



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Joseph A. Fiordaliso
President

Nan Eileen Mead
First Vice President

Zoe G. Foundotos
Second Vice President

Kristen Berger
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Treasurer

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

Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 BUSINESS MEETING

6:30 P.M.

Wednesday February 3, 2016

Joan of Arc, 154 West 93rd Street
(Between Columbus & Amsterdam Avenues)

Approved Minutes

(Approved at the CEC3 March 8th 2016 Business Meeting)

❖ Meeting called to order 6:37pm

❖ Roll Call

Present: Kristen Berger, Zoe Foundotos, Noah Gotbaum, PJ Joshi, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu, Nan Mead, Vincent Orgera, Kim Watkins, Joseph Fiordaliso. Quorum was met

Excused Absence: Theresa Hammonds,

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

❖ Approval of Minutes

Revisions to Minutes: correct spelling of Madeleine F. Polayes name, 2 type-Os corrected: title - School Safety Director and MFSC not MFC.

1. The minutes of January 6th, 2016 Business Meeting were approved by consensus of all members (9-0) present at the time (*Council Member J Fiordaliso not present at the time of the vote*)

❖ Superintendent's Report

- Katherine Witzke has been appointed as principal at PS 9.
- Ms. Altschul completed the SLT consultation for WESS.
 - i. Level 2 has been conducted for M149 and Wadleigh
 - ii. Waiting to proceed to the SLT consultation.
- Ms. Altschul has completed 24 PPO visits and Cynthia Dickman, D3 Assistant Superintendent has completed 26, they both have provided feedback to the principals.
- Pre K application opened on January 25th through March 4th
- Stakeholder meeting held at M199 on Friday 1/22
- Promotion in doubt letters will be sent home by February 12th – Parents should meet with their child's teacher to discuss any additional academic intervention services or afterschool programs.
- **Change in testing**
 - i. **Change in Testing Vendor:** Questar Assessment replaced Pearson
 - ii. **Greater involvement of Educators in the Test Development Process**

If you have any questions, please call the CEC 3 office @ 212-678-2782 or email CEC3 at CEC3@schools.nyc.gov

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

- iii. **Decrease in the number of test questions-** On each of the 2016 Grades 3-8 ELA Tests students will read one less passage and answer fewer questions. On the 2016 Grade 3-8 Mathematics Tests students will also have fewer questions to answer.
- iv. **A shift to untimed testing-** NYSED will release guidance to schools and districts on how to implement this new testing policy.

❖ **President's Report**

1. Legislative Breakfast Post Mortem
 - More than 80 people attended
 - Great participation from principals, moderate representation from elected officials.
 - Greater focus on getting elected officials from throughout District 3.
 - PS 242 venue worked well.
 - Attendees felt included and utilized the networking opportunity. People were inclined to stay,
2. Cons: The program is too long. Gym acoustics were not optimal.
3. Areas to improve upon:
 - Better outreach to electeds throughout the District
 - Principals to confirm if they would like to speak and address specific needs of their school to allow CEC 3 follow-up with their electeds
 - Assigned seating – grouping principals and electeds.
4. Council Suggestions:
 - Rent wet weather rugs to absorb ambient noise
 - Sign-in desk outside the room
 - Program hand-out
 - Alternate which principals speak each year. Have specific principals address issues pertinent to several schools
 - Put photos on social media

❖ **Old Business**

1. SCA Capital Budget Hearing
 - First VP N Mead submitted official SCA form last week requesting spokesperson from the SCA to present at the CEC 3 Calendar meeting of Feb. 24th, the SCA did not respond, another request has been sent.
Request Lorraine Grillo, President & CEO of SCA as Feb. 24th presenter.
Council would like presenter who can also address Riverside South construction and WESS lease extension and capital improvement. Council should present SCA with a list of questions ahead of time so that SCA's responses will address specifics.
2. FSF Budget Presentation
 - Would like to present on 2/24
 - Ideally, Capital Budget, SCA and Fair Student Funding to speak at 2/24 Calendar meeting.
3. School Safety and Protocols will be moved to March pending confirmation of all three.
4. DOE PS 199 Stakeholder Meeting
 - Council Members N Gotbaum and N Mead visited PS 199 two weeks ago and the group was more or less similar as at PS 191 Stakeholders meeting
 - i. The parent reps and the Principal feel they have been vilified in the press. They are more flexible to options than has been reported.

