



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Resolution on Wadleigh Secondary School

Approved at the March 20, 2018 CEC3 Calendar meeting by a roll call vote of the CEC3 Council members present at the time of the vote (8 in favor / 1 opposed / 0 abstained)

Whereas, the Department of Education announced the planned truncation of grades 6-8 at the Wadleigh Secondary Middle School (Wadleigh MS), on December 18, 2017, with a planned Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) vote on February 28, 2018. This announcement was made as part of the city-wide update on the Renewal Schools program, of which Wadleigh has taken part since the 2015/2016 school year.

Whereas, the truncation announcement occurred during the school day, was announced without prior notification to parents, the School Leadership Team (SLT), members of Community Education Council, District 3 (CEC3), and other stakeholders of the school and Harlem community. Students were notified first, a letter was backpacked home, and engagement with the community began after the proposal was announced.

Whereas, the truncation timeline changed twice, delaying the proposed vote to April 25, 2018, after middle school offer letters will be sent to families who have applied for admission to Wadleigh for the 2018/2019 school year.

Whereas, CEC3 sent a letter to Chancellor Farina on January 22, 2018 with a list of questions that parents, council members and other stakeholders composed between the December 18, 2017 announcement and the CEC3 meeting on January 21, 2018; this list of questions have not been addressed satisfactorily by the Department of Education.

Whereas, the reasons cited for the proposal have centered around Wadleigh MS failure to improve within the structure of the Renewal Schools program, yet Wadleigh MS met four of its six program benchmarks. In addition, though enrollment decreased in the middle school over the last five years by approximately 40%, enrollment decreased by 43% in the high school. Moreover, in the current year, 2017-2018, the Wadleigh MS 6th grade nearly doubled.

Whereas, the Wadleigh MS parent body and other Harlem stakeholders have expressed opposition to the proposal based on factors included in the CEC3 letter dated January 22, 2018, the above, as well as concerns regarding respectful engagement and respect towards the school throughout the truncation proposal process.

Resolved, that based on the DOE's failure to engage community stakeholders, its lack of a transparent process and its failure to provide satisfactory answers from impacted stakeholders, CEC3 does not support the DOE proposal to truncate grades 6-8 at MS415 Wadleigh Secondary School for the 2018-2019 school year.

Resolved, that CEC3 calls on the DOE to exercise its proposal to provide additional support to the Wadleigh Secondary School as a performing and visual arts school as detailed in the Educational Impact Statement.

Resolved, that CEC3 also calls on the DOE to honor its commitment to Wadleigh with resources and accountability that align with all Renewal Schools performance improvement metrics, including, but not limited to ELA and math teaching, test preparation, and academic coaching.

Resolved, that CEC3 also calls on the DOE to provide Wadleigh with the support and resources it needs to develop a promotional and recruiting plan as a Secondary Arts School in District 3.