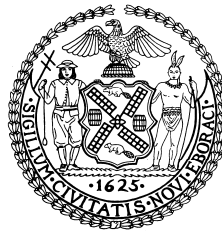


Jacqueline Ludorf
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

June 17, 2010

Chancellor Joel Klein
NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

RE: Discussion of retention of the G & T program at Roosevelt Island School PS 217

Dear Chancellor Klein:

At the Full Board meeting Wednesday, June 16, 2010, Manhattan Community Board 8 adopted the following resolution by a vote of 40 in favor, 0 opposed 0 abstentions and 1 no voting for cause:

WHEREAS, in September 2009 the DOE established a Gifted and Talented (G&T) program at PS217 on Roosevelt Island, starting with Kindergarten, and

WHEREAS, the students attending this new G&T program were drawn from Manhattan, Roosevelt Island and Queens, and

WHEREAS, there are enough students from Queens District 30 that are eligible and would like to attend the Roosevelt Island G&T program, but were not given the option, and

WHEREAS, the DOE did not give the G&T program on Roosevelt Island enough time to take hold in the educational community before deciding to close it down, and

WHEREAS, transportation to school during this year and the beginning of next year may have been seen as a problem by some parents, due to the closure of the Tram for an indefinite amount of time,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 strongly recommends that the DOE keep the G&T program on Roosevelt Island.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 strongly recommends that the DOE make the G&T program on Roosevelt Island a CITYWIDE School, thereby allowing the students to apply to any middle school for which they are eligible.

Please advise this office of your action taken in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Ludorf
Chair

James Clynes and Judith Schneider
Co-Chair, Youth and Education Committee

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York
Hon. Dennis M. Walcott, Deputy Mayor for Policy
Hon. John White, Department of Education
Hon. Kathleen Grimm, Deputy Chancellor of Finance & Administration
Hon. Jeff Shear, Chief of Staff
Hon. Martin Barr, Executive Director, Department of Education
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Rose Pierre-Louis, Deputy Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, United States Congress Member
Hon. Liz Krueger, New York State Senator
Hon. Jonathan Bing, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Micah Kellner, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, New York City Council Member
Hon. Jessica Lappin, New York City Council Member
Hon. Robert Jackson, Chair, Education Committee, New York City Council
Marc Sternberg, Deputy Chancellor of Portfolio Planning
Elizabeth Rose, Office of Portfolio, Department of Education
Jenny Sobelman, Office of Public Affairs, Department of Education
Anthony Borelli, Director of Land Use, Manhattan Borough President's Office
Kristine Ellis, Community Liaison, Manhattan Borough President's Office
Daria Rigney, Superintendent Community School District 2
T. Elzora Cleveland, President, CEC District 2
Ms. Mandana Beckman, Principal, PS 217
Ms. Nikki Leopold, PTA President, PS 217