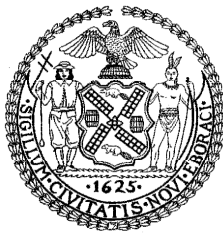


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8
Youth & Education Committee Meeting
NY Blood Center, 310 East 67 Street, Auditorium
Monday, May 14, 2012 at 7:00 PM

Community Board Members (Present): Lori Bores, Jim Clynes, Ed Hartzog, Hattie Quarnstrom, Judy Schneider, M. Barry Schneider

Community Board Members (Excused): Sarah Chu, Deidre Breslin, George Fuchs, Lorraine Johnson, Debbie Teitelbaum

Community Board Public Members: Michael Hoffman

Community Board Public Members (Excused): Sophia James

A. Introductions & Presentation on the new PS 59 and Art & Design High School

After everyone introduced themselves, Jamie Smarr of the Education Construction Fund, Adam Semel of Skidmore Owings & Merrill and Julia Hodgson of World Wide Holdings made a short PowerPoint presentation on each school and answered questions. They are almost complete and have started to move the furniture into the two buildings. The buildings are set back so that there will be a 23 foot wide sidewalk to accommodate the children. Each school will have open play space for the children on the various setbacks.

The Whole Foods space has been turned over to the tenant and they are expecting to open for business during the summer.

The next phase of the project will be World Wide Holdings to start building their apartment building. They will coordinate closely with the schools during the course of construction, as they have done while the new schools are being built.

Jamie will arrange for members of the committee, and board members who are interested; to have a tour of both schools the third week in June, once the C of O is obtained.

B. Loss of our Beacon Program at PS 198 run by Stanley Isaacs and Child Care Programs in FY 2013 Budget

Unfortunately our guest speaker Wanda Wooten could not make the meeting at the last minute. But after a discussion of the proposed budget cuts for this FY in Child Care and Beacon Programs, we passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS Community Board 8 believes in the value of community based services for Child Care and Youth Programs, and

WHEREAS the Stanley Isaacs Center opened its Beacon program at PS 198, in 1998, and its program provides:

- After school for 160 elementary and 175 middle school age children, Monday to Friday from 3 to 6 pm;
- Tutoring, mentoring, sports and recreation Monday to Friday from 6 to 9 pm and keeps 264 teens engaged in constructive activities;
- College preparation workshops, Saturday preparation, college exposure, help with financial aid applications and college applications for 245 low income young people who aspire and apply for college;
- Adult and family recreation for 500 participants and creates a place for important family time activities, and

WHEREAS at the end of March, more than 1,400 people have turned to the Isaacs Beacon Program as an important community resource, and it is expected to serve almost double the 950 participants required under their contract, and

WHEREAS both the needs of the school population and the program utilization rates should drive funding decisions and **not the zip codes**, and

WHEREAS the Mayor's preliminary budget for FY 2013 is proposing to cut seven Beacon and Child Care Programs serving more than 47,000 children, and

WHEREAS these cuts will result in 90,000 fewer children having access to these programs than in 2009 (a 61% decrease),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8M strongly urges the City Council to restore the funding for Beacon and Child Care Programs in this FY 2013 budget.

Vote: 4-0-0-1 (Yes-Bores, Clynes, J Schneider, B Schneider/1 Not Voting for Cause-Quarnstrom)

Public Member: 1-0-0 (Yes-Hoffman)

C. Community Education Council District 2 (CECD2) Resolution

The CECD2 passed a resolution calling on the City to think creatively on how to fund the development of new schools and to recalculate the demand for school seats. Many of the Community Boards in Manhattan have already passed the following resolution. It is going to be brought to the Borough Board and chair will be asked to take a position. After discussion the committee passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the city's population is growing; projections from the Department of City Planning anticipate a 1.1 million increase by 2030, bringing the city's population total to 9.1 million, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the population growth, the demand for city services, including fire, police, libraries, and schools has increased, and

WHEREAS, the demand for public schools has increased in all districts especially in District 2, and

WHEREAS, in District 2 between 30% to 55% of families, depending on particular neighborhoods, are sending their children to public school, and

WHEREAS, District 2 has had more capacity added but overcrowding and wait lists still exist, and

WHEREAS, more than 60% of District 2 schools are over 100% of capacity and more than 50% of 4th and 5th grade classes have over 28 students per class, and

WHEREAS, District 2 parents and the Community Education Council District 2 have requested that more schools be built, and the NYC Department of Education has stated that there are not sufficient funds to build new schools, and

WHEREAS, having a good public education is a right and a mandate, and it is beneficial to all of NYC citizens to have properly educated children, and

WHEREAS, the city has an obligation to the citizens of NYC to have sufficient school seats for its children, and to match school capacity to our growing population,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Community Board 8 calls upon the city to think creatively to fund development of more school capacity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Community Board 8 urges the city and the School Construction Authority to re-calculate the demand for school seats based on each school zone and take into consideration residential development and birth rates by neighborhood rather than the Capital Plan sub-districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the city continues to provide incentives and benefits to developers to build new residential housing, Community Board 8 urges the city to have new residential developments contribute to the construction of more school seats for our children within that neighborhood and sub-district.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Yes-Bores, Clynes, Hertzog, Quarnstrom J Schneider, B Schneider)

Public Member: 1-0-0 (Yes-Hoffman)

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

Genevieve Michael of Council Member Garodnick's Office could not be with us, but she sent an email stating they were following up the issue and hoped to be able to report on the progress of this issue at our June Meeting.

E. Wait lists and re-zoning

The Department of Education (DOE) announced they would be hosting a community meeting to discuss wait lists and alternate offers on Wednesday, May 16, at 6:00 p.m. at P.S. 89, located at 201 Warren Street, for District 2 elementary schools.

At this meeting, representatives from the Office of Student Enrollment and the Office of Portfolio Management will discuss the status of the wait lists and will clarify next steps regarding alternate offers. They said they are committed to working with parents to ensure that every child has a kindergarten placement for the upcoming school year.

There will be movement on the wait lists as families who receive other placements decline their offers. Families who remain on the wait list will be given alternate offers by the end of June, after offers to charter schools and Gifted & Talented programs have been made. As attrition from the zoned schools roster continues over the summer, families will continue to be offered seats in those schools, even if they have accepted an alternate offer or other placement..

Community District 8 had wait lists for September 2012 at PS 290 and PS 59.

We spoke with Drew Patterson, at the Department of Education, and he indicated that we would most likely have re-zoning again in September, for the fourth year. They are going to be zoning for the new PS 281 at the former Con Ed site, which is expected to open in September 2013. This rezoning will probably affect PS 59 and PS 267 and will be followed up at our September meeting.

F. Updates

We are continuing to follow up with the DOE and the CECD2 on the use of PS 158 as a middle school. This summer the school will undergo some renovation to the flooring on the upper stories.

PS 527 will most likely have two Kindergarten classes in September. The principal is planning to meet with the parents in June. He already has a website up for the school.

G. Future Meeting Dates

June 11: Park Avenue Armory will speak about their Art program with PS 198; we are following up on other art programs that maybe presented that evening.

July and August: There will be no meeting, unless an important issue comes up that call for immediate attention.

H. Old /New business

Jenny Berggren, of the Yorkville Library Branch, came to speak to us about supporting restoration of the funding for library services that we have come to depend on. Attached is a letter of support to the Mayor, Speaker and Council Member Garodnick, which she hopes everyone will sign and mail. She also distributed literature on the various programs available at the library.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

