



# COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Joseph A. Fiordaliso  
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Nan Eileen Mead  
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Zoe G. Foundotos  
Second Vice President

Kristen Berger  
Secretary

Kimberly Watkins  
Treasurer

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

**Ilene Altschul**  
District 3 Community Superintendent

## Joint CEC3/CSD3 President's Council Calendar Meeting

**Wednesday October 28, 2015**

**7:00pm-9:00pm**

PS 191 - The Museum Magnet School  
210 West 61st Street, NY NY 10023

**Approved at November 19, 2015 Calendar Meeting**

### ❖ **CEC3 Calendar Meeting called to order 7:40pm**

### ❖ **CEC 3 Roll Call of members**

**Present:** Nan Mead, Joe Fiordaliso, Zoe Foundotos, Kristen Berger, Noah Gotbaum, Theresa Hammonds, P.J. Joshi, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu and Kimberly Watkins. A quorum was present.

**DOE Staff:** Ilene Altschul, District 3 Superintendent, DJ Sheppard, District 3 Family Advocate

### ❖ **CEC3 Approval of Minutes - September 10, 2015**

The Council unanimously approved the minutes from the September 10, 2015 Calendar Meeting

### ❖ **Superintendent Report**

- **Kids at Hope** schools that have decided to participate in the training: M208, Mott Hall II, PS/MS 165, M241, Wadleigh Secondary School for Performing and Visual Arts, PS 242, M149, PS/IS 76, PS/IS 191, MS 256, MS 421 and FDA II
- Teacher Tenure Celebration with UFT was held on October 26<sup>th</sup> at PS/IS 76
- SLT training was held on Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup> at JOA at 5:30
- Held a Principal PD focus group on intervention strategies on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Completed 8 school PPO visits and Cynthia Dickman has also completed 8 and provided feedback.
- New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer visited Wadleigh yesterday with the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. The president and VP of Student government interviewed him and then other students and teachers had opportunities to ask questions.

### Renewal School update:

- Both principals are finalizing the CEPs with their SLTs.

**If you have any questions, please call the CEC 3 office @ 212-678-2782 or email CEC3 at [CEC3@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CEC3@schools.nyc.gov)**

Anyone wishing to speak during the Public Comment portion of the Calendar Meeting must sign up by 8:00pm.

- Both schools will begin preparing for their Renewal Rooms where they present a problem of practice and strategize with other schools about the challenge looking deeply at data.

### ❖ **CSD3 President's Council**

- Roll Call of Members** Kerri Keiger, Kajsa Reeves co-presidents, established quorum, approved minutes, no business to discuss

### ❖ **CSD 3 Business** moved to table

### ❖ **President's Report** moved to table

### ❖ **Council Business**

## 1. Zoning Discussion

Zoning Committee Report: Presented by Treasurer K. Watkins, Zoning committee chair Presented zoning committee finding (see attached). The main conclusions are:

- The committee consisted of a very large working group with over 220 participants in working group meetings alone.
- Consensus was reached that any zoning proposal/resolution includes a clause that grandfathers siblings into a family's current school.
- Consensus was not reached on the recommended approval of the DOE's draft for new proposed zone lines.
- Consensus was not reached to recommend the adoption of a super zone (shared zone)
- Consensus was not reached to recommend that the CEC reject a DOE proposal outright, but with the exception of the above level of support.
- Consensus was not reached on the recommendation that the CEC ask the DOE to include diversity in its endeavor to produce an alternate zoning plan.
- The zoning committee offered a number of alternatives and adjustments that could increase support for a DOE proposal

## Discussion

- President Fiordaliso started the discussion by thanking the hard work of the current committee chair, K. Watkins, the past chair B. Denham
- Most council members opened the meeting by stating their priorities or how they envisioned the zoning process proceeding.
  - Council President J. Fiordaliso outlined six points of recommendation. He recommended a very limited reduction of the 199 zone, sending a limited number of students to 452; Called on DOE to allow waitlisted families to choose from any school in

the district with capacity. He wants to include sibling grandfathering in any new zone plan and to cap kindergarten to five sections at PS 199. Called on DOE to suspend the Right to Return policy and that DOE must provide a package of supports for PS 191 with the goal of increasing it's zone at some time in the near future.

