

Preliminary Discussion of a Neighborhood School in the Lincoln Attendance Zone at June 2, 2021 Meeting of District-Wide Healthy and Safety Committee

The District-Wide Health and Safety Committee of the City School District of New Rochelle ("the Committee"), having been duly appointed by the New Rochelle Board of Education ("the Board") is charged by the State of New York under the Rebuild Schools to Uphold Education ("RESCUE") Act (1998) with making recommendations to the Board on matters pertaining to the quality and safety of public school buildings.

The New York State Education Department (1) encourages administrators to take advantage of the opportunity to delegate as much responsibility as possible to the Committee and to reserve their time for district and educational responsibilities; (2) the Committee's duties should be as broad as possible; (3) the Committee has oversight responsibilities for facilities issues in a public school district; (4) those duties include Building Condition Surveys, Annual Visual Inspections, Construction Project Review and Approval Status, and Post-Construction Inspection.

The Committee in the City School District of New Rochelle includes the leadership of FUSE, A/S, the PTA Council, the New Rochelle Board of Education and the City Manager of New Rochelle, among others.

The Committee is not only the legally appropriate venue for preliminary consideration of a Neighborhood School in the Lincoln Attendance Zone but well-placed to do so by the nature of its Board-appointed membership with many representatives of key stakeholders.

This meeting packet is for a working session of the District-Wide Healthy and Safety Committee, also referred to as “the RESCUE Committee” or “the Facilities Committee”. We use these terms interchangeably.

The purpose of this New Business item on a Neighborhood School in the Lincoln Attendance Zone is for the Committee members to learn more about why it *may* be appropriate for the Committee to gather information and public input into the question of a neighborhood school in the Lincoln Attendance Zone. The Committee is not formally tasked to work on this item by the President of the New Rochelle Board of Education and/or the Superintendent, so the discussion today will not be a “first step” but rather a discussion about what a “first step” might look like.

This is not a plan or even a discussion of a plan but a discussion on whether and how to “plan a plan”.

The “ask” at the end of this discussion is whether members of the New Rochelle School Community wish to request a tasking from the President of the New Rochelle Board of Education and/or the Superintendent for the Committee to formally take up the question of a neighborhood school in the Lincoln Attendance Zone and, if so, to define the deliverables and a deadline.

A tasking might be to gather all relevant information about what would be involved in opening a neighborhood school in the Lincoln Attendance Zone, creating

input opportunities at every step of the way and delivering some form of a “discussion document” to the President of the New Rochelle Board of Education and/or the Superintendent within six months of our first meeting after receiving a formally tasking.

Minister Mark McLean, President of the NAACP New Rochelle Branch, has offered to make such a formal request on behalf of the NAACP New Rochelle Branch. The committee will not act further after today until formally tasked to do so but would encourage any community member or community organization to reach out to Minister McLean and join him in requesting a formal tasking to work on this issue.

As far as the meeting today, the only persons who are participating in terms of speaking and deliberating are the members of the District-Wide Healthy and Safety Committee. Those participating on the side – from the administration or invited speakers – will speak when called upon to do so.

As always, we welcome members of the public to our meetings. We have a public comment period similar to but less formal than the New Rochelle Board of Education – three minutes per speaker at the end of our meeting.

Our meetings run 75 minutes and most members of our committee are district employees and as such it is unfair to them to keep them beyond the scheduled end time.

Recognizing that although we have explained that we are not yet tasked with any work on this subject nor are we set up to take input, there may be more than a typical number of guests who wish to be heard. Therefore, to try to accommodate the prior commitments of Committee members we will formally end the meeting on time so those committee members who need to leave can do so. However, we will keep the Zoom meeting open, making a recording that will be posted to the district website, and continue with public comment until everyone who wishes to be heard has been

heard, and their statements made a part of the record as recorded in the Zoom call and posted on the district website.

Enrollment Projections (Co-Chair RES-CUE Committee Robert Cox)

- Western Suffolk BOCES
- Talk of the Sound Article on Declining Enrollment

Attendance Zone Maps & K-5 Enrollment (A/S President Melissa Pasarelli)

- City School District of New Rochelle
- Lincoln Attendance Zone
- What is involved in redrawing maps?
- Note on History of New Rochelle School Buildings (incomplete draft)

School Assignment & Transportation (A/S President Melissa Pasarelli)

- Elementary Schools designated for Lincoln Attendance Zone Students: Davis, Ward, Jefferson, Trinity
- Lincoln Students are eligible like any other student (via lottery) for Magnet School Programs at Barnard, Columbus, Webster and
- Lincoln Students are eligible for busing like another other student, based on a street-distance of more than 1.5 miles (therefore no busing to Trinity, Webster)
- How does LAZ compare to other attendance zones?

NOTE: *New Rochelle City Hall is in Ward District not Lincoln Attendance Zone.*

What about Barnard? Phase II Reorganization of the City of New Rochelle School District (1978 - 1983) La Ruth H. Gray (2020)

City Hall as a Municipal Building (City Manager & Co-Chair RESCUE Committee Charles B. Strome)

What is the status of City Government Move – eminent domain, new idea to build 44 Harrison on top of firehouse, best/worst-case time frame for City government to vacate City Hall?

