



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

Zoning Meeting

DRAFT

Wednesday March 6, 2015

9:00 AM

Joan of Arc Building Room 204
154 W. 93rd St., New York, NY 10025
(Between Columbus & Amsterdam Avenue)

Call to Order and Introductions

Attendees gave their affiliation and purpose for coming

Sarah Kia Higgins from the Office of District Planning spoke about being available for questions and would be liaising with DOE for information. Question was asked for time line of re-zoning, Ms. Higgins said it would be a one-year process. Any changes made now would not be in effect for the Fall.

Sarah Wright, DOE Zoning Process and Procedures

Sarah Wright, Associate Director of Planning Analytics of the DOE went over the process for zoning a new school – the Planning department looks at enrollment, number of zoned students in a district vs. unzoned, enrollment fluctuations, residential construction, etc. They use a “Census multiplier” (12 per 100 units for elementary or 16 seats per 100 units for preK-8) to determine how big a school needs to be. These multipliers can be found in the CEQR.

They look at all K students enrolled on a map each year.

Zones can be determined by addresses and geography or be unzoned such as Manhattan School for Children or have seats allocated for non-zoned students. Some zones in district 2 are shared zones where anyone who lives in the two zones can go to either school.

Other options for 342, for example include making it a “Choice” option or unzoned, doing a phase-in zoning to alleviate the current overcrowding in 199. This would be similar to incubating a school that would move into 342 when it opens. The DOE incubated the D2 school at Tweed that is moving into the Peck Slip building. For example, if 199 had 50 kids overflow, we could put these 50 kids in an incubated school, but where? A 199-annex? Obviously 191 has the space for these 50 kids.

Hearings will be hosted to hear from parents but many expressed the need to move aggressively on zoning as parents want to know as early as possible what the zones will be. It may be possible to create the zone and vote on it within the next year.

If 199 had 50 kids overflow, we could move the 50 kids to 191 but would that be determined by geography or lottery? Lottery.

Discussion of zoning to create more balance and diversity. This is an issue with 199/191. The new principal at 191 is making a difference. All agreed that we need to promote 191 more and support the new principal. The 191 principal could do more outreach like Jessica Jenkins did for West End Secondary. The new 191 principal will be available when the overflow from 199 will want to tour 191. She was not around to promote the school last year.

Capacity Statistics

Two tables with capacity statistics were distributed. One listed capacity statistics by school, the other listed statistics ranked by building. PS 199 is the most overcrowded building (100 seats over-enrolled) followed by 163 that has trailers and PS 75. Building 88 with Wadleigh, FDA II and SA is the least crowded, 191 is 18th out of 22 buildings. All statistics were taken from the 2013-2014 Blue Book (DOE).

Maps of the West 60s

Three maps were distributed showing the building addresses and units for all buildings in the 191/199/342 broader district. The summary map shows the number of units per block and is to be used as a resource to see where the concentration of units exist and what the impact from re-drawing the zoned lines would be. The seats at the three schools each represent approximately one-third of the total. Currently, the 199 zone holds 18,200 units (56% total) and the southern side of the district (currently 191) holds 14,400 (44%) units.

The question of discussing a broader D3 zoning issue such as de-zoning or calling for choice options was raised.

Closing

Next Meeting was set for April 2nd at 6:30 pm at JoA on West 93rd Street. Meeting adjourned at 11:00.