



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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| **Ilene Altschul**
District 3 Community Superintendent

CEC3 Business & Special Calendar Meeting

March 8, 2018, 6:30 PM

Joan of Arc - Auditorium

154 W. 93rd St., NYC 10025

Special Calendar Meeting Minutes on Fair Student Funding

(Approved at the May 16, 2018 Business meeting by all Council members present)

- ❖ **Call to Order 8:40p**
- ❖ **Roll Call of Members** Kristen Berger, Manuel Casanova, Inyanga Collins, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu Mike McCarthy, Genisha Metcalf, Jean Moreland Dennis Morgan, Kim Watkins
DOE Staff: Ilene Altschul, D3 Superintendent, DJ Sheppard, D3 Family Leadership Coordinator
- ❖ **DOE FY'19 Fair Student Funding Presentation** *(on file)*, Rosemary Tafaro, DOE Manhattan Field Support Center, D3 Supt. Ilene Altschul
 - Pres. Watkins: *(A spreadsheet with per head estimate per student in each school (on file) was added to council folders by the council president)*
The Fair Student Funding has a total pot of \$32.5B but the Mayor's presentation on budget said 36 % on the dollar goes to education and the total city budget of is \$88B, which, after the math, should be more than 36% on the dollar?
 - Ms.R Tafaro responded that she only deals with the DOE budget, not the city budget.
 - RTafaro: The Manhattan Field Support Center provides direct support for all business services schools are required to perform. The Fair Student Funding presentation is required by law.
 1. Sources of funds - equals \$32.5B. \$25.6B is the operating budget plus \$6.9B for pension and debt services. Out of the \$32.5B, \$14B is in the school budget and \$6B are used by schools to cover basic instructional needs and are allocated to each school based on the grade level and academic needs of students enrolled at that school. All money allocated through FSF can be used at the principals' discretion. There are other resources that a school gets but that are not Fair Student Funding. FSF is the most flexible resource and the single largest allocation to the school.
 2. Non-controllables - include health benefits, and pass-throughs (goes to entities that provide services for students – private schools offering services that the DOE cannot serve, charter schools,) school food, facilities.
 3. Not all schools are at 100% of their funding. The State has not met its obligations as they said they would when the DOE won their law suit against them. We are short \$1.6B because they have not been able to fund that agreement. We have been able to raise money for the schools to fill some of the gap caused by the state not being able to give us the money they owe us.
 4. Other Initiatives: All fit in the Equity & Excellence education category under the current mayor. There is more online about other initiatives currently being funded.
 5. How school budgets are allocated - Each school receives \$225k. A school is funded for every child and for the needs of every child. **WEIGHTS:** Middle school has a higher per child weight (due to higher social emotional needs, etc.) High School weight is higher as well (due to electives, college counseling, etc.). Every child receives additional weights which translates to dollars for a school based on these weighted categories. Academic Intervention for any school that starts with a non-testing grade is based on poverty rate. For schools that start with a testing grade, funds are based on test scores. Special Ed funds are calculated by the amount of time a student spends in a certain setting. A school has discretion on how those extra

dollars are spent. \$4,100 per capita for elementary school child is calculated by average teacher salary citywide. The driving force for FSF is how to generate enough money for a school to have the number of teachers it needs based on actual class size. If a school doesn't have enough children in a classroom, they are not generating enough money to have all the teachers that they need. Each student category carries a certain weight. You start with a base weight and each category, e.g., IEP, ELL, is added to it. Weights are cumulative. Principals have choices and discretion of their own budget. Title 1 schools in D3 have a hard time meeting mandated needs.

- Councilmember: How it is possible that some schools employ 4 math teachers?
 - RTafaro responded that teachers may be hired for Special Ed or dual language or IEP.
 - Councilmember: FSF formula and its application is regarded fairly well, it's actually aiming for progressive funding. There is a lot of difference that the funding is ringing out based on need, however the State is offering one of the most regressive formulas, the Foundational Aid Formula. Fealty to formulas does not look at outcomes. We are not asking "is that yet adequate?" If you look at schools on the high end of the range in D3, how many don't have arts programs or fully staffed and funded libraries? We are still not meeting a target of adequacy in our schools.
6. Projections are done centrally and principals review them. We try to get them to not over-project. Budgets come out last weekend in May or first week of June. We have 30 days to work with schools to get them budgeted by May 30th.
- Supt. Altschul: If the budget doesn't cover all a principal thinks it should, they can request an appeal. It has to be shown that a school can't deliver mandated services with the money that they have.
 - Councilmember: If a school receives e.g. 20 students after the Oct. 31 funding cut-off but they need additional services, is there any way to track how much money they would or would not get?
 - RTafaro: The academic weight doesn't change at the beginning of the year but the additional weights for Special Ed are adjusted Dec. 31 so a school could get additional funding for those students
 - Supt. Altschul: We tend to look at students who are coming in but we also lose students to attrition which is why the Budget office feels that the Oct. 31 cut-off date is fair. I've asked schools who feel they are getting a large number of children coming in after Oct. 31, to please track that.
 - RTafaro: Some years it happens, i.e. a disaster in the Dominican Republic, then we may see higher numbers of children entering. Non-Title 1 schools get additional funding for students in temporary housing. The DOE Budget website, under "memoranda" will show you how a school is weighted and what it's used for.
7. Citywide we have 10,000 fewer children in all 5 boroughs. We don't know why.
8. There are not enough ENL teachers to go around.

❖ **Public Comment - none**

❖ **Adjournment 9:45 p**