



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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District 3 Community Education Council (CDEC3) Resolution on Support of PS 185 Unanimously approved at CDEC3 Calendar Meeting of February 25, 2009

The following resolution was developed based on information presented by the NYC Department of Education's Office of Portfolio Development regarding a proposed solution to the decreasing enrollment in District 3 elementary schools above 110th Street and Ms. Norma Genao, Principal of PS 185, as well as comments by parents, staff and the community at a CDEC 3 meeting on February 4, 2009.

Whereas, on January 20, 2009, Ms. Genao was informed by John C. White, Chief Operating Officer from the DOE Office of Portfolio Development, that “. . . a new school or program may be added to the building in which PS 185 . . . is currently located;” and

Whereas, Mr. White was informed by Ms. Genao of her disagreement with that decision, since moving of a new program or school to P.S. 185 will have an adverse impact on the educational programs that have assisted in boosting students' achievement such as reduced class size, academic intervention services, dual language classes, an arts & piano program and professional development, and

Whereas, with the revitalization of Harlem, many new buildings and newly renovated buildings are bringing back former families as well as new families to Harlem, and

Whereas, planning for PS 185 must consider that many of these families expect a choice of a good public school in their neighborhood and, due to the economic challenges that the country is facing, many families are looking for alternatives to private schools; and

Whereas, Ms. Genao and the PS 185 school team have built a quality school with a proven track record; now be it therefore,

Resolved, that CDEC 3 supports Ms. Genao's proposed postponement for at least one year the possibility of moving a new program or school to P.S. 185; and be it further

Resolved, that CDEC 3 supports the Office of Portfolio Development and Ms. Genao's proposal to assure acceptance to PS 185 to entering Kindergarten students from the nearby area, especially those who would be choosing PS 241, which is being closed, and be it further

Resolved, that CDEC 3 supports Ms. Genao's proposal to conduct extensive outreach to the community to market PS 185's programs and achievements; and be it further

Resolved, that CDEC 3 supports Ms. Genao's proposal for 2009-2010 for bringing back District 75 (D75 was housed in P.S. 185 but had to relocate when the school grew). The District 75 early childhood program at P.S. 185 will have a smooth transition to the existing District 75 elementary program at the tandem school P.S. 208. Continuity is crucial in the holistic development of children with special needs.