



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Dennis Morgan Vincent Orgera Declan Saint-Onge, *Student Member*

Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

Calendar Meeting

6:30 PM

Tuesday, November 22nd, 2016

Joan of Arc Complex, Auditorium

154 West 93rd Street

(Between Columbus & Amsterdam Avenue)

Calendar Meeting

(Approved at the 1/25/2017 CEC3 & CSD3 Presidents' Council Joint Calendar Meeting)

- ❖ **Call to Order 6:40 PM**
- ❖ **Roll Call of Members** Kristen Berger, Manuel Casanova, Joe Fiordaliso, Zoe Foundotos, Noah Gotbaum, PJ Joshi, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu, Dennis Morgan, Kim Watkins.
Excused Absence Vincent Orgera
DOE Staff: Ilene Altschul, D3 Superintendent
Excused Absence DJ Sheppard, D3 Family Leadership Coordinator
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes**
 1. September 14, 2016 Calendar Meeting approved by all Council members present.
- ❖ **Superintendent's Report**
 1. Announcement of the passing of Rouge Douglas, D3 Renewal School Director
- ❖ **President's Report**
 1. Motion to add Resolution Regarding the Proposed Rezoning of District 3: Zoning Line Proposal Submission, W. 59th St. to W. 116th St. for 2017-2018 Implementation to the CEC3 agenda.
- ❖ **Roll Call Vote on Motion to Place Resolution on the Agenda**
 - Yes (10): K Berger, M Casanova, J Fiordaliso, Z Foundotos, PJ Joshi, D Katz, L Liu, D Morgan, K Watkins
 - No (1): N Gotbaum
 - Motion passes. The Resolution is added to the evening's agenda
- ❖ **Liaison Reports - none**
- ❖ **Committee Reports - none**
- ❖ **Reading of Resolution(s) – copy on file**

1. Resolution Regarding the Proposed Rezoning of District 3: Zoning Line Proposal Submission, W. 59th St. to W. 116th St. for 2017-2018 Implementation is read into the record.

❖ **Zoning Discussion**

1. DOE D3 Rezoning Proposal W. 59th St. – W. 116th St.

- J Fiordaliso: CEC3 has done exhaustive research, responded to thousands of emails, have listened and considered everything as parents and policy makers. The process has taken 18 months. All of that has brought us to tonight.
- PJ Joshi: As a Council member, IEP member, it's important we act in the public interest. It is an emotional issue. PS 84 will be expanding and getting more resources. PS 452 concerns, by going to a bigger school you will be getting more money and resources. Parents don't appreciate how necessary that is. I would like assurance that IEP needs will be served. Concerned about overcrowding at PS 87.
- K Berger: This has been a complex plan to serve basic goals. Challenging plans have no additional solutions. Moving lines affects everyone. This is your time. New York City schools have always succeeded historically. This is a meaningful change for 84. 452 Families, this a challenging time and a big ask of you but with the asset of a new building 452 will thrive with its own local zone. No person's comments were dismissed. We are in a great place for our district.
- J Fiordaliso: We have worked to achieve a delicate balance. This proposal is in the long-term interest of D3 and designed to meet the long-term needs of the district. For 452, O'Shea was never viewed as its optimal home and its creation has not relieved over-crowding at the two schools it was intended to help; 199 is at 140% capacity today. DOE has committed to 87 to a cap on number of sections, a cap on class sizes, and a commitment not to give up any cluster rooms. I support the resite of that school in order to remedy those issues. The DOE has sent a letter committing to providing bus service to currently zoned 452 families. Support for PS191-MBP Brewer is personally responsible for funding a \$900,000 media lab, that lab needs to be available for use of 452 and folded into its curriculum. Council Member H Rosenthal has secured a \$350,000 grant for a new library in the 191 building. That funding will stay in that building; available space for art, music and science rooms. Superintendent Altschul has committed to making certain the DOE provide transition funding for any funding shortfall due to low enrollment resulting from resiting. 191 needs a robust zone to ensure its success. NYT quote," This proposal offers a realistic chance to unravel an inequitable status-quo that has lasted for generations." We stand on the side of history and of progress.
- K Watkins: Zoning Committee is an ad hoc committee. Dan Katz and Kristen Berger chaired the sub-committee along with me and many, many parents who came to discuss data and opposing view-points. I was amazed by the flaws in the process and inspired by the potential for the CEC to make meaningful changes. We are now targeting segregation. The move of PS 452, to me, came down to desegregation and utilization of space in that building. The children of Amsterdam Houses have suffered from a blind

eye turned toward them. We can no longer claim that we are not perpetrating that harm. The 452 move to the 191 building accounts for equity. It can expand an already robust school. I know that the move creates hardship for the 452 families. PS 191 and Riverside Center move requires a vertical zone. With PS191, PS452, PS199 and the expanded PS 84 Dual Language School, I am cautiously optimistic that we can eliminate over-crowding in the middle part of our district.

