

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 6
YOUTH/HUMAN SERVICES/EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 23, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:

P. BELLENBAUM	E. CAUSIL-RODRIGUEZ	R. CERVONE
K. GURL	T. JACKSON	B. SOLOTAIRE
S. TURET	R. UNDERWOOD	

EXCUSED:

E. FELDER	R. FREEMAN
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ABSENT:

F. BROWN	J. BROWN	L. HILL
F. JEAN	P. LI	A. MEHTA
C. ROBELLO	A. SHEFRIN	

GUESTS:

O. JONES – REP. FOR HON. VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY, STATE SENATOR		
T. SMITH – REP. FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY		
L. BURR	N. ROSANO	D. GOLDSMITH

*****MINUTES*****

Presentation and discussion with representatives for the School Construction Authority on their upcoming Capital Plan, with specific emphasis on projects and needs in School District's 13 & 15.

The meeting was called to order at 6:38pm by Paige Bellenbaum, co-chair for Human Services.

Tamar Smith, the Community Relations Coordinator for the School Construction Authority made the presentation of the Capital Plan upcoming for District 13 and 15.

- Amendment adding \$1.4 billion total Capital Plan (citywide)
- SCA divides Capital Plan into: capacity, capital investment, and mandated programs.
- In District 15: P.S. 516 and P.S. 32 have seats added with this amendment and more Pre-Ks are coming to the district >sited projects
- Many projects not seated yet in Sunset Park, Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus/Red Hook.
- Total of 3,291 not yet sited seats (new)
- In District 13: Dock Street Campus, I.S. 653, and Dock Street Pre-K Center have seats added (already sited)

- Not yet sited projects in Dumbo, Navy Yard and Ft. Greene (1,620 total unsited seats)
- Less expensive for SCA to have developers build schools

Q. Who determines what sites are affordable?

A. Often can't find – outbid on rare locations, developers can afford more but SCA can invest in some properties > different standards than developers. Money can roll over into next fiscal year. Brokers in every borough looking for good spaces.

Sayar Lonial: Safety, environmental issues, traffic impacts, etc. need to be considered.

Rob Underwood: District schools can accept students from other schools, district/zoning lines are for prioritization > many schools in District 15 are under capacity, others are overcrowded.

Suzanne Turet: How do not sited schools reflect the communities' schools > over/under at capacity?

SCA considers seat need on district level, not neighborhood level > 44,000 new seats considered to be needed. Seats needed in Capital Plan are mostly funded, some unfunded.

Rob Underwood: Some schools are built and take kids from other districts – need to use up capacity first.

Suggested sites: sites @nycsa.org, www: nycsa.org

Rob Underwood: 54% of P.S. 261's kindergarten students not from the district.

Benjamin Solotaire: Is participatory budgeting money used? Good way to bring attention to issues.

Naila Rosano and David Goldsmith – CEC 15 and 13 (respectively). Resolution to support the commission o school siting and planning (from CEC 15).

- Tons of condos/new developments in neighborhoods but can't find sites for schools – problem is planning.
- Made list of potential sites in District 15 – takes long to get sites approved, only one broker per borough.
- Want to form a commission appointed by the City Council and Mayor to address these issues – trying to get community support.
- Meeting with other CEC's on April 2nd and the Council in May.
- Would be separate from City Planning Commission. Working as advocacy and accountability, independent of CECs – citywide.
- SCA doesn't always think about impact. Downtown Brooklyn has buildings going up but empty schools.
- School planning moving back toward districts not discussing schools.
- SCA keeps adding projects but not completing.
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Rob Underwood: School segregation is connected to capacity and funding.

Paige Bellenbaum: Any consideration of doing a borough-based lottery system?

- > helps end segregation in schools

CEC13.org

- Student enrollment – major tool to make schools great, not being used.
- Need to make schools reflect community plus values of NYC.
- Rob: Schools are more segregated than neighborhoods, people self-segregate.
- Room for segregation/enrollment in commission proposal? > will consider adding.
- Not being thoughtful about the way we use our resources.
- Not getting enough from the SCA.
- Will look into other cities in state with similar issues.

Continued discussion and planning of spring 2016 Youth Event.

- Career/education advice, scholarship info
- Balancing work and school
- College admissions
- Reaching out to potential employers/internships.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm.

The minutes were taken by Kara Gurl.