- Vice President N.Mead: Opened by supporting what President Fiordaliso had just said. She raised concern over how rezoning would impact Title 1 funding to both PS 191 and PS 199. The current school community at 191 need support and would like to hear more about how those could develop and what they can do, additionally concerned that not all of the 191 community has been meaningfully engaged in the zoning process. Not in support of making people travel.
- Council member L. Liu: Noted that registration start date is the only thing pushing on us on the timing, we have heard from many people that this is a rushed decision. Solutions say adding 199 families will make PS 191 more attractive but we need to respect that 191 is capable on their own and work to make PS 191 as good a school as it can possibly be. Give PS 191 the resources it needs and it can stand on its own. We need to make everyone feel welcome. Tutoring is a good example of a service that can significantly enhance a school.
- Council member D. Katz: Sees a need to look beyond test scores. Discussed two paths to student achievement. One, ensure that students have the entire set of services they may need including access to full enriched curriculum. Two, that integration is a proven school improvement plan. It needs to be done with thoughtfulness but if you work with the schools it will become better over time.
- Council member P. Joshi: Reinforced the need to look at long term planning when it comes to the creation of 342. The new school has to be designed with diversity in mind. The new principal and the new administration should now be working on diversifying this school, even though it is opening in 2018. It should also be able to serve its special education population. She cited the example of the development of the new 151 in Yorkville as a potential model. It was always zoned to include public housing and middle-class students
- Council member. Gotbaum: States the council needs to look at the root of the problem and address the segregation that has divided these schools. Suggests that the council look at controlled choice and give PS 191 a step up where it has had disadvantages. The council can make it a point to the public that they support PS 191 by housing PS 191 in the new school building and getting rid of zone lines.
- Council member T. Hammonds: Noted concern that the council's debate has moved too far away from the actual children involved. Wants to see what the council is doing to integrate PS 199 and reminded the council that it has not heard from all of the families

involved in this zoning debate and fears the council has not incorporated the concerns of parents who may have barriers (lack of resources, work obligations) to participating in the current debate.

- Treasurer K. Watkins : Noted concern that the PDS designation was done in error. Notes parents and the public deserve greater clarity around the designation and the specifics of any violence. The council member does not support the current DOE maps and does not believe that a superzone is a viable solution at this time. She is concerned that commute times are a serious barrier to families and hopes to keep children close to home. Stated that a separate conversation still exists for long term planning and perhaps additional superzones around the district. Hoped the community would continue to look at more creative options. Additionally agrees with President Fiordaliso's call to cap and reduce to the number of Kindergarten sections at PS 199 to five. As Zoning committee chair she hopes to call on the DOE for an alternative plan.
- Secretary K. Berger: Reiterated council dissatisfaction with current DOE maps and stated desire to extend timeframe for final decision. Stated she does not support current superzone as mapped by DOE without controlled choice. Stated that current zoned map is not sufficient to address the challenges of diversity and enhance the performance of PS 191. The council member would like to see more instrumental change at PS 191; this includes using diversity as a priority for zoning decisions and as a method of school support.
- Superintendent I. Altschul Stressed the need for the council to come to a decision. Stated that she is looking into programs to support the PS 191 academically. The Superintendent delineated how space would be allocated in the O'Shea complex in the future should PS 452 fill its footprint.

Consensus was established to:

- vote No for current DOE maps
- Support sibling grandfathering in any proposal, with the exemption of where students would potentially be split amongst grades in a split sites scenario. Council agrees as a general matter of policy to keep families together.
- General statement of principal that council supports programmatic enhancements for current student population of PS 191 now. This may be established as a working group or taskforce including principal of 191, the DOE and the CEC to develop appropriate supports for PS 191.

Discussion and general agreement revolved around the following issues, however no vote was taken:

- To allow 452 to grow and alleviate some of the overcrowding at PS 199
- Cap kindergarten enrollment at PS 199 at five sections.
- New buildings should not be zoned to overcrowded schools

Robust debate focused on:

- Goals: Council debated whether the rezoning be focusing on overcrowding, diversity or some mixture of them both?
- Data details there was much discussion on the need for more data to make informed zoning decisions and questions as to what data is needed and where it can be obtained.
- Timing: Council members questioned the sort of time frame the council asking for and what sort of changes the council hopes can be achieved in such time frames

### ❖ **Public Comment**

- Speaker 1- Concerned that in a superzone scenario people would not want to go to 191, it is the underlying lack of equality is what is causing overcrowding.
- Speaker 2- Would still support split zone regardless of what school his child would be zoned to.
- Speaker 3- Noted that pushing this off is a problem for parents.
- Speaker 4- Stated that historically it was decided that separate cannot be equal. With a shared zone, everybody benefits.
- Speaker 6- Said six years ago when he was trying to get his children into school he was told 191s problems were going to be fixed. Felt the issue needs to approach in a holistic sense and needs more time. Stated it is insulting to think 191 can't do it on their own and there needs to be some way to put leverage on the developers to provide additional classroom space when they are building.
- Speaker 7- Was happy to see the CEC considering shared zone/ split site. Noted that many people are thinking in terms of being part of the wider community and that the feeling is not that PS 191 can't do it on their own, but that it shouldn't have to
- Speaker 8- Asked the CEC and DOE to speak to their worries about putting more students in the O'Shea complex. Noted that Anderson is the only city wide school in the district and behooved the CEC to not create a problem in O'Shea complex. They would like reassurance that this is not a process to chase Anderson out of the building.
- Speaker 9 Felt that CEC has a job to represent all parents, not just this school or that school and reminded the council to take their responsibility seriously to protect all D3 parents.

### ❖ **Meeting adjournment at 10:33pm**

*Submitted by Kristen Berger, CEC 3 Secretary*