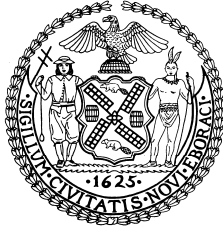


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8
Youth & Education Committee Meeting
NY Blood Center, 310 East 67 Street, Auditorium
Monday, May 13, 2013 at 7:00 PM

Community Board Members (Present): Sarah Chu, Ed Hartzog, Sophia James, Judy Schneider, Barry Schneider,

Community Board Members (Excused): Lori Bores, Jim Clynes, Lorraine Johnson, Hattie Quarnstrom, Debbie Teitelbaum

Community Board Public Members Present: Michael Hoffman

A. Introductions were made by everyone present.

B. Featuring PS 6 with Principal Lauren Fontana and the PTA President Michelle Doty

- Principal Fontana was a teacher before she became principal of PS 6 for the last 7 years. The school has almost 800 students but they strive to function as a small school and to have a small school feel because of how the students and parents are involved. Amazing teaching staff with 50% of the teachers there more than 7 years and the others are newer hirers.
- There are 32 Classrooms, 5 classes per grade for K through 5. They have always had CTT and ICT classes in every grade and in 3 through 5 one self contained classroom per grade. They have assistant teachers financially supported by the PTA, so that every class has at least 2 teachers. The assistant teachers are licensed or graduate students. The teachers run workshops for the assistant teachers. There is one full time guidance counselor and one part time, as the principal feels the social and emotional focus is as important as the educational programs.
- PTA supplements drama and movement classes, in addition to the music and art provided by the school. Council Member Garodnick provides a CASA Grant, which allows 5th graders to go to the Guggenheim to study art and that is carried over into the daily program ending up in an exhibit in the school.
- Peer Mediators is a program consisting of 18 4th and 5th grade students. They go out at lunch time with the younger children in the play yard to mediate any conflicts and this year they even participated with their peers at lunch. The school has found that the conflicts have diminished substantially.
- The school has three different team events the students try out for: Track, Ultimate Ball and Rigo Ball. Most of the students participate in one of the sports.
- The science curriculum is being re-designed around the new eco center on the roof. There is one full time and one part-time science teacher. Some of what they have accomplished on the roof is: planting of seeds, used grow lights, eaten the food grown, hydroponic planting, composting, recycling and this year planting a butterfly garden.
- PTA President Michelle Doty spoke about many of the programs that have been established over the years.
 - Their goal is to build Community. One of the ways is through their committee system so there are a number of different entry points for the over 1,200 parents to get involved. The Copy Cats is one group of parents that come to the school daily on a schedule to help do all the coping for the assistant teachers, as well as helping wherever needed.
 - They have an Outreach Committee for children and parents who are ill. This is a delicate issue, as families may not want people to know. So when possible they reach out to supply meals and take the children out on dates.
 - Spirit Night was conceived for parents to get together in the school yard and celebrate after the difficult year with Sandy and then the Newtown tragedy.

- They do fun activities as well as Fund Raising activities. Fund raising has gotten smarter and less labor intensive with the same amount raised. They ask for a family gift every year. The amount received has stayed the same, but the average gift is lower with more families participating.
- Buddy program is set to welcome Kindergarten and new families and have someone to answer their questions. They do a Meet & Greet at the beginning of each year.
- The PTA learned from the Community Board that they were the only school that did not have a co-presidency and they have now changed their by-laws so this is possible. This will make the transition easier for the new person who can be trained to be the next co-president.

C. Middle School Update on the use of PS 158 vacant space, to open in September, 2014 with a 6th Grade class

- On April 28 the CEC held a community meeting on the status of the Middle School at PS 158. DOE did a short presentation on different types of Middle Schools. Parents then gave their opinions on the type of school it should be. It was split between a screened school not just based on test scores and an unscreened school.
- June 4th, at 6 pm, at PS 158, 1458 York Avenue there will be a DOE public hearing on a proposal to have a choice process where 50% of the seats will be filled through a screened admissions method and 50% of the seats will be filled through a limited unscreened admissions method.
- June 19, at 6 pm at Michael J. Petrides School, 715 Ocean Terrace, Staten Island the Panel for Education Policy will meet to vote on this proposed item.
- A thorough discussion of the above proposal by the DOE then occurred and it seemed everyone had questions and a different interpretation of exactly what was being proposed.
- Everyone was encouraged to speak with parents and to **attend the meeting at PS 158 on JUNE 4TH**
- In the interim (before the June 4 meeting) the elected officials are trying to arrange a meeting with the DOE to get further clarification of the above and to represent the parents of CD8.

D. Follow-up with Council Member Garodnick on 2nd Teacher/Aide in the classroom.

- Bravo Council Member Garodnick and to your staff for getting an agreement in April on this issue for the next school year. It has been agreed to keep the same structure in place for one more year for hiring the second aide in the classroom.

E. Old/New Business

- Update on PS 51/PS 267
 - PS 51 is on schedule for its move back to the west side in September. The construction is on schedule. The principal and staff have picked the furniture and the paint colors for the school. The lobby will have art work. They will not see school until July when the C of O has been obtained.
 - PS 267 Principal McCormick said he expects the roof to be finished shortly. They do not expect to need the play street for the younger children that are at the school now—the roof should be sufficient.
- Wait Lists for Students for September 2013
 - PS 183 had 25/26 on a wait list initially. There are none now and have openings for 9 students
 - PS 290 had 41 students initially and took 15 as of this meeting there are 26 remaining on the list

F. Future Meeting Dates:

- June 10: Featuring PS/IS 217 Principal Beckman & PTA President + GED discussion and resolution

Judith Schneider
Co-Chair, Youth and Education Committee