



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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District 3 Community Superintendent

6:30 PM

DISTRICT 3 SAFETY TOWN HALL

&

CEC3 Calendar Meeting

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

WADLEIGH, 215 W. 114th St. – Auditorium

Safety Town Hall & Calendar Meeting Minutes²

(Approved at the May 16, 2018 CEC3 Calendar meeting by all Council members present)

❖ **Call to Order 6:50p**

❖ **School Safety Presentation** – Frank Jordon, DOE Borough Safety Director- Manhattan North, Jay Findling, DOE Director of Emergency Readiness, Safety and Security

- Questions were requested from the community prior to the meeting (*on file*) and are addressed below
- Supt. Altschul introduced Frank Jordan and, Borough Safety Director – Manhattan and Jay Findling, DOE Director of Safety Security and Emergency Readiness for all 5 boroughs, Commanding Officer Johnson, representing Manhattan North.
- Mr. Jordan: We do want to provide clarity for the questions you have. Since 2008 our city’s approach to how we make schools safer is based on transparency.

Policy, addressed by Jay Findling, DOE Director of Emergency Readiness, Safety and Security

Q: Why is the door unlocked, anyone can walk into a school at any time?

A: We need some degree of accessibility. We have systems in place that are based on schools being a safe haven, for example, we have trained students to run for the school if bad things are happening and before a decision is made to lock a front door we have to ask, how will the people to need to get in, get in? We are actively working with first responders, to be able to provide principals with guidance in this matter. Every other door should be locked but even with this, there are still people who go in and out the side doors. We have to help schools maintain themselves better.

Q: What about a buzzer system to enter the school?

A: We have to look at the appropriate devices to buzz people in. We have to consider the industrial capacity that these devices have. What guidance can we give principals, citywide? We are looking at this right now and there should be some guidance coming shortly.

Q: Presenting ID, having a reasonable reason for being there?

A: Simply showing ID should not give carte blanche. It is a violation. Policy is that visitors are required to present ID. The purpose is that the child go to that school. Once in the building there are supposed to be tight protocols. If your school is not following this, we need to get to the school and assess what’s going on.

Q: Have the security guard call the main office before signing people in?

A: All visitors should be announced. It might look different for a high school or middle school. We should not have people wandering around the building even if they know where they are going. As your principal for the parent version of the school safety plan.

Q: What about key cards?

A: I’ve heard, ‘can we give every parent an ID card,’ which means, can we grant them unfettered access to the building? Absolutely not. It is extremely difficult to manage. If we give the equivalent to a staff id card, puts visitor control aside. In theory it sounds great but from a safety perspective it is not.

Training and Protocol addressed by Frank Jordon Borough Safety Director-Manhattan North:

Q: How many people know what GRP means?

A: General Response Protocols have been around for 6 years. You should have gotten a letter in September outlining what they are. A letter should have been backpacked home.

Sheltering – situation outside (armed robbery, violence) school doors are locked

Evacuate – fire drills, gas leak, any fumes.

Lockdown- 2 types of drills. Soft lockdown = non imminent danger, i.e. missing child. Teacher brings students into the room, whether they are your students or not. Door is locked, lights are turned off. Same response for Soft and Hard Lockdown = imminent danger, i.e. someone with a gun. In either lockdown front door remains unlocked so first responders can enter.

Q: End of the day pickup

A: You should not have an open door policy. All visitors must sign in. Parents picking up child at end of the day are supposed to sign in.

Q: Why aren't teachers required to sign out children

A: No one should be released to anyone except the custodial parent or the person authorized to pick the child up.

Security addressed by Commanding Officer Johnson:

Q: Can we hire off duty police officers to stay outside the school during school hours?

A: No. The police department has a SRT, strategic response team, they visit the school. We have a mobile task force who visits the school more frequently, we also have the uniformed task force. If there is not an armed office at the school, there is a great chance there is one nearby.

Q: Is there a way to upgrade the existing security personnel.

A: we are constantly training.

Q: Active shooter training?

A: School Safety has two types of active shooters, Triage = real time training regarding injuries and how to treat injuries. Active Shooter Training = real life scenarios of what can happen, that includes a collaboration with the DOE.

Jay Findling:

Active Shooter Training: Every summer NYC schools are given to the NYPD to conduct active shooter training. The most important thing we can teach our educators is how to keep their children safe and secure and to almost set the stage for the first responders. The ultimate goal is for the shooter to be the only one in the hall when the first responders come. The training is “engage and eliminate.”

