

FY 2018 Borough Budget Consultations

Manhattan - Department of Education

Meeting Date 9/19/2016

AGENDA ITEM 1 : Budget Cuts of 2008-2009

Have the budget cuts of 2008-9, been reinstated to our schools as promised; if not, to what level have they been restored? The resolution of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit called for billions in additional funding, both capital and operating, for New York City and certain other Districts. To what extent has the funding called for in that resolution been approved and allocated by the State? How much of such funding has been lost to intermediate budget cuts? How much additional funding is necessary to achieve the CFE settlement targets (with or without adjustment for cost of living increases since the resolution of that lawsuit)?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

On CFE: As of FY17, there remains a shortfall of 1.6 Billion dollars mostly at the State level.

NOTES:

DOE will get back to DM's/CB's on how the 1.6 Billion of CFE.

AGENDA ITEM 2 : Waitlists and Overcrowding

Given the persistent waitlists in some Manhattan districts what, if any, new planning methods have been implemented by the DOE to predict future school seat needs? Please identify the components of DoE's/SCA's projections for enrollment based on new construction within a District, and based on changes in school utilization rates within a District. Please provide a breakdown of waitlist data by school for FY16, and FY17, and anticipated wait lists for FY18.

Does the DoE track the placement of every family that registers for K to determine at what school the child attends? Please provide the percentage of children who are registered for K in FY 15, 16 and 17 (a) who are offered placement at other than their first choice school; (b) who attend a school other than their first choice school; (c) who attend a Charter School within New York City; and (d) who do not ultimately attend any DoE (or Charter) school.

To what extent will the DoE or SCA look to the Education Construction Fund or other programs to seek to convert or use the unbuilt development rights associated with school buildings into opportunities to add new school seats, whether by transfer of such development rights or the demolition of existing buildings and creation of new buildings in which a replacement school would be located? What revenue streams are expected to be realized in the short- and long-term from such projects?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 3 : Funding for New Zoning

Were there funds available in FY15, 16 or 17, and will there be funds available in FY18, to help Community School Districts and parents with new school zoning plans? Have any of these funds been allocated to efforts to end racial, ethnic or socio-economic isolation or segregation? If so, please identify the type or nature of the grant or funding, the Districts/CECs/Superintendents or others who are taking advantage of such grants or funding, and the names and contact information for at least one Community School District representative and at least one CEC member for each such grant of funded project with knowledge of the sources and uses of such funds. Please also provide breakdowns of new zones by community district.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

- Not a clear answer
- Launched 7 diversity pilots this school year
 - o New RFP's out this year for the diversity pilot (heard from 18 schools that are interested)

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 4 : Classroom Size

What percentage of elementary, middle and high schools Borough-wide exceed class sizes called for in the "Contracts for Excellence"? What percentage of elementary, middle and high schools Borough-wide have class sizes that exceed the limits under the most recent UFT contract (regardless of whether a grievance has been filed)? What specific plans does DOE have to reduce class sizes to meet either the CFE or UFT targets? To what extent would reduction in class size require operating funding (e.g. for additional teachers)? To what extent would reduction in class size require capital funding (e.g. for building additional capacity)? Please provide a list of all new seats to be added in Manhattan under the 2014-19 Capital Plan, specifying the number of seats and the school building or location where they are to be added.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

- DOE believes in reducing class size whenever possible
- 3,882 are funded in Manhattan under the SCA's capital plan
- CB: Is there a way to break down by CB as to where new seats will be located?
 - o The seat breakdown is in the capital plan
 - o Biggest needs are in district 2 and 3
 - o District 2: 1,698 seats are funded but not sited
 - ? 1,492 are funded and sited
 - o District 3: 692 funded seats
- Have not identified additional seats in district 1

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 5 : Pre-K Seats

How does the DOE determine the need for Pre-K seats? Some Pre-K seats are vacant, while some elementary schools are above capacity and some have persistent waitlists? Please identify each school at which pre-K seats have been reduced or eliminated in FY15, 16 and 17, and are expected to be eliminated in FY18, and for each school and year indicate the number of seats lost.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

- Currently 1,840 providing Pre-K across the City
- Prior to expansion of Pre-k, there were 560 sites providing Pre-K
- DOE uses metrics to decide where to increase/decrease services per community

