

Community Education Council District 2

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Resolution #63

On Creating an Elementary School Zone for PS281 in Midtown East for School Year 2013

WHEREAS, New York City School District 2 in Manhattan has for numerous years suffered chronic overcrowding throughout much of its broad geography in many of its schools, and in many of its classrooms, with corresponding wait lists depriving many families of access to their zoned elementary schools;

WHEREAS, overcrowding has forced schools to sacrifice Gifted & Talented programs and Pre-K programs, forced schools to convert “cluster rooms” intended for art, music or science into general education classrooms and led to increasing class sizes;

WHEREAS, the Community Education Council District 2 (CECD2) believes that school overcrowding and increasing class sizes must be addressed through new capacity;

WHEREAS, a new zoned elementary school, PS 281 serving grades K-5, will be opening as of Fall 2013 in the Midtown East area at 35th Street and First Avenue in new building M281;

WHEREAS, CECD2 believes that the projections by the School Construction Authority and the DOE are based on inappropriate assumptions and are not at the scale adequate for school rezoning, making it difficult to render decisions;

WHEREAS, CECD2 believes it is necessary to open new schools with a dedicated school catchment zone so as to build a strong school community from the start;

WHEREAS, PS 59, PS 116 and PS 183 have all faced issues of school overcrowding, increased class sizes and waitlists;

WHEREAS, PS 267 was initially opened in Fall 2009 without a dedicated zone, and is now suffering due to its current zone not delivering the number of students needed for long-term sustainability;

WHEREAS, the CECD2, with the Department of Education (DOE), held several zoning committee meetings to solicit feedback from the school community and the community-at-large,

reached out to preschools in District 2 using the best available list and created opportunities for families to provide input via email and social media channels;

WHEREAS, CECD2 has worked with the DOE to revise the zoning plans in response to community feedback;

WHEREAS, the DOE has attempted to balance many factors including but not limited to proximity, natural boundaries and community identity;

WHEREAS, the CECD2 recognizes the uncertainty in future enrollment under the zoning proposal and the effects of enrollment on school based budgets but believes that budgetary concerns should not drive zoning decisions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council District 2 adopts the attached zoning line proposal as submitted by the Superintendent's designee for 2013 establishing a catchment zone for PS281 and making adjustments to PS59, PS116, PS183 and PS267 catchment zones; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CECD2 urges the DOE and the SCA to work with the CECD2 to improve the enrollment projections in order to provide an accurate assessment of capacity needs; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, since the zoning lines are to be approved without the benefit of more accurate data and population projections, the CECD2 requests the DOE monitor application and enrollment trends at all schools and engage the CECD2 to determine if the student population has been properly and equitably distributed and to develop a plan if proper and equitable population distribution has not been achieved.

Approved and adopted by CECD2 on December 6, 2012.

Zoning Line Proposal

Presented to District 2 CEC

December 6, 2012

1. **Goal(s) of the proposal:** The Office of Portfolio Management, the Community Superintendent, and the Office of Student Enrollment propose zoning changes to the current elementary school zones of P.S. 183, P.S. 267, P.S. 59, and P.S. 116 in order to:
 - a. Create a zone for the New School to be located in building M281 at 425 East 35th Street
 - b. Reduce or eliminate the waitlist for P.S. 116

2. **Schools affected by the proposal:** P.S. 183, P.S. 267, P.S. 59, P.S. 116, and the New School in building M281

3. **Effective date for initial implementation:** This plan is being implemented for September 2013, inclusive of the 2013 - 2014 admissions process.

4. **Projected number of students in each zone to be moved between all affected schools in the year schools reach full scale:**

School	Current Kindergarten Zone Size ¹	Planned Kindergarten Zone Size ²	Change in Zone Size
P.S. 183	109	100 – 110	-
P.S. 267	73	90 – 100	↑
P.S. 59	110	100 – 110	↓
P.S. 116	193	135 – 145	↓
New School in building M281	-	95 – 105	-

¹ Based on 2011 Audited Register.

² The planned zone size accounts for population growth and new residential construction within the proposed zone configurations.

5. Grade spans, student registers, organizational capacity and utilization, and ethnicity of zoned kindergarten students for all impacted schools:

a. In the year prior to implementation (2012-2013):

School	Grade Span	Org Capacity ³	Unaudited Enrollment ⁴	Org Utilization	Zone Percent Minority ^{5, 6}
P.S. 183	K-5	458	617	135%	38%
P.S. 267 ⁷	K-2	363	175	48%	37%
P.S. 59	K-5	572	593	104%	41%
P.S. 116	K-5	699	775	111%	65%
New School In building M281	-	-	-	-	-

b. In the year schools have reached full scale:

School	Grade Span	Org Capacity ⁸	Projected Enrollment ⁹	Projected Utilization	Zone Percent Minority ^{10, 11}
P.S. 183	K-5	458	600 – 635	130% - 140%	39%
P.S. 267	K-5	363	380 – 400	105% - 110%	38%
P.S. 59	K-5	572	580 – 610	100% - 105%	35%
P.S. 116	K-5	699	725 – 760	105% - 110%	65%

³ All capacity figures are based on 2011 Blue Book capacity with the exception of the capacity for P.S. 59, which was calculated by the School Construction Authority.

