

My name is George Janes, I'm an urban planner experienced in the production of small area population estimates and forecasts. I am also a PS290 parent. My office produced this analysis of the DOE's rezoning proposal. If you want to know the problems with the DOE's methods, please take the time to read it.

But in summary, the DOE assumes that because a school is overcrowded today, it will be in the future. The DOE has not used any Census data, nor has it forecast future year enrollment, or even critically examined the assumption that next year (or the years beyond) will be exactly like this year.

Using recently released Census data, this analysis shows that, unlike other areas in District 2, there has been no residential growth in PS290's zone. Overcrowding in our school is not happening because of residential development, yet the proposed solution is the same: cut the zone. Under the proposal the number of housing units our school serves will be cut by half, going from 28,000 to 14,000, over two years, and will likely leave our school under-enrolled as soon as next year.

Further, 2010 Census data tell us there are fewer kids in the 2012 Kindergarten class than kids in the 2011 Kindergarten class – hard evidence that the DOE's practice of carrying forward current year enrollment numbers is not reasonable, even for a single year.

The CEC should reject the current rezoning proposal, because the DOE did not provide reasonable justification. Now, I've heard you ask for better data, repeatedly, at these hearings. And you're right, we shouldn't be making decisions without the best information available. We must demand more.

Finally, during an era of accountability, where our schools, principals, teachers & kids are held to strict performance standards, who else but the CEC can hold the DOE accountable? Thank you.