



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Eric Wright Assietou Sow Teddy Tawil, Student Member

| **Christine Loughlin**
District 3 Community Superintendent

CEC3

Wed., Dec. 18, 2019

6:30 P.M. Business Meeting

7:00 P.M. Calendar Meeting

P.S. 180 – 370 W. 120th St.

(Motion to approve the Jan. 22, 2020 CEC3 Calendar Meeting was made and approved by all Council members present (9))

Calendar Meeting

- ❖ **Call to Order** 6:50 PM
- ❖ **Roll Call of Members** Kristen Berger, Lisa Byrd, Naveed Hasan, Michael McCarthy, Dennis Morgan, Sharmilee Ramudit, Deirdre Garrett-Scott, Assietou Sow, Kim Watkins, Eric Wright, Teddy Tawil, Student Member
Late: Lucas Liu,
- ❖ **DOE Staff:** Christine Loughlin, D3 Superintendent, Tracy McClaire, D3 Family Liaison Coordinator, PS/IS 180 Principal Jeneca Parker, DOE Exec. Supt. Marisol Morales, DOE Chancellor Deputy COS, Dr. David Hay.
Elizabeth Espert, UFT Representative-M
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes**
 - 1 Motion to approve Nov. 20th, 2019 CEC3 Calendar Meeting Minutes called seconded and unanimously approved by all Council members present (10).
- ❖ **Supports for the PS/IS 180 Community**
Due to the death of Barnard Student Tessa Majors, in Morningside Park, across from the school and the many community in attendance, President Watkins previewed the evening's process and explained that the evening is meant for the community to share their experiences with council in order to better serves them.
 - Member Morgan added that not all things will be resolved and that each speaker will have 2 minutes to speak.
- ❖ **Public Comment 1**
 1. CD, 180 – PS 180 is a school that has a disproportionate number of children that need additional supports, asked for more services.
 2. SA, 180 – Feels overwhelmed
 3. AA, 180 – 180 is a lovely community and it's heartbreaking what is happening.
 4. EN, 180 – Hopeful but concerned. Invested in the safety of the school. This is an excellent opportunity to support school, community and staff. Called for more school aides, a social worker.
 5. SM, 180 – Had a difficult conversation with her 4th grader. Wondering what she can do. Asked the DOE to send a safety specialist to look at school to ask why violence is happening. Teachers, principal and parents are not getting the resources they need.
 6. CJ, 180 – Would like to honor the life of Tessa Majors and honor the life of our kids who have been impacted directly. DOE we need robust and sacrosanct programs for our kids. Visible DOE leadership who are available and a communications plan to counter the narrative that we are in the midst of. We are not a failed school. There has been no counter to negative press over this incident
 7. BC, 180 – This is a wonderful community but it is a community in crisis. Worried about safety of his children. (DOE) Tell us what your plan is, we haven't heard enough.
 8. BC, 180 – There is a lack of communication between groups.
 9. PS, 180 – Nowhere in NY feels like this. Funding and resources are crazy. We need as much communication as you can possibly have.

10. GC, 180 – Concerned about security issues. This school is waiting to do better. This school could make it with more help.
11. GM, 180 – Three points. Be mindful of no over-policing our children in the wake of this tragedy. Look at how media reporting has impacted community, support from DOE would help us when we don't have information and get it from the medial. Middle school at 180 has been 'begging' for resources for a really long time, we see the devastation it can cause when those programs are not put in place.
12. KE, 180 – School succeeds in so many ways. This incident does not define us. We are not getting the support. Remove the barriers.
13. RT, 333, UFT chapter leader - As teachers and administrators, we believe that we must not forget that everyone involved are children and the way the news media has treated the children involved is not the way children deserved to be treated. We will continue to work to make sure that our communities are successful.
14. TN, 163 – Our school community supports this community.
15. RB, 180 – Lack of communication has been agonizing. I have been feeling nervous about dropping my child here. I don't know what was going to happen that day. I feel this everyday now. This (incident) affects multiple communities.
16. Dr. Canton, President CEC5 – I was asked by parents from my district to attend this evening. There is an invisible line between District 3 & District 5. There is a narrative that is across Harlem, that our middle schools are neglected because they are predominantly black and brown but in lower grades, because they are diverse, there is a 'massive' amount of resources given, when we reach the upper grades these resources are lacking. The issues are around systematic racism that has plagued the DOE for a century. The issues reported in the media have always been an issue for black boys and it's uncomfortable. It is time to change the narrative. Until we deal with poverty and lack of housing, the violence will increase. Let's find a common ground and talk about our racial history. Offer to work with CEC3.
17. GB – Organize and collaborate. Power is not shared so you have to demand it.

