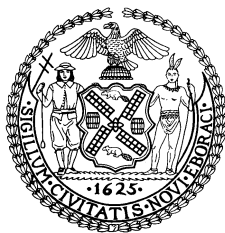


Jim Clynes
Chair

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
(Joint Meeting with Roosevelt Island Committee)
PS/IS 217, 645 Main Street, Auditorium
Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7:00 PM**

Community Board Members (Present): Jeffrey Escobar, Ed Hartzog, Sophia James, Larry Parnes, Ellen Polivy, Hattie Quarnstrom-Figueroa, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider,

Community Board Members (Excused): Lori Bores, Sarah Chu, Lorraine Johnson, Debbie Teitelbaum

Community Board Public Members (Present): Michael Hoffman

A. Introductions were made by everyone present.

B. Presentation by Daniel Hildreth, Office of Student Enrollment, NYC DOE and Principal Mandana Beckman and Ursula Forkine, PS/IS 217 testing coordinator on Gifted & Talented Program.

- In NYC there are two types of Gifted and Talented programs (G&T): district-wide and citywide. District-wide G&T programs have a minimum cut-off of 90th percentile on the test outcomes and are programs that are housed within a local/zoned school. Citywide G&T (Anderson, Nest+M, TAG, Brooklyn School of Inquiry, 30th Avenue School) are schools that are solely G&T with a minimum cut-off of 97th percentile.
- The testing process for G&T begins in October when parents can begin to request testing from the DOE with the deadline for requests in November. Request for G&T testing can be done online or with school staff. Testing then occurs in January – February with scores released in April. Families with children eligible for G&T will get a score report and an application for G&T programming. K-2 students already enrolled in school will test in their schools while pre-k and out of town students will test out on a weekend. If a K-2 student qualifies for bi-lingual education, they will be given the test in their native language. If a pre-k student would like a non-English test, it must be requested by the parent.
- Entrance tests consist of puzzles, reasoning, and logic. The test is given based on the year that the child is born. The DOE has 4 handbooks for preparation, one book per grade the child is applying. The tests consist of the OLSAT and the Naglieri. The tests have a verbal and non-verbal component. The combined scores from the OLSAT and Naglieri are then normed based on a 3 month age band.
- Although a student may be eligible for G&T based on their score, there is no guarantee of a G&T placement due to demand. The DOE emphasized that there are far more qualified applicants than G&T slots.
- On Roosevelt Island the G&T program varies from 1 class or 2 classes.
- The meeting can viewed on: www.rooseveltislander.blogspot.com

C. Old/New Business

- Notice from Chancellor about Community Education Councils, which are a great way for parents to become more invested in their children's education and their future. These leadership roles give families an opportunity to share their expertise, support their child and help their community.

Chancellor Carmen Fariña announced the launch of the 2015 Community and Citywide Education Council elections and encouraged parents across the city to participate and have an impact on their children's "Members of Education Councils have a unique and critical opportunity to help shape education policy and become transformative leaders in their communities," said Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña. "I encourage all parents to consider applying for a seat to become even more involved in their child's education and make a difference in their school district."

The Community and Citywide Education Councils provide parents a voice in public education and an opportunity to make a grassroots-level impact on education policy. Elections take place every two years, and this year, the DOE is engaging in a citywide effort to reach all parents and raise awareness of these leadership roles, reflecting the Chancellor's ongoing commitment to engaging parents and families in the important work of educating our children.

Parents serve two-year terms on 36 Councils throughout the City, including the Community Education Councils (CEC), Citywide Council on High Schools, Citywide Council on English Language Learners, Citywide Council on Special Education, and the Citywide Council for District 75. CECs in each of the City's 32 school districts are responsible for approving school zoning lines, holding hearings on the capital plan, and providing additional input on important policy issues. Citywide Councils evaluate and advise on school policy concerning their areas of focus.

"Members of Education Councils have a unique and critical opportunity to help shape education policy and become transformative leaders in their communities," said Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña. "I encourage all parents to consider applying for a seat to become even more involved in their child's education and make a difference in their school district."

Parents interested in learning more about the application process and Education Council responsibilities should attend an Education Council Information Session. The first of a series of information sessions will take place at Tweed Courthouse on January 26 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Councils

Community Education Councils (CEC)

The CECs work closely with the district superintendents, approve school zoning lines, hold hearings on the capital plan, and provide input on instructional and policy issues. Each CEC has nine members who are parents of students currently in grades K-8 in district schools, and two Borough President appointees.

Citywide Council on High Schools (CCHS)

The CCHS advises on education policy and issues involving high school students. The CCHS has 10 elected members, two from each borough, who must be the parents of students currently attending a public high school.

Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL)

The CCELL advises on education policy and issues involving students in bilingual or English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. The CCELL has nine elected members, who must be parents of students currently or recently classified by the DOE as English Language Learners.

Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)

The CCSE advises on education policy and services for students with disabilities. The CCSE has nine elected members, who must be parents of students receiving special education services paid for by the DOE.

Citywide Council for District 75 (CCD75)

The CCD75 advises on education policy and services for students with disabilities who attend D75 programs. The CCD75 has nine elected members, who must be parents of students in a D75 program.

Selection Process Schedule

February 11 - March 11 – Parents interested in running for a seat on a Council submit an application online (computers will be available at schools and libraries).

March 18 - April 18 – District and borough parent leaders, along with the DOE, host forums for parents to meet and ask questions of Council candidates.

April 19 - May 8 – Presidents, Treasurers, and Recording Secretaries of Parent Associations and Parent-Teacher Associations vote for the new Community and Citywide Education Council Members for the 2015-2017 term.

May 12 – The results are published on NYCParentLeaders.org.

July 1– Elected and appointed Community and Citywide Education Council Members for the 2015-2017 term take office.

F. Future Meeting Dates;

- Monday, February 9: PS 158 & Construction Update on Community District 8 Schools
- Monday, March 9: To be determined

The meeting was adjourned.

Hattie Quarnstrom-Figueroa and Judith Schneider, Co-Chair, Youth and Education Committee