- ii. Challenges specific to the school – they continue to be incredibly concerned about the waitlist. Whatever happens, the waitlist must be addressed.
- iii. They did a sibling survey – 46 are coming in, actually lower than in previous years, which may relieve a little pressure. Deputy Chancellor Rose assured them that families would have an offer letter before August.
- iv. Principal Xerri gave her perspective on overcrowding: she may have 31-32 students in each 1st grade class. At this rate they will soon run out of cluster rooms; there are challenges in managing logistics with the number of students. They desire to get to 5 kindergarten classes.
- v. SLT representatives reiterated, as consistent with their letter, they are not interested in a Superzone, not interested in a partnered solution with any other schools. Council Member N Gotbaum added that the SLT felt a lack of trust in the DOE and worried a Superzone would put more pressure on the DOE.
- vi. PS 199 said the issue is not “who” gets in but “how many” due to overcrowding. If Amsterdam Houses is exclusively zoned to them, a “swap” must be made; other buildings have to come out due to overcrowding. D3 Superintendent Altschul noted that the school does not have the space to include the entirety of Amsterdam Houses without the redistribution of buildings. No position was taken on which buildings.
 - Negative press has hurt their fundraising, monies that have been used to pay for para-professionals and assistant teachers, additional help in overcrowded classrooms
 - PS 199 are committed to keeping to 6 K classes for the present which will not expand above 25- 26 children.
 - In terms of programming, PS 342 should offer something different from PS 191 so families would have programming options.
 - Deputy Chancellor Rose said they are definitely considering moving PS 191 into Riverside Center building. Option of PS 342 going into old PS 191 building.
 - First VP N Mead suggested third meeting with Deputy Chancellor Rose, CECs and PTA representatives.

5. CEC3 2016 Policy Agenda

- i. President J Fiordaliso requests Council think about policy goals to address as there is a lot Council can be doing for their District in that regard.
- ii. Discussion on the issue of Mayoral control put on the Council calendar, inviting speakers from both sides of the issue to give CEC3 grounding in the issue. The February CEC3 meeting is blocked out heavily for funding and SCA. School Safety is on for March but consider March?
- iii. Council will request ECC Position paper be sent to CEC3 Administrative Assistant K Butler who will distribute to Council.
- iv. Address the issue of how do we support the uptown schools.
- v. Technology – Reminder February 12th is the deadline for submitting RESO A grant applications
- vi. Inclusiveness in any admissions process
- vii. School Libraries – not every school has a library or librarian
- viii. Special Education - Possibly look at creating a new NEST program in District 3.
- ix. A101 Enrollment Policy Exceptions, offering students outside the zone a higher priority to combat attrition in upper grades in dual language programs. CEC may have to lobby PEP for that change.
- x. High School Admissions
- xi. Common Core – clarification of standards

6. WESS Lease Renewal

- An agreement has been reached on the lease, capital improvements promised to school and Council can proceed. Original amount SCA was working with was \$50Million but it's down to \$20Million. Council raised questions on WESS enrollment lists, diversity and whether WESS had become a 'feeder' school considering how much time Council spent on Enrollment Policy. Discussion will continue next meeting and strategies for supporting WESS.

❖ **New Business**

- i. Council Member K Berger requests that, as a Council, issue statement or letter urging SCA to open Riverside Center building in 2017, sooner than targeted date of Sept. 2018. President J. Fiordaliso suggests creating Resolution on the issues, passing them at the CEC3 Calendar meeting of Feb. 24th and presenting them at the SCA presentation that same night. Council Member K Berger will circulate hard copy of letter she has written.
- ii. First VP N Mead received, via email from PS 145, an Environmental Impact Study that showed that during the installation of a new boiler, tested soil samples showed elevated levels of contaminants that exceed acceptable industry standards but are within legal limits. Would like it put on the Agenda for SCA as to whether action needs to be taken.

❖ **Committee Reports**

1. Middle School - Chair K Berger: Meeting first time next Thursday, interested in admissions policy and diversity.
2. Health and Wellness – Chair T Hammonds absent
3. Multi-Lingual Committee – Chair L Liu: Russian program is moving along fairly well. They have reached out to schools that had space which could potentially have a Russian language program. They believe they have enough demand. Ms. Altschul notes that schools have to fill the English side of that class. They hope to have someone from the DOE attend the next meeting on Feb. 25th to go into more detail.
4. Diversity - Chair N Mead discussion under DOE 199Stakeholder Meeting and CEC3 2016 Policy Agenda
5. Zoning- Chair K Watkins notes one component of timeline has to do with what may or may not happen with Riverside building and re-siting. Original deadline of Nov. 2016-2017 was missed; council is now looking at Oct/Nov 2016 for the 2017-2018 school year. Affirmed sense of urgency on timeline considering the collective effort by PS 75, who has put concerns out in a letter, for CEC3 to consider idea of rezoning the entire District and to consider Controlled Choice. The Zoning Committee will host two sessions to inform the community of their options: What school zones are, What Controlled Choice is, Parent 'Experts' will be speaking as well. March 1 and March 15 2016 are the dates.
6. High School – Chair Z Foundotos discussion earlier under CEC3 2016 Policy Agenda
No other reports

❖ **Liaison Reports**

1. PS 452 PTA Letter to CEC3 on Zoning & Overcrowding *On File*
Liaison J Fiordaliso foregoes reading Letter into the record as all parties have copies. PS 452 are concerned about impact of combined enrollment of 3 schools in one building; interested in growing their school because their geographic zone is too small, interested in continuing to accept overflow students, specifically from PS 199, to maintain enrollment numbers.
2. Special Music School PS 859 - Liaison L Liu is working closely on addressing the basement ventilation issue. He would like Council to sign the letter they were composing. MBP Gale Brewer and Assembly Member L Rosenthal are on board.

Please send questions for SCA to CEC 3 Administrative Assistant K Butler, who will send them on.

❖ **Adjournment 9:32pm**