



Community Education Council For District One

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Moses Seuram/Michael Stutman/Stephanie Thompson/Aline Traphagen/Jennie White*

Minutes of the Community Education Council for District 1

Calendar Meeting, January 25, 2017

The Calendar meeting of the Community Education Council for District 1 was called to order. Present at the meeting were Marco Battistella, Cynthia Cartagena, Luke Henry, Naomi Peña, David Post, Moses Seuram, and Michael Stutman. Stephanie Thompson (family medical emergency), Aline Traphagen (medical emergency), and Jennie White (family emergency) were absent and their absences were deemed excused.

Minutes approved – 12/14/16 and 1/11/17

Superintendent's Update—PS 15 met benchmarks; OCA met most benchmarks; OCA increased attendance rate and decreased chronically absent rate; Restart application submitted for JHS56 building (D79; 8th graders with holdovers on record); Currently in G&T testing period; Author's Chair event; Chancellor's visit to 188; Statewide scope and sequence for social studies

Campaign for Fiscal Equity update from Maria Bautista (Alliance for Quality Education). Press conference to address CFE—education funds owed across state and within city. Desire for local lobby day.

Capital Plan Hearing: Steven Tuozollo and Michael Marisola of the School Construction Authority: Capital Plan Amendment and Reso A information—focus on safety. Encouragement to apply for Reso A funds. Questions from CEC about why items SCA deems not a priority are funded by Reso A; about BCAS assessments; and about new housing developments and flawed calculations for estimating seat need. SCA stated intention to send CEC request forms in September next year, to avoid compressed request timeline.

Resolution to Support Commission on School Siting and Planning passed unanimously (text below).

Liaison Update—need to revisit schools' BCAS surveys; 140 safety & bullying concerns escalated to SLT—could serve as model

Feb. meeting—Housing

March meeting –Fair St. Funding, Testing, possible candidate Q&A

SIPP Grant Update—almost weekly meetings, joint FRC/SEI groups; in implementation phase; state received budget and is reviewing

C30 for PS/MS 34 pending: Nomination submitted to Chancellor

Planning for February Meeting (Housing) and March Meeting (Fair Student Funding. New candidate introductions?). D1 Candidate Forum on 4/21 at 9am at PS 20.

Resolution to Support Commission on School Siting and Planning

More than 556,000 students are sitting in overcrowded schools. The city's failure to plan, site and build sufficient school space is a long term problem that is worsening because of the rapid pace of housing development.

Whereas, citywide schools have become more overcrowded over the last six years;

Whereas, more than 556,000 students were crammed into overcrowded school buildings during the 2014-2015 school year, according to DOE data;

Whereas, elementary schools averaged 103.5% utilization citywide and 117.5% in District 15 in 2014-2015;

Whereas, there are 10 schools in District 1 buildings with utilization rates of over 100%, according to a Division of Space Management presentation in December 2016;

Whereas, the seats in the capital plan overall will only meet at best 59% of the identified need citywide, according to the DOE;

Whereas, advocacy groups including Class Size Matters and Make the Road NY estimate the need for seats as more than 100,000 , substantially greater than the DOE projections;

Whereas, the new rezoning proposals proposed by the Mayor will accelerate the construction of affordable and market-rate housing, and school overcrowding already at critical levels citywide will likely grow even more severe, unless there are there are significant reforms to the planning process and the capacity of the city to build schools along with housing; and

Whereas, there clearly needs to be more funding in the capital plan but without a more efficient planning and siting process these funds could go unspent for years;

Whereas, after two years the DOE still has not determined in which district or borough most of the 4900 seats in the "class size reduction" category will be built; despite the fact that over 330, 000 students are sitting in classes of 30 or more this year;

Whereas, changes to the zoning and ULURP process should be adopted to ensure that sufficient school space is created along with residential development;

Whereas the SCA has only three people on staff citywide looking for sites, and only one real estate firm on retainer per borough.; and

Whereas, SCA never "cold calls," which is standard procedure for developers looking for sites; and never considers acquiring commercial sites via eminent domain unless that property has recently been on the market. They also never consider acquiring residential properties via eminent domain for schools in any instance; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council of District 1 strongly urges a Commission or Task Force on School Siting and Planning be created, with members including parents, advocates and

planning experts appointed by the NYC Council and the Mayor to improve the efficiency of school siting and planning;

RESOLVED, that this Commission or Task Force should consider whether the CEQR formula used to project the impact on enrollment from housing stats should be updated;

RESOLVED, that this Commission or Taskforce should analyze whether the process of enrollment projections should be revamped to be made more accurate, regular and transparent;

RESOLVED, that this Commission or Taskforce should consider if the threshold for building a new school in the planning process made lower when residential development is proposed in already overcrowded school districts;

RESOLVED, that this a Commission or Taskforce should analyze whether impact fees should be adopted that are now required in most districts across the country, requiring developers to pay into a fund for schools and other infrastructure improvements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council in District 1 will join in coalition with Class Size Matters, Community Board 3, Make the Road NY, and parents and community activists throughout the city to make our voices heard and move our city's schools forward to address the crisis in school overcrowding.