We have learned that in cases where the shooter did not survive, the individuals who were under siege said that the locked doors prevented them from coming in, they moved on. Time was not on their side. General Response Protocol is revised as often as need be, to create additional actions and language for intruder alert. We use clear language.

Video cameras: A little more than half of our schools have video surveillance. It is a city council mandate. We can only install a certain number of school each year. Rather than waiting for funds to become available, principals can petition politicians for Reso A funds. We get to schools as expeditiously as possible and our goal is to make sure that every school has it. It is usually the front desk, the SSO desk that has the viewing station.

Q: What's being done to help bullied students in our school?

A: Do you know who your schools Respect For All Coordinator is? That is the person who is trained to lead all of the things related to bullying, resources, awareness, etc. Every staff member is expected to have their eyes wide open for those who appear to be disconnected and those who appear to be acting like bullies. Schools that are entirely engaged make a difference. The DOE has great partnerships with the DMH, a variety of CBO and after-school programs. We want to help make changes if your school is not doing this.

The Mayor has announced a major initiative insofar as a recording system still being finalized which should be up and running before the end of the school year. There will be a link to the recording system on the DOE homepage which will allow you to report student to student incidents only. If you want to understand and review the rules and regulations see the Chancellors Reg. A-832, available on the DOE website.

Council:

Q: Any ability to capture a legible signature. We are required to sign-in.

A: JFindling: The person at the desk would be signing you in. We do have an approved vendor for an automated system. The principal can contact the approved vendor and decide if they want the automated system. We have several schools across the city who are using it. The cost is around \$6,000.

Council:

Q: Do school safety agent's radios have a panic button? And what about school windows?

A: Every school safety agent's radio is equipped with a panic button that goes to a citywide messaging system. Many of our schools have panic buttons in principals' office. The response is immediate. The ability for first responders are better able to address the problem from outside, in. To be able to see into a room is one of the reasons classrooms do not generally lower the shades.

Q: What is protocol for communications to parents after a soft or hard lockdown? Can we bring in more social workers to deal with bullying in schools?

A: School Safety is engaged in working through community outreach in decreasing incidents of bullying and increasing awareness. The Office of Safety and Youth Development addresses a student's well-being that is not instructional. We have a Single Shot Program that has increased the number of social workers during the school day although it is not in District 3. Our office is trying to close the deficiency gap. The principal should be in the office *managing* the incident, relaying information. You should register for *NotifyNYC* – it gives parents the critical information they need. There are systems in place that allow for quick messages to go out.

❖ Public Comment

1. Michael Robinson, PS165: What has the DOE done to stop an active shooter getting into an elementary school?
 - JFindling: The reality is that the active shooter is not going to announce themselves before entering the building. They are going to get into the building on legitimate pretenses. The more regular notifications that we get, allows the right people to get immediate action. Someone reports an odd looking individual, no weapons, it's reported, and the response is almost immediate. We have supports to make schools safer.

MRobinson: So, nothing? I propose a buzzer system to a common sense security measure, to keep duffle bags, etc. out of the school. I got an email that said, they can't lock the doors. The doors are watched so first responders can get into the school. Apartment buildings, office buildings, private schools have buzzer systems. How do we get it done?

 - JFindling: We are currently looking into all avenues with our first responders before making that decision. All of the things you said are true, but if they got in and the building doesn't do a hard lockdown, the single officer is faced with a time delay. Some security measures are very inexpensive, but not what we need in a school building. Principals will be able to make that decision once all the information is before them. We are having on-going discussions and a decision will be made soon.

MRobinson: Sandy Hook was rebuilt with the best professional and they now have a buzzer system. We need to be proactive. That happened 6 years ago and we are just talking about it now. The principal doesn't have decision making authority.

 - JFindling: I just outlined the process. I am not going to share names.
2. Nicki Reidy, PS 163: I feel my kids are safe when they go to school but when they are released, the blue cards are so far away in the office.
 - Supt. Altschul: Teachers are the first ones to release the child to the parent. If they don't know the person, they should bring the child to the office. It is the teacher's responsibility to check that the person is allowed to pick up the child. The parent should have notified the office in writing and preferably sent a picture of the person who will be picking the child up.
 - JFindling: Release has to be secure. If a principal has a question as to whether their practice is sound, we have our safety directors observe the process.
3. Madeleine Storms, PS166: Many parents were not thrilled to have their elementary school children sent home with a letter after the Parkland shooting. I urge you to rethink more about the messaging that is coming home and how it's coming home. In our school, we have asked about getting a second safety agent. If our safety agent takes lunch there are untrained people sitting at the desk.
 - Commander Johnson: The department is looking at putting a second agent in elementary schools. Every four months there is a hiring. Most of the elementary schools have a second agent.
4. Dan: At PS75, there is always an NYPD car parked outside that school. Why wouldn't they be at other schools?
 - Supt. Altschul: They have a police car monitoring the traffic because of accidents. They are not there for the school. Every school has a monthly safety meeting monthly and

concerns can be addressed in that meeting. If there is something at a school that you are looking to implement bring it to your school SLT