The Zoning Committee will use the next few months to continue with the discussion with our Harlem Community.

- L Liu: The decision that I am making today is not taken lightly, it will affect thousands of families. When our vote is over tonight, we will still have to address the vote for the Harlem Schools who, unintentionally, were ignored during this process and not given the time they needed for discussion. They need to be given the same amount of support and commitment as other schools. I don't know if it's too late to save 241 or not. We need to come up with a real strategy for those Harlem schools. I hope that everything that was promised to 452 continues. We have heard a lot regarding the rezoning, we have also had overwhelming support from the PS 84 principal and families. I hope, going forward, everyone focuses their energies on making this work.
- D Katz: There were some numbers presented to this Council on the 14th that ambiguously cited some 452 parents but it was unclear what those numbers represented. Through the DOE Office of Planning. I was able to get some clarity on the cited numbers: 1. '139 students in 452' That number represents the number of students at 452 currently in K-4 who, if the proposal is voted through, would be in the PS 87 zone and find themselves eligible to either go with the school in the 191 building or apply to PS 87. If all of that number is added to the other numbers, it represents, literally, the worst case scenario in the zoning situation. The information floating around that PS 87 will reach 120% utilization next year, is only a possibility, not a probability and the difference is vast. It would require the entirety, including the upper grades at PS452, to knock at PS 87 door. Also, there has been anomalous growth at PS87 based on the past 6 years of retention and growth at 87, there is not a lot of growth in that school zone right now. True that 452 has relieved over-crowding at 87, but it is because of the total capacity in that part of the district with the way that the zones are drawn. In the new proposal, PS 87 zone does actually decrease next year from 162 seats to a projection of 135-145 seats. It is a smaller zone. The number of people in the zone is smaller. There is uncertainty, granted, but projecting the worst case scenario serves no one. Addressing the issue of diversity in the zone is enormously complicated. The schools are not diverse for this district. It is a long process of community based organizing, not something a Council can change overall in the few times a month we meet. What this plan does well is address the most obvious and egregious project in the district. Sometime in the last few decades someone drew a line around one housing project and said that it was segregated. Someone said that these kids were to be zoned to one school only; there is literally no excuse for that to continue. We have three schools that are now going to exist in the southernmost part of the district. Separate is not equal, changing of the zone line is the one achievable we can address.

- M Casanova: Today we vote for a new zone map. We are taking a new step to fix a wrong. 199 has been characterized as a “good” school and 191 as a “bad” school. This proposal puts all schools on a path to be successful. The questions that parents asked made the Council look harder at their information I am 100% comfortable with this proposal. It is the first step toward making a wrong, right.
- N Gotbaum: I am the only member against this plan. We are going to take a vote tonight but the vote was already taken on Oct. 18. It wasn’t done in a public forum; it wasn’t done with public discussion. We never talked about what should go into the 191 building. We didn’t discuss alternatives to moving 452. Overcrowding will ensue at 199, 9, 166, and 87. You certainly won’t find 241 discussed. The (Zoning) Committee should bring proposals to Council and Council should discuss it. 199 should be rezoned, but why did we move 452? Collateral damage was never discussed. We did the numbers to get 452 created. We needed 600 seats, we got 300. To take those seats away doesn’t make sense. I support baby steps but this Council has not thought out the other half of this plan. I’m voting “no.”
- D Morgan: Council collectively agrees that over-crowding is a conversation we will continue to come back to. We need you to fight for the greater good. For the greater good, parents have to invest in where they are. This is the beginning of change.
- Z Foundotos: I heard every word everyone has said. It’s been a long, difficult journey. I hope everyone, regardless of whether this vote works out, works toward improving our schools. I look forward to making our schools topnotch.

2. DOE D3 Rezoning Proposal Central Park North – W. 124th St. – *tabled*

❖ **Public Comment**

- Council Member Helen Rosenthal: Thank you Lucas and Manuel for testifying before the City Council asking the State for more funding for the Dual Language Program. I represent D6 with overlaps with D3 below 96th St.; speaking to the rezone plan that affects the southern part of the district although overall plan should be equally applicable to all schools in the district. I’ve thought carefully about this rezoning plan, spoken with principals, teachers and parents, incoming families, administrators and attended every zoning meeting. 40 years of history and context goes into this final zoning plan. I’ve stated before, a rezoning plan must address three issues: it must support educational excellence, it must create more diversity, and it must address capacity issues in our school. This latest iteration by the DOE does that. I urge the CEC to vote ‘yes.’ The resitings of 452 and the Dual Language Middle School will open opportunities for collaboration. PS452, PS191, PS199, will now have equal enrollment goals; all will shoulder socio-economically deprived students. I urge the many parents to engage and be part of this, we can take collective responsibility for righting a wrong
 - Jean Moreland, PS84: Been bursting at the seams, we can expand our preK
 - Ray Schwab, Co-Pres PTA PS84 & SLT: We needed this
 - Hilda Blair, PS452: Supports the move and rezoning.
 - Gary Ramsay, 199: Math in this plan is bad. People are united in their opposition to this plan.

