

Community Education Council District 2

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Resolution #XX

On Creating a Middle School Zone for The New Middle School in Building MS 323

Sponsored by Matthew Horovitz, Claude Arpels, and Jonah Benton

WHEREAS, a new middle school in building MS 323, serving grades 6-8, will be opening in September, 2017 in the West Village at 75 Morton Street;

WHEREAS, the Community Education Council District 2 (CECD2) believes that every middle school student in District 2 is entitled to a zoned seat in a District 2 middle school;

WHEREAS, families residing in three elementary school zones in the Midtown West section of District 2 – PS 33, PS 51, and PS 111 – currently have no zoned middle school catchment;

WHEREAS, the new middle school in building MS 323 will be a relatively easy commute on the west side subway lines from PS 33, PS 51, and PS 111;

WHEREAS, the new middle school in building MS 323 will be a more convenient commute for students on the west side of District 2 than the commute to MS 104;

WHEREAS, residents of the West Village, Chelsea, Tribeca, Battery Park City and other downtown neighborhoods have advocated for years for a middle school in their downtown west side section of District 2;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education (DOE) proposed a plan to zone the new middle school in building MS 323 for nine elementary schools on the west side of District 2;

WHEREAS, the CECD2, in coordination with the DOE, held several Zoning Committee meetings to solicit feedback on this proposal from the community-at-large, and created opportunities for families to provide input via email and social media channels;

WHEREAS, families residing in the elementary school zones without a zoned middle school catchment - PS 33, PS 51 and PS 111 - repeatedly expressed public support for their schools to be zoned to the new middle school in building MS 323;

WHEREAS, families residing in the other six elementary school zones affected by this proposal in the West Village, Chelsea, Tribeca and Battery Park City – PS 3, PS 41, PS 11, PS 89, PS 234 & PS 276 - repeatedly expressed public support for their schools to be zoned to the new middle school in building MS 323;

WHEREAS, the dominant negative concern expressed in community feedback was regarding enrollment at MS 104, whose zone is shrinking significantly, and CECD2 has confidence based on extensive data analysis that the impact on MS 104 enrollment will be negligible;

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

WHEREAS, families residing in District 2 have expressed support for an academically rigorous school with a single academic track;

WHEREAS, the District 2 Superintendent has expressed an intention to create a school with a single academic track;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CECD2 adopts the attached zoning proposal as submitted by the DOE for the new middle school in building MS 323.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CECD2 urges the District 2 Superintendent and the DOE to create a program at the new middle school in building M323 with a single academic track.

Approved and adopted by CECD2 on May 3, 2016.