



**Special Session Meeting: Joint Public Hearing with CB7
School Construction Authority Presentation
Approved on 12/11/2018 at a Business Meeting**

Date: 11/14/2018

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: CB7 District Office, 4201 4th Avenue

Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Proposal for a Potential School Site at 250-266 46th Street - School Construction Authority
3. Public Comments
4. Adjournment

Call to Order at 6:15 p.m.

1. Roll Call

CEC15

Present:

Camille Casaretti, President

Elena Romero, Co-Vice President 1

Antonia Ferraro, Secretary

Yanfeng Zhang, ELL Representative

Leela Gebo, Student Member

Absent:

Kathy Park Price, Co-Vice President 2 - Excused

Charles Star, Treasurer - Excused

Lili Velez, Parliamentarian - Excused

Nicole Brier, IEP Representative - Excused

Mark Bisard, Member - Excused

Neal Zephyrin, BP Appointee - Excused

Scott Powell, Member - Excused

CB7

Present:

Cesar Zuñiga, Chairperson

Julio Peña III, First Vice-Chair

Jeremy Laufer, District Manager



Invited Guests:

Tamar Smith, Community Relations Manager, External Affairs, New York City School Construction Authority
Anita Skop, D15 Superintendent

CEC15 President Camille Casaretti

- Tonight there will be a presentation by SCA on a proposed site for a new public school building in Sunset Park. Sunset Park is in need of more school seats.
- We will open the floor for public comments after the presentation.
- There will be a 45-day comment period. Please let those who could not make this meeting that their voice is important and to submit comments to sites@nysca.org or visit their website www.nycsca.org
- The Community Education Council wants to hear from everyone. Please email CEC15 at CEC15@schools.nyc.gov to voice your concerns.

CB7 Chairperson Cesar Zuñiga

- Ground rules for presentation: Allow Tamar Smith give her presentation without interruptions. Public comments will take place right after the presentation. If there is time Ms. Smith will answer some of the questions.

2. Proposal for a Potential School Site at 250-266 46th Street - Tamar Smith, Community Relations Manager, External Affairs, New York City School Construction Authority

- Will be presenting a new school site in Sunset Park.
- The 45 day comment period started on Nov. 13. Last day to submit comments is December 27.
- The new site will be a 322 seat primary school in Brooklyn. It is meant to be an annex for P.S. 1. It will be located a half block from the current annex. The current annex is a leased building that can only accommodate 125 students. The new site will be a more permanent building.
- The proposed site contains approximately 15,000 square feet of lot area and is located mid-block on 46th Street, between 2nd and 3rd Avenues,
- Ms. Smith will write down anything said during the public comment period for public records. She will take all concerns to SCA.

3. Public Comments

The following are some of the comments during the meeting:

- Justin, CB7 member - 46th Street is a heavily industrial block. There is a lot of truck traffic and many trucks loading/unloading on that block. He has concerns with a school being built in the middle of the block, most importantly safety issues but also how it will disrupt the workers from doing their daily job.
- Jesse Solomon, Deputy Director, Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development - How was the site selected? What is the process after Sept. 27 when SCA reviews comments? *A: Looking for site takes some time, there aren't many choices available. Locating a site close to the school is very important. The current lease site needs to be replaced, it is not accessible and it is not big enough. The new site will have a full gym, cafeteria, a library and a music room.*
- Ms. Solomon: You mentioned this will be 322 seat school, will this be a completely separate school? *A: The new site will be built as an elementary school, but it will be an annex to P.S. 1. The superintendent, staff and parents will decide which grades will be assigned to that location.*



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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- P.S. 1 Teacher, Instead of having a separate school why not build a connecting school? Have you considered doing an addition to the school? *A: Yes, over the years SCA has taken a look at P.S. to see if there's a possibility for an addition. SCA considered doing an addition, but it was not possible because of the number of students in the mini building (the current annex). There are about 130-140 students in the annex. Due to Sunset Park being so overcrowded there is no place for these students to go during construction. Since it's a replacement to the current annex this will not affect the placement of students. A plus to building a replacement site is that it will not come out of the capital plan budget.*
- Comment from a resident in the area: I've lived in the corner of 3rd & 46th since 2001. My son is an alumni of the annex. I have seen accidents in that corner. Students as young as 3 years old will be walking that area. I have a younger child who is almost 3 years old and I thought he would be attending the annex but now I'm concerned with safety of getting to the school. Another issue I have is that students will be relying on school crossing guards to get to school safely, if a school crossing guard is absent will there be way extra coverage for school crossing guards? *A: NYPD handles school crossing guards and I agree there is a safety risk if a school crossing guard does not show up to work. We want to make sure that for anybody crossing to the main school building or the annex that there are safety measures taken. This is not uncharted territory. There are many things that can be done like painting crosswalks, building bump outs, changing the signal timing to allow people more time to cross. There are a lot of measures that can be taken. We can hopefully be a partner with you and go to DOT and let them know that this needs to be done and we demand it because there will be more families crossing.*
- Community Resident: Wanted to follow up on the question regarding building a connection to the school. If the issue is where the students from the mini building will be housed, why not build something temporary at the new annex location to house the students there while you build an addition to the main building? *A: I will bring that suggestion back to SCA. I don't think that there's funding for building to buildings. I don't think that will be possible. Even if we build a temporary building they still require utilities like lighting and gas. They're not inexpensive buildings.*
- Community Resident: The basement in those buildings in that industrial block get flooded. Also, the children will be exposed to the toxic fumes from trucks.
- CB7 Chairperson Cesar Zuñiga introduced D15 Superintendent Anita Skop
- D15 Superintendent Anita Skop:
 - Working very hard to try and alleviate the overcrowding in Sunset Park. A lot of construction coming to the neighborhood. The district wants to make sure that there are Pre-K seats. Want to be able to put Pre-K in more schools by providing more seats.
- Community Resident: What is the thinking around special education? I hear a lot of conversation about overcrowding and class size, but I want to know specifically about the thoughts and plans around special education? *Answer from D15 Superintendent Anita Skop: It depends on the needs of the children and what their IEPs say. In many schools that are overcrowded we have what we call ICT classes--these are classes for children who can function very well in what it's called a collaborative teaching class. There is 1 general education teacher and 1 special education teacher in a collaborative teaching class. Usually the mix is 60% general education students and 40% students with special needs. There are other classes that are found in larger schools that are 12:1:1. These classes have*



students that need more support. There are 12 students in this class with 1 teacher and 1 para. Then we have children who go into other categories and those are children who have more needs. These are children who fall often times in the autism spectrum and also children who have physical disabilities which require wheelchairs or special classes. Those classes are not handled by the Superintendent's district office, they are handled by District 75 that specifically handles those special classes. When there is a new school there is more possibility to site a small group of D75 students. You have to take into consideration several facility issues, for example children with special needs need to be in building that are fully accessible. These buildings need to have elevator access, wheelchair access. The buildings in Sunset Park are older therefore they do not have those settings. In addition, there are so many kids zoned for Sunset Park schools that there is no room to add those kinds of classes. Going forward we'll be looking into the needs of the children in the community as new school buildings are constructed and will be happy to add a D75 class in Sunset Park.

- Chairperson Cesar Zuñiga: I care about this issue not only professionally but also personally as a parent of a child with special needs. I want to make sure we have this conversation. I've heard horrible stories of community residents whose children need to be bused out of the neighborhood to be able to attend a school that will accommodate their special needs. This shouldn't happen. We need to keep the conversation going.

4. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

- Minutes submitted by Francisca Andino, Administrative Assistant