

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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U.S. | NEW YORK

Readers Sound Off on School Rezoning Proposals for the Upper West Side

Feedback Friday is Greater New York's weekly spot where perusers share their thoughts

July 21, 2016 7:10 p.m. ET

Reasons Abound for School Rezoning Scenario B

As parents of P.S. 452 students, we applaud the intent to diversify District 3 elementary schools that underlies both rezoning proposals presented by the city's Department of Education ("Ideas for Rezoning Schools Unsettle Upper West Side," July 15). But we favor the more ambitious scenario B, which includes the relocation of P.S.



A public meeting on school rezoning drew a crowd Thursday at Joan of Arc Complex on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Education officials presented two scenarios.

FROM HIGH N.J. Perch

By Ted Mann

David Samson amassed many titles over a celebrated career in New Jersey legal circles—attorney general, adviser to three governors, lobbyist powerhouse, and finally chairman of the sprawling bistate agency that controls the gateways to New York.

With his guilty plea Thursday to a single count of bribery, Mr. Samson, 76 years old, completed a slow-motion fall from grace that stunned even some critics of the former chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Mr. Samson, a confidant and mentor to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who appointed him to the Port Authority chairmanship, admitted in federal court that he used his official powers to make it easier for him and his wife to commute for weekends at their country home in South Carolina.

Federal prosecutors described a bribery scheme as petty as it was brazen. From February 2011, his first month as chairman of the Port Authority, Mr. Samson urged the lobbyist for United Airlines, James Fox, to convince the carrier to revive the nonstop route from Newark Liberty International Airport, which had been terminated by the airline's predecessor because it wasn't profitable.

Mr. Samson made the request again in person to then-United Chief Executive Jeff Smisek and other executives over dinner in New York that September, prosecutors said. When the airline wouldn't relent, Mr. Samson used his power over the agenda of the Port Authority's board of commissioners to block something United wanted badly: a deal to construct a hangar for its wide-body airliners at Newark.

Prosecutors say Mr. Samson worked in tandem with Mr. Fox to pressure United into restarting the route.

"You have them dancing," Mr. Fox wrote in an email to Mr. Samson in September 2011. Please see PORT page A14

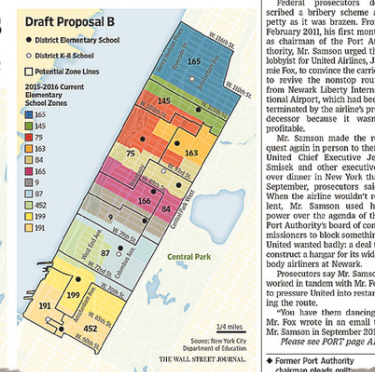
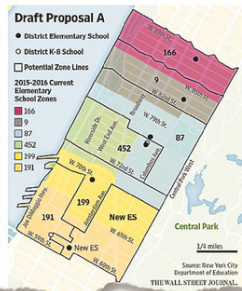
Former Port Authority chairman pleads guilty

Ideas for Rezoning Schools Unsettle Upper West Side

By LASZLO BENCZY

New York City education officials specified out two ideas Thursday for rezoning elementary schools on the Upper West Side to alleviate overcrowding and foster integration in its southern end. The area has been equated in complex and emotionally fraught debates in recent months over how to update enrollment zones in an area where public schools have starkly different demographics and achievement records. Officials say they also must address an influx of new students expected from residential buildings under construction.

One draft scenario presented by the city Department of Education would redraw the zones of six current schools from West 56th Street to 89th Street. The other would involve pushing up to West 110th Street.



452 to the current site of P.S. 191 on 61st Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Scenario B would enhance low-income access to P.S. 452, resolve the school's space constraints and offer a solid opportunity to diversify and promote multicultural education in the 21st century. Being a racially and socioeconomically diverse school, it will enhance students' interracial understanding, empathy and ability to learn from people of diverse backgrounds, building a stronger community and parent engagement.

Giving our school its own space will allow the stellar group of P.S. 452 educators who now work at the school's cramped building on 77th Street to expand the curriculum with dedicated spaces for visual and performing arts, science, a library, technology and athletics. At present, due to the co-location with two other schools in a crowded building

originally designed to serve middle-school students, P.S. 452 students have limited access to common spaces such as an auditorium, gym, yard and cafeteria; specialized services for occupational, physical and speech therapy sometimes have to be provided in hallways, where distractions abound and privacy is lacking. P.S. 452 teachers along with a strong group of parents overwhelmingly support the move.

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Opponents of both DOE proposals claim that rezoning does too little to diversify District 3 elementary schools. We welcome a serious consideration of controlled choice as well as a relocation of P.S. 452, which would undoubtedly go further in allowing low-income families to access high-performing schools. But we also recognize the space constraints under which P.S. 452 professionals currently labor. We endorse proposal B as an opportunity to bring a high-performing school with a cohesive team of educators to a better, dedicated facility and increase its socioeconomic diversity.

Ami Kantawala

New York

Beate Sissenich

New York

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Greater New Yo

Test your knowledge of local €

Last Updated July 21, 2016 a 5:21 pm ET | Publishe

1.
New York City is hot for ice cream. One new kind is black-colored. Who gives the treat its distinctive hue?



Coconut ash

Black mission figs

Black garlic

Black garlic

2. **New York City is upgrading infrastructure and promoting existir grants and low-interest loans to stimulate industrial growth in what neighborhood?**



Great Kills, Staten Island

The South Bronx

Jamaica, Queens

East New York, Brooklyn

3. Authorities have asked the public for help in catching a man who they say is robbing banks in lower Manhattan. What has been his take from six jobs?



\$9,500

\$2,500

\$5,000

\$1,583

4. The baseball world is abuzz that the Yankees might be looking to trade two of their best relief pitchers. Wh

are they?



Andrew Miller and Aroldis Chapman

Jerry Blevins and Aroldis Chapman

Seth Lugo and Andrew Miller

Dellin Betances and Andrew Miller

5. **Bus ridership in New York City is declining. One reason cited by passengers is the slow speed that buses travel. What is the average weekday speed?**





9.8 mph

10.7 mph

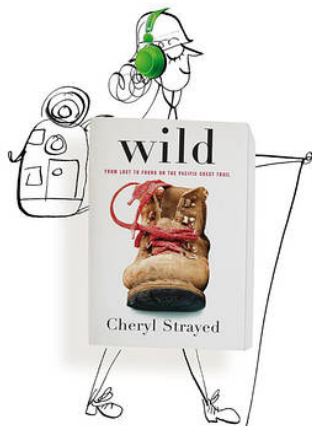
7.4 mph

10 mph

6. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is facing pension liabilities: What is the amount of the liabilities



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