



DISTRICT 3 COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL

154 West 93rd Street New York, New York 10025 - Room 204 Tel (212) 678-2782 Fax (212) 678-2804 Email: CEC3@schools.nyc.gov

Joseph A. Fiordaliso
President

Theresa L.C. Hammonds
First Vice President

Noah Gotbaum
Second Vice President

J. Conrad Fagan
Secretary

Barbara Denham
Treasurer

Council Members: Olaiya Deen John Fitzsimons, Ph.D. Zoe G. Foundotos **Ilene Altschul**
Donna Veronica Gill Michele Sweeting-DeCaro Tyree Etheridge, *Student Member* *District 3 Community Superintendent*

CEC3 Resolution Vol. 13 (P) No. 10

The Future Use of the Beacon Building

**Approved at the December 11, 2013 CEC3 Calendar Meeting
by a Unanimous Vote of the Council (10/0)**

WHEREAS, the Beacon High School Building is located at 227-243 West 61st Street (hereafter “Beacon Building”), New York NY and currently houses M479 (Beacon High School); and

WHEREAS, Beacon High School will vacate 227-243 West 61st Street, New York NY following the 2014-2015 school year and relocate to a new location outside of District 3 even though the lease on the Beacon Building is effective through 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Portfolio Planning of the New York City Department of Education (DOE) attended the October 2012 Community District Education Council 3 (CEC3) Calendar meeting and requested community input into the future use of the Beacon Building and subsequently attended several additional CEC3 meetings to reiterate this request; and

WHEREAS, a middle school seat shortage is anticipated in the coming years as per separate analyses by DOE, Community Board 7 and CEC3; and

WHEREAS, District 3 has limited District 3-priority high schools; such that 64% of District 3 children leave District 3 to attend high school which further means that District 3 is in need of a strong non-specialized high school that serves District 3 students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That CEC3 expresses the desire of the District 3 community that the Beacon Building become a District 3 school with the following characteristics:

- The school shall serve grades 6-12 with primary points of admissions at grades 6 (for middle school) and 9 (for high school);
- The school shall be administered by a Principal along with sufficient administrative support including an Assistant Principal responsible for administering grades 6-8 and another Assistant Principal responsible for administering grades 9-12 and that this school leadership team shall be configured in a way so as to recognize the social, emotional, and intellectual development associated with younger and older adolescents housed in one school;
- The middle school portion of the school, representing Grades 6-8 of the school shall be a District 3 school available in the District 3 middle school choice process that gives priority to District 3 students;
- Students wishing to continue from middle school through high school shall receive priority in high school admissions;
- The Beacon Building shall be used exclusively for the school established through this process and shall not have any other schools of any type co-located within this space;

- The Beacon Building shall be a permanent location for this school subject to an appropriate level of capital investment to make it a suitable facility for the school being proposed through this process; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this school shall be established with the following admissions methods:

- The school shall utilize an admissions method that considers students based on a range of factors - commonly referred to as a “Portfolio” - and does not implement an admissions cut-off based on test scores;
- The school’s Portfolio-based admissions method shall be designed to provide equal access for all District 3 students to attend and shall also be designed to foster a rigorous academic environment;
- The school shall reflect the economic, social and racial diversity of its neighborhoods and shall demonstrate its commitment to diversity through a concerted institutional outreach and recruitment of a diverse student population;
- The middle school shall enroll students from every community elementary school in District 3; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the timing of the establishment of this school is critical and the following timeline shall be followed:

- The model and format of the school shall be established in time to be included in the middle and high school directories used in the first round of admissions for those grades for admissions for September 2015;
- Every effort should be made to select the leader of the school in time to be included in the middle and high school directories used in the first round of admissions for those grades for admissions for September 2015;
- DOE shall negotiate a long-term lease renewal with the landlord as soon as possible so that the Beacon Building may be used for this school or another District 3 school beyond 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the school shall offer a strong general education core curriculum that is aligned to welcome students with special needs, has the appropriate facilities and capacity to serve English Language Learners, and places priority focus on improving the academic performance of all District 3 students, paying acute attention to factors such as socio-economic status, race, English Language Learners and students with special needs, and allows for:

- Advanced Regents degree for high school students;
- An option for Regents courses in math and science by at least 8th grade;
- Foreign language study at every grade year level;
- Art and music instruction and/or participation available within the core curriculum;
- Physical Education instruction at every grade year level;

RESOLVED, That the school shall be non-specialized but shall have a thematic focus on *Urban Studies* or another inter-disciplinary studies theme which meets the developing academic and/or career development

needs of District 3 students, and taps into New York City's environmental, cultural intellectual and civic resources to extend learning beyond the classroom; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Beacon Building be made available and accessible, in accordance with all applicable DOE space usage guidelines, to community-based organizations, youth service providers, the New York City Housing Authority and other civic and cultural entities to provide community services and programming which serves, supplements and advances District 3 families in proximity to the school and surrounding community who are in need of social, cultural and arts-focused initiatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, That capital improvements shall be made to the Beacon Building to ensure that its facilities are appropriately accessible to students at middle and high school grades, renovations shall include:

- Enlarging the cafeteria;
- Creating a gymnasium appropriate for ages 10-18;
- Defining rooms suitable for special needs instruction;
- Creating an auditorium space that includes a stage and audience seating;
- Creating an outdoor recess area;
- Compliance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act*; and be it further

RESOLVED, That capital improvements/renovations specified for the Beacon Building be made following SCA and NYCDOE approval and begin immediately to ensure completion by the start of the 2015 school year; and, that the scope of the renovations shall be determined in advance through an open and collaborative process that includes CEC3 and other stakeholders; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the final decision on the new school proposal, including its model, key attributes, admissions method and leadership shall be made in an open collaboration with meaningful and on-going input from the community through CEC3 and other stakeholders including community representatives as determined by CEC3 to be formal members of the school proposal working group.