❖ **President's Report**

Pres. Watkins addressed resource inequities. CEC3 is working as hard as they can to get the resources that are legally owed to the state to conduct these programs. There is a legal case and the legislature interest in the Foundation Aid formula and how confusing it is to make sense of it. CEC3 is actively working with the Legislature. We are parent volunteers and are doing as much as we can to gain access to those funds. It is incumbent, as stakeholders, to try and understand resources so we can understand what they are.

Member Byrd commented on how entrenched institutional racism is. It is a problem that we, the people, will solve, not the DOE. The CEC3 must take the hand of CEC5 and work this out.

❖ **IA Superintendent's Report**

IA Supt. Loughlin, acknowledged DOE Chancellor's Deputy COS David Hay, Anthony Settles, FACE, Exec. Supt-M. Marisol Rosales, Exec. Director MBO Steven Aragona, D5 Supt Danika Rux, Principals M. Berry PS 87, C. DeBerry PS/IS 76, D. Desjardin Ps 242. She thanked Principal Parker of PS/IS 180 for her work with the community. Thanks all those who have rallied in response to this incident. Liz Espert, UFT-M, for her partnership and support.

Addressed supports that are in place at PS 180. There has been additional crisis and guidance intervention to support and they are oing whatever it takes to heal the children and the community. Teachers were provided with talking points, UFT were deployed to support teachers. Teams from the Borough Districtwide office, the Exec. Supt. office, Borough Safety Administrator office and Guidance Administrator's office are strategizing. The Superintendent is available to partner with community, parents, teachers and CEC to provide ongoing support in partnership.

Dr. David Hay, DOE Deputy COS, Chancellor's Office –

Chancellor was unable to attend due to real-time event going on at this moment.

Dr. Hay repeated the evenings 'asks': The Supt. has been elevating and escalating concerns as they come in and information on funding, which will be coming out tomorrow. Hall monitors, social workers, safety assessment, visible leadership, communication, respond but not over police, more information, resources for Harlem middle schools, event should not define community, more. Kudos to principals and teachers, there is nothing that prepares you for this. You have a Chancellor that is with you who is not afraid to talk about systemic inequities. Whatever you need we are going to make sure you get it. We count on the ability to work through this with each and every one of you.

❖ **Public Comment 1.1**

18. SW to Supt Loughlin: She expected to receive talking points so she could address incident with her child but did not receive anything. We feel communication is lacking. Parents would appreciate those resources.

Supt Loughlin: Over the weekend we were working toward an appropriate response as an ongoing police investigation we could not make any reference to students in the school. We did send a letter to parents Sunday night. Monday morning, we translated letter to several languages. We did not provide talking points because, still at this point, we did not make any reference to what media is reporting, that is our position.

19. GM: In reference to process, as parent leaders we created Google Form, looking at ways we can create additional advocacies, we'd like to sign up more parents. Re 'on-going investigation,' there are protocols that could be shared without sharing information. Translation was a missed opportunity. We had parents who did not know what was going on until days later. Could you provide who is the point person is so we know who to contact so it is clear.
20. RB– Read aloud Supt. Loughlin's letter and said it is not information. It does not prepare parents for what they will face when they come to school that day. At 6:50am received a message for parents to 'not linger.'
21. JM – Any representation here from NYPD? (*no response*) There should be someone here from NYPD and the lack is a glaring omission. You don't know the story.
22. PS/IS 180 Principal Parker: Thanked community for support.
23. Parent – What does 'as long as needed' mean?

Dr. Hay – As long as it's helpful. We need to figure out how to put systems in place so it can get better so that you see us as true partners. Our Office of Safety and Development is here and will take that back. I hear there are systemic things we need to address.

24. Parent – Why couldn't parents have a meeting in this school? Why is it a CEC meeting?

Supt. Loughlin: I don't know why.

