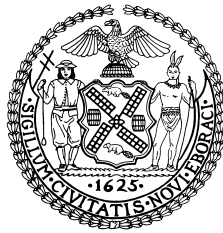


Jacqueline Ludorf
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

October 20, 2011

Hon. Shino Tanikawa, President
Community Education Council District 2
333 Seventh Avenue #806,
New York, New York 10001

RE: PS 158 becoming a Middle School

Dear Ms. Tanikawa:

At its Full Board meeting Wednesday, October 19, 2011, Manhattan Community Board 8 adopted the following resolution by a vote of 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions, 1 no vote for cause:

WHEREAS PS 158, the Bayard Taylor School at 1458 York Avenue, has for a number of years, accommodated the East Side Middle School located on the upper floors of the building, and

WHEREAS PS 158 presently has PS 267 elementary school temporarily located in their building until September 2012, and

WHEREAS PS 158 will have vacant school capacity in September 2012, and

WHEREAS the increasing elementary-school student population in the UES over the last several years has resulted in a substantial increase in Kindergarten classes in Community District 8, and

WHEREAS this wave of students will reach middle school soon and because a growing population of students remain in the City and in the UES public school system, there is a need to increase middle school capacity, and

WHEREAS there are already signs of overcrowding in the existing Upper East Side Middle Schools, and

WHEREAS the community has strongly expressed that PS 158 should not be a 1,200 seat elementary school, which would strain the facilities available to the students, such as the cafeterias, narrow hallways, cluster rooms, etc., and

WHEREAS the Community does not favor co-locating another elementary school in this building, as additional K-5 aged students would exacerbate the aforementioned strain on facilities, and

WHEREAS Wagner Middle School and East Side Middle School are the only middle schools located in CD 8, and

WHEREAS the closest East Side Middle Schools outside Community District 8 are located in the East 20's. and

WHEREAS PS 158 had compatibly housed the East Side Middle school before its move to their new location, and

WHEREAS the East Side Middle school co-location was suited to PS 158 because the middle school used the facility in a different manner than would an elementary school, such as allowing students to leave the building for lunch,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 requests that the Department of Education (DOE) dedicate the vacant space in PS 158 once again to a Middle School, respecting the wishes of a great many members of the community, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DOE include the Community Education Council District 2 (CECD2) in holding hearings for community input to determine the type of program to be located there, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CECD2 make this recommendation to the DOE before the CECD2 decides on the current zoning plan for Community District 8, so that both can make an informed decision knowing the number of Kindergarten seats planned for PS 158, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Community Board 8 recommends this change occur in time for the September 2012 school year

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. Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor
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