

Bay Terrace School Statement

A careful and extensive review by the School Construction Authority (SCA) began their public review process for a new, approximately 572-seat Primary School building to be located at 24th Avenue and Water's Edge Drive, in School District 25. While the SCA has created additions and leased sites, it has never built a brand new school within this portion of City Council District 19 – that means over 33 years at least since a new school was built. This project's capacity is necessary to address space needs as the SCA, in partnership with the DOE has identified a need of over 1,500 seats in this subdistrict. During the public review process, we have heard countless times from parents in our community about the need for smaller class sizes that can only be remedied by adding more capacity in our district. We have already added 3200 seats over the past eight years, and with this new school it brings the total up to nearly 3800 new seats.

A new elementary school would also be one that can better serve the modern needs of our children as it would be built to current standards and not standards from over half a century ago. The SCA understands the concerns of Northeast Queens and has committed to a number of concerns in the enclosed stipulation letter. They have committed to the following:

- The community will be briefed on project design at appropriate milestones and the appropriate Department of Education staff will be engaged on appropriate design elements, such as furnishings and other discretionary elements.
- Community members will have access to a dedicated liaison/contact for the project leading up to and during construction.
- SCA, in collaboration with the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT), has committed to studying the feasibility of a driveway turnaround and some form of outdoor play space within the school site during the design process, recognizing the limitations of site size constraints.
- At the Community Board's request, DOT will study making Water's Edge Drive a one-way street following the school's occupancy, as per DOT policy.
- As required under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR), the project includes, among other things, evaluation of all traffic impacts surrounding the proposed project, floodplain conditions, and other environmental conditions, such as open space, historical preservation, air quality, and infrastructure

To complement a new school, our office was able to work with Mayor Bill de Blasio to secure \$20 million for a 1.5-acre playground and park on the corner of Waters Edge Drive and 24th Avenue. Early concepts for the \$20 million project include a parking lot, children's play area, comfort station, security lighting, walking paths, basketball courts and adult fitness

equipment. The project has been added to the parks department official capital tracker and is now in the design phase.

We have been able to secure significant city investment that provides a long term vision for the future of Bay Terrace and ensures that Eastern Queens will remain a high quality neighborhood for future families to come. As a result, I strongly support the SCA's proposal and will urge my colleagues to vote in favor.

Council Member Paul A. Vallone
19th Council District, New York City