5. Tadijji: How do first responders work with private schools that have locked systems? At 165 we have a camera system and 2 SSOs. Are there other measures we could be aware of?
 - o JFindling: The right way is to engage our borough safety directors with your concerns. Ask them to visit your school. The needs of each school is different. Private schools with a door buzzer will run into the problem we are trying to avoid. There will be direction given to principals very soon. The right people engaged in the decision have been actively engaged in it.
6. Are school crossing guards trained in immediate response?
 - o JFindling: Before the police department puts anyone on the street they receive training.

Adjournment 8:20p

Calendar Meeting

❖ Call to Order 8:25p

❖ Roll Call of Members Kristen Berger, Manuel Casanova, Lucas Liu, Mike McCarthy, Jean Moreland, Dennis Morgan, Jane Yan Sun, Kim Watkins

Late: Genisha Metcalf 8:36p

Absent: Inyanga Collins, Daniel Katz,

DOE: Ilene Altschul, D3 Superintendent; DJ Sheppard, D3 Family Leadership Coordinator

❖ Approval of Minutes

1. Dec. 13, 2017 Calendar Meeting Minutes (*amended*) – the minutes were approved as amended by all council members present.
2. Jan. 17, 2018 Joint Calendar Meeting Minutes – the minutes were approved by all council members present

❖ President's Report – As we continue to support schools involved in last year's rezoning, we've been navigating changes we have been aware of. As we talk about these topics these are issues that affect the governance of our schools requires our attention. It is a transformative time as our participation as parents. With every turn it seems that politics and bureaucracy surprise us with new violations. In the NY Daily News we learned that Success Academy wants the Wadleigh space. We will talk about the resolution a little later. The way the system is set up for public schools to not thrive is confirmed by that article in the Daily News. More about Wadleigh Resolution later in meeting.

❖ Superintendent's Report

- M165- 2nd informational session at school with office of enrollment and my staff will be rescheduled due to snow day. Remaining tours are being set up over the next 2 weeks
- Wadleigh proposal- PEP vote is on April 25th. EIC has been posted. Joint Public Hearing is March 28th. There will be 2 community meetings. This Thursday, March 22nd at 6p, there is a community meeting focusing on High School redesign. And what that means for the community.
- School survey period has opened and closes on March 29th (it was extended). Please have members of your community complete that survey.
- March 24th is Science Expo at Brandeis from 11 – 1p.
- 3rd G and T class at 191- letters for eligible grade 2 students will be going out on March 26th for families to respond if interested in being considered by April 10th. Eligibility is based on 1st and 2nd grade report cards. Any student with above average grades on their report cards will be considered.
- ESSA training for SLTs – April 17th at 4:30 p.m. at PS 145. Encouraging SLTs to come. It's really geared at our 4 focus schools; 191, 145, 149, 208 (256, 241 priority and Wadleigh priority were taken off) but we encourage all SLTs to come. This testing period will determine new school designations: Focus and Priority will no longer be used, Schools in Good Standing remains, there are no longer reward schools, CSI is bottom 5% , similar to Priority and TSI are the bottom 10% similar to Focus. These are state wide designations.

We are learning that if a school falls below 95% of their students taking the test then any additional students that did not take the test are still counted in the formula because it's divided by total number of students enrolled. The child might count as a 1 even though they did not receive a 1 (and didn't test). The child might receive a 1 although they may not be a 1. They have to be in 10% for both opt in and opt out students. This year is crucial. This is the data that is going to determine a school's designation. Attendance and suspension data are taken into account. More information will be provided at this workshop for SLT

whose main purpose is to create the goals for their school. The state discourages opting-out. In District 3 we do not have a large percentage of students who opt out.

Council member remarked that this could potentially force a school into CSI or TSI designation.

There is a consequence for the school if a parent chooses to opt out.

- Middle School Admissions: The superintendent is working with Office of Enrollment- an email is being vetted and the OOE will be working with us with simulation data, a timeline, and roll-out if we decide to proceed.

