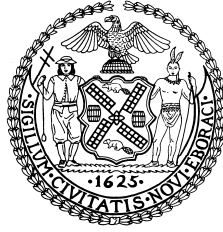


Nicholas D. Viest  
Chair

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, Lexington & 68<sup>th</sup> St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Glass Cafe**  
**Monday, March 10, 2014 at 7:00 PM**

**Community Board Members (Present):** Sarah Chu, Ed Hartzog, Sophia James, Hattie Quarnstrom, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider, Debbie Teitelbaum.

**Community Board Members (Excused):** Lori Bores, Lorraine Johnson, Jim Clynes,

**Community Board Public Members (Present):** Michael Hoffman

A. Introductions were made by everyone present.

B. Presentation by Lester Marks of Lighthouse Guild

- The Lighthouse Guild is an organization on 59<sup>th</sup> street that has been in operation for 108 years serving blind and visually impaired youth. Previously Lighthouse International, the organization merged with the Jewish Guild in 2004 and became the Lighthouse Guild
- The Lighthouse Guild runs a number of programs for youth ages 0-5 including an early intervention program for youth ages 0-3 with developmental disabilities and visual impairment, and a pre-school for youth aged 3-5
- The pre-school is integrated with about 80 students. Of these students, 50 have special needs. There are two classes exclusively for students with special needs and 5 additional integrated classes. Pre-K is run full-day, however there are morning only and afternoon options as well.
- The early intervention program is a morning session the children progress into the pre-k program
- Parents are offered a number of support services including a parent center for parents to share and provide support to each other.
- The school has approximately 30 full-time staff and 10-15 part-time staff.
- Children who attend programs at the Lighthouse Guild come from all over NYC and funding is provided through a variety of sources including City, State, and private tuition.
- Community Board 8 members are welcome to tour the facility. Please contact the chairs if you are interested.

C. Update on meeting for PS 177, Yorkville East Middle School

- By permission of Lindsay Armstrong, of DNAinfo, please see appended article at end of minutes.

E. Old/New Business

- Applications for Pre-K programs start March 3<sup>rd</sup> to April 23<sup>rd</sup> at public elementary schools and community-based organizations. You can apply on line or in-person at an Enrollment Office.  
**Please Note:** The DOE is working to create additional full-day pre-k programs. This may include converting some current half-day programs, establishing new full-day programs, and adding full-day classes to schools with existing full-day pre-k programs. The DOE will provide an opportunity for families to apply to new programs before the 2014-2015 school year begins. For the most up-to-date information, families should call 718-935-2009.

- Beginning this week, children may apply to New Middle School opening in our community for the 201-2015 school year. The Middle School application should be completed and submitted to your child's elementary school by Wednesday March 12, 2014.  
The New Middle School in our district is: **02M177 – Yorkville East Middle School.**
- Round 1 High School Admissions will be distributed the child's current school the week of March 10, 2014.  
Round 2 High School Admissions. All 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade students can participate in Round 2, including students who received an offer in Round 1. For students who are not satisfied with their Round 1 offer and choose to participate in Round 2, please note the following: 1) If you do not receive an offer in Round 2, you will keep your Round 1 offer. 2) If you receive an offer in Round 2, you will forfeit your Round 1 Offer. You will not be able to choose between the two offers. There will be **no appeal considered** back to Round 1.  
In Round 2, students can apply to new high schools opening in September 2014 and other programs with available seats. Beginning the week of March 10, 2014, the Application will be available through the current school guidance counselor. These Applications for Round 2 are due to the guidance counselor by Friday, March 21, 2014.
- Legal Bound High School Summer Internship Program offered by the DA's Office.  
The program is a rigorous six-week internship that provides students with an insider's view of the criminal justice system and law enforcement in New York County. This internship is open to rising **juniors and seniors in high school** who reside in Manhattan.  
Interns are assigned to various units within the office and assist attorneys and support staff with projects and other responsibilities. They also attend many law-related presentation and trips and prepare for a mock trial throughout the program.  
Only complete applications will be reviewed. Interviews will be scheduled on weekdays during after school hours throughout April and May. Not everyone who applies will be invited to an interview.  
Eligibility: 1) applicants must reside in Manhattan. 2) Must be a rising junior or senior in high school. 3) Must commit to attend entirety of program from July 7, 2014 – August 15, 2014, Mondays – Fridays from 9 am – 5 pm.  
Application Guidelines which must be postmarked by Friday, April 18, 2014: 1) A current resume. 2) An essay, no longer than two pages explaining their interest in the law. 3) A letter of Recommendation from current school. 4) A second letter of recommendation for a teacher, mentor or another individual the applicant has worked with.  
Submit Application to: NY County District Attorney's Office, Community Affairs Unit, Attn: Ms. Carol Ragsdale, One Hogan Place, Room 843, NY, NY 10013 or Email: [legalbound@dany.nyc.gov](mailto:legalbound@dany.nyc.gov)  
Questions: Contact the program supervisors: Jennifer Carino at 212-335-9064 or Denise Liriano at 212-335-3055.
- Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, 12<sup>th</sup> District, notes the following opportunities for High School Students and invites high school students who live or attend high school in the NY's 12<sup>th</sup> District to participate in:
  - 1) The House STEM APP Competition. An academic completion that challenges students to create a software application for mobile, table, or computer devices. The winning submission will be showcased with other winners from across the country on the U. S. House of Representative official website. To register and find additional information, create an account at [www.housestudentapps.challengepost.com](http://www.housestudentapps.challengepost.com) and visit: [Maloney.house.gov](http://Maloney.house.gov) for details.
  - 2) Congressional Art Competition. The competition provides an opportunity for young artists from across the country to showcase their talents in drawing, painting and photography. Winning submissions from each district are displayed for one year in the U. S. Capital. For addition information visit: [www.conginst.org](http://www.conginst.org) Submission deadline is Monday, April 21, 2014. Artwork must be delivered to Congresswoman Maloney's District Office at 1651 Third Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor by submission deadline.

