



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

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

Paul DiBenedetto Chairperson / **Joseph Marziliano** District Manager

To: All Board Members

From: Jena Lanzetta

Date: May 14, 2026

Re: School Construction Authority New Project Notification

On May 12, 2026, the CB11 Education Committee met with School Construction Authority to discuss two new projects in Community Board 11 at Francis Lewis High School and PS 188.

Committee Members

Jena Lanzetta, Committee Chair and 3rd Vice Chair

Paul DiBenedetto, Board Chair

Henry Euler, 2nd Vice Chair

Nelson Beltran

Melanie Harster

Richard In

Nicholas Krammerer

Matthew Mamak

John Sullivan

Christina Scherer

Sandra Walters-Young

CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager

Guests

Julie Kim, School Construction Authority

Yvette Knight, School Construction Authority

The Education Committee meeting of Community Board 11 began with introductions and waiting for additional attendees. Paul DiBenedetto, Chair of Community Board 11, welcomed participants and introduced committee members and the School Construction Authority (SCA) representatives. Jena Lanzetta, Chair of the Education Committee, opened the meeting and expressed anticipation for the SCA team's presentation on a proposed school site and type.

Ms. Kim started with the news that School Construction Authority (SCA) has asked for this meeting to notify CB 11 of site addition (extension) projects for both Francis Lewis High School

and PS 188. The slides from the presentation are attached to this report. The plans included a 288-seat addition to PS188 in Oakland Gardens and a 391-seat addition to Francis Lewis High School in Fresh Meadows. The proposed additions will be being fully accessible, air-conditioned, and state-of-the-art facilities, with construction timelines of 2-3 years. Committee members raised concerns about building height, impact on neighboring homes, loss of playground space, and potential interference with athletic fields. The extension at Francis Lewis High School will be 72 feet tall.

Mr. Euler raised concerns about the addition's height relative to surrounding homes, while Ms. Harster questioned the impact on playground space. Regarding Francis Lewis High School, Mr. Euler highlighted that a 13-story and 5-story apartment building were planned across the street and suggested exploring the possibility of converting the existing building into classrooms to reduce the size of the addition. Ms. Knight requested that all concerns be submitted via email to ensure proper consideration by the relevant teams.

The committee discussed the release of renderings for the new building, with Ms. Knight confirming they would be shared once the design phase is complete. Mr. Sullivan inquired about the maintenance of the American Martyrs School annex, near PS 188, and Ms. Knight agreed to investigate the lease situation. Ms. Lanzetta mentioned the height of the extension at PS 188 should be the same height as the current building, as the school is surrounded by homes. She also questioned where will trailers and staging be placed, since the surrounding is all residential. Mr. Euler also asked if the little piece of the building inside the red line in the construction area will be removed and if it will be replaced. Ms. Scherer raised concerns about the extension at PS 188 hindering on the school's ability to use the playground, which would be taken up in park by this project. Ms. Kim specified that the proposal for PS 188 includes 182 seats with pre-K through 5 classrooms, ADA compliance, and an elevator, with an intended opening in September 2029.

SCA agreed to remain in touch with the Community Board on future updates on these projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.