25. MG - That is a huge issue. The PTA is strong. We are asking for communication. There is no leadership.

Dr. Hay – Didn't know all of the things happening on the ground, it shouldn't have to take a CEC to have a meeting with the parents.

26. KW, 180 – We can make this one of the best schools in the district.
27. MG - Suggested mental health (*intervention*) training for teachers.
28. JB – Having a conversation about education and criminal justice with his child is heartbreaking. Wants to be part of building a stronger community.
29. GM – PTA had planned to have a table in the lobby but resources were moved to room 132. We should strive to have answers for parents, 'I don't know;' is not good enough.
- Supt. Loughlin explained that what she meant was, this was the first time she was hearing that parents could not meet at PS/IS 180. She would like to meet to discuss parent support and at the same time ensure that there is counseling for students.
Parent - Originally a Parent Town Hall was considered for tomorrow, before the CEC3 meeting was changed. The Town Hall question stands, I would hope we can still do that in the New Year and would hope we are allowed to do that.
 - Dr. Canton, CEC5 – suggested holding a 'healing circle.' Maybe PS180 and community can talk about healing. There are people who can facilitate this.
 - Member Garrett-Scott – Is the social worker planned to stay on? Parents need support as well.
 - Member Sow - Problems tonight need special attentions especially lack of trust and lack of communication. We need to address all of these questions. There will always be problems but there are solutions as well.
 - PS/IS 180 Assistant Principals Moran and Sullivan acknowledged for their support.

28. Parent, 180 – Is anyone talking (helping) to the teachers to tell them what to say to students.

Dr. Hay – Yes, we will support teachers. The Superintendent and Exec. Supt. have had grief counselors available.

29. .FT -: What is the plan to (*unclear*) What has been the response in the past

Dr. Hay – from a citywide perspective, there is not a middle school or high school in the country that does not find weapons. It is not about good schools/bad schools.

The chancellor says the number one things that make a school a safe school is the relationship we build with the children. That is the ounce of prevention.

Parent remarked that her child told her about the stabbing before she had received notice which should go out to every parent. She was in fear as she tried to figure out what was going on.

30. DH – This is my community. I have had enough of losing our children to a school system that is not teaching them. We can do this. I still believe in this school.

❖ **Old Business ~**

❖ **New Business ~**

❖ **Liaison Reports**

- ❖ PS 185 Liaison D Morgan reported facilities working to get (?) panel fixed.
- ❖ PS 75 Liaison Byrd reported that she forwarded information that DOE is holding a workshop on Capital Funding.
- ❖ M.S, 247 Liaison Sow reported there will be a series of workshops on nutrition with Cornell U. and another workshop on uterine cancer.
- ❖ PS 166 Liaison Berger reported there is an ongoing concern with the PTA re a K teacher under investigation by DOE
- ❖ PS 191 and PS 199 Liaison Watkins reported the schools will work together re issues of diversity and inclusion
- ❖ PS 191 G&T 3rd grade does not have buses so the northern part of the district can attend. There are buses in the works. Member Liu said we should be advocating to get G&T in the northern district.

❖ **Committee Report**

1. Equity & Excellence Co-Chairs Morgan & Ramudit reported they held a stimulating workshop on G&T and would like to revisit it.
 2. High School Admissions Chair Wright reported they met on Monday. There were a lot of 7th grade parents who would like to get more information earlier in the process.
 3. Middle School Committee Chair Berger reported they met last week, it was lightly attended. Four people from the Office of Enrollment shared data. It did not differ greatly from the offers in the spring. Met with Superintendent, her support staff and Presidents' Council to get feedback on Middle School Forum. They are hoping to improve the tour process. Member Liu requested specific data on out of zone enrollment numbers.
 4. Multilingual Committee Chair Liu had nothing new to report
- Member Liu reported that the Dec. 12 event had over 100 people and we should make sure we are aware of the questions asked, appropriate attention to G&T and Specialized HS.

❖ **Public Comment 2**

- Ted – Public Release of Diversity Admission in Middle School just out. When you speak about diversity you rarely mention kids with special disabilities. Would like an update as to where D3 Middle School not part of diversity admissions stands. Member Berger responded that they are part of the Diversity Initiative.
- Larry – unintelligible recording.

❖ **Adjournment of Calendar Meeting 10:00 PM**