



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

Meeting Minutes, Monday September 28

After brief introductions, the meeting began with a review of the re-zoning process and timeline. Recalling that the impetus for a rezoning in the southern part of the district, was based on two main factors:

- the protracted overcrowding situation at PS199 and the ripple effects that its wait list has on other schools
- the new school, PS342, which is currently slated to open in 2018

The CEC Zoning Committee began meeting in early 2015 with the goal to compile initial data and begin speaking with the community. In order for any changes to take effect for the 2016/17 school year, the plan will need to be adopted by Nov. The DOE team indicated that they would get back to us on the absolute final day that the vote can take place. The process is as follows:

- The Department of Education presents a plan, which is conveyed to district stakeholders
- The Zoning Committee typically holds multiple meetings in order to discuss the proposed plan
- If no changes are made, the DOE/SI articulates the plan into a final proposal and map
- The CEC has 45 days to approve said plan

Note: if changes are made, the new proposed plan resets the 45-day window for CEC approval.

This scheduled meeting was the Draft Plan Presentation by the DOE, so the meeting was turned over to the District Planning and Enrollment teams from the Department of Education.

The link to the plan is here: [DOE Draft ReZoning Plan - September 28, 2015](#)

Among the main questions and important points of the plan:

1. The DOE uses real estate data from the Blue Book: <http://www.nycsca.org/Community/CapitalPlanManagementReportsData/Pages/EnrollmentCapacityUtilization.aspx> along with school building capacity, the zoned enrollment rate (the rate of kids in a zone who register for the school in that zone), as well as the zoned retention rate (the rate of children in a zone who remain in that school throughout all offered grades) to draw new district lines.

The proposal document offered did not outline specific numbers (potential kindergarteners for 2016/17) or ranges of numbers block by block.

2. The proposal represents the DOE's plan for the 2016/17 overcrowding alleviation as well as the opening of the new school, PS342 at West 61st and West End Avenue. PS191 at West 61st and Amsterdam would "share" the large zone (lottery enrollment, which can be detailed later) once the new school opens. It was noted that PS342 would open with kindergarten only in that first year and would be a PreK-5 elementary school.

3. The proposal included a map of the current zones, as well as a map of the new zone. In the new map, the rooftop-like line on 68th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus indicates that the buildings on the north side of the street would be included in the zone below, the new PS191/342 zone.

4. A major space-allocation contingency exists within this plan, in that a portion of the PS199 zone would be rezoned to PS452, which is co-located with the Anderson School and Center School. Though the Principal from PS452 was consulted on the new enrollment numbers, the DOE had not yet been about to tour the O'Shea complex to determine if the increased space for PS452 was feasible.

5. A second possible "super zone" map was included, but the DOE indicated that it was not its preferred solution.

6. When asked why the phase out of the middle school grades at PS191 wasn't being considered in order to prevent the potential overcrowding at the O'Shea Complex and increase the chance that more families would enroll at PS191 and better utilize that space, the DOE team reported that though the middle school grades are enrolled by 44% of children from outside the district (a statistic reported at the last Zoning Committee meeting), the AVERAGE in District 3 middle schools is 40% out of district.

Note: the DOE is checking on this statistical average for the district.

Additionally, Superintendent Altschul and Principal Keville prefer that PS191 remain a PreK - 8th grade structure.

The full Zoning Committee Meeting can be heard here:

<http://www.spreaker.com/user/8322048/zoning-committee-september-28>

The next meeting of the Zoning Committee is the Public Hearing:

Wednesday, October 7

6:30-8:30 pm

Joan of Arc Complex

154 West 93rd Street, Auditorium