



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 Yan Sun, *ELL* Alana Metcalf, *student member* | *District 3 Community Superintendent*

CEC3 & CSD3 Presidents' Council Joint Calendar Meeting Minutes

Jan. 17, 2018, 6:30 PM

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

21 W. 111th St., NYC 10026

(Approved at the March 20, 2018CEC3 Calendar Meeting by all Council members present)

- ❖ **Call to Order 6:47 PM**
- ❖ **Roll Call of Members** Kristen Berger, Manuel Casanova, Inyanga Collins, Mike McCarthy, Genisha Metcalf, Jean Moreland, Jane Yan Sun, Kim Watkins (8)
Daniel Katz, 6:52p, Lucas Liu 6:55p, Dennis Morgan, 7:30p
DOE Staff: Ilene Altschul, D3 Superintendent, DJ Sheppard, D3 Family Leadership Coordinator
- ❖ **CSD3 Presidents' Council Roll Call of Members** – Representatives from PS 163, 208, 76, 166, PS 9, and Wadleigh. A quorum was reached.
- ❖ **Presidents' Council Report**
 1. Presidents' Council will be having a special election meeting on Feb. 9 for an open VP position on their board and at the same meeting, voting for approval of the revised by-laws. They subject of the meeting is budgets and grant money.
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes**
 1. Nov. 8th, 2017 Special Calendar Meeting Minutes were approved as amended by all Council members present (8)
 2. Nov. 21st, 2017 Calendar Meeting Minutes were approved as amended by all Council member present (8)
- ❖ **Public Comment**
 - a) Jennifer Grier from the Public Advocate's office present.
 - b) City Councilmember Bill Perkins stopped by to introduce himself and say that he is here to be supportive of students, families and public schools. Don't hesitate to call to let his team know what they can do.
 - CEC member asked CC Perkins what his vision is for public schools in Harlem.
 - c) CC Bill Perkins: All our young people have the same potential I had. I don't expect any less (from them). We are committed to them having the same opportunities and more and poverty is no excuse, he was raised on welfare. He hopes that the community demands a lot from him.
 1. Melissa Chu, PTA President, 185: In favor of the consolidation. Concerned that there is enough funding.to successfully consolidate and upgrade the two schools.
 2. Charles Baggett: Sad room is not full of parents, besides Wadleigh, there are 2 other schools closing but who is advocating for those schools, where are the parents? Is privatization the underlying goal (of the DOE) at Wadleigh?
 - i. Council member responded that privatization is a bridge from charter invasion and while the DOE is not striving for privatization, when Success Academy can expand from K-8 to K-12, the unintended consequence may be that. Charter schools will get space that is vacated by existing public schools and privatization may be the consequence. Truncation is the only

model the DOE will consider, providing we get a feasibility study and there are other models that exist.

