



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

Joseph A. Fiordaliso
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Kimberly Watkins
First Vice President

Zoe G. Foundotos
Second Vice President

Kristen Berger
Secretary

Lucas Liu
Treasurer

Council Members: Manuel Casanova
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Vincent Orgera,

Pradnya Joshi
Declan Saint-Onge, *Student Member*

Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

CEC3 | CSD3 PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL JOINT CALENDAR MEETING Wed., Oct. 19th, 2016 6:30 PM

PS 75 Auditorium – 735 West End Ave New York, NY 10024
(Between 95/96th St.)

Draft Minutes

(Approved at the Dec. 14th, 2016 CEC3 Calendar Meeting)

- ❖ **Call to Order 6:40 PM**
- ❖ **Roll Call of Members** Kristen Berger, Manuel Casanova, Zoe Foundotos, Noah Gotbaum, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu, Dennis Morgan, Kim Watkins (8)
Chair Kim Watkins, 1st VP
Excused Absence: Joe Fiordaliso, Vincent Orgera

DOE Ilene Altschul, D3 Superintendent, DJ Sheppard, D3 Family Coordinator
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes ~ tabled**
- ❖ **Presidents' Council**
 - Kerri Keiger, President, Presidents' Council tabled report due to length of meeting. The Presidents' Council Treasurer's Report is available for handout.
- ❖ **President's Report ~ tabled**
- ❖ **Superintendent's Report**
 - Rouge Douglas, Director of School Renewal, has been out due to medical leave. Sandy Mayol from MFSC has been supporting the renewal schools in her absence
 - D3 SLT Training being held Oct. 25th @ 5:30 PM PS 84
 - Nov. 10th, 6:00PM, Elementary Enrollment procedures meeting, Pre-K, K and G&T enrollment
 - Nov. 7th Joint Public Hearing on 191 re-siting to RSC
 - Met with PS 241 and PS 76 community re consolidation of schools.
- ❖ **Contract for Excellence DOE Presentation *on file***
 - Matthew Manner, Budget Director D3 and D5, presenting

- NYS passed the Education Budget & Reform Act of 2007 in response to Court of Appeals decision holding the State responsible for increasing funding for NYC public schools.
- The Contract for Excellence rules were passed which gave guidance to NYCDOE on how money must be spent.
- There are 6 specific areas funds must support (*on file*)
- Funds must go to students with greatest educational need.
- Funds must supplement, not supplant e.g. C4E funds cannot be used for basic school needs.
- 2016-17 State C4E Funding Breakdown: \$531M received of which \$183M Unrestricted may be used to run the school. \$348M is restricted and is distributed through school allocations and district-wide programs. New or expanded programs are not supported at this time.
- \$194M goes directly to schools
- \$109M used for targeted allocations, i.e. ICP classes, pre-K, etc.
- \$15M for district-wide initiatives
- \$30M for Maintenance of Effort: summer school
- Of the \$348 Million Restricted Funds, \$308M goes to Teachers, \$4.4M to Aps & Principals, \$10.5M to other school staff, \$25.1M to district-wide programs, supplies and equipment
- CEC3 Discretionary Spending under C4E is \$6,028,938 total allocated to D3 schools i.e. class size reduction, full day pre-K, model programs for ELL, etc.
- For 2016-17 school year, NYCDOE will focus Class Size Reduction planning efforts on the School Renewal Program.

A. NYCDOE has not received the full amount of funding in the Foundation Aid Formula and must follow the C4E rules for the funding it does receive.

- i. Member Katz comments that to date, based on legislation passed in 2007, Albany is still shorting NYS schools a total of \$3.9B annually. NYC is being shorted over \$2B annually which is over \$2K per student, per school across the entire city. Each and every school is being shorted hundreds of thousands of dollars in Foundational Aid annually.
- ii. Member Gotbaum comments that since 2009 or 10, former Mayor Bloomberg plugged school funds to be utilized for reduction in class sizes, into the general budget and they are used for other things.

