



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

131 Livingston Street, Room 301, Brooklyn, New York 11201

CEC15@schools.nyc.gov | tel. 718-935-4267 | facebook.com/CECD15 | CECD15.org

Special Session Meeting - St. Agatha's Rezoning Plan Approved on 5/17/18 at a Calendar Meeting

Date: 04/26/2018

Time: 9:15 a.m.

Location: D15 Office Building, 131 Livingston Street, Room 301

Special Session Meeting Agenda (as publicly posted)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Discussion of St. Agatha's Rezoning Plan
3. Adjournment

Call to Order 9:17 a.m.

1. Roll Call - Scott Powell

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President

Scott Powell, Co-Vice President

Charles Star, Treasurer

Antonia Ferraro

Yanfeng Zhang

Late:

Kathy Park Price, Co-Vice President

Absent:

Neal Zephyrin, Secretary - Excused

Nicole Brier - Excused

Mark Bisard - Excused

Elena Romero

Lili Velez

Invited Guests:

D15 Superintendent Anita Skop

Max Familian, Associate Director of Planning

Will Candell, Associate Director of Analytics

Daniel Hildreth, Senior Director of Admissions

2. Discussion of St. Agatha's Rezoning Plan

- St. Agatha's is a new school building opening in September 2018.



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- Given the timeline there will be no time to consider doing a rezoning.
- This new school has been elected to make it an overflow site due to overcrowding in Sunset Park. Will admit the overflow students coming from PS 94 and PS 169.
- It will be an option for students who don't find placement in other schools.
- PS 124 is currently accepting overflow students from Sunset Park. It has about 70-100 overflow students. St. Agatha's will eliminate the overflow to PS 124 or at least alleviate the problem.
- For 2018-19 school year it will accept K-2 students. A 2nd site, a C-Town Supermarket that closed, will be used in the near future to make this new school a split site school and it will then accommodate K-5 students.
- Elected not to rezone because it would have been a very small zone. Only 6 block zone.
- Superintendent Skop is looking into having 2 sessions of dual language (Spanish-English & Chinese-English) which will make this school very popular. If this new school would have been a zoned school then it will not have given an option to all students in Sunset Park going forward for the 2019-20 school year.
- It will accept 75 to 100 kindergarten students in the 2018-19 school year. Right now there is a lot of space, 3 sections for Kindergarten are still available. There are 4 sections total. They are anticipating to fill out 3 sections but have space for 4 sections.
- St. Agatha's was not included in the Kindergarten application process because it will not be open to the public. It will only accept overflow students.
- PS 169 is about 500 students over capacity. There's potential to use other schools as overflow.
- What will overflow look like in D15? District Planning does not know yet. After next week they'll know where there's a waiting list for any specific school. Schools do have a projection and know what it will look like.
- Over capacity schools have a limit of students they can accept, as well that the schools receiving overflow students.
- PS 124 is under-enrolled which is why it is an overflow school, there are concerns from the council about its budget if the overflow students go to St. Agatha.
- Who manages the overflow system? District Planning doesn't manage the overflow system but they get involved if schools don't have space. The superintendent and Field Support manage the overflow. Portfolio Planning used to manage the overflow a few years ago.
- Council member: Is there thought to combining PS 118 & PS 124 as a split-site? It would solve the under-enrollment at 124 and the diversity problem at 118. Skop: PS 118 won't like that because they're an affluent, popular school with a waiting list, and 124 is a poor school with low test scores and a leadership problem.
- District Planning receives data from schools as they come in.
- The school will not be accepting Pre-K students. There's not enough space.
- Does District Planning use the Blue Book data? The Blue Book is a benchmark they start with to get an initial sense of where they are to get actual capacity of a school. District Planning goes to school buildings to look at the rooms and programs offered to see if there's space. The Blue Book may show overcapacity in some buildings but they've seen schools work it out. The SCA makes the Blue Book.
- District Planning has a working database that they use to list how rooms are used in a building.



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- If CEC15 has questions about space and number of students in a building they should contact District Planning.
- How often is the Blue Book data reviewed to get actual numbers? District Planning does not create the blue book, but they make changes to their internal plan. They do their best to keep the Blue Book as updated as possible.
- District Planning does not make decisions about the number of students a school can accept. They work with the principals. If a principal says they can take more students they take their word for it. Students are not turned down based on the Blue Book data.
- Most overflow is at the kindergarten level when new kids come in.
- How will the choice option work for this new school in 2019-20? It will be a non-zoned school so families across D15 could apply for it. Priority will be given to students zoned to a handful of schools: PS 94, PS 169 and PS 131.
- Is there a precedent of schools being used like this? Yes, there's a school in Manhattan and one in the Bronx.
- Want to make sure the school services the whole community.
- Would the dual language program affect the school budget? New schools come with start up money to help them what they need to start so they will have everything they need. There have been no complaints of budget issues in D15.
- The dual language program at this new school will have two sessions: Spanish-English and Mandarin-English. It will be a roller coaster model, not side by side. The class will be taught in one language in the morning and then in the other language in the afternoon. The same class will be taught in English and in the native language. The class will be split 50/50: half of the students will be English language dominant and the other half their native language dominant. The side by side style will not work because this will not just be a dual language program school. There will be 2 dual language Kindergarten classes and 2 regular Kindergarten classes.
- Are there any concerns that there aren't qualified teacher for a dual language program? Qualified teachers will be hired. Teachers will need an extra certification to teach the dual language program. Planning to hire 4 kindergarten teachers.
- The hope is that St. Agatha's will accommodate as many students possible and solve the overcrowding issue at PS 94 and PS 169.
- St. Agatha's was assigned a number 15K896 - PS 896.
- Will the school get an official name? Once the school opens the PTA can decide. The name has to come from the parents at the school. Need to make sure that if using a person's name that person must be deceased. Parents at PS 896 can send a proposal to get permission to use a name.

3. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting - Charles Star

2nd motion to adjourn meeting - Scott Powell

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:38 a.m.

- Minutes submitted by Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant