



# COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Joseph A. Fiordaliso  
President

Kimberly Watkins  
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Zoe G. Foundotos  
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Kristen Berger  
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Lucas Liu  
Treasurer

**Council Members:** Manuel Casanova Noah Gotbaum Pradnya Joshi Daniel Katz  
Dennis Morgan Vincent Orgera, Declan Saint-Onge, *Student Member*

**Ilene Altschul**  
*District 3 Community Superintendent*

## Business & Special Calendar Meeting BUSINESS MINUTES

Wed. Jan. 4, 2017

6:30 PM

Joan of Arc Auditorium

154 W. 93rd Street

*(Approved at the March 1, 2017 Business meeting by all members present (6))*

### Meeting Called To Order - 6:42 P.M

#### Roll Call:

**Present:** Manuel Casanova, Joe Fiordaliso, Noah Gotbaum, PJ Joshi, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu, Vincent Orgera, Kim Watkins (8). Declan Saint-Onge, *student member*

**Excused Absence:** Kristen Berger, Zoe Foundotos, Dennis Morgan

**DOE Staff:** Ilene Altschul, District 3 Superintendent; D.J Sheppard, District 3 Family Leadership Coordinator

#### Approval of Minutes

1. Dec. 14, 2016 Business Meeting Minutes unanimously approved by all Council Members present (8).

#### President's Report

1. Response received from Chancellor Fariña regarding CEC3 letter requesting FDA II remain under D3 supervision rather than transfer to superintendent in charge of oversight of Affinity Schools given Council's level of involvement with FDA II. Deputy Chancellor Gibson thanked the Council but said the DOE is moving forward with transfer. Under new structure, according to Deputy Chancellor Gibson, there are a whole suite of services Affinity can offer FDA II.
  - Letter will be sent inviting Affinity School's Superintendent Donald Conyers to the next CEC3 meeting. Superintendent Altschul will lend her support to that effort. AA Karen Butler will work on invitation letter.
  - CEC3 would like to continue to have a meaningful role in FDA II.
    - Superintendent Altschul reported that last year FDA II was under New Visions supervision and last year they could choose, this year they were not given that option. Principal Afriyie said that New Visions gives a lot of program support they need
  - FVP K Watkins is concerned over shrinking middle school at FDA II and growth of Success Academy in that school particularly now that they have been removed from D3 jurisdiction and CEC3 Middle School Committee involvement
2. Member Zoe Foundotos will be attending CEC Presidents' meeting at Tweed this Saturday with Chancellor Fariña and NYS Education Commissioner Elia and will brief Council at next CEC3 public meeting.
3. CEC3 Legislative Breakfast is Friday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Superintendent's Report – Ilene Altschul, District 3 Superintendent

- Twitter account - Twitter Handle is @NYCDistrict3
- District 3 website <https://sites.google.com/site/nycdistrict3/home>
- **My Brother Keepers Grant 2016-2019**
  - The purpose of My Brother's Keeper Challenge Grant (\$37,665) is to incentivize and support school districts to accept the My Brother's Keeper Challenge and implement a coherent cradle-to-college strategy aimed at improving the life outcomes for disadvantaged youth, particularly boys and young men of color. Through this Request for Proposals (RFP) process, the Department will fund grants to eligible school districts to address two goals:
    - **Goal 2:** Reading at grade level by third grade, as evidenced by a significant narrowing of the achievement gap for disadvantaged youth, particularly boys of color;
    - **Goal 6:** Reducing code of conduct violations and providing a second chance, as evidenced by disadvantaged youth, particularly young men of color having a reduction in in school and out of school suspensions, and behavioral related referrals.
  - Looking to work with **Literacy Inc.**
  - The Great Grand Reader Program – Intergenerational reading program designed to partner senior citizens in the community with second grade students
  - Parent LINC Workshops – Provides support for the families of emerging readers through meetings, presentations, and multi-session workshops
  - VIP (Very Involved Parent Academy) – Trains parents to be peer advocates by planning and executing their own activities in their neighborhoods
  - Reading Everywhere Celebrations - Organizes the community around enrichment activities that emphasize the message that “Reading success is a community-held value.”
  - Other grant is the **MBK Family and Community Engagement Program** – Potentially \$150,000. The goals would be to create a family resource center with materials and resources to promote family awareness and support.
  - Update on SCA and MLK building – Special Music School. Spoke to SCA. They are pressing to address the issue and committed to working on it. Over the break, they were going into the ceiling to see if they could increase air flow. The SCA has determined that they need to build a new HVAC system. They need to do the scope, design and then move forward on the project which will take significant time. The SCA will be able to discuss further when they come in February. The concern seems to be that there are 4 classes (G23 and G25 have adequate air flow but not cool; G51 and G53 do not have adequate air).
    - Student Member Declan Saint-Onge and other students from Special Music School will attend meeting on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> to speak with SCA on impact of poor ventilation in classrooms.
  - Teacher Tenure Workshop on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at PS 163
  - State Parent Testing meeting January 31<sup>st</sup> at JOA at 6:00 p.m.
  - Joint public hearing at M044 is January 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
  - Joint public hearing at M084/M247 is January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
  - PEP vote is January 18<sup>th</sup> at Taft Educational Complex at 240 East 172<sup>nd</sup> Street Bronx, NY
- **Held stakeholder meeting** at PS 180 to discuss concerns in Harlem Schools. Representatives from PS 180, 242, 241, 208, 185, 76, 149 were in attendance.
  - Key Issues:
    - Funding and programs
    - Parent involvement
    - Co-Location
    - Admission policies and choice
    - Enrollment and capacity
    - Branding and marketing
    - Diversity and integration
  - Group Goals:
    - Increase enrollment via:
      - Rebranding schools and/or highlighting schools' unique programming and achievements