- Superintendent Altschul said that the DOE is creating a document that will address a lot of the questions and added that the PEP vote has been pushed to March 21st. The date for the Joint Public Hearing has not been set yet but will be in February. A phone number and email address will be given to solicit public comment and add to the analyses of the school. People will have 2 minutes to speak on the record. All information from that meeting will be shared with PEP. Suggestions are welcome and they can be emailed.
 - ii. What was the marketing model that the DOE, PTA and school used to attract people to Wadleigh and can that document be shared?
 - Superintendent Altschul responded that there is no document to share. The DOE holds Middle School and High School Forums where parents can find out about schools.
 - iii. Were high performing students denied admission to Wadleigh?
 - Supt. Altschul: At the beginning of the year I know there were some rumors that people were denied at the beginning of the year. That is not accurate. In the middle of there have been a couple of families, I don't know if they were high performing students or not, I don't know the history of it, that Enrollment was not sending any additional students.
 - iv. How will those displaced students be helped to make the transition from Wadleigh?
 - Supt Altschul: All of the students in 6th or 7th grade will be offered the schools with seat availability in 7th and 8th grade. There will be no screening process, we guarantee them a seat and do our best to match them with their school. Tours will be available. No admission exam, no portfolio, no interview. I am the D3 superintendent and have no authority over D2 schools. If a D3 student wishes to go to a d2 school they can speak with the Family Enrollment Center, a D2 school is not an option on their enrollment form.
3. Gigs Taylor-Stephenson, PTA President, Wadleigh: Harlem is changing but we don't see any progress at Wadleigh and the district continues to impede that progress of the children in the upper section of D3. Resources are withheld and potential students are redirected. She is enraged by Superintendent Altschul's failure to communicate Wadleigh's truncation to parents before students were told. Why did you hold separate meetings with the high school and the middle school children? Feels that the superintendent's actions were egregious.
- Supt. Altschul: I was following proper protocol given by the Office of School Design who put out a series of steps. This is what we were told to do. It was decided with Wadleigh administration. High School and Middle Schools were done separately because they have different questions. The high school meeting was more informational and the middle school meeting we could talk to them and address their concerns. Students were told before we spoke with parents because we knew they might be reading about it. We didn't want children to find out from news or social media sites. They were old enough to understand. Council does not understand why this is the protocol. Ms. Stephenson responded that parents were the only ones who didn't know. The superintendent said that that was because she herself learned of it very late.
4. Mark Diller, CB7: It's significant that the DOE Community Affairs has reached out to community boards. Tomorrow, CB7 Education & Library Committee will be discussing ways to plan future meetings and discuss issues that they, as a community board, are seeing, e.g. the impact of construction that is near a school. The meeting will be held at 250 W. 57 St., 2nd flr, 6:30pm. His goal is to have an increasingly public engagement process.
5. Nicki Reidy, PS163: Would like to go on record; Friends of PS163 has been in court with Jewish Home Life regarding construction near 163. They have lost their *amicus brief* appeal. They are concerned with the lack of activity or support from the DOE.

❖ President's Report

1. The Council is moving toward an important mission as a group to drive some change in the way schools are governed. We wrote an important opinion piece that is in the Gotham Gazette and posted on our website about where we stand as a city, as parents and tax payers. We are seeing the

beaurocracy run amok; \$600,000,000 was spent in just 3 years on fewer than 100 schools in a system of 1800 schools. We spent all that money as a city to improve 21 schools. District 3 should have gotten \$12 million but we did not, we got \$2 million over 3 years that was allocated to just two schools, 149 and Wadleigh. . There was no money provided to Wadleigh for math and their math scores have gone down. That is one of the main readings Wadleigh is on the list to be truncated. Our next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 13.

❖ Superintendent's Report

- Completed SLT consultation for M247
- District 3 collaboratively with the MFSC to proceed with the work around mathematics and increase critical thinking and discourse in the mathematics classes.
 - Grade 5: February 7, March 7
 - Grade 7: January 17, February 12, March 13
- January 26th upcoming Legislative Breakfast at PS191 Riverside School for Makers and Artists.
- March 1st NYS Testing Workshop at JOA
- Spelling Bee- February 10th at PS 208 10:00 a.m. Elem, 1:00 p.m. MS
- Renewal Year 4/RISE schools
 - PS 149 sharing state of the school tonight at 5:00 p.m., and then at the CEC meeting. SLT tomorrow at 5:00 p.m.
- Held Stakeholder meeting at M185/M208 today 1/17 at 1:00 p.m.
 - Discussed space, resources, next steps,
- Held Joint Public Hearing – M185/M208 January 8th 6:00 p.m.
- Held Joint Public Hearing – M165/M862 January 9th 6:00 p.m.
- Panel for Educational Policy January 24th 166 Essex Street 6:00 p.m.
- Wadleigh proposal- Community meeting January 10th. PEP was moved to March 21st

❖ Old Business

1. Update on A-190 – PS 165, PS185/PS208, Wadleigh

Principal Susan Green, PS208:

