



**Department of
Education**

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

Kathleen Grimm
Deputy Chancellor

April 25, 2013

Honorable Scott M. Stringer
Manhattan Borough President
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Borough President Stringer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the March 1, 2013 meeting between the Department of Education (DOE) and your office on the Education Construction Fund's (ECF) Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI).

I am writing to reassure you that DOE and ECF are committed to working with the school community, local elected officials, and community boards as the process moves forward. As we discussed, we are at a preliminary stage in our deliberations on how and whether these properties (270 West 70th street, 210 West 61st Street, 321 East 96th Street) can be utilized to redevelop PS 199, PS 191 and CoOP tech to create new and dynamic schools. We cannot stress enough that no decisions have been made on any sites – we are addressing whether there is interest and ability to build at these locations.

If any of these projects leads to a redevelopment, the DOE is committed to keeping the impacted schools together and within their catchment zones. If temporary relocation is required, we and the chosen developer will work with the schools, their administrations and their communities to minimize the interruptions in the lives of our students. As was discussed, we successfully relocated PS 59 and the High School of Art and Design building within a few block's radius of East 57th Street. East 57th is the model of a successful community, educational and economic development project. At no cost to the taxpayers, there are now 660 seats for PS 59, 1,450 seats for the high school and 70 District 75-special education seats. Additionally, the new construction is "green," which means the building complies with the City's regulations for environmentally friendly building materials and operations that provide more natural light and controlled heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems. We would work to be as, or more successful with our next projects.

Any potential developments must undergo the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) process based on the requirements of the project proposed. All land-use actions, such as zoning text changes, zoning map changes, special permits, etc., are required in order to implement these projects and, accordingly, the application of ULURP would be triggered. PS 199 and CoOp Tech would require a rezoning, and PS 191 would require use of an ECF Special Permit.

Presently we are reviewing responses to the RFEIs and assessing the feasibility of any of the projects. Once we have made that determination we will meet with the community to brief them on the project(s). We will then solicit proposals for comments/solicitation, with hopes of a decision being rendered soon thereafter.

We look forward to working with your office and engaging communities where potential sites are under consideration as we move forward. We will continue to keep all involved and impacted parties abreast of our actions and seek feedback as we move forward. Our goal is to ensure a positive outcome for our school children and our City as a result of any ECF project.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Grimm

cc: Jennifer Maldonado
Jahmeliah Nathan