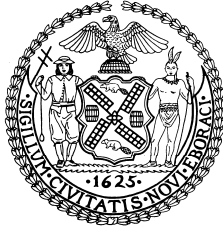


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**The City of New York**  
**Manhattan Community Board 8**  
**Youth & Education Committee Meeting**  
**PS/IS 217 645 Main Street, Auditorium, Roosevelt Island**  
**Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 7:00 PM**

**Community Board Members (Present):** Jim Clynes, Ed Hartzog, Hattie Quarnstrom, Judy Schneider, Sarah Chu,  
**Community Board Members (Excused):** Lori Bores, Sophia James, Lorraine Johnson, Barry Schneider, Debbie Teitelbaum,

**Community Board Public Members (Excused):** Michael Hoffman

**A. Introductions** were made by everyone present.

**B. Featuring PS/IS 217 Principal Mandan Beckman and Cathy Dove, Cornell Tech**

- Principal Beckman was proud to announce that the school's progress report went from a "D" rating to a "B". The teachers, parents and students were all very excited and it gave them a very good feeling about their school.
- This year the school has 480 students from K through middle school and 510, including the two half day sections of pre-k.
- The school has worked hard on the core curriculum and improving writing. The teachers meet with the parents at the beginning of the school year and they have workshops for the parents to go over the programs they are doing with the children, so that the parents will be able to support their children.
- The first program between the school and Cornell Tech occurred this summer. Girls Who Code. 7 of the 17 students enrolled were from RI and a total of 11 graduated. It was a wonderful experience for the students.
- The program was written for high school students but they did not really change the curriculum for the middle school students, but it worked well. (In the future it might be tweaked a little.) It was an intensive commitment on the part of the students: all day, 5 days a week, for 8 weeks.
- Not only were there classes on RI, but the program consisted of: field trips, mentoring by Cornell Alumni, being hosted at the Chelsea campus and taught college classes for a full day by a Cornell professor.
- At graduation the students did a one minute talk on one of the programs they created during the summer session.
- Cornell Tech is talking to a start up Kandu, which is developing software for kids to learn coding. So the students from the summer program were invited to participate in a focus group and helped to beta test their software.
- Ived Jones, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student in the program, attended our meeting and spoke about the summer course. "It was very hard at first, a frustrating struggle". The program taught her to research on line and to work on her own. Then she was actually able to make her project make sound. What an achievement!
- Principal Beckman stated that recently the math teacher had a technology problem in class with the Promethean program and Ived was able to use what she learned this summer to help resolve their issue.
- Cornell Tech is going to expand its programs with the school. They are hiring a full time professional person in the next twomonths to coordinate the program between the school and Cornell Tech. Once the campus is open in 2017 there will be more interaction with the entrepreneurs.
- Cathy Dove said they are working with the students at Weill Cornell Medical College to have them speak with the students at PS/IS 217, as well as having the students visit the Medical College and encourage them to look at future careers.
- One question by a parent was what are you doing for young men? Cathy said their first goal now was to reach out to minorities and women. But that they hope to be able to reach out to all in the future.

- The school has a technology lab and all the classrooms have active boards. The school is concentrating on incorporating the technology and training the teachers to use the technology in their teaching.
- One problem Principal Beckman brought up is the cost of the upkeep of the equipment. The DOE supplies the equipment but there is no funding in the budget to maintain it, which is extremely expensive. This is a problem to most of the schools in our district.
- Graduates are now coming back to the school to say what a wonderful background they have received. This year the school will start an Alumni program.

**E. Old/New Business**

- Kindergarten applications will be available on January 13<sup>th</sup> through February 14 on line, by phone or in person at an enrollment office.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Subway Community Information Center**, 1628 Second Avenue (84/85 Streets), is currently having an exhibit of artwork from the students at East Side Middle School, which will end in January.

**F. Future Meeting Dates**

- December 9: Presentation by Robert L. Ward of Children's Village
- January 13: Speaker To Be Determined

The meeting was adjourned.

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