- Increasing and maintaining partnerships with area partners, businesses, and resources
- Increasing and maintaining vital school programming
- Retaining zoned families
- Increase diversity and equity
- Next Steps:
  - Next meeting: Defining healthy enrollment
    - ODP to provide zone/program data
    - To be scheduled for late January/early February
  - CEC 3 Harlem meeting – January 13, 2017 (9am at PS 242)
  - District 3 Harlem Schools Summit (organized by CEC 3) – April 1, 2017
    - I would like to schedule another school visit. Is there a school you would like to visit? When?
- Susan Green is on a leave until February. Her Assistant Principal, Jacquelin Colon, with the support of Jane Murphy, as building principal, will be in charge
- Sad news- Denise Desjardin's father passed away over the Winter break- our thoughts are with her and family

## Old Business

1. Legislative Breakfast Attendee Gift
  - Council discussion on the logistics of the upcoming Legislative Breakfast. Council would like a tighter program this year, fewer speakers and elected sitting with the schools they cover. Chancellor Farina may be dropping by. Attendee gift is discussed and it is decided a journal will be given to all.

## New Business

1. Harlem Schools Summit
  - Kim Watkins, Zoning Committee Chair reported that their first meeting will be on Jan.13 at 9:00am. Ms. Watkins would like to have charter schools participate in the Summit. Meeting is to begin discussion on under-enrollment in Harlem. The location is *TBA*.
2. Letter to Commissioner Elia
  - Member D Katz addressed the composing of a CEC3 letter to State Education Commissioner Elia in support of the Buffalo School Board requesting the resignation of board member Carl Paladino in light of his racist and sexist remarks. Council agreed and letter will be sent out.

## Liaison Reports

1. PS 452
  - A transition meeting was asked for with 452 community. Possible dates are being considered.
2. PS/IS 180
  - Addressing the \$325,000 funding from City Council Member I Dickens
    - i. Superintendent Altschul reported that the SCA stated it was originally marked for an atrium garden. Principal McFarland requested a change to use for a playground upgrade, there is nothing in cue for an atrium garden and it is believed the monies went toward the playground upgrade.
3. PS 149
  - Liaison Watkins attended an SLT meeting. Wherein various programs were brought up: ESPN partnership for middle school students; young people's choir; installed artwork at Morris Jumel mansion.
4. PS 54
  - There is a Tutor Fair Tues., Jan. 10.
5. PS 859
  - The HVAC system is an on-going issue. Liaison Liu has had ongoing meetings and/or discussions SCA and DOA which have not resulted in a fix.

## Committee Reports

1. Middle School Committee – tabled due to absence of chair

2. Charter School Committee
  - A meeting will be held tomorrow, Jan. 5 at PS 241. Pres. Fiordaliso will chair.
3. Multilingual Committee
  - L Liu, Chair reports that an initiative attempt has been made to secure additional funding. They are attempting to identify costs and meetings will be held with Council Member H Rosenthal, Council Member M Levine and Council Member D Dromm.
  - PreK Russian Dual Language is not scheduled to start and Council Member M Levine has offered to intervene.
    - i. Superintendent Altschul says that no new preK dual language programs are opening.
4. Zoning Committee - none

**Adjournment - 8:00 P.M.**