



DISTRICT 3 COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL

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CEC3 Resolution Vol. 14 No. 6

Resolution Regarding Middle School Guidance Counselors

Approved at the October 14, 2014 CEC3 Calendar Meeting
by a unanimous vote of the Council Members present (8 in favor/ 0 opposed)
(Absent from vote: Fitzsimons, Gotbaum)

Whereas, the primary duties of middle school guidance counselors are to counsel students, fulfill IEP mandated counseling, and offer students and their families social-emotional support; and

Whereas, New York City middle school guidance counselors also act as high school admissions officers, in addition to their duties in fulfilling IEP mandates and being available for the social-emotional support of school community; and

Whereas, some schools have PTAs that are able to supplement their school's budget with the funds necessary to pay for a guidance counselor's salary, creating further inequity within the City's school system; and

Whereas, Chancellor Farina explicitly expressed her intention to support and increase professional development for guidance counselors at the CEC3 Town Hall Meeting on June 11, 2014; and

Whereas, Chancellor Farina has launched the new Office of Guidance and School Counseling within the first 100 days of taking the helm at DOE; and

Whereas, the American School Counselor Association guidelines recommend a 250:1 ratio of students to guidance counselors and many New York City schools do not come close to achieving this ratio; and

Whereas, *New York City's high school application process* is one-of-a-kind in the nation and families require the help of middle school guidance counselors, and other school and district staff to navigate the system for applying to high schools in New York City; and

Whereas, the Department of Education has hired an additional 250 high school guidance counselors to support high school students with post-secondary preparations and admissions; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That CEC3 urges Chancellor Farina and the Office of Guidance and School Counseling to evaluate the role of guidance counselors as high school admissions officers; and be it further

Resolved, That additional guidance counselors must be hired at the middle school level and supported with training and professional development with respect to the high school applications process so that middle school students and their families across the board have the support they need to successfully apply to high schools.