

Minutes of the Community Education Council for District 1

Calendar and Business Meeting, November 16, 2016

The Calendar meeting of the Community Education Council for District 1 was called to order. Present at the meeting were Marco Battistella, Cynthia Cartagena, Aline Gnali, Luke Henry, Naomi Peña, David Post, and Stephanie Thompson. Moses Seuram and Jennie White were absent and their absences were deemed excused. Michael Stutman was absent and his absence was deemed unexcused.

Superintendent Daniella Phillips discussed

- schools listed as Struggling or Needs Improvement by the state
- progress made by D1 schools (Orchard Collegiate Academy and PS 15 met targets)
- rigorous instruction at PS 188
- chancellor's concerns with consolidation. 2 consolidations in D1. PS 134/137 (354 students, below register; attendance 93.2%; state exams ELA increase 12.4/math 2.3; 95% parent satisfaction; 82% teacher satisfaction) and UNMS (235, met register; 93.6% attendance; increase in ELA, decrease in math; meeting or exceeding goals in school snapshot; no excess in staff; PTA concerns)
- promoting arts (D1 arts festival June 15th-18th at Henry Street Settlement (466 Grand St.)
- parent question: 134/137 reports look good but children struggle with reading and writing. response: 25% below district level; disagreed with comment
- parent question: Why two failing schools put together? response: not all are failing. report states a work in progress, setting goals and working toward them.
- parent question: why high levels of IEPs? response: not caused by merger. high IEP % at CASTLE and PS 137. looking into why this is happening, making a goal to change.
- snapshots based on school exams, school surveys, and quality reviews; state reports do not include snapshot reports.
- parent question: 134/137 promises not being granted. what's being done? Response: 134 expedited election investigation was done. bylaw revision, FACE will be working with the consolidated school.
- PTA election available for teachers and not parents
- what curriculum is being used to educate children? nationwide effort for literacy; Teachers College Reading & Writing curriculum

Janya Tagat, new representative of DFACE. Works with the CEC; technical support.

Drew Lombardi: Manhattan Borough President's Office

Mae Lee: Community Board 3 Chair of Health, Seniors, & Human Services / Youth, Education, & Human Rights Committee

Two Bridges/South St. task force working on the concerns of the changing neighborhoods, school concerns; questions about CSD1 zoning, how development will impact schools. Recruitment ongoing for task force; Essex St. Crossing

Socio-Economic Integration Pilot Program (SIPP) Grant; admission policy (nothing will be implemented this year, but maybe next year); FRC (pop-up family resource center); improvements to PS 15 (improvements have occurred). Superintendent's response:

- many have given countless hours to the grant
- shifting of ideas from district to implementation now
- hashing out what needs to be done
- district ready and committed to making changes
- changes to recommend on guidance
- Michael Alves doing re-runs on Kindergarten data/process
- Office of Student Enrollment offered to work together
- workgroups to shift into implementation groups

Question: SIPP grant awarded to PS 15 – is there just one grant? Called Albany, supposed monies given to PS 15 for grant implementation. Superintendent response: the grant is to serve all schools

SIPP: many implementation delays. Biggest barrier has been that grant was written so that workgroups would provide guidance (be provided with guidance?) – that has not happened. Expert planner has not been able to do anything FRC-related. Needs assessment to be done. FRC not available for a year.

Question: Why has consultant Michael Alves not been paid for work on SIPP? Why can't DOE money be used? Different meeting schedules? Superintendent's response: Michael has been paid \$29,000, July 1 another \$29,000 he hasn't submitted invoice. Documents must be submitted for payment. Committed to pilot Pre-K/K fair. Rose Marie Gonzalez hired to work with/ the Family Leadership Coordinator to work on the FRC.

Question: what happened to community input? Written as a community-based pilot program. Response (?): Proposal has to be made by Michael Alves. Timeline – 2 years of grant implementation, 4 meetings already done. \$250,000 given to DOE. \$500,000 for 2-year implementation.

Question: Was there revisions to the grant post-February submission? Yes? Superintendent's response: not since February.

Parent comment – Holds superintendent 100% accountable, has not given answers, brought the PS 34 principal to do work parents have done, which is not fair. No movement in this district.

Window to make change is closing for this year.

Discussion of set-aside pilot