



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Jerry Iannece Chairperson / **Susan Seinfeld** District Manager

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: All Board Members
From: Dennis Novick, Chair - Central/South Bayside Zoning Committee
Laura James, Chair - Education
Re: School Construction Authority School Site Selection Proposal
48 Avenue between 210 and 211 Street
Date: April 30, 2013

On April 29, 2013 the Central/South Bayside Zoning Committee and the Education Committee met to discuss the above- referenced proposal. Present at the meeting were Dennis Novick and Laura James, Committee Chairs, Christine Haider, Edith Basom, Jack Fried, Steve Pivawer, Linda Lee, Eileen Miller, Ted Teng, Henry Euler, Janet McEaney, Mel Meer, Christina Scherer, Alim Gafar, Frank Skala and Community Member of the Education Committee Alex Lee. Also present were District Manager Susan Seinfeld, Community Assistant Christina Coutinho, School District 26 Superintendent Anita Saunders, Mark Scott, Queens Borough President's office and 15 residents. Chris Pershoff and Monica Gutierrez represented the SCA and made the presentation.

Mr. Pershoff presented their proposal to purchase the Keil Brothers Garden Center on the north side of 48 Avenue only to build a 416 seat primary school for zoned children. The Dept. of Education needs additional seats due to overcrowding at PS 162 (142% capacity), PS 31 (142% capacity) and PS 203 (125% capacity). The City is not acquiring this property through an eminent domain action. The Keils are selling the property and will sell whether or not the SCA purchases the property. The lot has an 80' X 100' frontage and then a 60' wide section that runs through to 47 Avenue.

Discussion ensued and the committee members objected to this site largely because years ago PS 130 was given to District 25 and if the DOE returned PS 130 to SD 26 then this school would be unnecessary. Questions and concerns were raised by members and residents about the high volume of traffic on 48 Avenue. It was pointed out, two major bus lines, the Q27 and Q31, run on 48 Avenue. Questions were asked as to where the school buses would drop off children and where faculty would park. It was stated that parking is already problematic because of two other nearby schools, M.S. 158 and P.S. 31. Since no architectural plans have been drawn, there were several questions on: where the building would be developed, how many stories high the building would be and the configuration of a playground and how it would affect the adjacent residents. Ms. Gutierrez stated that if the project is approved, SCA speaks to all the affected homeowners and a legal agreement is signed between the SCA and homeowners in the event of property and/or personal damages and liabilities during construction. They have even provided soundproofing, windows and air conditioners to residents at other sites.

A motion was made to support the proposed siting of a new 416 seat elementary school at the Keil Bros. Garden Center site. The Committees voted unanimously against the motion with one abstention from the community member.

The Education Committee then made a motion to reiterate, to the DO, its support that PS 130 become a D26 school serving the children of the surrounding community and maintain the current SD 75-Special Education program in the school. This motion passed unanimously.