- Dr. Evelyn Lolis, Principal PS84: Leadership is having a vision. 9 years ago 84 was a Title I school, the French Dual Language Program was started and now 84 has a wait list.
- Sherry Simone, PS84: Represents 368 families who support the rezoning plan.
- Corrine Berthiaume, Teacher, PS84: Concerned about over-crowding. We want to grow not make compromises.
- Jocelyn Wilk, LT: Frustrated by process. Data is flawed to manipulate and push plan through.
- Heather Tait, PS452: Thank you for giving us the chance to live a more global existence.
- Beate Sissenich speaking for Rachel Singer, PS452: The teachers and principal make 452 special. Re-siting doesn't change that.
- Hope Dendy, PS 199: 199 is diverse already and a community exists there.
- Susannah Blum, Teacher, PS191: Thank you CEC for this plan.
- Martin Wallace, PTA Pres. PS84: Better done than perfect. We will work together to improve the situation. We need to recognize the broader picture.
- Ricardo Aguirre, from CM Inez Dickens: No one reached out to Council Member Dickens re PS241 closing. CM Dickens wants discussion before anything is done.
- Kore Glied Samantyse, PS87: Upset about rezoning
- Charles Taylor, PTA Co-Pres PS191: We want our school to be the best it can be. Parent activists wanted!
- Leah Savitt, LT: CEC had opportunity to push the DOE to provide right data and that hasn't happened. Put the burden on the DOE, reject this plan.
- Ross Friedman, LT: Invite the DOE to sit up, stand up. CEC say 'no.'
- Elyse Reilly, LT: When 452 was created you said you knew data was inaccurate. If you have doubts, vote 'no.'
- Daniel P, LT: We provided alternate plans, other data. Disappointed in the process., being zoned out of 199.
- Michael Gee, PS9: We are potentially zoned out of our school. Daughter currently in preK, how is someone treated whose sibling is not grandfathered in to preK?
 - Superintendent Altschul: PreK is a low priority; PreK is a district wide program not a zoned program. Every school does not have a preK. It is not grandfathered. It would depend on which school and on availability.
- Paul Richards, PS191: We could have a fresh start with 191. Get rid of the name, New families moving into the new buildings are the people we need at 191 and if they Google the name, they're out of here.
- Melissa Berkham, PS452: 6th year at school, wants diversity. Families of 452 should stick with the school. The resiting is a minor blip in a long term plan
- Ami Kantawala, PS452: Wholeheartedly supports relocation of 452. It will allow our school to grow, integrate and diversity. The new space is a terrific location.
- Samantha Berman, PS87: Concerned about overcrowding but will make it work.
- Jennifer Kierans, PS452: We have been hurt by this process.

- Tara Whitmore, Teacher, PS84: Special Ed teacher, allowing others who are ‘different’ in will help us to look at ourselves. If we cannot support difference we cannot act equitably to support our children.
- Andrew Chu, PS191: His child is zoned to 191 and happy there. The process is not perfect
- Liz Sutherland, PS199 SLT: 199 has terrible overcrowding, 136%, 32 kids in first grade classes. Not good for education. We are desperate to bring enrollment down.
- Gina Pisarczyk, PS87: Councilwoman Rosenthal, what changed? You championed 452 and now those seats have been removed.
 - CM Rosenthal: There will be additional seats: 2 added sections at 452, 2 added sections at 191, PreK in 84. We are watching this really closely.

❖ **Roll Call Vote**

1. Resolution DOE D3 Rezoning Proposal W. 59th St. – W. 116th St.

- President Fiordaliso calls the question on the Resolution.
- **Yes (9):** K Berger, M Casanova, J Fiordaliso, Z Foundotos, PJ Joshi, D Katz, L Liu, D Morgan, K Watkins
- **No (1):** N Gotbaum
- **Abstain (0)**
- The motion passes

2. DOE D3 Rezoning Proposal Central Park North – W. 124th St. – *tabled*

❖ **Adjournment 10:00 PM**