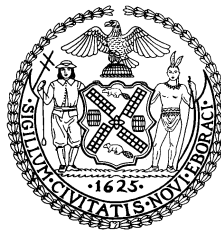


Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

February 17, 2012

Hon. Dennis Walcott
Chancellor, Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

RE: Charter Schools

Dear Chancellor Walcott:

At its Full Board meeting Wednesday, February 15, 2012, Manhattan Community Board 8 adopted the following resolution by a vote of 32 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions:

WHEREAS local news articles have documented Success Academy's desire to open two charter schools in District 2, one of which may be in the UES, and

WHEREAS Elizabeth Rose, DOE Office of Portfolio, stated at the 1/25/12 CECD2 meeting that DOE was considering a possible use of a SEPARATE 2-section elementary school for PS 158, and

WHEREAS the only current vacant school space in Community District 8 is at PS 158, and

WHEREAS the great majority of school buildings in Community District 8 are at or above capacity and enrollment is growing rapidly within the district, and

WHEREAS Community District 8 elementary schools enrollment has been rising and portends the need for more middle school seats, and

WHEREAS class sizes have increased dramatically in recent years, and Community District 8 school have lost some of their Pre-Ks and cluster rooms to overcrowding, and

WHEREAS multiple schools sharing a building makes necessary coordinating and scheduling of shared spaces, starting and ending time of school days, and is highly challenging and time consuming for the administrators, teachers and students, and

WHEREAS co-location of a second elementary school in PS 158 has proved difficult with both schools requiring the use of the same specialty spaces at the same time, and

WHEREAS the challenges of sharing a building are often exacerbated when one school has more resources (e.g., a charter school) than the other, and

WHEREAS charter schools have resources and the means to find their own facilities outside of the Department of Education's building inventory, and

WHEREAS Community District 8 has already expressed, by a **unanimous vote, a strong desire for the vacant space at PS 158 to be used for a public middle school,**

WHEREAS in Community District 8 there are other properties available that are zoned to accommodate potential charter schools, and

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 opposes the authorization of any charter school, such as Success Academy, whether elementary or middle school, to co-locate with the zoned elementary school at PS 158.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that is the opinion of Community Board 8 that any charter school wishing to open in Community District 8 should seek space in its own building and **not** use the existing overcrowded public school infrastructure.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

James Clynes and Judith Schneider
Co-Chair, Youth and Education Committee

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York
Hon. Kathleen Grimm, Deputy Chancellor of Finance & Administration
Hon. Jeff Shear, Chief of Staff
Hon. Martin Barr, Executive Director, Department of Education
Marc Sternberg, Deputy Chancellor of Portfolio Planning
Elizabeth Rose, Chief of Staff for Public Affairs
Drew Patterson, Office of Portfolio, Department of Education
Mariano Guzman, Superintendent Community School District 2
Dara Adams, Office of Portfolio, Department of Education
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Rose Pierre-Louis, Deputy Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, United States Congress Member
Hon. Liz Krueger, New York State Senator
Hon. Micah Kellner, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Daniel Quart, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, New York City Council Member
Hon. Jessica Lappin, New York City Council Member
Hon. Robert Jackson, Chair, Education Committee, New York City Council
Kristen Ellis, Director of Comm. Affairs & Constituent Services, Manhattan Borough
President's Office
Shino Tanikawa, President CECD2