❖ Old Business

1) Water Testing Protocol DOE Response: Bill Estelle and Bernie Orlan of DOE Schools Facilities presenting

- Bill Estelle, DOE Executive Director Schools Facilities.
 - 2002 the protocol implemented. The presentation will cover the water testing protocol the DOE takes to make sure all requirements and regulations are met, including the Water Flushing Program. The overall bottom line is safe drinking water.
- Bernie Orlan, DOE Director, Environmental Health and Safety. Architect of current water testing protocol.
 - 2002 lead water testing program developed in conjunction with State Health Dept. and NYC Dept. of Health, US EPA and UFT. 20 ppb standard set.
 - There are many new facilities since 2002 implementation of water testing and it was imperative that all be tested. Program implemented in Marc and completed May. Making sure all schools have healthful environment by ensuring all have safe water.

- K Watkins: Number of schools in D3 had elevated test results but no protocol implemented, why?
- Bill Estelle, DOE: When levels are elevated, above 15ppb, the custodian is informed to isolate the fixtures. We immediately implement a flushing protocol. A “backpack” letter goes home to parents and teachers outlining the results of the elevated levels.
- N Gotbaum: Does this involve pre-stagnation flushing or cold testing?
 - Bill Estelle: Pre-stagnation flushing happens the night before; the custodian is given strict instructions not run the water after the pre-stagnation is done. The water is tested the next day. The pre-stagnation period is to simulate normal usage.
 - Bernie Orlan: Flushing is supposed to mimic normal building use. There is flushing and then stagnation from end of school day to next morning. The requirement is that all fountains be tested even those that have not been used in years. The data is representative of what a child drinks in the morning.
- N Gotbaum: We have an article here that says the DOE is “gaming” these results. Experts say this procedure does not work.
 - Bernie Orlan: We need to find a more effective way of testing however there are experts who are giving us the guidance to do so and evaluating new processes for testing. Our responsibility is to protect the children.
- D Katz: How much credence is your office giving to different and/or better procedures?
 - Mohammed Humida, DOE: After the NYT article. We stopped the 2 hours of flushing, all fixtures. Our protocol is more stringent than anywhere else in the city. We do not turn a fountain back on until it’s been tested twice and passes 15ppb, which is down from 20ppb.
 - Bernie Orlan, DOE: I would like to come back and tell you what we are doing or answer questions may not have the answer to now.
- K Berger: Will all schools with elevated levels be retested this fall?
 - Bernie Orlan: Anything that came up “high”, were shut off, the plumbing was changed. We test, we get good results, we wait 2 or 3 days, we re-sample and test again. If the change is not sufficient to bring outlet to 15ppb or below, it will remain turned off.

❖ Zoning

1) Draft Scenario Discussion

- K Watkins: Oct. 18, 2016 CEC3 released a letter to the Chancellor and opened up to the community our processing of the DOE draft scenarios presented to us and to the community and the dialogue we have engaged in over the last 2 years. We did this to own the process. We wanted our neighbors to know where we stand. Over the last 18 months, I, as Zoning Chair and the Zoning Sub-Committee chairs, Dan Katz and Kristen Berger, have poured over all the documentation to help produce a plan that we know could get through when we vote in November. The DOE is not quite ready to show another draft proposal. The Letter was crafted in conjunction with the approval of the Council President and fellow members here on the dais. It adheres to the three principles; our schools are overcrowded in certain parts of the district. We can no longer accept the overcrowding that exists at 199 and 87 and other schools. We attacked it aggressively to achieve a plan that will help 199 and 191. We need to help repair the long-standing effect of segregation in the lower part of our district. Our plan does that.
- L Liu: Regardless of what decision is made we all need to get behind that decision. It is going to succeed or fail based on us.
- D Katz: When you look at the information we had from the DOE, segregation was allowed to happen here in District 3. It was deliberate and unjust. The Supreme

Court said separate is not equal. We are going to have 3 zoned elementary schools in the southern district and it would be inexcusable to approve any plan that does not aggressively and definitively aim to end segregation in that part of the district.