❖ Old Business

1. Middle School Admissions Discussion – March 12 we held a morning middle school meeting. There was no new information. We reiterated the components of Middle School Blind Admission. Each school is forming their own middle school rubric. The D3 Superintendent is floating the idea of putting in floors for academic diversity. 10 for Level 1s and 15 percent for Level 2s to mix-up the academics. Schools could exceed these suggestions if they choose. An area of concern for parents was recruiting strategies. When would this be phased in? How are schools prepared for cultural and academic minute? Middle School Admissions meeting on March 27 PS 76, April 10 9 location TBA.
 - Supt. Altschul – An email will be going out to the larger community or backpack letter to discuss the ideas we have been talking about. Working with the OOE, will partner with us in assisting with this work. They will look at data and do a simulation and be able to provide data to the community in what this would look like, how it will roll out. Matt Broggini and Juliet Kaye from OOE will be working with us. She worked with D1 in rolling out their diversity program. Goal is to have, once decision is made, the timeframe to let community know is end of May. We have June 5 middle school meeting already scheduled. We are looking to ensure equity and access for all students and the 10% level 1s and 15% level 2s are minimum percentages. We are 6.9% Asian, 22.1% Black, 29.8% Hispanic, 35.9% White, 19% disability and 5.8% ELL. Our middle schools demographics do not match our district wide data and because we are middle school choice, they should more resemble what our data shows. We are very far from that in our middle schools. Black and Latino are the highest subgroups that score level 1 and level 2. Level 1 students have a 61% chance of receiving their top 3 while Level 4 have an 88% chance of receiving their top 3. That is why we are engaging in this discussion and thinking of changes in our middle school process in admission. Also since we are moving to blind ranking, we feel this is the right time to leverage and look at opportunities to make our middle schools more diverse and increasing equity and access for all students.
 - Can we look at what schools in the district that could be adversely impacted from losing additional 1s and 2s? The perception has been that you have to bring your child to a school located below 110th St. for them to get a good education this may mean that level 3s and 4s may also choose schools outside of Harlem.
 - Supt. Altschul - I will see if OOE can do data simulations on what that might look like. It is unfortunate that we don't have any stand-alone middle schools in Harlem and as a result they don't get a lot of new enrollment in our K-8 and don't take in a lot of new students. We see most of our students applying to our stand-alone middle schools. I don't know that it's only about location, it's about where our schools are situated and what their structures are. We have been talking about a stand-alone middle school in Harlem. We are hopeful that in time there would be a pendulum swinging, and more schools will be taking in 1s and 2s and 3s and 4s, going to more of our schools. We look for all of students to have the same opportunities academically.

❖ New Business

1. To Wadleigh Resolution (*on file*) Council has a draft resolution, the culmination of our proposal announced on Dec. 18. The resolution corresponds to the council's letter to the chancellor that corresponds to the announcement that the DOE was going to truncate Wadleigh's secondary school. There hasn't been a satisfactory answer to most of the questions outlined on our letter. PEP is schedule to vote on this proposal Apr. 255
 - The resolution s read into the record.
 - Supt. Altschul commented on the list of Wadleigh support services. It was developed to show what group offered the support services.

❖ Liaison Reports

❖ Committee Reports

1. Equity and Excellence ~ *tabled*
2. Middle School~ discussed earlier in meeting
3. Multilingual~ *tabled*

❖ **Public Comment**

1. Sharmilee Ramudit, PS452: I would hope that with the move to more diversity in our middles schools we look at teacher diversity as well.
2. Angeline: In May, when letters from middle school admission are released, the people who do not get a school on their list, is terrible. We are going to a world where people are not going to get their choices. I don't think this should be taken lightly.
3. Gayle Slonim, PS199: My children are academically diverse. I agree with Angeline. Middle School is something that these kids are involved in the process. It's devastating to not get your first 3 choices. I don't think we should create more kids not getting what they want.
4. Gregory Bagget: Ilene could you reframe the discussion in a more precise analytical discussion. If you would include household income. You never account for black, middleclass students doing well in your schools. It's not accurate or truthful. I know you have that data. Try to think about how that would fit into what you are doing here.
 - Supt. Altschul: It wasn't something we wanted to use as a measure.
5. Mark Diller, CB7: Can someone get back to me as to whether the construction at PS163 has started? I will do my best to marshal the forces and inform the community. I am deeply troubled by blind admissions because it will privilege the already privileged. I would suggest we need to be careful about students getting Title 1 funding it can make a big difference to some of the schools. Re Wadleigh, what has struck me about the dialogue is the power of the community that has come out behind it.

❖ **Roll Call Vote**

1. Wadleigh Resolution
 - The Roll Call Vote is called.
 - (8 Yes/ 1No/ 0 Abstain).
 - The Wadleigh Resolution opposing truncation passes

❖ **Adjournment 10:17p**