



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

Zoning Meeting

DRAFT

Wednesday February 3, 2015

6:30 PM

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

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.

Chancellor's Regulations on Zoning / Brief History of Recent D3 Rezoning

Attendees were handed the DOE document stating the Chancellor's regulations on zoning which immediately prompted the discussion of the history of rezoning led by Joe F., Noah G., Ira M., Angeline H. among others. *Zoning is the only authority that CECs have.*

In November 2008 – CEC3 voted to move Center School out of PS 199 into 9, Anderson into IS 44 and West Pre Academy from IS 44 to PS 145. PS 452 opens in Fall of 2011 but is not formerly zoned until 2012. PS 75, 84, 163 and 145 were rezoned in 2010-2011.

In 2009, the DOE tried to close PS 241 but the CEC3 fought it and the court stopped the closing.

Future Zoning Needs Already Identified

A list of new D3 buildings built since 1998 was distributed. The list is incomplete, missing some uptown buildings. Noah asked for an action item: complete the list.

When the Trump buildings were proposed, the City had entered a covenant with the developer to build a school within a timeframe but the DOE let that timeframe pass so the covenant had expired and no new schools were built.

A document was shared from the Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination's City's Environmental Quality Review Technical Manual (2014) listing the guidelines for building new schools when new development is planned. These guidelines include building a certain number of school seats for every 100 units of development. All Manhattan new developments require 12 elementary seats for every 100 units built, 4 middle school seats and 6 high school seats. Despite the construction of over 9,000 units since 1998, no new schools have been built in D3. However, PS/IS

342 is to be built in Riverside South as part of the agreement with Extell who is the master builder of Riverside South with 2,500 housing units.

A map of the original plan for Riverside South was distributed. Building “2” on the northeast corner of the 2-block site (from 59th to 61st Street, West End Avenue to Riverside Boulevard) is to be 21 West End Avenue which will house the school along with 616 housing units (20% affordable/80% market rate). The building is under construction. Dermot is the developer. Collegiate is building a new school at West 62nd Street and West End Avenue (180,000 sq. ft.). They bought a plot of land from Extell (but this may not be on Riverside South which is only to West 61st Street).

A question was asked: of the 2,500 units, how many are 2- 3- or more bedrooms? One representative said she would try to get that breakdown. Based on the math and the possibility of many families moving into this new complex, this school could be filled on day 1.

PS/IS 342 is planned to be a Pre-k to 8th grade school but it does not have to be zoned for middle school. Special requirements are needed for pre-k and K classrooms.

Enrollment Statistics

A series of graphs with enrollment growth rates were distributed. They were split by schools with growth (199, 9, 84 and 334), no or little change and declining enrollment. A number of people pointed out that the declining enrollment in northern district schools was due to the encroachment of charter schools in these buildings that have enrolled students away from the zoned school(s).

One parent noted that PS 9's true growth is masked by the fact that they lost G&T seats such that enrollment didn't change but more zoned students were in school. Growth was organic. Another parent noted that PS 75 has NEST students but lost kindergarten classes.

Parent shared how the new PS 133 in Brooklyn was zoned such that half would be from D13 and half from D15. Appleseed Network helped with the 133 rezoning.

The suggestion was made that we look at utilization rates as well as enrollment. One CEC member suggested we add Pre-K to the numbers.

Other Discussion

One parent argued that re-zoning doesn't alleviate overcrowding using 199 as an example. Others suggested otherwise.

Members of Equity in Education Task Force advocated for removing zones altogether due to the significant segregation in the district. They call for Controlled Choice.

Others called for a Super Zone in southern district for 342/191/199 such that seats for these 3 schools would be distributed via a lottery.

One participant mentioned that the new 342 could be zoned for younger grades such as Pre-K to 2nd and 191 could have the 3rd to 5th grades and higher or something similar to that. Three middle schools will be in very close proximity WESS IS 191 and the new seats at 342.

Wrap Up

A question was raised: What was the goal of the committee? Barbara D. reported that the immediate goal was to start the conversation and get feedback from any and all parents on zoning issues. More goals would be outlined in future meetings. Request was made of Kia Higgins that the ODP would send a representative to make a presentation on how re-zonings are done.

Next meeting was set for March 6th at 9 am.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05.