⁴ Based on 2012 Unaudited Register (as of October 26, 2012); Pre-Kindergarten enrollment has been converted into full day equivalency.

⁵ Based on the ethnicity of zoned kindergarten students as of the 2011 Audited Register.

⁶ Students identified as “White – not of Hispanic origin” are not counted as minority.

⁷ P.S. 267 is currently phasing in; it will serve grades K-5 at scale. P.S. 267 currently offers a Pre-Kindergarten program but is not expected to continue to offer this program once it reaches full scale.

⁸ All capacity figures are based on 2011 Blue Book capacity with the exception of the capacity for P.S. 59 and the capacity for the New School, which is based on the School Construction Authority’s Program of Requirements.

⁹ Projected enrollment figures assume four sections of kindergarten at P.S. 59 and the New School; five sections of kindergarten at P.S. 183 and P.S. 116; and three sections of kindergarten at P.S. 267. Projected enrollment figures assume four sections per grade for grades 1-5 at P.S. 183, P.S. 59 and the New School; five sections per grade for grades 1-5 at P.S. 116; and two to three sections per grade for grades 1-5 at P.S. 267. The projected enrollment is based on planned average class sizes of 25 students per section across kindergarten through fifth grades, with the exception of P.S.183, which is planned for average class sizes of 23 students in kindergarten and 25 students per section across grades 1-5.

¹⁰ Based on the ethnicity of kindergarten residents within each proposed zone as of the 2011 Audited Register.

¹¹ Students identified as “White – not of Hispanic origin” are not counted as minority.

New School in building M281	K-5	580	580 – 610	100% - 105%	66%
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6. A complete description of all zone line changes¹²:

- a.** The addresses contained in the following area would be in the new P.S. 183 elementary school zone:
- Begin at the southeast corner of 2nd Avenue and East 73rd Street, then
 - East on 73rd Street, then
 - South along the East River Shoreline, then
 - West on 62nd Street, then
 - North on 1st Avenue, then
 - West on 65th Street, then
 - North on 2nd Avenue to East 73rd Street (the point of origin).
- b.** The addresses contained in the following area would be in the new P.S. 267 elementary school zone:
- Begin at the southeast corner of 5th Avenue and East 72nd Street, then
 - East on East 72nd Street, then
 - South on 2nd Avenue, then
 - East on 65th Street, then
 - South on 1st Avenue, then
 - East on 62nd Street, then
 - South along the East River Shoreline, then
 - West on East 58th Street, then
 - North on 5th Avenue to East 72nd Street (the point of origin).
- c.** The addresses contained in the following area would be in the new P.S. 59 elementary school zone:
- Begin at the southeast corner of 5th Avenue and 58th Street, then
 - East on 58th Street, then
 - South along the East River Shoreline, then
 - West on East 45th Street, then
 - North on 2nd Avenue, then
 - West on East 47th Street, then
 - North on 5th Avenue to East 58th Street (the point of origin).
- d.** The addresses contained in the following area would be in the P.S. 116 elementary school zone:
- Begin at the southeast corner of 5th Avenue and 47th Street, then
 - East on 47th Street, then
 - South on 2nd Avenue, then
 - East on 26th Street, then
 - South on Avenue C, then
 - West on 23rd Street, then
 - North on 1st Avenue, then
 - West on 25th Street, then

¹² All zone lines run down the center of the street unless otherwise specified.

- North on 5th Avenue to East 47th Street (the point of origin).
- e. The addresses contained in the following area would be in the New School in building M281 elementary school zone:
- Begin at the southeast corner of 2nd Avenue and East 45th Street, then
 - East on 45th Street, then
 - South along the East River Shoreline, then
 - West on East 23rd Street, then
 - North on Avenue C, then
 - West on East 26th Street, then
 - North on 2nd Avenue to East 45th Street (the point of origin).

7. A statement of how students will be admitted to the affected schools: The proposed changes would impact only incoming kindergarten students or students that are new to the system. All currently enrolled students may remain in their school. As stated in chancellor's regulation A-101, Kindergarten students would be admitted in the following order of priority:¹³

- *First Priority.* Zoned students with verified siblings who will be enrolled in grades 1-5 in the school as of September 2013
- *Second Priority.* Zoned students without siblings applying to the zoned school
- *Third Priority.* Non-zoned students with verified siblings who will be enrolled in grades 1-5 in the school as of September 2013:
 - a. Within district first, then
 - b. Out of district
- *Fourth Priority.* Non-zoned students without siblings:
 - a. Within district first, then
 - b. Out of district

*Current in-zone siblings who would be zoned out based on the proposed line will be grandfathered as an in-zone sibling.

8. The need for school bus service and public transportation in the first year:

- Transportation will be provided consistent with Chancellor's Regulation A-801.

¹³ Please be advised that on October 26, 2012 the DOE posted proposed amendments to Chancellor's Regulation A-101, which will be voted on by the Panel for Educational Policy on December 20th. If approved, the admissions policy for elementary school students will be impacted for the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter.