



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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

Nan Eileen Mead
First Vice President

Zoe G. Foundotos
Second Vice President

Kristen Berger
Secretary

Kimberly Watkins
Treasurer

Council Members: Noah Gotbaum Theresa L.C. Hammonds Pradnya Joshi Daniel
Katz Lucas Liu Vacant, *ELL Member* Vacant, *Student Member*

Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

Special Calendar Meeting

7:00 P.M.

Monday November 16, 2015

Joan of Arc 154 W. 93rd St.

(Between Columbus & Amsterdam Avenue)

Minutes Approved at November 19th 2015 Calendar Meeting

Special Calendar Meeting for the purpose of taking roll call votes on several components of a Zoning Proposal

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30pm

2. Roll Call of Members

Present: Nan Mead, Joe Fiordaliso, Zoe Foundotos, Kristen Berger, Noah Gotbaum, Theresa Hammonds, Daniel Katz, Lucas Liu and Kimberly Watkins. A quorum was present.

Excused Absence: P.J. Joshi

DOE Staff: Ilene Altschul, District 3 Superintendent; DJ Sheppard, District 3 Family Advocate

3. Discussion

I. To cap at five (5), the number of kindergarten sections at PS199

PS 199 is currently an overcrowded building and CEC 3 seeks to alleviate a potentially dangerous crowding situation by reigning in enrollment until the overcrowding situation is alleviated. The council discussed this as a concern around the district and will continue to support relief for overcrowded schools in general. There was mention of refining this statement for the final resolution. The council may look into this situation in other buildings

in the district and may add language about needing to add new seats to the final resolution.

II. To support sibling grandfathering in any zoning proposal

The council clarified with Superintendent Altschul that grandfathering as regards to zoning proposals usually only refers to families who are affected by a line changed in the rezoning process. This does not generally extend to priority three students who have moved out of the footprint of the original zone.

III. To revoke the right to return to PS199 after kindergarten until overcrowding is eliminated

Council members voiced concern that this may set precedence and remain unsure of how to look at any changes to Chancellors Regulation A 101. Additional concern was voiced that this may shift the overcrowding problem to other schools in the district. Superintendent Altschul pointed out that this will privilege families moving into the zone after kindergarten over families who enrolled on the waitlist. Council members pointed out that PS 452, which currently receives students from the PS 199 waitlist would like the right of return suspended as well. It would assist schools like PS 452 in retaining more of the kindergarten students and building on the school community they establish in kindergarten.

IV. That alternate offers be made by August 1st to all wait-listed families

The council decided to adjust the original proposal to remove the distinction for PS 199 families and extend the required date to all District 3 wait-listed families. Some of the council would like greater clarity on the timing of all offers in the district e.g. initial offers and alternate offers. Concern remained around the timing of when offers are made in regards to when the NYSED publicize the Persistently Dangerous Schools list. It was further noted that if the Persistently Dangerous Schools designation stays with PS 199, or occurs at any other school, alternate offers are not made until No Child Left Behind seats are made available in other schools, generally sometime in October. Superintendent Altschul clarified that the Department of Education can make PS 191 and overflow site, regardless of PDS designation.

V. That new residential construction shall not be zoned to any schools that are overcapacity

There were many questions about the applicability and practicality of such a recommendation however the council agreed with the spirit of sending the message to developers, city planners and the Department of Education that it is unacceptable to continue building in overcrowded school zones without providing additional school seats.

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VI. To move PS191 into the new Riverside Center building upon completion and placement of PS342 into PS191's current building, located at 210 West 61st Street, New York, NY

Much of the council wished to do this as a strong message of support for PS 191. Others noted that the issues that face 191 go much deeper than a new school building and the school needs more substantive supports.

4. Public Comment

Mark Friedman- Questioned the purpose of the meeting and challenged the council that the priority ought to be on fighting the PDS designation rather than worrying about overcrowded schools

Lara Bursur- Reminded all that revoking the right to return would be beneficial for PS 452 as well as PS 199.

Jim Brennan- Raised concern that revoking the Right to Return would diminish the chances that waitlisted families would feel comfortable going to PS 191 without the assurance that they could transfer to 199 for first grade should they be unhappy with the school.

Sam Droulias- Is concerned about a lack of transparency. He would like to see historical data on how the lower part of the district developed the current zone lines and use that to gain assurance that t mistakes are not repeated. Worried that his concerns are not being properly heard by the DOE and requests for answers have been largely ignored.

Robin Aronow- Pointed out that we do have a situation at PS 452 where the school is not actually located in the zone so it is possible to zone buildings in a non-contiguous manner to schools. She noted that in the last year there were families throughout the district who were still receiving placement offers in October.

Carolina Graham- Appreciated the councils desire to make zoning equitable but cautioned that the council not make other buildings overcrowded especially when we think about trying to preserve needed Middle School seats.

Manuel Casanova- Asked how zoning decisions and projections incorporate information about condo conversions and if such conversions may affect the number of students in a zone.

Matt Unterman- Noted he is happy to see support for PS 191 but questioned what it means logistically for PS 191 and 342.

Audrey Sher- Questioned if would be better to wait to assign a school to the riverside south building until we know what the zoning be for PS 342.

Angeline Huang- Stated support for banning the zoning of newly constructed buildings to overcrowded schools, noting that it provided ample notice to potential home owners.

5. Roll Call Vote

- I. **To cap at five (5), the number of kindergarten sections at PS199**
Was unanimously approved by the members present at time of vote (9-0).
- II. **To preserve priority 1 sibling status as a result of any zoning change**
Was unanimously approved as amended by the members present at time of vote (9-0)
- III. **To revoke the right to return to PS199 after kindergarten until overcrowding is eliminated**
Was unanimously approved as amended by the members present at time of vote (9-0)
- IV. **That alternate offers be made by August 1st to all wait-listed families**
Was approved as amended by the members present at time of vote (7- 2 Abstain)
- V. **That new residential construction shall not be zoned to any schools that are overcapacity**
Was unanimously approved as amended by the members present at time of vote (9-0)
- VI. **To move PS191 into the new Riverside Center building upon completion and placement of PS342 into PS191's current building, located at 210 West 61st Street, New York, NY**
Was approved by the members present at time of vote (8-1)

6. Adjournment 9:15 pm

Submitted by Kristen Berger, CEC3 Secretary