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 6 : Gymatoriums

Gymnasiums and auditorium are being combined to create “Gymatoriums” in new schools to be more economical, and to save space. We have heard criticism of this trend as being at odds with the goal of ensuring that all school ch

ildren have gym at least twice a week, as well as putting pressure on space needed for flexible use during inclement weather recess and at other high-volume need times. Please explain whether this trend is expected to continue as a policy for the future; and state what funding is required to reverse this trend.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

- SCA: No longer design to construct gymatoriums in new buildings as a result of responses from school community
- There’s no going back to the schools that already have gymatoriums

NOTES:

- Going to get back to the group on Trinity school in lower Manhattan

AGENDA ITEM 7 : Breakfast in the Classroom Program

Is it the case that the Breakfast in the Classroom Program has been authorized but not funded? Will there be a community engagement process to see if it is needed or wanted? Are there plans for Borough-wide or citywide implementation? Some parents have objected to the “grab and go” if children have already eaten breakfast at home; how will the DOE roll out this program in FY 18?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

- Breakfast at all schools is free for every student regardless of family income
- Rollout is scheduled to be complete by the end of FY18
- No student is obligated to take the breakfast as part of the program

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 8 : School Crossing Guards

Despite City Council action in FY16 and 17, there continues to be a shortage of crossing guards at intersections adjacent to schools. These position are hard to fill since they are not full time, and despite Council legislation continue to have low wages with no benefits. What solution will be put in place for crossing guards at all schools? What criteria are used for deploying crossing guards when there are insufficient numbers to staff all intersections for which they are needed? What funding is required to reverse this trend?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

- This is a question best answered by the NYPD not by the DOE as crossing guards are civilian employees of NYPD.

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 9 : Accessibility

How many schools in Manhattan are not ADA compliant or readily accessible? What is the funding for FY17 and planned for FY18 to increase the number of ADA-compliant schools? Please provide a list of Manhattan schools that DoE/SCA considers accessible (whether meeting the requirements of ADA or not), their level of accessibility, and their plans to address any accessibility issues. Accessibility should not depend on staffing; schools should be accessible at all times.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

- FY17: 13.1 million for accessibility
- FY14-FY19: 18 million remains for school accessibility projects across schools (existing buildings and schools)
- All schools built after 1992 are ADA accessible
- DOE has hired 3 Accessibility Coordinators to handle these matters
- In Manhattan—74 schools as partially accessible and 24 schools as fully accessible

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 10 : Playgrounds

What Manhattan DOE playgrounds are funded for upcoming reconstruction? Please provide a list of playgrounds slated for reconstruction by community district. Please list separately all playgrounds operated exclusively by DoE/SCA and those that are DPR parks/playgrounds whose use is exclusive to schools during school days.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

NOTES:

- SCA will forward list by CB and by School District

AGENDA ITEM 11 : Playground Access

What funding is in place to keep Manhattan DOE playgrounds open after school hours and on weekends? Please provide a list of DOE playgrounds open after school hours by community district. What funding would be needed on a school-by-school basis to keep DoE playgrounds in Manhattan open for use (a) after school hours (and after after-school programming is completed for the day), and (b) on weekends?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

- DOE: We have 16 playgrounds that are participating in PlanNYC program. It costs 50k per year per playground to open grounds after school (specifically for paying for staff)

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 12 : Community Board Meeting Space

Can funds be made available to provide school space for community meetings? What are the variable costs incurred in keeping a school building open for community use between the end of after-school programming and 8:30 pm?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

- There is a permit process for using schools after school hours
- Extended use refers to use before, after, holidays, and summer
- Costs of renting space is determined by custodial and security staff
- Is there a way to waive fees?

- o Process is on a one-on-one basis—mostly based on needs
- The DOE will share 7 page document on Extended Use of School Buildings Guidelines -- see attachment

NOTES:

- The DOE will share 7 page document on Extended Use of School Buildings Guidelines (see attachment)

AGENDA ITEM 13 : Budget Priorities

What budget priorities would DOE like Community Boards to support?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

NOTES:

- DOE will work with OMB/Budget Department to get back a list of budget priorities

AGENDA ITEM 14 : Budgeting Process

Please explain any particular features of your budgeting process that CB's should take into account when formulating their requests.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

NOTES:

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Comments from DMs:

- Playground Access: Just want to confirm that you don't use Parks employees?
 - o DOE will confirm, but they are pretty confident that outside of the JOP, the playgrounds are run by DOE
- On Item 3: How is the DOE identifying need for diversity programs? By schools? By district?
 - o Varied. Some are being looked at school by school but some are being looked at a district level
- Electronic Version of documents to CB's is requested
- Will get back to OMB/CB on speech language access