



# COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Joseph A. Fiordaliso  
President

Kim Watkins  
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Zoe G. Foundotos  
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Kristen Berger  
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Lucas Liu  
Treasurer

**Council Members:** Noah Gotbaum Theresa L.C. Hammonds Pradnya Joshi Daniel Katz  
Vincent Orgera, *ELL Member* Vacant Seat Vacant, *Student Member*

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

## COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 3

Wednesday August 17, 2016

**6:00 P.M. Special Calendar Mtg | 6:30 P.M. Business Mtg | 7:00 P.M. Calendar Mtg**

Joan of Arc Room 200

154 W. 93<sup>rd</sup> St., New York, NY 10025

(Between Columbus & Amsterdam Avenue)

### Special Calendar Meeting Minutes

*Approved at the Sept. 14, 2016 Business Calendar Meeting*

❖ **Call to Order 6:17 PM**

- ❖ **Roll Call of Members:** Kristen Berger, Joe Fiordaliso, Zoe Foundotos, Noah Gotbaum, PJ Joshi, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu, Vincent Orgera, Kim Watkins. (9) A quorum was reached.

**DOE Staff:** Ilene Altschul, District 3 Superintendent; D J Sheppard, District 3 Family Advocate  
**Presidents' Council:** Kerri Keiger

❖ **Review Candidates for CEC Vacancy**

- President Fiordaliso recognizes Kerri Keiger of Presidents' Council's Executive Board and invites her and any other members of PC Executive Board present to join Council in the Q&A.
- Council invites CEC3 seat vacancy candidates to make a 2 minute statement each to be followed by Q & A from Council. Candidates are to proceed alphabetically.

❖ **Candidate Presentations & Questions**

**Candidates will make 2 minute remarks followed by Q/A.**

1. **Manuel Casanova:** PS 75 parent of 2 daughters, one of whom is in the Dual Language Program and the other will hopefully join her. Understands how valuable a public school education is. He is an immigrant who achieved 2 Masters' degrees after moving to the U.S. Public school is the venue for (children) that allows everyone from the community to come in. He is part of CB7, where he is on the Education Committee. He works well with others and has learned to add value. The task that lies before the district is large and he hope to a voice for schools and the whole district and for a community that does not stand up, the Latino community. He puts his name forward and thanks the Council for the opportunity.

- a) Pres. Fiordaliso: We are both fathers of 2, working full time, you aspire to a seat on CEC3, how do you foresee balancing your duties with CEC3 and CB7?

Mr. Casanova: He and his wife have made a decision that he will spend more time with what is happening in the community. He knows how

important it is to get this right. He wants to learn more so that he can add value and not just be a body warming the seat.

b) Member N Gotbaum: Where do you stand on charter schools?

Mr. Casanova: Charter schools do not come in when you have a strong public school system. He is not a fan of charter's taking over. He wants a strong public school system which is why he has submitted his application for the CEC3 seat vacancy. Being part of the Council, he can insure that schools are performing to the level we all expect.

2. **Barbara Denham:** Not able to be present, on family vacation. Ms. Denham's statement (*on file*), is read into the record. She is a former 2013-2015 CEC3 member who has tackled many challenges not the least being the threatened expansion of Success Academy. She pushed for the resolution that created West End Secondary School and served as one of the parent reps that planned for the new school. She also helped with and attended a number of Common Core Committee meetings. She worked to pass a resolution by the High School Admissions Committee for a fair balance of district priority seats in city schools. She chaired the Zoning Committee that started January 2015. Ms. Denham would like to rejoin the Council because she feels the Council is at a critical juncture even though it has made significant progress in the past months, she would like to help bring resolution particularly to the issue of increasing diversity in D3 schools. She has many ideas on how to do that. She is prudent and collaborative and would bring her skills as an economist and statistician to the Council.

3. **Sara Eolin,** PS 75 parent: Not present, no statement.

4. **Ana Fernandez:** PS 9 parent: Not present, no statement.

5. **Edwin Franco,** Young Diplomats Magnet Academy: Not present, no statement.

6. **Michael McCarthy:** PS 452 parent of 3 children, 3<sup>rd</sup> grader & 1<sup>st</sup> grader at 452 and a pre-K. He is a Partner in a law firm in NYC, he was raised in Queens, his family has lived on the UWS since 2007. Six months ago he did not know what the CEC was but he has been in attendance at every CEC meeting for the past month and a half. Two of his children attend 452 and he is opposed to the move. He has come to understand and appreciate the work of the Council and listening to people's needs. He is not afraid to ask challenging questions. Children of the district deserve nothing less. He has a vested interest in the performance of D3 since his children will be in the system for the next 15 years. He wants to work for all children in the district.

a) Member K Berger: Do you have conflicts in D3 as a real estate lawyer?

Mr. McCarthy: Practicing for 12 years and has never had a project on the UWS.

b) Member PJ Joshi: How do you feel about addressing other middle schools, other communities?

Mr. McCarthy: There are a lot of issues regarding middle schools. This is not a position he is joining because of the zoning issues. There are a lot of good things going on. He is here to be fully engaged.

c) Member N Gotbaum: Question directed at all candidates present.

We represent a district that is almost 2/3 minority, 2/3 Title 1 poverty level, 20+% special needs and yet our Council is overwhelming white, professional and affluent. What in your background will enable you to represent the entire district?

Mr. McCarthy: My training as a lawyer has taught me to be creative and think outside the box. We need more creative outreach to the underserved

community, whether it's sitting at a table outside of 191. I am prepared for that.

M Casanova: At PS 75 we have a large group of Latino and minority students. We face the challenge of bringing those parents and children to participate not only in school but PTA. People who feel their English is not that good. He communicates with the community quite a bit. He would bring his experience as a Latino who has faced some challenges. Biggest challenge is people who do not step up because of lack of English skills.

a) Member L Liu: What is the biggest challenge CEC3 faces?

Mr. McCarthy: Middle school is a hot topic, charter schools; people in northern part of district complain schools are under-utilized because they are losing ground to charter schools.

b) Member D Katz: The most difficult aspect is that we have children, yet our challenge is that we have to cover 30 schools. Can you think of any possible means or information that would change your opposition to resiting 452 or might make you consider voting differently?

Mr. McCarthy: I have a vested interest in what happens at 452. I don't know how, ethically, I could sit on the Council and could not think of it. If new information was presented, I would like to think I would be fair and impartial.

**7. Claudia Jannucci:** On family vacation. Ms. Jannucci's statement is read into the record. (*On file*). Will be a D3 public school parent for the next 10 years. She is fair and impartial and interested in improving her children's experience but would like to elevate the educational experience for all children. Strongly believes in public education. Educational decisions are extremely difficult to make but as a data analyst she scrutinizes all sides.

- Motion made to convene Council for Executive Session pursuant to Section 105.1.F of the NYS Open Meetings Law for the purpose of discussing the appointment to fill the unexpired term of Nan Mead. Included in motion is inclusion of Presidents' Council. Motion passes. 6:47 PM

❖ **Adjournment of Special Calendar Meeting 7:29 PM**