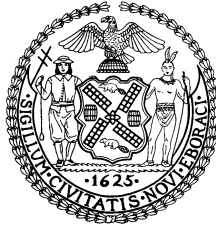


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

Youth, Education and Libraries Committee
The Ramaz School, 125 East 85th Street (Lexington-Park)
Stonehill Program Center
May 8, 2017, 6:30 PM

Members Present: Sara Solomon, Debbie Teitelbaum, Ed Hartzog, Peter Patch, Michael Hoffman (Public Member)

Minutes

1. **Citizens Committee for Children:** Ellen Corwin and Ingrid Reuter spoke about resources to help advocate on behalf of our children, both locally and citywide
 - CCC is the oldest multi-child advocacy group in the city, founded in 1944 to provide a voice for children.
 - CCC motto is that every child will be healthy, housed, educated and safe.
 - Two of its founders were Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. Spock.
 - CCC provides no direct services to children but is a non-profit advocacy group, and does not take any money from the government.
 - The advocacy is guided by data which the agency collects and is broken down by community board.
 - There are 8 or 9 indicators of that data research that identifies areas of concern. CCC advocates in Albany for budgetary requirements as well as education in the communities.
 - The Green Cart Initiative: CCC lobbied for more licenses to be given to green carts in underserved areas, usually located near a subway entrance or other populated area in order for fruits and vegetables to be offered at reasonable prices. The initiative allows food stamps to be accepted.
 - CCC worked for years on the Raise the Age initiative which will raise the age of criminal responsibility. By October 2019, New York State will no longer automatically prosecute 16 and 17-year olds as adults. Kids often act impulsively which could lead to a criminal record and devastating results. More children will be able to go to family court which offers a wide range of services to enable teens to function in a more mature way.
 - The data is published every two years, while the online content is updated constantly.
 - Community Risk Ranking: not surprisingly, CB8 has lowest ranking of child poverty and highest ranking of economic security.
 - CCC is advocating on behalf of the Mayor's initiative for Pre-K for All children under 5 years of age.
 - One must take a community leadership course to become a volunteer.

- To learn more about CCC's offerings, go to www.ccc.newyork.org

2. A panel of college-bound 12th graders discussed their college application journeys:

Zoe Markowitz, Logan Geller, Dannah Seecoomar, Grant Weintrob and Harris Whiteson participated in the discussion and are students at Eleanor Roosevelt, Dalton and Bronx Science High Schools

- Our panelists introduced themselves and shared that they will be attending The University of Michigan, Wesleyan, Vanderbilt, Cornell and Washington University in the fall.
- The strategy of Early Action vs. Early Decision was discussed. Both provide opportunities for students to apply to a school before November 15 and find out in December if they are accepted. The difference between the two is that Early Decision is a binding contract if accepted.
- All five of these students chose to apply early decision to schools. Two were accepted in December, one was deferred and two were rejected. One student, who was not accepted to her ED school, then applied Early Decision 2 to a different school in December and was accepted in February. Some schools offer the ED 2 option.
- Question was asked to student who was deferred at Cornell. What did he do to try to get accepted? He explained that he sent weekly updates to the admissions representative, sharing what he's been doing, including information on an internship.
- All students recommended writing common application essay early (which is the essay that is sent to all schools) but supplemental essays depend on where you are applying. Some schools have multiple essays. It's a good idea to at least think about those essays early on, even if you are applying early to other schools in case you need to work on those supplements in December.
- Students agreed that applying to 8-10 schools is the right number. More than that, your supplemental essays will suffer.
- Students were asked about financial concerns in choosing schools. It's a personal issue and generally parents and the students discuss this in advance. It's very possible that out of state schools give better financial packages than NY state schools to strong students.
- Question was asked if visiting schools in advance is a good idea. Students differed in opinion. If there is a school that you love, showing interest is always positive but the cost of travel needs to be considered. If you want to visit, go early. It may be a good way to cross schools off your list. The consensus, though, is that while it helps to see schools in advance, don't assume that you can truly know what you want at this point in time.
- Interviewing is a good idea if you love the school and the schools offer interviews.
- Students chose their schools based on the school's studies, athletic opportunities and location.
- Some applications cost \$75 each; waivers might be offered.
- Applying early decision offers better odds of being accepted to a school.
- Assume that all schools are "reach" schools.
- Advice to parents: don't put pressure on your kids. All the schools they are applying to are good so don't stress.
- Advice to students and parents: don't get hung up on only one school.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm

Sara Solomon and Debbie Teitelbaum, Co-Chairs