



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Vol. 20 (P) No. 5

Resolution on the Expansion of Lafayette Academy (MS 256)

(Approved at the March 25, 2020 CEC3 Video Calendar Meeting by Roll Call Vote of all Council members present at the time of the vote (10 Y / 0 No / 0 Abstain))

WHEREAS, Lafayette Academy (MS 256) is a public middle school located in the Joan of Arc Building at 154 West 93rd Street, currently serving students in grades 6-8.

WHEREAS, Lafayette Academy offers a French-English dual language curriculum that employs a dual immersion model. Here, students learn language skills in both languages daily and academic subjects (e.g. math, science, history) in either language on alternate days.

WHEREAS, facility or fluency in multiple languages is an important skill in the world and economy of the future. Research has shown that students who pursue dual language immersion studies have a higher graduation rate, achieve higher wages and social capital going forward.

WHEREAS, embedded in the dual language immersion approach is a fundamental respect for and appreciation of other cultures. This leads to greater respect and greater facility with the world around us.

WHEREAS, Lafayette Academy seeks to expand to a 6-12 middle and high school, and to become certified to offer an International Baccalaureate ("IB") diploma.

WHEREAS, the IB approach embraces curriculum that meets or exceeds all applicable New York State standards.

WHEREAS, Chancellor Carranza has indicated support for IB programs in his recent Queens Town Hall on February 4, 2020 and in other public statements.

WHEREAS, newer dual language elementary programs in District 3, including the Russian-English program at The Bloomingdale School (PS 145) and the Italian-English program at Young Diplomats Magnet Academy (PS 242) also seek a location for their future middle and high school classrooms.

WHEREAS, eight existing Spanish dual language elementary and middle school programs (PS 75, PS 84, PS 87, PS 145, PS 163, PS 165, PS 180 & MS 247) have no Spanish dual language option in a District 3 high school.

WHEREAS, expansion of Lafayette Academy to a 6-12 school would create another District 3 multilingual learning school that would give preference to continuing District 3 middle school students.

WHEREAS, to pursue the expansion of the school to a 6-12 grade offering and to become certified as an IB school, Lafayette Academy requires new or additional space not currently available at the Joan of Arc building, and funding to offset the costs of training, curriculum development and related expenses.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CEC 3 supports the efforts of the administration, faculty and parents to expand to serve grades 6-12 and to be certified to offer an International Baccalaureate diploma; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CEC 3 calls on the Department of Education and our elected officials to provide the classroom space and the funding necessary to achieve the expansion and IB certification sought by Lafayette Academy.