- Has been approached by CEC members and PS208 families and would like to make some issues public regarding the oversized 5th grade class (37 students), 4th /5th grade bridge class, PS208 budget and the school funding.
- i. Oversized 5th grade class: Last year the 4th grade class had 31 students. This year was the first year it reached its highest number at 37. The UFT approached them about filing a grievance; she contacted DOE legal department, Gillian Cost? Who said that if contractually 32 is the cap and class is over that number and if you have the space, open up another class that is what you should do.
 - ii. Dr. Green has been doing outreach to Manhattan Borough Field Support, Matthew Manner, regarding the budget for hiring a para-professional but said she would be asked by Central why she did not want to form a bridge class. She does not want to form a bridge class because of age disparities; some of the 5th graders are 12/13 years old and feels it is not appropriate to have children that old mixed in with 9/10 year olds.
 - iii. Money for C4E was used to fund a 3rd grade teacher position and reduce 3rd grade class size. 208 had always received funding for an IEP teacher, who hold a specific license, this was the first year they didn't get the money but were not permitted to access anybody, yet had to continue to do this work minus the approximate \$73,000. The gap is not the C4E money, the gap is that they lost a salary and had to continue to pay for that position. 38% of the students at 208 have IEP without having an additional body to focus and do the work. That is one third of the student population. They still have students who need the service but not the funding The DOE needs to be committed to having the funding come back to 185 specifically for an IEP teacher. The impact of this one salary on the functioning of their school community has prevented them from offering Tier 2 and Tier 3 intervention services. They had booked a math consultant whose work with them helped math scores go up 8%. They had to give back a lot of days to work with her this year. They also wanted to fill a vacant position but the DOE said that if the teacher was in excess, the DOE would not be responsible for their full salary. They were told the teacher, because she had worked the past year, was not eligible for the funding. We have faced challenges this year that we have never encountered before.

- Council member noted that within the district we are grappling with 2 renewal schools. Wadleigh is achieving more their benchmarks than 149. What is the logic of penalizing one school (Wadleigh) and giving 149 one more year?
- Are there other school that may be visited for redesign?
 - Supt. Altschul: We started this discussion last year around 241 which has come off the priority list. One thing that came out through our Harlem stakeholder meetings is that families are leaving Harlem to go to progressive and/or unzoned schools where they have choice. In our stakeholder and community meetings we have discussed creating an unzoned, progressive school and are looking at 241 to start to think about what the curriculum would look like. It would likely happen in 2020. Originally there was a discussion about closing the school but we are now thinking about rebranding, renaming and unzoning. This is all still in discussion. Any child currently attending the school would have the right to stay.

❖ **Liaison Reports**

❖ **Committee Reports**

1. Charter School, Michael McCarthy, Chair reporting: Jan. 10 the Charter School Institute met and voted on a host of renewal charter school applications including 12 Success Academy applications which also included Harlem 1 and Harlem 4. They passed. They met and voted on it even though they didn't hold the four public community sessions required. The DOE may still have those meeting, he has been talking with CEC 5, 15 and 22 to see what they can do. Success Academy 1 and Harlem 1 requested an increase of their seats to 300 seats. They are collocated with 149.
2. Equity and Excellence – Harlem School Summit is April 14 at PS 180. The next meeting is Jan. 31, 6:30 PM at PS180.
3. Multilingual, Lucas Liu, Chair reporting: They working on a dual language resource guide. Looking into how to get more partnerships as well.

❖ **Public Comment**

1. Mark Diller, CB7: Regarding the A-190 Resolution, the summary of public comment is provided to PEP 24 hours before an amendment.

❖ **Roll Call Vote**

1. A-190 Resolution – The resolution is passed unanimously by all Council Members present (11 yes / 0 Abstain / 0 No). The motion carries.

❖ **Adjournment 9:46 PM**