

Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com - Website
info@cb8m.com - E-Mail

The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8
Youth & Education Committee Meeting
Hunter College, SW Corner of Lexington & 68th Street, Auditorium 714W
Monday, January 9, 2012 at 7:00 PM

Community Board Members (Present): Sarah Chu, Jim Clynes, George Fuchs, Ed Hartzog, Hattie Quarnstrom, Judy Schneider,

Community Board Members (Excused): Lori Bores, Deidre Breslin, Lorraine Johnson, M. Barry Schneider, Debbie Teitelbaum

Community Board Public Members (Present): Michael Hoffman, Sophia James

A. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves and, if a parent, expressed for which school their children were zoned.

B. Brief introduction of new principal PS 527/OLGC School, followed by Q & A

For those who may not know, the last zoning proposal presented by the DOE was approved. We have a new elementary school which was formerly known as the OLGC School and is now PS 527. Elizabeth Rose, of the DOE, said "I think we are finally at a point at the UES where we will have sufficient space for all the students, with the addition of PS 527". Next she introduced the new principal, Daniel McCormick, and spoke of his background.

Amy Zimmer of DNAInfo attended the meeting and published the following:

Daniel McCormick, assistant principal at E. Harlem's G&T school, will lead the UES's new P.S. 527

UPPER EAST SIDE — A new public elementary school opening next fall on the Upper East Side will focus the curriculum on "global studies" and teach the wee ones a foreign language, its principal revealed this week.

The fledgling P.S. 527 — which the Department of Education is creating in the former Our Lady of Good Counsel building at 323 E. 91st St. to ease overcrowding in the area — will focus on art, music, science, technology and languages, future principal Daniel McCormick told parents at a Community Board 8 meeting on Monday.

"It's going to have a global studies curriculum with a real 21st century approach expressed in anything and everything," McCormick, who's currently the assistant principal at TAG Young Scholars, a citywide talented and gifted school in East Harlem, told DNAInfo.

McCormick said his mission is to help students understand not only where they live but also how they fit into the "complex world" beyond.

McCormick's East Harlem School, which serves Kindergarten through eighth grade, teaches Spanish. But he declined to say what language will be taught at P.S. 527. A growing number of elementary schools in the city have included Mandarin in their curriculum, such as the Lower East Side's New Explorations Into Science, Technology and Math (or NEST+m). Several elementary schools also teach French, including P.S. 125 on the Upper West Side.

McCormick, a graduate of Quinnipiac College in Connecticut, became the assistant principal at the East Harlem gifted and talented school in 2003. Before that, he was a fifth grade teacher there. He grew up around educators: his mother, a high school Spanish teacher, is now an adjunct professor at the University of Connecticut.

"I guess it was in my blood," he said. "From the first day I interned at a school, I just loved it."

McCormick said he's eager to work with parents of the school's inaugural class who are concerned about sending their children to an untested school. Some of those parents have already begun organizing to have a voice in the school's development.

There will be two information sessions and tours at the school on Feb. 1 or 6, McCormick said.

"Every parent should be concerned about their child's education," McCormick told DNAInfo. "They want to know who is the person behind the curtain running the school."

McCormick assured parents that P.S. 527 would initially be able to cover the enrichment classes because of a boost from start-up funding. But he anticipates that in future years, when the budget is based on the number of students, he would have to turn to community fundraising as is common with other public schools.

Mr. McCormick and Elizabeth Rose answered questions from the parents about the building itself and the curriculum.

C. Learn about free programs to engage your children at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

A presentation was made by Peggy Fogelman, Frederick P. and Sandra P. Rose, Chairman of Education and Jackie Terrassa, Managing Museum Educator for the Gallery & Studio Programs division of Education.

