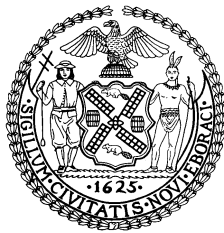


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**The City of New York  
Manhattan Community Board 8  
Youth & Education, Committee Meeting  
NY Blood Center, 310 East 67<sup>th</sup> Street Auditorium  
Monday, May 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM**

**Community Board Members (Present):** Debbie Teitelbaum, Hattie Quarnstrom-Figueroa, Ed Hartzog, Lorraine Johnson, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider, Lori Bores, David Menegon

**Community Board Members (Excused):** Sarah Chu, Sophia James

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

A. Everyone present introduced themselves

B. Presentation by Dr. Jay Russell (Head master) and Leslie Zuckerwise (Principal) of the Windward School

- Windward school was founded by Isabelle Greenbaum Stone in 1926. In April 1929, five moms bought the property in White Plains, NY as a typical progressive day school for grades 1-4. The school has evolved over time. In 1986 the school changed to a school for language-based learning disabilities, otherwise known as dyslexia.
- Students have average or above average intelligence but have difficulty in learning how to read and write well. School has over 30 years of laser-like focus on these kids.
- Mr. Russell was a public school superintendent for 11 years. To get in to Windward, you need to "fail" the entrance exam. The goal is to have the kids do very well and then mainstream into other schools. They take the kids who need them the most. 98% of the kids mainstream, leaving Windward at above-average reading levels.
- School is a not-for-profit. In 2000, trustees decided to open another campus in Harrison, NY, 7 miles from the White Plains campus. There are 567 kids on both campuses. They turn away two to three times more kids because they don't have the seats.
- A third campus will be opening on 93rd street. Another 350 students will be fully enrolled but will start with 104 students in grades 3-6. The next year, they will add grades 2 and 7 and then the following year they will open grades 1 and 8.
- It takes two years to train a Windward teacher. It is a method-based ideology.
- Windward has been planning this school for 6 years.
- Windward is community-minded and gives back to the community. They think that other teachers at local schools should learn their methods of teaching so Windward provides two community lectures per year.
- Kids spend an intensive amount of time in the classroom. Students cannot have behavioral or emotional issues. This is about language based learning disabilities. Kids are never unsupervised.
- Families find out about Windward through word of mouth. Windward has a relationship with the Children's Storefront School in Harlem. Windward sets aside 10% of their budget for financial aid for students.
- IDEA Act requires local agencies to provide free appropriate aid. Parents can pressure the city for tuition reimbursement for independent schools.
- Parent workshops are offered 12 times/year.
- Unlike public schools, Windward groups children by skill level so that teachers can focus on instruction. Three campuses are treated as one school. Children may travel to a campus (which campus child attends is not based on where the child lives.)
- Related will not be done in September for opening so Windward has a swing space on 97th Street and Amsterdam for September and then plan on moving to the new facility in January.
- There will be a public park next to the building. Half of the old playground on 92nd street will be plantings.
- Windward is an independent school but 50% of the kids come from public schools.

- The school district reevaluates students every three years, but this often doesn't take place.
- To apply, an independent evaluation must be done. The student must have average or above-average intelligence and language-based disabilities.
- Windward went into partnership with Related 6 years ago, after looking at other locations downtown.
- School hours are 8am - 3:30pm. Teachers begin at 7:30am.
- Leslie Zuckerwise is principal. Teachers are trained for two years. Kids get immediate feedback.

**B.** Update on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Teacher/Aide in the classroom. Council member Garodnick's Office has informed us that this matter will be handled the same way as over the past few years.

**C.** Old/New Business:

June meeting will take place on Roosevelt Island. Committee will not meet in July.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Hattie Quarnstrom-Figueroa and Debbie Teitelbaum, Co-Chair, Youth and Education Committee