#### F. Future Meeting Dates

- Next Meeting Date: Thursday, April 24, 2014

The meeting was adjourned.

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

# Parents Talk Admissions, Courses with Principal of New UES Middle School

By Lindsay Armstrong on January 15, 2014 6:23pm

MS. 177 will open for the 2014-2015 under the direction of Principal Christina Riggio.

YORKVILLE — Parents had the chance to meet the leader of a new Upper East Side middle school Tuesday night — peppering the incoming principal with questions ranging from the admissions process to math and foreign language classes.

M.S. 177 is slated to open in the fall of 2014 with Principal Christina Riggio at the helm. The school, which is the hard-won result of a campaign by parents and local leaders, will co-locate in the building occupied by P.S. 158 on York Avenue. M.S. 177 will eventually serve 250 to 300 middle school students, but many other details about the school are still hazy.

“The new school will be a close-knit learning environment that will serve a wide variety of folks,” said District 2 Superintendent Mariano Guzman, before fielding questions from parents at the meeting at P.S. 158.

Many of the questions concerned the admissions process, which parents said they found confusing.

M.S. 177 will be a school with limited screened admissions, meaning that half of the roughly 80 students who are admitted in the school’s inaugural year will have to meet certain admissions criteria, such as good grades or high test scores. The unscreened half of applicants will be admitted based on a lottery system, with preference given to those who attend an information session.

Drew Patterson, a Department of Education representative, emphasized that students can apply through both the screened and unscreened options simultaneously. For this year only, students can rank M.S. 177 as a top option without risking their chance of admission to other screened schools.

Parents also asked how Riggio plans to evaluate students who apply through the screened option. She said she was still developing the criteria, which may include a writing assignment and an interview. She expected to have a decision within the next few weeks.

Riggio is also working on creating a website for the school so that parents can access information as it is updated.

Other parents wanted to know specifics about the curriculum, including whether or not the school would offer foreign language and Regents-level math classes in the eighth grade.

Riggio said that there will be no language classes in the first year, but that students may be able to study other language during lunch or in after-school clubs. She plans to offer Regents courses eventually, but has not made a firm decision on which math curriculum she will use.

Instead, Riggio said that the school will emphasize interdisciplinary and project-based learning. She gave the example of a sixth-grade unit on Greece in which students will study and write myths in English class, design their own civilizations in social studies, and analyze methods for archaeological dating in science class.

Riggio has not served as a principal before, but has taught at the middle school level and worked in other educational leadership roles. After teaching social studies at JHS 117 in The Bronx, she went on to work as an achievement coach at the Children First Network. A Teach for America alum, Riggio also completed Columbia Teachers’ College Summer Principals Academy.

Working with middle school students holds a special appeal for her, she told the assembled crowd Tuesday.

“I love middle school,” she said. “It’s a transitional time in kids’ lives. With change comes an opportunity to expand their interests and their love of learning.”

In spite of the uncertainties, many parents were still excited about the possibilities of the new school.

“It is untested,” said Jyoti Mahtani, whose daughter will apply for middle school next year. “However, I also think it could be a great opportunity for a child — to be a founding member of a school is special.”

Matthew Chook, the co-president of the PTA at P.S. 267, was also hopeful. “Yes, there are still some questions,” he said. “But I think it will be a success because the parents and community leaders of District 2 won’t accept anything less.”

middleschool177@gmail.com email address for Principal Riggio