



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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| **Ilene Altschul**
District 3 Community Superintendent

CEC3 Business Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Jan 3, 2018, 6:30 PM

Joan of Arc Complex, Room 204

154 W. 93rd St., NYC 10025

(Approved at the Feb. 13, 2018 Business Meeting by all Council members present)

❖ **Call to Order 6:40 PM**

- ❖ **Roll Call of Members** Kristen Berger, Manuel Casanova, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu, Mike McCarthy, Genisha Metcalf, Jane Sun, Kim Watkins
Inyanga Collins, 6:34, Dennis Morgan, 6:47, Jean Moreland 6:57
DOE Staff: Ilene Altschul, D3 Superintendent, DJ Sheppard, D3 Leadership Coordinator

❖ **Approval of Minutes**

1. Dec. 13, 2017 Business Meeting Minutes were approved by all Council members present at the time of the vote.

❖ **President's Report**

1. President Watkins gives a quick timeline of happenings since the last meeting Dec. 13.
 - i. On Dec. 18 Wadleigh was told the middle school was open to truncation. Dec. 19, announcement was made as part of the renewal school collective that middle school grades were proposed to be truncated.
 - ii. Chancellor issued her retirement letter
 - iii. Letter received from NYS Senator Brian Benjamin re D3 issues, in the Harlem schools and Wadleigh
 - iv. Dec. 21 Spoke at Cong. Espaillat breakfast. 6 of the 14 schools in his congressional district are being closed or truncated.
 - o Supt. Altschul will be meeting with him on Jan. 29

❖ **Superintendent's Report**

- Jeneca Parker, Principal of M180 has been appointed as of December 20th.
- Moving to the SLT consultation for M247, Dual language middle school.
- Holding 2nd Stakeholder meeting at M185/M208 on January 17th at 1:00 p.m.
- Community meeting on January 4th at Wadleigh at 6:00 p.m.
- Joint Public Hearing – M185/M208 January 8th 6:00 p.m.
- Joint Public Hearing – M165/M862 January 9th 6:00 p.m.
- Panel for Educational Policy January 24th 166 Essex Street 6:00 p.m.
- Panel for Educational Policy February 28th (currently MS 131 100 Hester St but location may change)
- January 26th legislative breakfast

- March 1st NYS testing workshop

- PS 208:

The request was submitted to Central and the request for additional funding has been denied based on the “half class rule” which requires schools to open a new class to resolve an oversized one only when the class surpasses contractual class size by half. I asked about the grievance and he indicated that while a grievance can be filed, the half class rule will be invoked. Funding for classroom paras for oversized classes is typically given in schools that have a history of the oversized class, not in schools where it occurs only once.

The superintendent has met with Dr. Green and given her a directive that by January 8th a plan must be in place to address the needs of the 5th graders. The schools did not have enough students for 2 classes and ended up creating one class. The superintendent’s recommendation was to create a bridge class. Dr. Green feels strongly that that is not the best move and feels small group instruction is best.

Dr. Green stated that as a community, they have resolved the issue of the oversized class by identifying students to stream to other classes/grade levels for instruction in core subject areas (ELA/Math)

- Select students will receive Guided Reading at their instructional level with 3rd or 4th grade teachers and students
- Select students will receive instruction in math at their standards-based level, pushing towards grade level standards
- Dr. Green has enough funding to be strategic in how she’s addressing the children. She will meet with her staff and decide on what strategy aligns with her plans. The school has too many empty seats to be allowed an increase in budget.

Council feels that the timing is short notice. There should be other than a reactive response.

Supt. Altschul: We didn’t find out about the 5th grade until Nov. The school should have reached out. The timing is unfortunate. The class size issue should have been resolved a month ago.

Council remarked that there should be some kind of indicator when that goes out when these things happen.

Supt Altschul: Does not get information on how many students are enrolled in a class. It is not broken up by grade. The only way to know is if the school reaches out.

