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York  
**Manhattan Community Board 8**  
**Youth & Education Committee Meeting**  
**Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center, 415 East 93 Street, Dining Room**  
**Tuesday, February 9, 2012 at 7:00 PM**

**Community Board Members (Present):** Jim Clynes, Ed Hartzog, Lorraine Johnson, Hattie Quarnstrom, Judy Schneider, M. Barry Schneider, Debbie Teitelbaum

**Community Board Members (Excused):** Lori Bores, Sarah Chu, Deidre Breslin, George Fuchs,

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

**A. Introductions**

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

**B. Continued discussion of the future use of vacant space at PS 158 and resolutions**

The chairs did a synopsis of the CECD2 Meeting on January 25, which was summarized on the back of the agenda for the committee meeting.

1. Elizabeth Rose of DOE spoke about the only two possible future uses of PS 158:

**AS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

- Elementary schools are zoned except for G&T.
- This is the first of many conversations with the CECD2 and the Community on the future use of the vacant space.
- The vacant space in the school will not have a new use in the school year starting September 2012. The reason is the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Floor flooring must be replaced during the summer and there may be a chance this will not be completed during that period. Therefore, an additional use in September would not be wise.
- DOE is now looking at the space for September 2013.
- The only use for the additional space in the building would be elementary or Middle school seats.
- This DOE did a walk-through of the school to access all the spaces. There are 50 full size class rooms and 17 half size classrooms and 6 administrative offices and 1.5 administrative spaces. At the current time, 30 full size class rooms, 11 half size class rooms and 6 administrative offices and 1.5 administrative spaces are being used.
- 158 has been growing and there is a potential of needing 3 additional size full class rooms over the coming years.
- A possibility for this building is for a 2 section Elementary school—**WHICH WOULD BE A SEPARATE SCHOOL FROM PS 158.**
- If the growth rate continues at a steady pace, 5 years down the road the district will need more space. We know this growth is not due to the birth rate because that is down in CD8. It is due to sociological factors such as the economic condition and that more children are going to public schools; schools are better and there is more choice, etc.

**AS A MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- Middle schools are district-wide choice schools.
- The numbers, according to the presentation on the CECD2 website, that there are more K students enrolling and the numbers drop off by the time you reach 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- The number of students starts to climb in 2015; however, more district wide middle schools planned to come on line.
- **THE DATA MUST BE WATCHED TO SEE THE TRENDS.**
- Possibilities are for a 3 or 4 section Middle school. (3 is more likely)
- East Side Middle had 4 sections (sections may have been smaller than what they plan for now)
- Discussion needs to occur on what kind of middle school if that is how 158 is to be used. There is plenty of time now to start those discussions before a decision is made for 2013.

2. The following 5 resolutions Presented and Voted on by the CECD2:

- The first resolution passed was that PS 158 should be a Middle School and the last resolve in the resolution was about the space not being used for a Charter School.
- Resolution for better public school capacity planning in NYC.
- Resolution for inspection and elimination of PCB's in schools.
- Resolution for reforming the City Environment Quality Review.
- Resolution to introduce Lower Lab (LL) Middle School into the upper floors of PS 158 when they become available.

This was the only resolution defeated by the CECD2 Board. Certain members of the board wanted it presented so that it would start the public debate on the use of the building. Such issues came up as: would the LL students automatically get in without being retested; could the principal support this school from another location and is there enough money in her budget to hire an Assistant Principal to be at 158; discussion of should this be a G&T verses a general education school etc.

3. Then the Community Board discussed 2 of the 5 resolutions and passed their own resolutions on the following issues:

➤ Charter Schools discussion resulted in the following comments:

- The unanimous sence of the committee members present was that PS 158 should be used as a middle school, as per the CB8 resolution passed in October, 2011.
- PS 158 has recently been co-located with East Side Middle School and currently PS 267. It was expressed by all that the facility works better when it is a middle school so the same age children do not need the same facilities at the same time such as cafeteria and specialty rooms etc. The schedule for Middle school children is different, such as they go out to lunch etc. They also occupy the upper floors of the building, which are harder for young children to climb.
- Parents expressed OVERWHELMINGLY last night and at prior meetings that they want their children to go to middle school close to home and not have to travel to the other end of the city for middle school.
- It was also brought up with all the new Kindergartens, where are the graduating 5<sup>th</sup> graders going to go to middle school? We do not have enough seats in Community District 8.
- The reason Charters came up for discussion is that the Daily News had an article on January 25 stating that Harlem Success Schools were looking for a location on the Upper East Side.
- A parent in attendance said that their child had received an unsolicited invitation to attend 3 open houses for Harlem Success School.
- The only current vacant school space is at PS 158 and it was felt by most that the charters should not use this space but seek their own building.
- It was felt by most that charter schools-be it an elementary or middle school-had an unfair advantage when they were located in a public school buildings. Charters are well funded and have more money to spend then the public schools; and may have advantages that the public school students in the same building will not be able to enjoy.
- One committee member thought this should be a charter elementary school.
- The following resolution was passed:

**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.

**VOTE: 6-1-0 (Yes: Clynes, Hartzog, Quarnstrom, J Schneider, M B Schneider, Teitelbaum  
No: Johnson Abstentions: 0)**

- Reforming the City Environment Quality Review standards for the number of school seats needed in our district.
  - This item is going to be brought before the Borough Board for all the Community Board Chairs of the various boards to vote on. Therefore, our committee needed to take a position and send it to the full board for a vote.
  - The following resolution was passed:

**WHEREAS** all residential construction results in an increased number of families;

**WHEREAS** an increase in the residential population is accompanied by an increase in needs for community and social services, such as schools, parks, police, and medical care;

**WHEREAS** a good public education is a right that should be afforded every resident in every neighborhood;

**WHEREAS** overcrowding continues to be a concern in UES schools, as well as in all of District 2;

**WHEREAS**, the City Environmental Quality Review formulas to calculate school seats for new residential development are based on long outdated assumptions [for example, the CEQR Technical Manual calculates new residential units to yield .55 K-8 public school children in the Bronx, but only .16 in Manhattan] leading to inadequate planning for school capacity;

**WHEREAS**, while all new residential construction and residential conversions, regardless of size, can potentially increase the school age population, only residential projects with a minimum of 310 units are required to conduct a detailed analysis of the potential impact on a public elementary or middle school in Manhattan according to the CEQR Technical Manual (Chapter 6 Table 6-1); and

**WHEREAS**, multiple projects that individually do not trigger a detailed analysis nonetheless can, in an aggregate, have a significant impact on the school age population and increase the demand for public school seats;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Community Board 8 urges the Department of City Planning to develop more accurate formulas and factors based on current data.

**VOTE: 6-0-0 (Yes Clynès, Hartzog, Quarnstrom, J Schneider, M B Schneider, Teitelbaum)**

**C. Update on 2<sup>nd</sup> teacher/aide in the classroom**

Genevieve Michael of Dan Garodnick's Office said that the office had been following up with Dara Adams of the DOE. They had been talking to the union, but no decision has been made at this time. They have every reason to believe that the same agreement will remain in place for the next school year.

**D. Future Meeting Dates:**

- March 12: Mariano Guzman District Superintendent on new Core Curriculum  
Location: Einhorn Auditorium. Lenox Hill Hospital, 131 East 76<sup>th</sup> Street
- April 9: The committee will not meet
- May 14: Presentation by Jamie Smarr, DOE, on the New PS 59 and Art & Design High School Old/New Business

**E. New/Old Business**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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