- K Berger: The Council was proactive in showing what we would like to see; to work together with the DOE by showing them what we see through months of community engagement. We are looking at the district as a whole. We have to take into account what will benefit everyone in the district.
- PJ Joshi: It is an obligation and a law to take into account IEP students. 452 does have a very good IEP program and I would like to see more students benefit from it.
- N Gotbaum: To those of you who feel blindsided by this plan, join the club. This plan was formulated by a few members of the CEC, I found out about it 4 days ago. I had no opportunity to vote on the plan. We want to deal with overcrowding but we are removing 300 seats and not replacing them. I have very little confidence that we are not creating a major problem for PS 87, 9, 166 and 199. Every other plan moves prospective parents, this plan moves seated parents.
- D Morgan: I represent schools in Harlem, what I see is a number of charter schools in the northern district; this plan tries to balance that. It's taken us a long time to get here.
- K Watkins: The DOE asked us to provide feedback, that is why we formulated the plan as we did. The next step in the process is the formulation of a plan by the DOE.
- Z Foundotos: this proposal sent to the DOE was formulated on strategic thinking and numbers crunching, visiting our liaison schools and listening to what their needs are. This plan is the result of that. Under this plan there is a net gain of seats over the next few years. Support our children having a quality education.
- Kerry Keiger, Presidents' Council President: I fully support the document the CEC put out. The Presidents' Council and CEC have worked really hard to reach out every school and the community involved in the zoning. There was ample opportunity for the public to come to the Zoning Committee meetings, which are open meetings, and explain what they wanted. I strongly encourage the DOE to take into account as many of the CEC proposals as possible. The CEC is working very hard to achieve the goals of diversity and appropriate zone size and over-crowding in the district.
- Supt. Altschul: We are proposing consolidating 241 STEM Institute on 113th St. with PS/IS 76. The goal of the consolidation is to provide a strong learning environment and expanded resources to best serve all the students in the district. There will be opportunities for extensive engagement. I have already met with SLT and staff at each school, there are parent meetings scheduled.
 - i. PS 241, Mon., Nov. 24th at 6PM
 - ii. PS 241, Tues., Nov. 25th at 9AM
 - iii. PS/IS 76 Wed., Oct. 26 at 6PM
 - iv. PS/IS 76 Thurs., Oct. 27th at 9AM

We want to ensure that all students have a rigorous education. The proposal will address the declining enrollment at PS 241. They will be able to bring their STEM program to PS/IS 76. We look forward to hearing from all constituents.

- N Gotbaum: 241 was a thriving school, a school of 900 kids, you couldn't get into it and then the DOE took Ms. Moskowitz and Success Academy and put it into the school and she siphoned off resources, rooms and essentially took over the building along with another charter school. 241 couldn't survive. Charter schools are successful at the expense of public school resources and now families with a range of needs are being moved out. We need a moratorium on charter schools.

- Supt. Altschul: We are sympathetic to that, we understand the challenges the school has faced. We also want to ensure that these students are given a thriving school where they can learn and grow and be afforded the same opportunity as all the other schools in the district and that is why we are doing this consolidation effective Sept. 2017.