City Hall as a School Facility (CSDNR Facilities Director Carl Thurnau)

Building Condition Survey November 2017

Only building systems or components that have been rated as Unsatisfactory (U), Non-Functioning (NF) or Critical Failure (CF) or have a useful life of five or fewer years are listed below and include a repair or replacement cost.

- Repair/Replacement Cost of \$11,135,140 (does not include non-BCS improvements or upgrades)
- Where to put BOE staff on 2nd, 3rd floor?

Kaufman Decision (NAACP New Rochelle Branch Legal Redress Richard St. Paul)

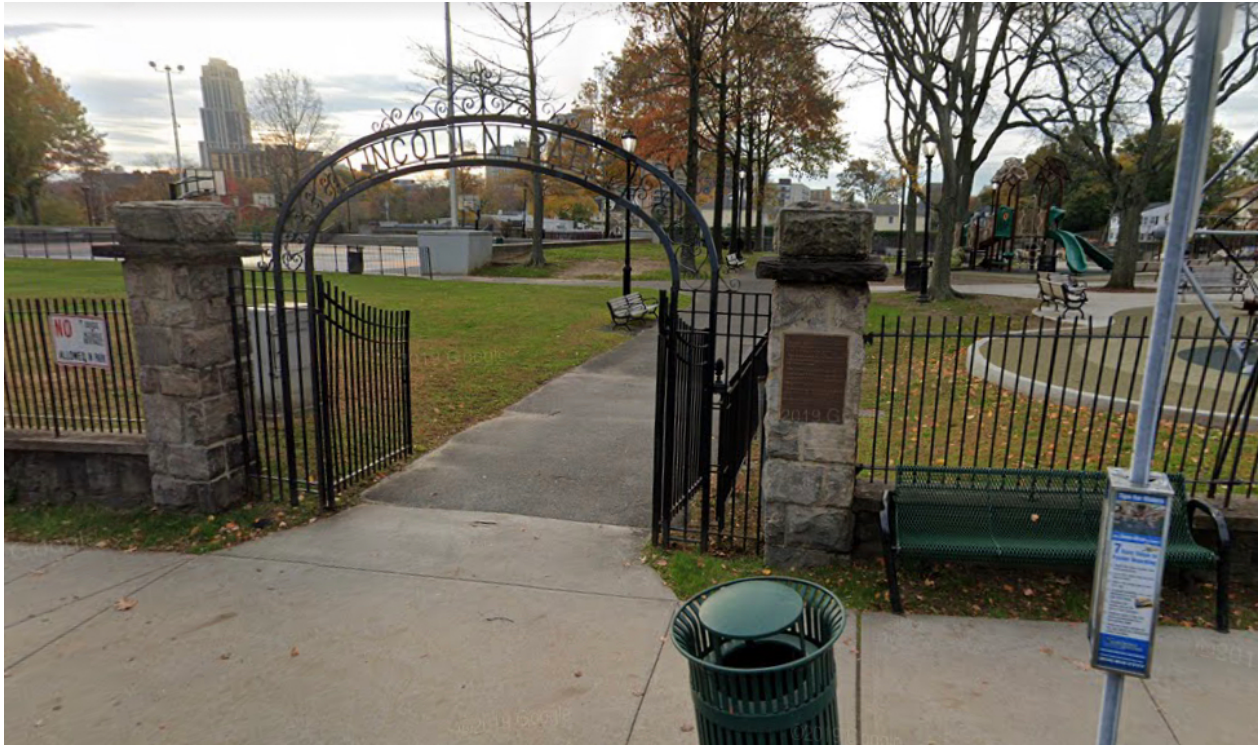
- What is the Kaufman Decision?
- Why is still in force today?
- How does it impact students today (school assignment, transportation)
- What would it take to reverse the Kaufman Decision today?

Tasking Request (NAACP New Rochelle Branch President Minister Mark McLean)

- Gather all relevant information about what would be involved in opening a neighborhood school in the Lincoln Attendance Zone.
- Create input opportunities
- Draft and adopt "discussion document" to be delivered to the President of the New Rochelle Board of Education and/or the Superintendent within six months of first meeting after formal tasking.

History of Lincoln School (Co-Chair RES-CUE Committee Robert Cox)

- Talk of the Sound Series on Lincoln School Desegregation <http://bitly.ws/dHcQ>
- Dr. Gail Guttman's Dissertation on Lincoln School Desegregation: Division and diversity: Community transition in postwar America, 1945-1970. New Rochelle, New York, a case study by Guttman, Gail Kaplan, Columbia University, 2001, 567 pages; 9998163
- Memorial to Lincoln Case: Design Competition, Modeled on Little Rock 9 Bronze Memorial on the grounds of the Arkansas State Capitol in Little Rock.



On this site stood Lincoln School,
the first segregated school in the North
to be closed by a court order.

This tablet honors all who participated
in this struggle for equality in education
and commemorates.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
LANDMARK, TAYLOR VS BOARD OF
EDUCATION OF NEW ROCHELLE
DECISION OF 1961,

A milestone on the search for unity
in the midst of our diversity.

Rev. VERNON A. SHANNON, Co-Chairperson
Rabbi AMIEL WOHL, Co-Chairperson

COALITION FOR MUTUAL RESPECT

JUNE 1, 1986





