

Community District Education Council District 26
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MINUTES FROM BUSINESS /CALENDER/ PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2013
Time: Public Meeting - 7:00 P.M.; Business Meeting - 8:00 P.M.
Location: MS 67- 51-60 Marathon Pkwy, Little Neck, NY 11004-Room-B44A

The meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order by Jeannette Segal, President at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees - Ricky Chan, Jeannette Segal, Susan Shiroma, Michelle Field & Lucy Vieco
Excused - Daniel O'Gallagher & Pankaj Kapur
Also in attendance- Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent & Lori Stein-Butera, District Family Advocate

Jeannette introduced our speaker, Emily Ades, Associate Planner (Division of Portfolio Planning-DOE & Elizabeth Park, Associate Director of Planning Analytics for Queens and Staten Island-DOE) regarding the rezoning that would affect MS 172 and District 29. A resolution and vote will be needed by the next CDEC meeting (May).

The presentation was presented by Elizabeth Park:

RATIONAL FOR REZONING

- Align where students are zoned for elementary school and middle school grades
- Formalize the articulation pattern that is already in practice as stated by the community

Overview of Rezoning Process

1. OPM conducts analysis and works with DPC and CEC to assess the need to rezone
2. OPM derives the ideal 6th grade zone size of any impacted schools
3. OPM develops and discusses scenario maps with key stakeholders
4. OPM and Superintendent presents proposal before CEC at public meeting
5. Superintendent collects feedback and submits proposal for approval
6. CEC collects feedback and votes on proposal within 45 days of submission

Guiding Policies and Principles

- Pending approval by the CEC, the proposed changes would take effect for the 2014-2015 academic year.
- Pending approval by the CEC, the proposed changes would only impact incoming Kindergarten or new students to the system. All currently enrolled students may remain in their school until graduation.
- The Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) will follow standard procedure to determine bus service eligibility of general education students, as outline by Chancellor’s regulation A-801.

Methodology – Determining the Target 6th Grade Zone Size

Seat Supply: What is the capacity of each school?

Specifically, how many instructional sections can each building accommodate?

We assess capacity based on:

- The number of full-size classrooms available in the building;
- The number of cluster rooms to which a school is entitled; and
- Historical enrollment increases and decreases at each grade level.

Seat Demand: How many students do we anticipate?

We assess demand – both from inside and outside the zone – based on:

- The historical number of 6th grade students living in the zone;
- Historical 6th grade waitlists and capping activity;
- Historical average class sizes;
- Historical zone retention rates (the percent of students who live in the zone and attend their zoned school);
- Historical zone enrollment rates (the percent of enrolled students who are also zoned to that school); and

Methodology – Determining the Zone Lines

To the extent possible, we draw zone lines in a way that:

- Achieves the targeted 6th grade zone size for all affected schools
- Addresses concerns of the local community

Schools Affected by Rezoning

In the current 2012-2013 school year:

DBN	School Name	Grade Span	Projected Enrollment ¹	Total Org Capacity ²	Projected Utilization%	Zone % Minority ³
26Q172	Irwin Altman Middle School	6-8	960-1,015	1,255	75%-80%	80%
20Q109	Jean Nuzzi Intermediate School	6-8	1,030-1,085	1,364	75%-80%	94%

- (1) Based on Audited Register as of October 26, 2012
- (2) Based on 2011-2012 Blue Book Capacity
- (3) Zone Percent Minority figures are based on the ethnicity of zoned 6th grade students as of the 2012 Audited Register. Students identified as “White – not of Hispanic origin” are not counted as minority.

Impact of Rezoning – 6th Grade Zone Size

DBN	School Name	Current 6 th Grade Zone Size ¹	Planned 6 th Grade Zone Size	Change in 6 th Grade Zone Size
26Q172	Irwin Altman Middle School	375	380-390	↑
20Q109	Jean Nuzzi Intermediate School	510	495-505	↓

Impact of Rezoning – 6th Grade Sections

DBN	School Name	Current ¹		Planned ²		Change in 6 th Grade Enrollment
		# of GE/ICT 6 th Grade Sections	GE/ICT 6 th Grade Enrollment	# of GE/ICT 6 th Grade Sections	GE/ICT 6 th Grade Enrollment	
26Q172	Irwin Altman Middle School	10	310	10	305-315	No change
20Q109	Jean Nuzzi Intermediate School	11	325	11	320-330	No change

Impact of Rezoning – Total Enrollment & Utilization

DBN	School Name	Current ¹		Planned ²		Change in 6 th Grade Enrollment
		Total Enrollment ¹	Utilization Rate	Total Enrollment ²	Utilization Rate	
26Q172	Irwin Altman Middle School	974	78%	955-995	75%-80%	No change
20Q109	Jean Nuzzi Intermediate School	1,083	79%	1,065-1,105	75%-80%	No change

**Proposed Zone Lines
(See attachment)**

Change will take effect in 2014-15 school years to impact incoming 6th graders and they can remain at their school. The DOE doesn't expect an impact since students are already going to MS 172.

The council's concern is the surrounding apartments which will be affected. The DOE stated that they do look at the historical trends.

