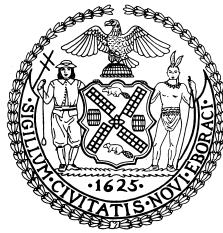


Jacqueline Ludorf
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

June 17, 2011

Hon. Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor
Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, New York 10007

RE: Extend Lease or Purchase Our Lady of Good Counsel School

Dear Chancellor Walcott:

At its Full Board meeting Wednesday, June 15, 2011, Manhattan Community Board 8 adopted the following resolution by a vote of 45 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions:

WHEREAS district wide overcrowding is a serious problem and plagues the majority of our elementary and middle schools, and

WHEREAS the growth of Kindergarten enrollments continue at the current pace and the Upper East Side would be home to additional 145 Kindergarten students each year and would require 870 new elementary school seats, according to a census study conducted by Eric Greenleaf of the District 2 Community Education Council and Sam Stein, the Urban Fellow assigned to CB8M this past fall, and

WHEREAS these students will also need additional middle school and high school facilities in the near future, and

WHEREAS the two new schools, PS 267 and PS 151, would temporarily relieve the overcrowding, they will not alleviate the need for additional elementary seats, and

WHEREAS PS 267, PS 151, PS 198, and PS 158 are being asked to take on the burden of the waitlisted students at PS 59 and PS 290, putting additional pressure on these schools, and

WHEREAS PS 151 was to have only five Kindergarten Classes in September it will now have six, which will make future classrooms in the upper grades overcrowded and will cause a reduction in cluster rooms, and

WHEREAS PS 267 is to move to a building that will only have the capacity to house three sections per grade and is being asked to accept up to five sections, and

WHEREAS we do not want to sacrifice proper facilities for our students such as our cluster classrooms, Pre-K and G&T, to accommodate the rise in the number of Kindergartners, and

WHEREAS the uncertainty of budget cuts and teacher layoffs make it difficult for principals to plan effectively, and

WHEREAS Manhattan (including District 2 and other Manhattan districts) is slated to absorb over half of the proposed cuts to the 2010-14 Capital Plan, setting the stage for chronic seat shortages through 2014 and beyond, and

WHEREAS the failure of the Department of Education to add classrooms seats at this time will seriously impact the quality of education in Community District 8M for years to come,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8M urges the Department of Education to negotiate an extension of the lease for Our Lady of Good Council School (OLGC) or to purchase the property IMMEDIATELY.

We would appreciate your advising this office of any action taken regarding this matter.

Thank you for your attention 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. 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
Kristen Ellis, Director of Comm. Affairs & Constituent Services, Manhattan Borough
President's Office
Daria Rigney, Superintendent Community School District 2
Ms. T. Elzora Cleveland, President CECD2