❖ **Public Comment**

- i. Charmain(?), PS76: School is already full. We need more resources not more kids. 231 kids in 76 will push out children out. We can't help it if the people in our school don't want to send their children to our school.
- ii. Clare Hemphill, editor Inside Schools website: Hats off to the CEC for a thoughtful, courageous, long overdue plan that deals with overcrowding and segregation in the southern part of the district. You will hear from the inconvenienced parents but you who you won't hear are the thousands of kids who will benefit.
- iii. Madelyn Storms, PTA Co-Pres., 166: Thank you CEC. We whole-heartedly agree with you and firmly support and stand behind the plan.
- iv. Joel Shirasu-Hiza, 9: Thank you for your transparency. Appreciate your listening to the many voices. Appreciate the effort. Urge the DOE to head CEC recommendations.
- v. Gary Ramsey, 165/185: Not everybody is in agreement. Lincoln Towers has been called racist. It's offensive. I am a lifetime diversity advocate
- vi. Hilda Blair, 452: Supportive of move. CEC plan is comprehensive. Disagree that school will suffer. I will follow them everywhere. DOE adopt the plan.
- vii. Mark Gonsalves, LT: Disgusted by the document.
- viii. Jody Rosen, LT: When you take a school out of a neighborhood, what is the cost? The continuity of Lincoln Towers is important too.
- ix. Brad Laney, 452: Trusted in the process. Your proposal calls for the up-rooting of hundreds of kids and busing them out of their neighborhood.
- x. Trevor Hoffman, 205 WEA: Our building has never been mentioned before on any of the DOE proposals and now, on 24 hours' notice, we hear about a new proposal that involves our building. I'd like to see the numbers that support moving certain buildings. I would like to have an opportunity to comment for my fellow residents who haven't had a chance to comment on this proposal.
- xi. Emily Ramsey, 165/185: I'm disappointed. (The CEC letter) went to the media before it came to us. Our Council member said Lincoln Towers was drowning out the voices of diversity. We are against the plan, not the goal.
- xii. Susan Schernwetter, LT: I would feel more confident if Council would announce if there is a conflict of interest and I would expect folks to recuse themselves if there is.
 - K Watkins: The Council members are elected by PTA Presidents & Vice Presidents. We are elected officials and parents and will not disclose where we live in order to satisfy someone's whim.
- xiii. Seth Rosenthal, 303 WEA: I'm speechless. The latest proposal shows that our comments and concerns were ignored.
- xiv. Heather Tait, 452: Thank you all volunteer CEC. I hope parents continue to support teachers and children at 452. Fully supports the plan.
- xv. Debjani Dutta Roy, 205: Really shocked. We haven't had much information. Don't have any information on 191. Is it safe?
- xvi. Beate Sisseniel, 452: Grateful you've shifted the discussion away from which building to segregation and possibly controlled choice. Supports the move.
- xvii. Debbi Patterson, 241: Upset. You aren't giving us a chance to say what we need to say. I haven't seen any of you at the school but now that you all want to close the school down... it's not going to happen.

- xviii. Kurt Bermon, 205: Strongly urge the DOE not to accept the proposal. You're moving us 10 blocks south when I can see the school from my window. You've high-jacked the process
- xix. Barbara Denham: I applaud all of you. The Plan is proactive. I thank Helen Rosenthal. I fully support the plan
- xx. Gretchen Kloke, 452: Our involvement in 452 is not possible if school is moved.
- xxi. Mark Friedman, LT: Is this group of people seizing this plan? I find out the Council has written its own plan. I don't like having bombshells.
- xxii. Mike McCarthy, 452: The President of this Council is on record stating, "When we made a decision to stay in the city we entered into a pact with the city, the pact is that my child could go to his or her zoned school." If PS 452 moves it will be approximately 1 mile from my home. There are three schools closer to my home than a relocated 452. I call upon DOE to reject demand made upon you to re-site our zoned school, 452. If you decide to re-site us you must guarantee every 452 family that does not want to move, to attend their zoned school.
- xxiii. Rob Tuchman, 452: Taken aback by proposal after you've said you heard what we have to say. The CEC is lobbying for 452 families not to attend their adjacent zoned school but rather demanding that 452 families attend schools farther away than 3 closest zoned schools.
- xxiv. Matt Unterman, 303 WEA: CEC plan did not respect the process. Hopefully it is not the end of the process:
- xxv. Melissa Kraft, 452: Fully support the move of 452. All children should be able to benefit from fine education.
- xxvi. Josh Lefkowitz, 452: The Council is shortsighted. None of this addresses overcrowding at 199. Moving 452 does not solve this. There is a district wide overcrowding problem.
- xxvii. Susan ?: CEC plan does not increase diversity. You have chosen to include students from many expensive buildings into the 199 school. They are largely white and rich. It does not increase diversity or socio-economic diversity. Lincoln Towers would like to meet with you to share our ideas on how to increase diversity in the district.
- xxviii. Scott Seamon, 145: I haven't heard about anything above 75th St. We are zoned PS 145, nothing is fixing what's happening in my neighborhood. Nobody is sending their kids to school there. 8% is the passing grade for English at 145. Not 80% like at 199.
- xxix. Michael Warfeld, 452: CEC document is riddled with inaccuracies. Diversity can be achieved by keeping 452 where it is and creating a new school.
- xxx. Isabel Stoll, LT: 199 was created for Lincoln Towers and you want to break us up.
- xxxi. Toni Smith-Thompson: Concerned that the CEC has taken Controlled Choice off the table. The focus should be for Controlled Choice. CEC has refused to focus on equity in the northern part of the district.
- xxxii. Micheline Tang, 452: The 452 SLT supports the move but they were voted in before this became an issue and do not represent the majority of the school.
- xxxiii. Andy Davis, 452: Giving up all these elementary seats is a mistake; it was created to take up the overflow from 199 and 87. CEC plan was done to clear out and protect 199.
- xxxiv. Ann Kantawala, 452: Congratulations for a remarkable job, the proposal is finally inclusive. The teachers and principal need to be at the heart of this discussion because it concerns our children. I hope you go forward with the proposal.
- xxxv. Mark Seaman, 452: CEC proposal is thoughtful. 452 is cramped. I heartily support the proposal that will give 452 its own building that that will serve students for

