

Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

Address: 61-15 Oceania Street, Bayside, NY 11364 Phone: (718) 631-6927 Fax: (718) 631-1347 E-mail: CEC26@schools.nyc.gov.

Alan Ong (Borough Appointee) <i>President of the Council</i>	Roy Menendez <i>First Vice President</i>	Bobby Thind <i>Second Vice President</i>	Leslie Rubenstein <i>Recording Secretary</i>	Michelle Liu <i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Council Members:</i>				
Shajid Ali Mohammed	Wendy Pelle-Beer			
Dilip Nath	David Wong			
Evelyn Schechter (Borough Appointee)	Shengchao Yu			
Joseph Gandelman (Student Member)				

Resolution to support Commission on School Siting and Planning

Whereas, citywide and in District 26, schools have become more overcrowded;

Whereas, more than 556,000 students were crammed into overcrowded school buildings during the 2014-2015 school year, according to DOE data;

Whereas, elementary schools averaged 103.5% utilization citywide and 122% in District 26 in 2014-2015;

Whereas, in the 2015-2016 school year, approximately 68% of over-utilized schools were elementary schools;

Whereas, there is a concentration of over-utilized elementary schools in the neighborhoods of Bayside, Auburndale, Oakland Gardens, and Fresh Meadows;

Whereas, six elementary schools within these neighborhoods were unable to meet zoned demand and had to overflow zoned students to surrounding elementary schools;

Whereas, there are 21 schools out of 26 schools that are overcrowded and 22 out of 26 buildings are over-utilized;

Whereas, there clearly needs to be more funding in the capital plan but without a more efficient planning and siting process these funds could go unspent for years;

Whereas, changes to the zoning and ULURP process should be adopted to ensure that sufficient school space is created along with residential development;

Whereas, the SCA has only three people on staff citywide looking for sites, and only one real estate firm on retainer per borough.; and

Whereas, SCA never “cold calls,” which is standard procedure for developers looking for sites;

RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council of District 26 strongly urges a Commission or Task Force on School Siting and Planning be created, with members including parents, advocates and planning experts appointed by the NYC Council and the Mayor to improve the efficiency of school siting and planning.;

RESOLVED, that this Commission or Task Force should consider whether the CEQR formula used to project the impact on enrollment from housing starts should be updated;

RESOLVED, that this Commission or Taskforce should analyze whether the process of enrollment projections should be revamped to be made more accurate, regular and transparent;

RESOLVED, that this Commission or Taskforce should analyze whether impact fees should be adopted that are now

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required in most districts across the country, requiring developers to pay into a fund for schools and other infrastructure improvements;

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council in District 26 will join in coalition with Class Size Matters, Community Education Council District 15, Community Board 6, Community Board 7, Make the Road NY, and parents and community activists throughout the city to make our voices heard and move our city's schools forward to address the crisis in school overcrowding.