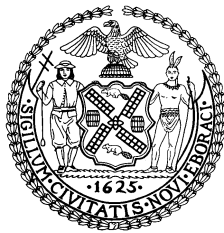


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8
Joint Meeting Youth & Education and Roosevelt Island Committee
PS/IS 217, 645 Main Street, Roosevelt Island, Auditorium
Monday, June 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Community Board Members (Present): Debbie Teitelbaum, Hattie Quarnstrom-Figueroa, Ed Hartzog, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider, Sophia James, Jeffrey Escobar, Ellen Polivy, Michael Hoffman (Public Member), Betsy Tiffany (Public Member)
Community Board Members (Excused): Sarah Chu, David Menegon, Lori Bores, Lorraine Johnson, Larry Parnes

A. Everyone present introduced themselves

B. Presentation on Cornell Tech/ PS/IS 217 partnership by Principal Beckman, PS/IS 217 Roosevelt Island and Diane Levitt, Senior Director K-12 Education for Cornell Tech

- Cornell and PS/IS 217 share a joint vision for a public school system where every child has content/skills/strategy where kids can build something digital
- Through Cornell's agreement with the City of New York, their adoption of PS/IS 217 includes STEM curriculum development, professional development for teachers, after school classes, and hardware/software development
- The partnership has already begun and the work has formalized since Ms. Levitt assumed the role of Senior Director K-12 Education 18 months ago
- Cornell Tech and PS/IS 217 have a steering committee comprised of principals, teachers, PTA representatives, and two representatives from Cornell Tech, and RIOC which meets every 4-6 weeks. The steering committee is currently discussing their vision going forward.
- PS/IS 217 is interested in developing a K-8 strategy for the facility with computing, professional development, curriculum, and tools. Currently the partnership is bringing "episodes" of things that are being tried and tested at the school. Episodes are short term events/projects that introduce students and staff to technology and STEM
- Professional development has been offered- last summer a PS/IS 217 math teacher attended a training on boot strap which is a program, aligned with the common core, which teaches algebra by building algebra games. The aim of boot strap is to replace 20 hours of algebra curriculum.
- Students in 5,6,7,8 grades have had one period of coding all year
- Cornell Tech has also brought in a consultant, Rick Campbell, to work with middle school teachers to develop an inquiry based curriculum. Teachers will implement this until in the fall with the consultant. The curriculum will focus on energy independence and students will answer the question "can we get Roosevelt Island off the grid"
- Cornell Tech also plans to hold a tech event/career day every year. This year Cornell Tech brought 30 masters students from Cornell Tech to work with 80 students in grades 6, 7, and 8. They gave them the challenge to build games around earth day. The graduate students provided the middle school students with data and the students got to work on projects with the graduate students.
- Last summer, Cornell Tech experimented with the organization, Girls Who Code, and sent 8 middle school students from PS/IS 217 to their summer camp. However, Girls Who Code is now exclusively offered to high school students, so Cornell tech needs to rethink the summer program.
- Cornell Tech has partnered with the Natural History Museum which is building a 2 week curriculum that blends science and computing with Roosevelt Island and Harlem students. The curriculum will center on a bird study and students will code in python and visit the museum twice. The curriculum was developed by a professor at Lehman College and will last 2 weeks with approximately 15-20 kids.
- Next year Cornell tech is looking to find funding for a robotics league and will look for opportunities to bring students to the campus for field trips.

- Cornell tech also is working with a group of graduate students who won a start-up grant to implement a program called “Mynd”, a blue tooth network that tracks students on a field trip. This group will beta test the program with PS/IS 217 students. Mynd will provide teachers with ipads and will pay for field trips so they can follow the students. PS/IS 217 students will get to be part of technology testing.

B. Report on 75 Morton Street, Board member Sophia James reported on the new District 2 middle school being built downtown.

- Expected opening Fall 2017 for current 3rd grade students in District 2 and D75 students citywide (up to 900 general education, initially 600-700 students)
- Easily accessible from public transportation: M20 bus and A, C, E, B, D, F, M and 1 and L trains
- Construction schedule is on track, lots of demolition work remains. No site visits prior to obtaining certificate of occupancy. Possibility of virtual tour to be addressed next year.
- School walk-through: it is an L-shaped building with playground/outdoor yard space; large windows to maintain historic context; cafeteria built to be an open, welcoming space with a lot of sunlight; 2nd floor will house the D75 students (80-100), the 4th floor will have an enlarged library and the 6th-7th floors will have classrooms and the gym (dual use as gym and auditorium – total seating up to 500 with bleacher seating that will be retractable, enough space for school/public events, and includes auxiliary room); featured samples of color scheme and texture; fully accessible building; and the ground floor to be utilized as community gathering area. There will be in-door ventilation (heat/cold) that meet standards, and there will be hallway lockers. There will be specialized classrooms, such as 3 science labs, 2 art rooms, 2 music rooms and guidance counselor suites (these rooms will be scattered throughout the building). The inclusion of SP classes are under consideration, to be decided if the school is zoned.
- There will be a school-based health clinic located at the basement level (the health clinic was advocated by the local Council Member and the community)
- A portion of the school roof is reserved for future green roof development
- To be determined by the DOE, admissions options include screening, limited unscreen, and unscreen; typically in secondary education, students audition, receive an educational opportunity or must be zoned for the district.
- A school principal should be identified by January 2017, but considering other funding resources so the principal could start at an earlier date. Open to community input on the process.
- The DOE “new” school process encourages parent involvement and feedback on:
 - Programming at middle and D75 schools
 - Admissions
 - Qualities of principal
 - Community and school partnerships
- Provide input before middle school admissions cycle begins in Fall 2016
- 75MCA is a volunteer group established in 2013 to represent the community in CECD2 throughout the design, construction and building of a new school at 75 Morton Street
- Goal: Position 75 Morton for success through parent engagement
- Facilitated three envisioning meetings attended by over 100 parents and educators
- Reached community consensus on grade configuration, building design principles, D75 programming and community school model
- Worked closely with SCA on design of new school
- Continuing dialog with DOE about new school process
- Continue outreach to District 2 and District 75 schools, which includes bi-monthly calls with CB2 and CECD2, and formal working groups
- Plan and host 2-3 envisioning meetings Fall 2015 through Fall 2016
- Engage with DOE and elected officials
- Serve as parent representative for your child’s schools (must be in District 2)
- Join a 75MCA Committee
 - Outreach and Needs Assessment

- Envisioning Planning
- Communication: Website design, photography, graphic design, mailing list management
- Monday, June 1st 75MCA planning meeting at PS 33 (281 Ninth Avenue)
- Contact: 75Morton@gmail.com

C. Old/New Business: Update on the 2nd 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.

- Committee will not meet in July/August.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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