generations to come. Commend the CEC for thinking beyond the short-term. The move will improve educational outcomes for all.

- xxxvi. Leah Savitt, 165/185: We (LT) share your guiding principles. The recommendations you put forth are lacking. The data has many errors.
- xxxvii. Alex Harrington, LT: I am speaking but you are not listening. You've disregarded the Lincoln Towers community. Making changes without community support is self-sabotage.
- xxxviii. Brian Byrd, 452: Disappointed. Disagrees with many points of CEC letter. A much more widespread plan that deals with segregation on a district level is needed.
- xxxix. Dan Stanco, 452: Respects both sides but overcrowding isn't being addressed on the UWS. Moving but not replacing hundreds of seats from 452 will not solve the issue. It's short-sited.
 - xl. Lucy Philip, 452, reading statement by Cheryl Tam: Moved schools because of rezoning events. The DOE could have opened a new school rather than move 452. It improves nothing. Ms. Philip's family looking to move to Westchester.
 - xli. Robin Krugman, 452: Disagrees with CEC. Families with other options will not follow 452 to new building. Open a new school, DOE has done it before.
 - xlii. Ross Friedman, LT: FUD stands for fear, uncertainty and doubt. We have doubts these plans will work. Data has been provided late and plans are being drafted less than one year before school starts. No data presented warrants splitting Lincoln Towers.
 - xliii. Hillary Kopple, 303: Distracted by the 241 closing. Seems like it was thrown in at the last minute. On the issue of transparency, we have the data now what, explain it to us. It doesn't make sense.
 - xliv. Seth Lieberman, 303: This process is like living a recurring nightmare. Meeting after meeting, comments fall on deaf ears. I'm voting "no confidence."
 - xlv. Melissa Shuman, LT: Data doesn't support splitting the community. Where is the fairness in the CEC drafting a plan for the DOE that the CEC will vote on?
 - xlvi. Cathy K, LT: Why is the data from the DOE so fraught with errors? We've come up with plans that are better than the DOE's and nobody wants to look at them.
 - xlvii. Jessica Weinberg, 452: The DOE winning plan is Scenario C. We are shocked at new (CEC) plan.
 - xlviii. Rachel Singer, 452: We were a founding family of 452 in 2010. Moving is a tremendous opportunity to have a better facility.
 - xlix. Karen O'Connell, 452: Concerned. I am across from PS 9; proposal has us going to PS 84. Plan won't achieve diversity. Many families are going to consider private schools, charter schools or Westchester.
 - l. Daniel Paretsky, LT: Lincoln Towers is on the chopping block especially when members of the CEC have spoken publically about seeking a community school for their children. CECs plans incorporate the new residential construction.
 - li. Matthew Gabin, 452: Reluctance of CEC to support establishing a new school is incomprehensible. We have the model of 452 to build on. Also, it's not about the busing, it's about upsetting the fragile balance of time with our children.

❖ **School Liaison Reports** ~ *tabled*

❖ **Committee Reports** ~ *tabled*

❖ **Adjournment** 10:00 PM

1. Invite Bernie Orlan back for water testing update, perhaps with Mike Mirisola