

Draft Minutes
District 3 CEC Overcrowding and Space Utilization Committee
June 11, 2010

The District 3 Overcrowding and Space Utilization Committee met on June 11, 2010, in Room 204 of the Joan of Arc Complex on West 93rd Street. The meeting was chaired by Noah Gotbaum, president of the District 3 CEC, and was attended by those listed on the attached sign-in sheet. The meeting was called to order at 9:25 am, and those present discussed the following topics.

1. Resignation of Dr. Roser Salavert.
 - (a) Dr. Roser Salavert, the Community Superintendent for Community School District 3 since the 2004-05 school year, tendered her resignation to Chancellor Klein effective June 10, 2010.
 - (b) The Committee will miss Dr. Salavert's professionalism, intelligence and commitment to all of the schools, and all of the children, in District 3.
 - (c) The Committee especially notes the leadership and integrity Dr. Salavert brought to the applications for a variety of grants to reinvigorate educational opportunities at several schools within our District.
 - (d) The Committee will work with the CEC to find an appropriate way to honor and thank Dr. Salavert for her service to our community.

2. PS 241 Enrollment Challenges.
 - (a) Data team working on enrollment and space allocation issues with PS 241 as part of larger effort to inform the Uptown War Room process.
 - (b) Harlem Success Academy (HSA) charter school already houses grades K-3 in the PS 241 building.
 - (c) PS 241 being required to surrender 3 classrooms to HSA effective September 2010 - to allow HSA to expand by adding 2 K sections and an additional grade 3 section.
 - (d) PS 241 is losing an 8th grade classroom, and its space allocation within the PS 241 building will be further fragmented, including non-contiguous space on 3 floors (including the basement).
 - (e) PS 241 required to cede its Principal's Office to HSA.

3. Wadleigh/FDAII.
 - (a) Opportunity Charter School will remain at PS 241 for the present.
 - (i) Opportunity will not be relocated at present.
 - (ii) Possible relocation of Opportunity to the Wadleigh/FDAII site on hold.
 - (b) FDAII C-30 process on-going
 - (c) Concern that Dr. Salavert's departure will impede or complicate the completion of the C-30 selection of a new principal for FDAII.

4. Enrollment Update.
 - (a) Enrollment figures published May 10th contain conspicuous gaps (PS 180, 241, 242 -- all schools that co-locate with charter schools).

- (b) Seeking updated numbers before or at next CEC meeting.
- (c) Elizabeth Rose invited to attend next CEC (June 16).

5. Rezoning.

- (a) Per Elizabeth Rose, DoE contemplating rezoning options.
- (b) Elizabeth Rose expects to work with CEC in July.
- (c) Several approaches to rezoning are being considered; anticipate that DoE will present two or possibly three options for CEC's consideration.
- (d) Expect the DoE to bundle rezoning with other resource reallocation and programming changes in each option.
 - (i) For example, one option might include a combination of redrawing zone lines and the elimination of one or more choice programs (i.e. G&T, dual language/dual immersion).
 - (ii) Another option might include rezoning necessary to keep one or more of the choice programs.
 - (iii) Expect that one option may include the possibility that a single zone could include two schools rather than splitting PS 452 into its own zone at present.
- (e) CEC and the Rezoning Committee should use the summer to identify guiding principles for rezoning.
 - (i) For example, if community was solidly in favor of preserving G&T, Dual Language/Immersion, that guiding principle could be offered to DoE so that its rezoning proposals could be responsive.
 - (ii) DoE/Elizabeth Rose indicated that it would find such principles useful.
 - (iii) Trying to micromanage drawing zone lines block-by-block not likely to be catalyst for a productive discussion.
 - (iv) PS 199 has been accumulating data that could inform a line-drawing exercise.
 - (v) No statutory timeline for rezoning, but in everyone's interest to proceed with all deliberate speed for effective planning for the following year.
 - (vi) In 2008, DoE did not entertain any alternative proposals other than the 2 options it first present. Similarly, regarding enrollment policy for PS 452, DoE only looked to the options it presented.
 - (vii) DoE not obligated to, and in 08 did not, provide information concerning expected enrollment block-by-block.
- (f) How to assess community priorities for "guiding principles":
 - (i) CEC/Committee outreach to determine priorities.
 - (A) Use existing structure to determine priorities.
 - (B) Reach out to principals (summer is a good time to do so).
 - (C) Reach out to PTAs and SLTs.
 - (D) Question whether DoE presentation of options should be delayed until community priorities can be developed and can be presented to and used by the DoE in formulating rezoning options.
 - (ii) Expect DoE to bundle controversial proposals in with rezoning.
 - (A) Elimination of programs, etc.

- (B) While rezoning requires CEC approval, other controversial steps such as eliminating programs do not.
- (iii) Data needed includes info on unsuccessful applicants for G&T and D/L seats. Shows population seeking an alternative to the zoned school.
- (iv) Need an effective process, not an immediate fix in the next 20 days.
- (v) Use contacts at each school, as well as CEC members assigned to each school, to gather priorities for guiding principles.
- (g) Welcome and congratulations to JB Smalley - parent representative on the CCSE.
 - (i) Overcrowding and rezoning has significant consequences for services offered to special needs students in a variety of settings (e.g. self-contained, CTT, SETTSS).
 - (ii) Concern that charter schools do not employ staff or offer services to meet the range of needs of students in each District/zone.

6. Riverside Center School Proposal.

- (a) The mandatory review process for Riverside Center (59-61 Stst, WEA to Riverside Park) is in its first phase, before Community Board 7.
- (b) Developer is reserving 150K square feet for a school, of which the developer is proposing to pay for the construction of the outer core and shell (i.e. outer walls and floors) of about half that floor area.
- (c) Developer signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the School Construction Authority in May 2010 whereby SCA would be given an option to cause the balance of the reserved square footage to be built - at SCA's expense.
- (d) Under the MOU, the SCA would also bear the costs associated with fitting out the raw space into a school (e.g. classrooms, hallways, gym, cafeteria etc.)
SCA would thus be responsible for:
 - (i) the cost of fitting out the raw space for the first half of the school needed to accommodate the enrollment from the RSC complex alone, plus
 - (ii) the cost of constructing the outer core, shell, *and* fitting out of raw space for the balance of the size of school proposed.
- (e) The half of the school to be funded in part by the developer is expected to accommodate the incremental enrollment expected from the Riverside Center project (just RSC - not the balance of Riverside South north of 61st Street, and not even the portion of RSS north of 61 Street built by the same developer).
 - (i) Environmental Impact Statement regulations predict that Riverside Center alone would generate 360 elementary and 120 middle school students.
 - (ii) The appx 75K sq. ft. proposed to be funded and built in part by the developer is considered sufficient to accommodate the 480 K-8 students expected from this development, but no more.
- (f) Concern that SCA has already declined an option to construct a school at an adjacent parcel within Riverside South.
- (g) Developer unwilling to build school space that SCA would not then accept/use.
- (h) Need parents, especially reps from schools, to testify at CB7's public hearing on June 15th at PS 191 on West 61st Street between WEA and Amsterdam on the need for a school, and the lack of viability of the "option" as a solution.

Adjourn: