

EXHIBIT 7

5. West Side’s learning environment has had a tremendously positive impact on my son. After taking an unofficial break from his charter school during the pandemic, West Side motivated my son to return to school. The school focuses on emotional support and provides the needed tools and resources to best support a challenged learner like my son. West Side High School impressively balances students’ needs for both flexibility and stability.

Health and Wellness Concerns:

6. West Side High School is a stellar “transfer school” and was created to give “transfer” students the resources they need to succeed not only in school, but in life. Its resources are not confined to the classroom. West Side High School provides a variety of services, taking a holistic approach to student success. For example, the presence of a school-based, on-site health center is essential to the success of transfer students like my son.

7. West Side High School currently both partners with and houses Ryan Health Center. This school-based health center provides students with critical access to health services that they need to facilitate and maintain school attendance and learning. According to the Department of Education’s (DOE) Education Impact Statement (EIS), no concrete plan exists to have a school-based health center if West Side High School is relocated to the east side.

8. The presence of an on-site health center at West Side was a significant factor in my decision to apply to West Side High School. The presence of a school-based health center gives me hope that my son will seek medical attention if he so needs it.

9. My son recently turned eighteen and is engaging in adult activities. My son has always been reluctant to seek medical care. Because he is now a legal adult, I cannot make him see a doctor. Knowing medical professionals are in my son’s school building gives me considerable peace of mind. My son will not have to travel to seek medical care and can obtain it

in a place he is already comfortable in. This easy access to medical care in a familiar location is essential to inspire students like my son to seek the medical care they need and deserve. Without such access, I fear he will not seek medical attention when he needs it.

10. The EIS does not adequately take into account the need for an on-site health center if West Side moves to a new location across town. Transfer schools help students who have unique backgrounds and circumstances. These students need and deserve on-site health care access.

11. Another deciding factor in choosing West Side High School was its gymnasium. My son was excited to see the gymnasium at West Side High School. It was spacious and made him excited to come to school.

12. According to the EIS, if relocated, West Side High School would have a significantly smaller gym. While some may think this is not a big deal, it is imperative for transfer students to feel excited about attending school. Taking away a major source of enjoyment provided by West Side High School will deter students such as my son from attending. The EIS fails to adequately consider the extent of use and the value of the gymnasium.

Location Concerns:

13. The EIS fails to address how the location change will affect attendance and enrollment.

14. West Side High School is currently located in an extremely convenient location for my family. My son is reluctant to travel, and he currently has a commute that he finds bearable.

15. West Side is located along the C line. It is extremely easy for my son to take the C train to school. West Side High School is also located along my commute to work. On days when

my son does not want to go to school, I can take him to school myself. This ability increases my son's school attendance.

16. If West Side High School were to be relocated, I fear my son will refuse to attend school. The commute will be burdensome, and I will not be able to drive him to school. Like my son, many students already do not want to go to school, and making the commute difficult will be an obstacle that some students cannot overcome. Relocating West Side will only increase students' stress and add to the disincentives to complete high school.

17. My son has expressed that he will refuse to attend West Side High School if it is relocated.

18. Many others and I have safety concerns about the new location. The loss of community that will come with relocation fills me with fear of the unknown. I do not know what gangs are present near the potential relocation site, and I am scared for students' safety during their new commute.

19. The DOE's vague language that they will create a safety plan is disheartening. They are clearly not taking safety concerns seriously. Parents and students cannot make informed decisions regarding their schooling and safety because the DOE failed to provide us with detailed information. Neither parents nor students should have to choose between schooling and safety.

IEP Concerns:

20. As a transfer school, West Side High School has many students with individualized education programs (IEPs). Students with IEPs are entitled to accommodations that include but are not limited to one-on-one counseling, extra time while testing, a separate room for testing, and other support services.

21. For West Side High School to provide these accommodations, it is necessary for the school to have adequate space.

22. My son has an IEP that includes special testing accommodations.

23. I am concerned that if West Side High School is relocated to a smaller building, his IEP requirements will be negatively affected. The EIS stated that all IEPs will continue to be met; however, the DOE failed to create a concrete plan that would suggest to parents that this will even be possible. The DOE did not specifically address how the loss of space will affect students with IEPs.

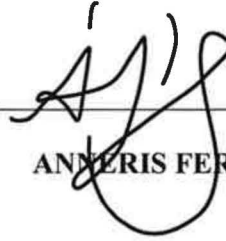
Loss of Stability:

24. West Side High School does a great job of providing both the stability and flexibility my son needs to succeed. Since enrolling at West Side High School, my son has grown immensely.

25. My son is refusing to return to West Side High School, a place that has greatly benefited him, if it is to be relocated. Even now, the proposed relocation of West Side has already caused a regression in my son's behavior. He has lost motivation to do his schoolwork because he is upset by the anticipated loss of stability. I fear that my son is now in a worse place than he was prior to attending West Side High School. The proposed relocation will undo all of the amazing progress that West Side has made with my son.

26. This relocation should not be allowed to happen. It is not in my son's best interests, or in the best interests of many other students attending West Side High School.

For the above reasons, I submit this affidavit in support of the Verified Petition and in opposition to the proposed re-siting of West Side.



ANNERIS FERNANDEZ

Sworn to before me this

13th Day of June 2023

LAURA DAWN BARBIERI
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF NEW YORK
Registration No. 02BA6394203
Qualified in New York County
Commission Expires July 1, 2023



Notary Public