Executive session

- President Watkins remarked that there was justification to convene in private session. Open Meetings Law #105 re Executive Session, is read into the record. The motion is called and the motion seconded.
- Roll Call Vote on Motion to Convene Executive Session
All council members present voted to convene to executive session (11 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstain)
- 7:55 PM Executive Session convenes.
- **8:23 PM** - Council reconvenes Business meeting.

❖ Old Business

1. A-190 Proposed Changes to District 3 Schools

- Council feels they are not getting answers to their questions. More than \$600 million has been spent on 94 NYC schools. With what to show for it?
- Wadleigh – Why was Wadleigh signaled out for middle school truncation? Why was only \$2 million spent on PS149 and Wadleigh? 149 didn’t make benchmarks either and they came off the priority list. We told Wadleigh on Dec. 13 they would get another year; are decisions at Central not being shared with the superintendent?

- a. Supt. Altschul: Wadleigh was given 3 years to make changes. I believe the truncation is necessary for Wadleigh. I supported the Chancellor's decision. The school has not made improvement in math in 3 years. Students come in at one grade level and leave lower. The principal hired a master math teacher and students didn't make any progress. Data shows school is not doing well. This renewal roll out plan was put out by the Office of School Renewal. My supports were working with principals, putting in new leaders. The school has struggled with keeping their hires. Students that are coming are not currently D3 students. 243 students in Manhattan listed Wadleigh as a choice, 71 were from D3. 8 D3 students listed it as a first choice.
- b. The plan is for students to fill out an application, rank choices, place them in schools in D3 where there is seat availability and which best collates with their ranked schools. School tours and open houses will be scheduled. Only offers where there are seats will be made.
- c. The Wadleigh community meeting was cancelled due to snow and a new date, Feb. 12, was chosen because CEC switched their meeting date from the 14th to the 13th.
 1. Council is concerned with the short notice and wonders if the PEP vote can be pushed to March.
 - i.i Supt. Altschul: The concern is that pushing it back is that students won't have enough time to choose a school.
 - i.i.i Council noted that even march will not be enough time
- d. PS165/Mott Hall II: MHII is adding a section. Supt. Altschul reels strongly that MHII should only be adding one section to each grade. There are enough empty seats in other schools. The Office of District Planning and the Office of Enrollment will oversee MHII. Council member Berger will work with the superintendent to ensure that MH2 has only one section.
- e. Council requested a set of answers to their FAQs that they've asked on 165, 185/208.

Supt. Altschul: An FAQ document has been requested regarding all three schools will be provided or the Joint Public Hearings 8th, 9th and 10th.

2. Events:

1. Legislative Breakfast Planning – The breakfast will be held at PS191 Riverside School for Makers and Artists. It starts at 9am but Council is requested to get there at 8am to help with set-up.
2. Chancellor's Town Hall Planning will be held March 20 at Wadleigh but we will confirm that that is still on given her upcoming retirement.
3. Harlem Schools Summit Planning will be at PS180 on Sat. April 14th. Teacher's College professor Chris Emdin, "Hip Hop Ed" will be keynote speaker, Michael Rogers, VP Road Runners club will be the M.C.
4. SCA Presentation February 13.- The SCA Presentation on the 5 Year Capital Projects Plan will be presented at the next calendar meeting on Feb. 13 at PS 87.. Council needs to speak to their liaison schools.

❖ New Business

1. Draft A-190 resolution on the lack of DOE process and commitment is handed out for Council to review. It will be presented at the Jan. 17th meeting. Council member remarked that the ECC is moving to take this issue on and Pres. Watkins will be meeting with them Saturday

❖ Liaison Reports

2. PS452, Kristen Berger: Waiting on one crossing guard.

❖ Committee Reports

1. Middle School – Jan. 30 is the next meeting
2. Multilingual Committee –Jan. 10 is the next meeting

❖ Adjournment 9:30 PM