

**Community Education Council District 27**  
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Alysa O’Shea, Treasurer

Dr. Natalie Bissoon, Member (BP)

Denise Bryant –Brooks, Member

Lisa Johnson Cooper, (Parliamentarian)

Roseanne Gatto, Member

Vacant, Member

Vacant, Member

## Approved resolution #4 of CEC 27 Open Calendar Meeting (April 20, 2020)

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IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF THE GRADES SERVED BY SUCCESS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL – FAR ROCKAWAY (84Q375) AND CO-LOCATION WITH M.S. 53 BRIAN PICCOLO (27Q053) AND VILLAGE ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL (27Q319) IN BUILDING Q053 BEGINNING IN THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR.

The Community Education Council District 27 (“CEC27”) consists of volunteer parents who are elected and/or appointed to serve as district level representatives for the parents. As such, CEC27 advocates on behalf of the district schools regarding educational issues that impact the district.

WHEREAS, for the reasons set forth below, Community Education Council District 27 hereby resolves to oppose the expansion of the grades served by Success Academy Charter School – Far Rockaway (84Q375) and co-location with M.S. 53 Brian Piccolo (27Q053) and Village Academy Middle School (27Q319) in Building Q053 beginning in the 2020-2021 school year.

WHEREAS, potential overcrowding for the existing student population already being served in Building Q053 is an issue of great concern. In our opinion, the appearance of excess space within the building on paper does not accurately reflect the needs of the existing public schools in the building.

WHEREAS, loss of existing space for Q053 self-contained classrooms, resource rooms and space for Special Education services are also of great concern to the public school community.

WHEREAS, the shared spaces of the Auditorium, Gymnasium, Library and Cafeteria have been reported to be already fully occupied. Students and faculty of Village Academy Middle School (27Q319) have shared with CEC27 and the community that there are already existing scheduling issues, especially for lunch and recess periods. We fear that this situation will be exacerbated by Success Academy Charter School expanding the grades served in this location. All public school students deserve appropriate times in the school schedule to assemble, exercise, eat and relax.

WHEREAS, both M.S. 53 and Village Academy participate in the Bronx Plan Collaborative Schools Model initiative. CEC27 disagrees with the NYC DOE’s Educational Impact Statement (EIS) dated March 5, 2020 that states this proposal is not expected to impact either school’s continued participation in this initiative. We believe that key priority areas, including academics, student services and supports, family and parent engagement, and the school building will be compromised by the overcrowding that will occur as a result of SA grade expansion and co-location.

WHEREAS, CEC27 is concerned that no additional building walk-through can be done at this time because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are also concerned that parents, SLT members, students and school staff cannot fully participate in this process because of lack of Internet connectivity and technology to access community meetings and the PEP vote.

WHEREAS, lack of staff and student safety caused by reduced building security are issues for the existing public schools in Building Q053. It has been reported that Success Academy Charter School does not scan visitors entering the building and refuses to follow New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) protocol for tracking visitors on school grounds. It has also been reported that when Success Academy Charter School required police presence for an internal issue, the SA administration did not properly notify the public schools in the building.

WHEREAS, we anticipate that extensive development of upcoming residential projects will quickly fill the available seats at Q053. It has been reported that an estimated 25,000 new residents will be moving to the Far Rockaway area in the next decade. CEC27 fully expects an overload on our current school system on the Peninsula in the near future.

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, many concerns were voiced at the community meeting about the population that Success Academy Charter School serves. Low representation and equity in Latinos, English Language Learners (ELL), students with disabilities (SWD), students with economic needs and students living in transitional housing are evident. SA percentages are clearly not proportional when compared to the surrounding school community.

WHEREAS, questions have been raised about how students with disabilities are placed in Success Academy Charter Schools. The EIS states on page of 11 that Success Academy will serve all students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) in our greater community. In our opinion, the community of diverse learners in District 27 is not being served by SA Far Rockaway.

The Community Education Council District 27, therefore,  
RESOLVES to propose that NYC DOE continue to search for an alternate space outside of Building Q053 for Success Academy Charter School to expand grades beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. During the community meeting on

April 2, 2020, Church of God Christian Academy offered space at 1332 Central Avenue in Far Rockaway, NY 16691 for lease to accommodate SA. CEC27 strongly encourages NYC DOE to pursue this (or any other appropriate location on or off of the Rockaway Peninsula). We vehemently oppose the co-location proposal in Building Q053 presented for our consideration.

Vote – Willie Jones, Lisa Johnson Cooper, Natalie Bissoon, Alysa O’Shea, Roseanne Gatto and Rebeca Herrera all voted yes. Denise Bryant Brooks was not present for the vote.

**APPROVED** April 20, 2020 #4 2019-20