The DOE stated that "if there is a change MS172 can handle it anyway". This will not impact the elementary schools at all.

Ricky questioned the District 15 Park Slope schools rezoning and asked if in their decision making, would that help us with our decision?

Anita commented that it was an elementary school situation which is not related.

Mr. Slivko, Principal of MS 172 commented that certain addresses should be in the zone and which shouldn't.

It was stated that Principals and schools use zone finder to see which address goes to which school.

Mr. Slivko concerned about students who must go to IS109 but think they deserve to go to IS172.

Attendees informed that there is a public meeting on Monday, April 29 at Community Board 11 on 46-21 Little Neck Parkway at 7:30pm and at MS 158 on Monday, May 6, 2013 at 7:30 pm regarding the rezoning and information will be provided regarding the new school which will seat 416 new students.

Speaker's List

1. Sara from Councilman Weprin's office read a statement prepared by Councilman Weprin in support of rezoning in Queens Village. (see below)

Good evening. I am Mark Weprin and I represent the 23'd Council District in Eastern Queens. I am here to submit the following testimony to the Community District Education Council 26 (CDEC) in support of the proposed rezoning in Queens Village.

As you may know, confusion has long existed regarding the district lines for students who live in the aforementioned community. These students all attend District 26 elementary schools but are then assigned to a District 29 middle school. This confusion was exacerbated by misleading information on the Department of Education (DOE) website, which allowed for both District 26 and District 29 students to attend middle school in overlapping "zones."

I am pleased that following several attempts to clarify the misunderstanding and to solidify the lines for families and students, the DOE has proposed the plan that is before the CDEC tonight. This comprehensive mapping only serves to make clear, without any ambiguities or room for misunderstanding, exactly which middle school the District 26 elementary school students in the area in question will attend.

Many parents have purchased homes in District 26 with the understanding their children would attend the local schools until high school. Only after completing fifth grade did these students find that they were assigned to District 29 schools, apart from their friends and neighbors. At this time, we are talking about a few students, so the issue, while serious for these families, is quite limited in scope. The Irwin

Altman Middle School, MS 1720 is the school designated to receive these students if DOE permits them to remain in District 26. Projected demographic figures allow for further enrollment in MS 172Q without detrimental impact on the current student population.

I am hopeful that the CDEC will endorse the rezoning proposal and finally remove an obstacle to a smooth and easy transition from elementary to middle school for one group of local school children.

2. Martha Motzing - mother of a kindergarten student from PS 94. She stated that some of the mothers from PS94 want to know if students from Jamaica will be bused. Another concern was about the special needs students and how they are being handled. How are special needs students being integrated? She also wanted to know about the gifted and talented commute.
- A. Anita clarified that PS 94 and PS 98 will not merge. She also clarified that there is no busing.
 - B. Jeanette said “that all Special Ed students are now being integrated as of last year into regular classes”.
 - C. Anita stated “that she has no voice in the decision of gifted student placement and that parents have the option of not accepting placement and remaining in their home school”. There are 4 elementary sites of G&T in District 26. Anita also stated “that having one in every school is a space issue”.

Superintendent’s Report

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Gifted & Talented Testing Error - Pearson
 - 2,698 additional students qualified for Gifted & Talented Programs
 - 2,037 students qualified for the five Citywide programs with scores of 97% or higher
 - 11,700 students eligible approximately 2,000 more than last year
 - Space constraints for number of seats needed
 - DOE withholding \$500,000 of the \$5.5 million Pearson contract over three years
 - Parent letter of apology from Pearson
 - Score notifications to affected students by April 29, 2013
 - Changes in school choices accepted until May 10, 2013
 - Gifted & Talented Help Desk – questions regarding scoring error – 1-888-705-9417
- PS 203 – “Odyssey of the Mind” Competition – 1st place in NYC & NYS

Will enter World Competition with 27 countries at Michigan State University, May 24, 25, 26

- ELA & Math State Education Department Testing
 - Time & length of test
- Chancellor's Public Awareness Program on Common Core - attached

Quote:

“The important work of moving the world forward does not wait to be done by perfect men.”
George Elliot, British Author

Question asked - what qualifies for a regent diploma.

Anita Saunders stated that students must score 85 in their regents/major courses.

Anita also stated said we need to prepare our students for careers in technology, medical and other fields. We must encourage them to think of science and math and this must be promoted at an early age.

Lori Butera – District Family Advocate

1. Scheduled a workshop (Time Management for Kids) on May 1st at PS 188 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Sixty (60) parents have registered. This workshop is for parents with children in grades 4 through high school.
2. Family Literacy workshop at PS 133 for K-2 students.
3. Informed attendees of the CEC candidates forum which will be on April 30 at MS 67 at 7:30 pm.

Anita congratulated Lori for a job well done.

Mary Vaccaro, UFT Rep. informed the attendees that they are honoring Jeanette Segal at the UFT Scholarship Dance on May 30th.

Ricky adjourned meeting and council voted unanimously.
Business meeting tabled due to lack of forum.

Minutes taken by Lucy Vieco