

October 21, 2015

MINUTES OF THE CALENDAR MEETING

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL FOR DISTRICT ONE

Present for the October 21, 2015 Calendar Meeting for the Community Education Council for District 1 (CEC1) were Marco Battistella, Aline Gnali, Luke Henry, Naomi Peña, David Post, Arnette C. Scott, Moses Seuram, Michael Stutman, and Stephanie Thompson.

The meeting began with a meet-and-greet among middle school principals, APs, Guidance Counselors, and families. The meet-and-greet was followed by a Middle School Panel in which school representatives discussed their schools' offerings and answered families' questions. Present for the panel were representatives from PS/MS 34, PS/MS 140, Shuang Wen School, PS/MS 188, UNMS, CASTLE, School for Global Leaders, and TSMS.

Following the Middle School Panel, Eric Herman of the Office of District Planning and Drew Patterson presented information about the district planning process. They expressed that currently there are no requests from authorized charter schools to occupy space in CSD1 public school buildings. They noted that the proposed consolidation of PS 134 and PS 137 will be voted on at the December meeting of the PEP. CEC and audience members raised concerns to the ODP staff about the potential for very late public notification from ODP of charter schools' space requests; about the desire for a D1 district needs assessment, and borough-wide presentations, to inform ODP's planning process; about the lack of clarity/accuracy of sources used to obtain enrollment, projected enrollment, and space utilization figures; about the need for clarification regarding the division of labor at ODP; and about the need for CECs and SLTs to serve as co-hosts for hearings in the A-190 engagement sequence. CEC members asserted that there is strong community desire not to have charter schools co-located in public school buildings in CSD1. CEC members asked Mr. Herman to effect a system whereby they would receive notice of a charter school's request for space at the time the charter school requested it. Mr. Herman responded that he would take the idea back to his superiors.

Superintendent Phillips provided an update on the Regents Academy grant for 8th graders and noted that there are still seats available for Saturday classes. She shared that D1 honored newly tenured teachers at a recent celebration at Children's Workshop School. She discussed district inter-visitations in which dual language teachers are meeting regularly and in which Special Education teachers are visiting schools with ASD Nest programs.

Superintendent Phillips introduced Manhattan Budget Director Mirna Fermin, who shared a presentation about D1-specific Contracts for Excellence (C4E) funding. CEC and audience members asked questions about apparent discrepancies in the funding breakdown, which Ms. Fermin will address, and about allocations for class size

reduction. CEC members noted that they sent a letter to C4E and the NYC DoE Division of Finance asking for written assurance that NYC's public comments on C4E will be taken into consideration by the state. The city's stated deadline of November 6th for public comments does not match the state's deadline of August 19th. No updated state-approved timelines have been provided that attest to the city having gained approval to comply with this and other itemized mandates past-schedule, and no response to the CEC letter has been provided.

CEC members shared with Superintendent Phillips concerns about the SIPP grant work group recruitment and staffing and about the need for time and information for the District Leadership Team to complete the District Comprehensive Educational Plan by the November deadline.

Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned.