



District 15 Report to the CEC

June 23rd, 2020

Anita Skop-Community Superintendent

PAR Updates 2020

- The DOE has been partnering with CEC 15 and school communities since spring 2019 to develop a collaborative rezoning and admissions plan for Carroll Gardens/Gowanus/Red Hook that aims to increase diversity and integration, reduce overcrowding, and advance equity.
 - Discussions began around this work related to the anticipated opening of a new addition at K032. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, construction on the K032 was paused. However, it has since been un-paused and the goal remains to complete the building in time for the 2020-2021 school year. Should the timeline change for any reason due to this rapidly evolving and unprecedented situation, we will be sure to notify you immediately.
- In response to feedback through the community discussions related to the K032 addition and potential rezoning, the DOE committed to further empower historically underserved communities in this area through a Participatory Action Research (PAR) process for a potential 2021-22 rezoning.
- In February, the DOE shared a communication to the CEC and broader community introducing the PAR vendor and process, which resulted in many responses from a diverse group of community members and the formation of PAR teams to support the process.
- As meetings commenced to start the PAR process, the COVID-19 outbreak began, which prevented some of the planned next steps for this project.
- Over the last couple months, the core PAR team has been in communication and meeting virtually to reflect on the impact of the current epidemic and how to develop a revised plan during this unprecedented times.

PAR Updates .. continued 2020

- **As you may know, there are three new elementary school buildings anticipated to open in Sunset Park in the next few years:**
 - Building K730 is anticipated to open at 4513 8th Avenue with 328 seats, in 2021-22 to be used for grades 3-5 of 15K896.(C-Town)
 - Building K671 is anticipated to open at 836-841 5th Avenue with 404 seats, in 2021-22 (opposite Bus Depot)
 - Building K557 is anticipated to open at 4302 4th Avenue with 332 seats, in 2022-23 (Precinct)
- **The anticipated opening dates noted are pending any unforeseen delays due to the COVID-19 construction pause.**
- **Should project timelines change for any reason due to this rapidly evolving and unprecedented situation, updates will be provided to stakeholders.**
- **In order to align potential plans to the opening year for K557 and allow for robust community empowerment in the process, we would like to explore a Sunset Park rezoning for implementation in the 2022-2023 school year.**
 - Under this timeline, we would recommend that a new elementary school in building K671 use choice admissions for at least the 2021-2022 school year. It could be zoned in future years pending the rezoning engagement process and input from community stakeholders.
- **District Planning and the Office of School Design plan to attend a CEC meeting to share more details about Building K671 and the new school planning process.**

PAR
Updates .. continued
2020



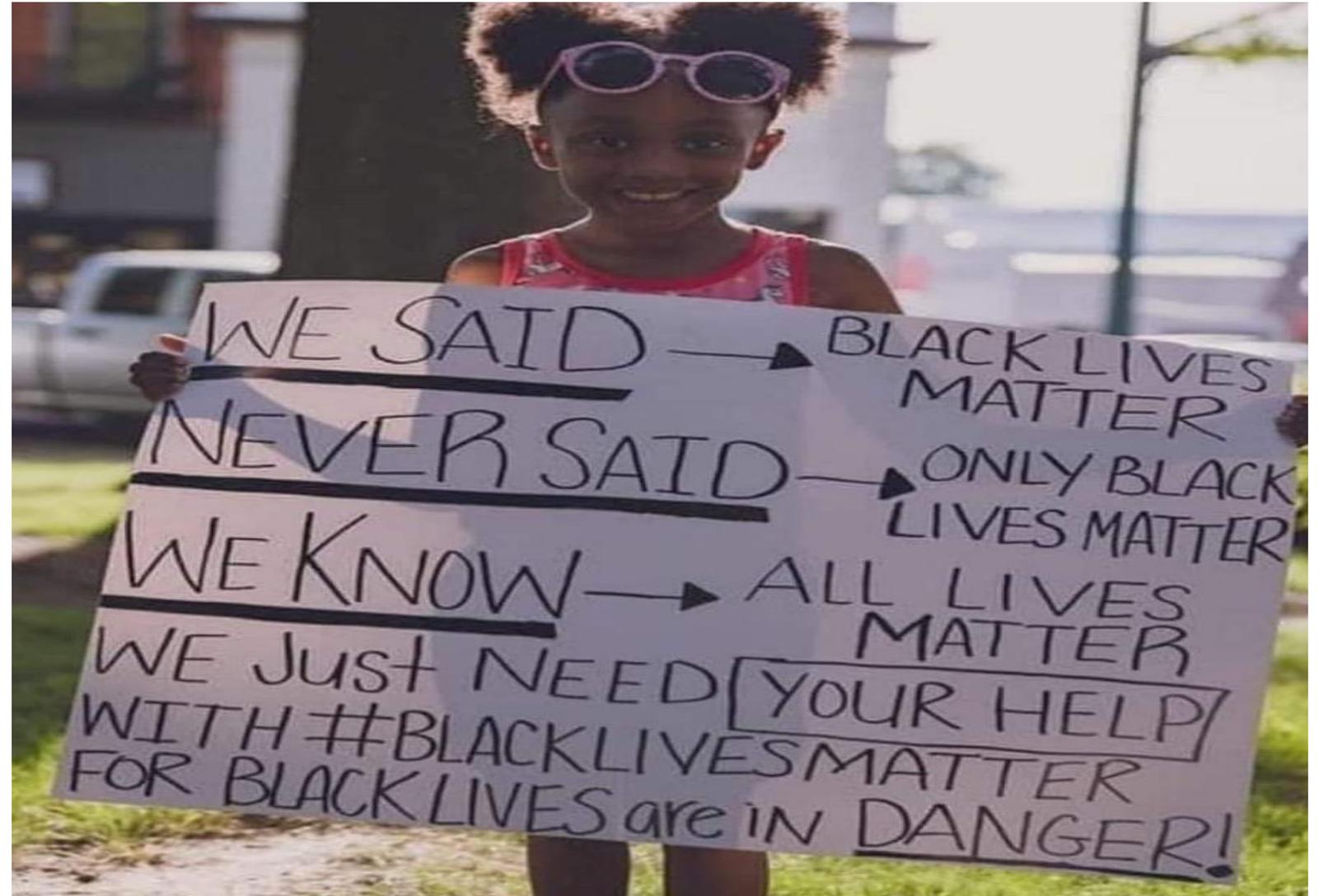
Maddy Fox, who is helping to lead this project is here tonight and will share some more specific updates as to the status and plan for the project.

Participatory Action Research

Summer School Updates 2020

- **All Summer School classes are being done remotely**
 - Students in danger of being retained are mandated for Summer School
 - Students in need of additional support can be recommended for summer school.
 - Students with IEPs who are recommended for summer school will receive additional literacy support from a licensed Special Education teacher.
 - Summer School will run from July 6th through August 11th.
 - Students have a half day schedule.
 - There will be scheduled teacher interaction with students daily.

District 15
Stands
Against
Racism.....
Period!



Highlighting the Work of Schools

Events:

- **Many of our schools held marches and events to show their support for our communities of color and our anti-racist agenda:**
 - PS 10 held an afterschool march that drew several hundred people and posted posters on the school fence.
 - PS 154 held an early evening march that was well attended
 - PS 58 and PS 32 held a joint BLM march and posted posters on the school fences.
 - PS 118, PS 39, PS 107 and PS 133 to show solidarity with Black Lives Matter, held a family friendly multi-school Protest for Peace and Justice on Juneteenth.
 - Schools across the district honored people of color by celebrating and remembering Juneteenth.
 - Schools are already planning for robust work by their Equity teams and developing protocols that are school specific.

Updates on the Work of School Based Equity Teams

Structures:

- **All schools were directed to develop a committee to address issues of equity, diversity and inclusion.**
 - Committees consist of Administrators, SLT members, PTA members, Parent Coordinators, Teachers, Students and parents
 - Meetings are held bi-weekly or monthly
 - Committees play a vital role in shaping a school culture that promotes an inclusive, diverse and equitable learning environment.
 - They define problems of practice while utilizing NYS Education Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education Framework as a guide.
 - Committees create Sub-committees
 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion training
 - Culturally responsive teaching practices and anti-racist practices
 - School-wide studies that promote social justice themes,
 - Enhancing classroom libraries
 - Community Supports/Outreach & Workshops - includes supports for historically marginalized families & workshops

Updates on the Work of School Based Equity Teams

By school:

PS 295

- **Black History Month Celebratory Study**
- In recognition of Black History Month, PS 295 has begun the work to incorporate more Culturally Responsive Teaching practices into our curriculum by celebrating the many contributions and accomplishments of black people in the fields of art, music, literature, science, social/political activism.
- Students in grades K-5 will each study the lives of prominent black people who have made significant contributions to our society. Each grade will focus on a different field or theme and each class will be assigned a prominent person to study in that field. Teachers will be provided with 1-2 mentor texts about that prominent person to read with the class and to use as a springboard for discussion.
- Other resources will also be provided, including a list of additional books to extend conversations for Black History Month

Updates on the Work of School Based Equity Teams

By school:

MS 51

- At MS 51, the team is called DUET (Diversity Unity & Equity Team). Our mission is as follows:
 - The MS 51 DUET (Diversity Unity & Equity Team) seeks to play a vital role in shaping a school culture that promotes an inclusive, diverse, and equitable learning environment. All MS 51 students should feel that they belong and that their experiences and perspectives matter. All MS 51 families are welcome and their voices count.
- DUET has met monthly as a group, usually sharing a video for discussion and discussing latest initiatives/ideas; we have had interpretation for Spanish and Mandarin speakers.

Updates on the Work of School Based Equity Teams

By school:

- **PS 154**
- Student Action Team that is comprised of four sub-committees:
 - sustainability
 - peer mediation
 - service
 - equity
- The Equity Team has been having discussions about identity and self-expression. We did a class library book audit this year to see what kind of representation could be found in our libraries. We also participated in some of the activities that were part of the district Equity Meetings trainings.

Updates on the Work of School Based Equity Teams

By school:

- **PS 169**
- Our focus prior to virtual learning was on culturally responsive sustaining education. But since the shift to virtual learning and the BLM protests, we've shifted our focus to systemic inequities and our work with families, students and ourselves.
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Updates on the Work of School Based Equity Teams

By school:

- **PS 58**
- Our school has a committee called the STRIDE committee (social justice tolerance inclusion diversity and equity).
- 5th graders have been participating in the IntegrateNYC district 15 youth councils and we had a whole grade assembly at our school by IntegrateNYC
- We held different family workshops and events at different grade levels during the Black Lives Matter in the school's week of action and ensured the 13 principles were introduced to students
- Teachers and librarians worked together to develop a booklist of more diverse and representative books
- A Rainbow Club (GSA) was set up by two staff members with monthly meetings.

Updates on the Work of School Based Equity Teams

By school:

- **Brooklyn School of the Arts**
- Our council has had a diversity summit and student led discussions.
- This year we ran a forum on race in our country where we provided a space for all stakeholders to honestly and safely express their feelings and opinions on racism as it pertains to the killing of Black men.
- The group provides resources for the larger community on dealing with discrimination, inequities, and diversity through our online platform.
- Forums and community discussions are also part of the school's culture.

Updates on the Work of School Based Equity Teams

By school:

- **PS 29**
- The IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity and Equity for All) Committee at PS29 has started hosting a weekly call for parents to talk about anti-racist parenting. We hope to continue meeting over the summer to strengthen and support our community, to educate ourselves on white supremacy culture and look at our own roles in anti-racist work, to read and discuss BIPOC media and literature on the subject of being anti-racist and to plan community events for the fall.
- The staff wing of IDEA sent out a school-wide email with anti-racist children books and resources for parents and is reading Layla Saad's book, *Me and White Supremacy*, over the summer.
- Also, on June 1st, class teachers did live lessons with students to discuss current events and the link to systemic racism.