan to move 452. It does not seem fair that they should be forced to move based on only the principal's request. The D3 Superintendent responds that the DOE is not entertaining moving Anderson or Computer out of O'Shea building. A strong elementary school will get parents to go there. That should be clearly communicated so discussion isn't muddled by bringing in other schools. If 191 is resited to Riverside, and 452 is moved into 191, 452 parents seem more concerned with having easy access to the school for their children. The 452 Principal spoke with executive board at SLT and PTA. Member Mead finds it troubling that the 452 Principal didn't reach out to the parent body, she will struggle with supporting move while communication issue is still out there. The D3 Superintendent doesn't believe principal thought about extent of what would come out of meeting. Principal Parker believes this is a way to offer community and school and district a bigger and better opportunity. DOE is being transparent. Vote is in October, ample time to get parent feedback. 452 Principal sent out letter today with more information on proposed move.

- c. The community deserve the opportunity to have the discussion as a school, as neighbors and friends, without undue influence of others. Superintendent Altschul is open to answer all questions from parent leadership. 2018 is not written in stone but it is the promised move-in date.
- d. When school is moved and zone changes, are families offered a spot elsewhere? Do they have a right to attend their new zoned school? The Superintendent will get that information.

#### ❖ Superintendent's Report

- DOE holding stakeholder meetings with PS452 key stakeholder representation from SLT, PTA and K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade representatives
- Zoning meetings will be held at PS452 June 13<sup>th</sup> and PS191 June 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Gifted and Talented (GnT) offers were sent to families' yesterday afternoon. The deadline to register for initial offer is Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, Schools will manage their own waitlists. In D3, 864 students tested, 361 were eligible, 244 applied and 150 offers were made for 100 seats: 50 at 166, 25 at 163, and 25 at 165. Many students do not take the offers. The numbers over several years remain about the same: 2015, 953 tested, 461 eligible, 340 applicants, 199 offers, 89 acceptances. 2014, 999 tested, 464 eligible, 382 applied, 202 offers, 101 accepted. D3, as a district is trending down.
- Response to CEC3 Pearson Field Tests letter from Superintendent Altschul (*on file*). Council feels strongly re Pearson Field Tests and dissemination of info to community regarding field tests and thanks the Superintendent for her quick response to Council's letter. A Council member comments that at some schools, when teachers are unavailable during field testing or students not available because parents pulled them out, kids get stuck in auditorium watching films. Superintendent Altschul acknowledges that time isn't always utilized well. Another Council member feels students are used as focus group but not compensated. Students are providing company with service. Member Liu agrees that different parties are getting something out of this however the State maintains ownership of information generated. Comment is made that the head of assessments at Questar is former Pearson executive. Idea of field tests is to ensure validity and reliability and to help students coming in. Benefit in having it in NYC is its good to have a diversity of students.

#### ❖ Old Business

1. ECC Resolution Discussion

- Tabled at Calendar meeting of May 25th. Council consensus to take time over the summer to look it over. Assembly passed 3 year extension, Senate hasn't acted on Mayoral Control. Does Council want to take a position, using ECC resolution as starting point, or scrap it and do their own? Member Hammonds asks if there has been any analysis or review on impact of Mayoral control on educational process. Council will keep discussion on agenda until Council acts.
2. Year End Event 2016 Honoree(s)
- Principal DeBerry, PS 76 will be given a plaque. President Fiordaliso will reach out to Principal DeBerry.

### ❖ **New Business**

#### 1. DOE Autism Suit

- The case has been allowed to go forward. Money for autism program at school requires a daycare cost of \$720.00/hour, the DOE pays for it up to age 5. At age 5 it becomes the school's responsibility as student ages out, in which case students can go to a different program or non-funded private school that will cover the cost or have parent cover the cost. Parents are suing the DOE for funding beyond age 5; suit requires release of personal information of how many students have autism diagnosis and/or how many students are eligible for funding. Parents of autistic children are against release of that information.

### ❖ **School Liaison Reports**

- Member Mead reporting: 145 had an abrupt departure of school safety officer, who was reassigned. There is a shortage of SSO. SSOs work under NYPD. They can be shifted around. 145 was looking for a formal response from the D3 Superintendent who responds that he will not be reassigned back to 145. Superintendent Altschul will speak with the principal. 145 has two assigned agents.
- Member Fiordaliso reporting: PS 180 Middle School boys have been fighting around time of dismissal. Requesting security around perimeter to secure safety. Request to the D3 Superintendent to speak with principal.

### ❖ **Committee Reports**

1. Middle School, Kristen Berger, Chair: Meeting Monday 9 am. Superintendent will speak about potential middle school set asides. 191 invited to discuss potentially truncating their school which is part of the resiting conversation but Superintendent Altschul responds that they don't have consensus within their SLT and Executive Board yet but the issue of truncating is not urgent, resiting and zoning are. They will discuss potential hosting 6<sup>th</sup> grade high school admission forum.. Application process for Diversity Pilot has been reopened, the Superintendent will reach out to schools to see who is interested and will get back to Council to see if there is money attached. There is a July 8<sup>th</sup> deadline. Funding is unknown at this point. Council asks D3 Superintendent for basics of what the Diversity Pilot grant is and if there is money attached to it. 7 schools are currently enrolled.
2. Health and Wellness, T Hammonds, Chair: Will try for meeting before end of June
3. High School Admissions, Zoe Foundotos, Chair: No new items.
4. Multi-Lingual, Lucas Liu, Chair: Next meeting Wed., June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. 145 submitted grant for Russian Dual Language program.
5. Diversity, N Mead, Chair: Committee met last week. PS185 and PS208 folks attended including Principal Susan Green. There is concern that zoning focuses on southern part of district while issues in other parts of the district have not been adequately addressed in terms of enrollment. What is CEC's level of commitment toward charter infiltration? Member Mead sent the group the CEC3 Resolution from 2013 and told them that a number of Council was on the record as having testified against charter expansions. The group is concerned about under-enrollment and that mergers and/or closures are on the horizon. . 185 would like to take more students but in proposing an extra K class, were denied by DOE because all the students were out of district. Superintendent Altschul responded that out of zone is one thing but out of

district is generally disallowed. Out of district students create a later problem for middle school seats. The under-enrolled schools in northern districts will continue to be encroached upon without an influx of students from either out of zone or out of district. What would attract parents to a school in the northern district? Higher Test scores and programming? Charter Schools, Success Academy skim the best of the children from public schools, leaving skewed down test scores, school then does not attract new students.

6. Zoning, Kim Watkins, Chair absent: Zoning meetings are coming up. Check website.

❖ **Adjournment 8:31pm**

Council Action Items

Pres. Fiordaliso will request tighter security around perimeter of PS180 around dismissal time.

D3 Superintendent Action Items

Contact PS180 Principal about reports of boys fighting outside around dismissal time.