



September 16, 2016

Carmen Farina
Chancellor
NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chancellor Farina,

Community School District 3 has been engaged in a school rezoning discussion for the past two years. Our offices have been deeply involved in these discussions, attending every public and private zoning discussion with various stakeholders from school principals to parents to residents to NYCHA leaders.

I am sure you will agree that these meetings have been contentious and filled with emotion. Community members rightly want and have demanded transparency in this process. To date there is still a lack of clarity regarding the Department of Education's (DOE) vision for how the current rezoning scenarios will address diversity or overcrowding in each part of the district. The DOE continues to share incomplete information, where few questions are answered, and new ones arise. Our offices have asked for hard population data and have not received a response.

On September 14, the Office of District Planning shared that they are now working on a third potential rezoning scenario that will include P.S. 452 "possibly" staying in its current building. Additionally, schools in the northern part of the district will be rezoned. While the principals of the schools in this new scenario have seen "Scenario C", we were told that there would be no new scenario map until the September 28th Special Meeting of the Community Education Council (CEC). Consequently, the CEC in an attempt to create awareness of the larger rezoning scheduled zoning meetings for September 17th and 19th. It is pointless to have these meetings without answers to the questions we repeatedly raise. Fundamentally, what is the current and future utilization and capacity data that you have to drive these zoning lines? Beginning tomorrow, hundreds of community members, residents, school leaders and elected officials will engage in a process that is meaningless because we still do not have the necessary maps and data to assess the zoning scenarios. At best, this is a show of bad faith.

As elected officials who have spent the better part of the last two years meeting with parents, school leaders, residents, and the Department of Education, we believe the District needs to be rezoned both to relieve overcrowding and to increase diversity in our schools, but it is impossible to have any rational conversation about rezoning without **ALL** the rezoning scenario maps and data. At the very least, we ask that the DOE share “Scenario C” at the first hearing this Saturday, September 17th and the corresponding data.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Gale Brewer
Manhattan Borough President



Helen Rosenthal
New York City Council Member

cc: Elizabeth Rose, Deputy Chancellor, Division of Operations, NYC Department of Education
Ilene Altschul, School District 3 Community Superintendent, NYC Department of Education,
Community Education Council 3 members