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COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 28

Resolution Opposing Co-Location of Success Academy in Campus Q072

APPROVED at the December 1, 2022 Calendar Meeting by a vote of the CEC D28 members present at the time of the vote (9 in favor / 0 opposed / 0 abstain)

Sponsor: Ted Chang (Chair, Education Equity Committee)

Co-sponsors: Barbara Williams, Nathifa Lewis, Simone Dornbach, Vijah Ramjattan, Sheleeza Deen

WHEREAS, the NYC Department of Education has notified school communities of the possibility of a Success Academy Charter School serving grades K-4 to be co-located in the Catherine and Count Basie Campus Q072, and

WHEREAS, Catherine and Count Basie Middle School 28Q072, Redwood Middle School 28Q332, and P993 D75 are schools currently in existence at this campus, and

WHEREAS, the schools currently existing in the Catherine and Count Basie Campus provide our community with educational choices for our children, and

WHEREAS, despite the complexity of sharing space, the schools in the Catherine and Count Basie Campus have successfully achieved protocols that allow their students to maximize their middle school and special education experiences, and

WHEREAS, the NYC Department of Education held a meeting for their School Leadership Teams to hear comments from the community on November 15, 2022, and

WHEREAS, there were 217 community members in attendance at this meeting and not one person spoke in favor of the proposal to move a charter school into the Catherine and Count Basie Q072 campus, and

WHEREAS, members of the community voiced concerns regarding the impact on equity and safety inside and outside of the campus the addition of this fourth school would cause, and

WHEREAS, members of the community explained that adding a fourth school will undoubtedly hinder and lessen the overall academic, social and emotional experience of the current students at the campus by taking space and limiting existing programs as well as the expansion of the existing schools already underway involving the addition of new programs, and

WHEREAS, members of the community stated that the DOE's assessment underestimates the actual building utilization of the existing schools at the campus and what future utilization will be due to the recently signed class size reduction law and expansion of campus programs, and

WHEREAS, members of the community explained that the addition of a fourth school to the campus would limit reasonable and humane access for current students to shared spaces such as the cafeteria, gymnasium, auditorium and school library;

WHEREAS, a number of School Leadership Teams around the district have signed or are in the process of signing a similar resolution (upon which this resolution is mostly based) opposing the Success Academy co-location in the Catherine and Count Basie Campus Q072; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Community Education Council District 28 (CEC 28) opposes the proposal to open and co-locate a Success Academy Charter School in the Catherine and Count Basie Campus Q072; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that CEC 28 calls on the NYC Department of Education to protect and further support our Community School District 28 public schools by investing in them rather than diverting resources to charter schools; and, be it further

RESOLVED, CEC 28 asks that the Panel for Educational Policy meeting for a Success Academy co-location should take place at an in person meeting at a DOE facility in or near Rochdale Village in Jamaica Queens in District 28; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that elected officials representing District 28 in the New York Assembly and New York Senate should explore possible legislation to:

- cut public funding for charters who simply manage their populations to include higher achieving students, have high attrition rates, or have a reputation for intentionally counseling families to depart, instead of a charter school statistically demonstrating improved educational outcomes for all students who enroll, including the most disadvantaged students in particular; and
- focus on older charter school chains and condition the renewal of public funding upon negotiating collective bargaining agreements with its work force after a charter chain has been established for a certain amount of time; and
- alternatively, remove state mandates that force the NYC Department of Education to cut public school budgets in order to pay rent for charter schools that are not co-located in DOE schools.

Vijah Ramjattan (President), Barbara Williams (1st Vice President), Ted Chang (2nd Vice President), Elena Aminova (Recording Secretary), Lu Zhao (Treasurer), Cassandra Alexander, Sheleeza Deen, Nathifa Lewis, Rajwinder Kaur, Simone Dornbach

BRIARWOOD * FOREST HILLS * JAMAICA * KEW GARDENS * REGO PARK *
RICHMOND HILL * SOUTH OZONE PARK

90-27 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica New York 11435

Phone: 718-557-2738 | E-mail: CEC28@schools.nyc.gov

Web: <http://cecd28.org/>