- Ms Fogelman stated The Met was the cultural institution of the City that many people have grown up with. It covers 5,000 years of art and cultural production. Founded in 1870 its charter stated its mission was dedicated to public instruction and enjoyment and appreciation of art. This past year it had over 5 million visitors and over 820,000 attended educational programs; 220,000 K-12th grade students attended free programs at the Met through their schools. (In fact, free passes are given with the visit for returning with parents); and 600,000 pre-K to senior adults attended free programs. School visits are tied to classroom learning. The Adult Learner Programs try to bring a variety of perspectives which are relevant to the global world we live in today. Some examples: the new Islamic galleries which just opened and accompanied by lectures on Woman in the Muslim World and the New American Paintings Galleries which will open in 2 weeks and will have panels and lectures. Most of these events are free with admission. The Museum publishes a program of adult programs every 2 months.
- Ms Terrassa asked how many remember their earliest museum experience. Most said it was through school or with parents/family. The museum's goal is to think of programs that happen outside of the school day and for it to be meaningful, welcoming experiences that will make the children want to return. There is a program for young children every day the Museum is open. More programming is done during school breaks; every Monday that is a holiday has special children's programs. Parents make a donation and children under 12 are admitted free. To help parents and children enjoy the museum on-line guidance is provided. Self guided tours can be taken before coming to familiarize the family. There are interactive things children can do before attending. Once at the museum, they have a map/poster that illustrates over 2,000 works of art in funny ways. There are self guided tours of galleries such as the two mentioned above. On the website-metmuseum.org-there is an area called "My Met" which allows you to sign up for up-coming events for children and adults. However, none of the programs require registration, just come in. They have special programs for teens and tweens—11 to 18 years of age. They also give teen free passes. One program is "guided looking and sketching"; "story time" at the Noland Library; monthly programs consisting of looking and art making and looking and performance; and on February 4th celebrating the lunar New Year with music and dance in those galleries; also member's classes and concerts. The museum has high school internships and the information is on the website.
- After Q& A, programs/printed information was distributed to all present.

D. Update on 2nd teacher/aide in the classroom

Genevieve Michael was introduced. She is replacing Dan Pasquini, of Dan Garodnick's Office, who has relocated to California. Genevieve said they are following up with the DOE and has nothing to report at this time. Hopefully next month there will be some news that the contract has been extended for another year.

E. Updates on school re-zoning--PS 158 status

- Sarah Chu, our CB8 Member, as well as being a Community Education Council District 2 (CECD2) member, gave us an update on the resolution we passed requesting the vacant space at PS 158 be converted into a middle school.

- The CECD2 will be passing a resolution on this issue at their January 25th meeting. You can email D2Zoning@gmail.com to express your opinion on this motion, as well as attending the meeting and speaking out at the public session.

F. Updates:

Kindergarten Enrollment

- Application to Kindergarten is the following schedule:
Jan. 9 to Mar. 2 Admission Period/Intake
Mar. 19 to Mar. 23 Assignment notification Period
Mar 26 to Apr. 20 Pre-school Registration
- The above does not apply to PS 527/OLGC. At the February 1st and 6th information sessions the parents will be told when intake will occur. If anyone has any questions they can call Jennifer Greenblatt at 212-356-3789.
- Parents do not have to bring children to intake. They need the following documents:
 - Proof of residence, which consists of any of the following 2 documents:
 - Residential utility bill (gas, electric, water) in the resident's name & dated within the last 60 days
 - Documentation or letter on letterhead from a federal, state, or local government agency indicating the resident's name and address and dated within the last 60 days
 - An original lease agreement, deed, or mortgage statement for the residence
 - A current property tax bill for the residence
 - Official payroll documentation from an employer dated within the last 60 days, such as a form submitted for tax withholding purposes or payroll receipt (a letter on the employer's letterhead will not be accepted)
 - Child's birth Certificate or passport
 - Names of any siblings who will be enrolled in grades 1-5 at the school in September 2012 (not for PS 527)

Play Street

- A request for a play street by PS 51, now currently occupying OLGC School building at 323 East 91st Street, has been made.
- The Community Board is following this up with the lead City agency, the Department of Health, as well as Department of Transportation. We hope to have an answer by our March meeting.

Town Hall Meeting

- Chancellor Walcott had a town hall meeting on December 7th. The first question asked was. "Is the DOE considering incubating PS 281 (the new school on the Solow site) at PS 267 in September 2012, because of the overcrowding at PS 116." The reply was that it was being looked at and no decision has been made.
- On January 9th Elizabeth Rose of DOE informed us that they have communicated to PS 116 that DOE is not considering incubating PS281 in September 2012.

G. Future Meeting Dates:

- February 13: It was decided we would not meet in February
- March 12: Mariano Guzman District Superintendent on new Core Curriculum
- April 9:
- May 14: Presentation by Jamie Smarr, DOE, on the New PS 59 and Art & Design High School Old/New Business

H. New/Old Business

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

James G. Clynes and Judith E. Schneider
Co-Chairs Youth and Education Committee