

Neighborhood School in the Lincoln Attendance Zone - (VERY) PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Part I

Attendance Zone Maps & K-5 Enrollment

School Assignment & Transportation

Enrollment Projections

City Hall as a Municipal Building

City Hall as a School Facility

(missing some title search information, escrow from City of New Rochelle Corporation Counsel)

NYSED Construction and Financing

(need a written document from Carl))

Kaufman Decision

Obstacles to overcome...

1. The Kaufman Decision is still in effect so the federal case from 1961 would need to be addressed with the Federal Court to clear the way for a school in what amounts to a federally-regulated school district zone within the City School District of New Rochelle. A legal opinion is needed to analyze all of this.
2. Building a new facility or significantly modifying an existing structure will require tens of millions of dollars. It will require acres of space and a facility to house hundreds of staff and students. Qualifying for reimbursement through the New York State Education Department will be difficult in a declining enrollment environment. Obtaining voter approval for a bond for tens of millions of dollars for a school for one district, the entire City voting to fund a new school that serves a small section of the City would be a major challenge.
3. City Hall as a school *in* the Lincoln Attendance Zone. Setting aside the building requires tens of millions in renovations, it would require moving a part of the Ward school district into the LAZ which pulls a thread on a knit sweater (see, "What About Barnard?") and risks opening up old arguments, creating new ones and unraveling many districts.
4. City Hall as a school *near* the Lincoln Attendance Zone. Setting aside the building requires tens of millions in renovations, and there are issues with a proposed community center or school (Refugio de Esperanza), it is not a school *in* the Lincoln Attendance Zone.

5. Combining Lincoln Attendance Zone with an adjoining district. Another school may or may not be able to accommodate hundreds of students from the currently defined Lincoln Attendance Zone. If not it may require millions of dollars to expand a school.
6. The District-Wide Healthy and Safety (RESCUE) Committee looks at issues from a facilities perspective only. The Committee does not get involved in issues such as curriculum, district border realignment, purchasing or leasing property, magnet-status, staffing, etc. This report is an effort to clarify the obstacles which must be overcome in order to establish (via new construction or by converting an existing structure) a school building on property of sufficient acreage (4-5 acres). The next step would be to use this report as the basis for an initial framework for a larger discussion best undertaken by a community-wide committee with a much larger number of people drawn from among all appropriate stakeholders. That next step needs to come from the New Rochelle Board of Education. Our recommendation is that that Board accept the findings in this report, discuss whether or not to explore the subject beyond the scope of the report (which we recommend), and if so then establish a "Community Stakeholder Committee for Best Addressing the Historical Issues with the Long Abandoned Lincoln Attendance Zone". We leave it to the board to come up with a catchier title.