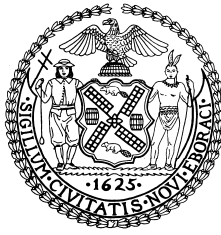


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8
Youth & Education Committee Meeting
NY Blood Center, 310 East 67 Street, Auditorium
Monday, October 15, 2012 at 7:00 PM

Community Board Members (Present): Sarah Chu, Jim Clynes, Ed Hartzog, Hattie Quarnstrom, Judy Schneider, M. Barry Schneider, Debbie Teitelbaum

Community Board Members (Excused): Lori Bores, Deidre Breslin, George Fuchs, Lorraine Johnson

Community Board Public Members (Present): Michael Hoffman

Community Board Public Members (Excused): Sophia James

A. Introductions were made by everyone present.

B. Update on PS 527 by Principal Daniel McCormick and PTA Co-Presidents Dana Gross & Miriam Quart

- Principal McCormick stated that after 10 months of planning with the parents, the school finally opened their doors last month and are off to a good start with engaged families and excellent teachers.
- Presently they are sharing their building with PS 51 for this school year, then 51 will return to their new home on the west side.
- This year there are 2 kindergarten classes, but when the school is fully populated it will contain 3 sections of k through 5. All the current students are zoned for their school.
- A long term lease has been signed for the building for 15 years. The construction on the upper floor and the roof is expected to be completed by the end of December.
- The focus of the curriculum is Global Studies and Social Action. The students are to learn and understand about who they are as people, where they are in NYC and different cultures and people abroad. The major theme this year is homes and habits here and abroad and the social action piece is on homelessness and habitat construction. Each year each grade will focus on a different theme. Next year could be food/social action piece will be hunger.
- All the programs are funded for: visual arts, music, physical education, chess in schools, Spanish, and partnerships with Asphalt Green and the 92nd Street Y.
- The school will not have a parent coordinator until the 3rd Grade, when there will be 200 students in the school, which is the threshold.
- The PTA has been established with 2 co-presidents that have been there since day 1—Dana Gross and Miriam Quart
 - These parents started forming their group by attending CB8 & CEC meetings during the re-zoning period. The school has 44 families.
 - The PTA is working hard on fund raising and any help/suggestions that can be given in that area will be appreciated.
 - The parents want to make sure the school can contribute to the community particularly the social action portion—if there are any suggestions from the community on implementing this piece the PTA will be glad to hear them.

- A question about the school's name, the East Side School for Social Action, was read into the record and the principal responded:
 - Naming a school is an interesting process. DOE Public Relations team asked for ideas from the principal. Simple names such as Yorkville Elementary were unfortunately too close to names already chosen. Suggestions from parents, such as a former president, could not be used because there is a rule about naming a school after anyone still living (in case that individual were to act unbecomingly). Everything kept getting rejected. DOE asked what was currently being focused on and the principal answered the planning of global studies and social action portion of the curriculum . So East Side School for Social Action was suggested and accepted. After 6 years, the students will graduate with a background and be familiar with the world's greatest problems.
 - PTA Co-presidents said parents were surprised when they heard the name. The name is really different from any of the other names on the UES. However, the UES is an area that has a cache of the “**haves**” and where there are a lot of resources such as institutions and co-op/condos that can contribute to the PTA. Homelessness and hunger aren't pervasive on the UES. It is important to expose our children to the social piece of the people who are the “**have nots**”. The parents are very proud of the name.
 - This was not in the original mission statement, but as the full vision for the school emerged the mission statement has been updated.
 - There have been no complaints from parents or neighbors about the name to the school.

C. Update and comments on current Community District 8 Re-zoning to be submitted to CECD2

- There have been two CEC Meetings to discuss the DOE re-zoning proposal that will impact PS 59 and PS 267. Re-zoning is being proposed to accommodate a new school. PS 281 that is being built at 425 East 35th Street.
- The proposed zoning map was shared with the group. The new proposed zone lines extend down to East 58th Street, increasing the zone at PS 267 and decreasing the northern zone of PS 59. PS59 expressed concern at the CEC Meeting that any proposals that would extend the line further down would border the physical location of the school building.
- The changes are proposed to take effect in the 2013-2014 academic school year.
- A recent glitch in the DOE Computer system lead to about a dozen students currently zoned for PS 267 to be sent to other schools nearby this past September.
- Based on feedback given at the CEC Meeting PS 267 is concerned that the propped zone is still too small.
- Matthew Chook, Co-President of the PTA at 267, spoke about the Doe budgeting process being tied to a school's register and class size:
 - PS 267 wants a bigger zone, but more importantly feels that the school should not be held liable for DOE projections.
 - DOE makes projections about the number of children in a school and the school is forced to give money back to the DOE if there aren't as many projected children enrolled. This makes planning hard year to year.
 - Under the current zoning plan, the additional block will yield 8 children for PS 267.
 - Currently, the second grade class has had to be collapsed into one section with 31 children due to the budget, with two sets of twins in the same class.
 - The budget process as it stand now forces neighboring schools to compete with each other, PS 267 doesn't want to negatively affect PS 59 or any other neighboring schools.
- The DOE would like a final zoning plan by the end of November, the CEC won't vote on the proposed plan before their November meeting.

E. Old /New business

- The new principal at PS 198 is Nancy Cabero Emerick.
- Future meetings will feature a different school each month and the principal and PTA shall be invited to speak to us about their school.
- Update on PS 158:
 - Students from Girls Preparatory Charter school, grades 5 through 8, located at 420 East 12th Street, were temporarily relocated to PS 158 when a wall of their school collapsed.
 - The 12th Street school just had an engineering study completed and we should know soon how long before the building will be repaired and they can go back to their permanent school. *(After the meeting we were told the DOE expects to relocate them back to their school in February, 2013.)*
 - We hope to have an update soon from the DOE on the permanent use of this space, which the community has clearly stated they wish to see a new middle school in this space.

- Parents as Partners Week.
 - Everyone is invited to join the Chancellor and the Division of Family and Community Engagement for the 2nd annual Parents as Partners Week, being held from October 15th to the 20th. See the CB8M.COM website for details.
- Update on Gifted and Talented Program.
 - If you would like to have your child tested for a G&T program for Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades, you must submit a Request for Testing Form by November 9, 2012. See the CB8M.COM website for details.
- PS 151 Yorkville Community School (YCS).
 - Everyone is invited to the Yorkville Community School Fall Fair on Saturday, 10/20. The event will be held on 88th Street between 1st and York Avenue from 11 am to 3 pm. All members from the community are welcome and all proceeds will benefit YCS enrichment Programs.
- Lenox Hill Neighborhood House.
 - Information on the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House RealArts Afterschool Program has been updated on the CB8 website. RealArts Afterschool program is a weekday afterschool program with an emphasis on the arts education and aquatics. Families can register for a two three, or five day a week option for children ages 5-13 between 3 and 6 pm. The program offers dance, drama, music, visual art and swimming. Additional activities include recreation, cultural activities, live performance experiences and computers. Financial aid available.

F. Future Meeting Dates

- November - Veteran's Day - change of date to **19th**: re-zoning + featured public school
- December 10th: re-zoning + featured public school
- Reminder to the community to check out the CB8M.COM website. Go to Committees on menu bar and scroll down to Youth & Education. Click on that and scroll down: Community Updates—The first update will be the current re-zoning map that is being proposed. The second map will be the existing zoning map, currently in place. Also you will find the minutes from prior meetings, if you were unable to attend.

Hattie Quarnstrom and Judith Schneider
Co-Chairs, Youth and Education Committee