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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Youth, Education & Libraries Committee
Monday, January 25, 2021 - 6:30 PM
This meeting was conducted via Zoom**

Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Minutes:

CB8 Members Present: Peter Patch (Co-Chair), Taina Borrero (Co-Chair), Rami Sigal (Co-Chair), Edward Hartzog, Elizabeth Rose, Alida Camp, Marco Antonio Tamayo, Gayle Baron, Rebecca Dangoor, William Freeland, Tricia Shimamura & Vanessa Aronson.

Resolutions for Approval:

Item 3b – The Dual Language Initiative for the Upper East Side

Item 3c – Diversify Our Narrative Initiative

Taina Borrero organized the session and served as Moderator.

1. **The New Admissions Landscape** – the DOE admissions policies and the processes for Middle Schools and High Schools, and how they impact school admissions for the Upper East Side.
 - a. **Sadye Campoamor:** The Admissions Process for the Coming Year
 - This year, students of color are four times more likely not to enter a school building.
 - In the interest of fairest and equity, the admissions process will not employ the same data sets from the past – some of which are not even available for use.
 - For **Middle Schools:** Therefore there will be a pause on all **Middle School** screens that used to include a combination of:
 - Grades, Interviews, Standardized test scores, Attendance and On-site testing.
 - Families will still choose schools based on ranking choices, but students will be selected by lottery. This is for one year only.
 - For the 400+ **High Schools:**
 - Academic screens will still be in use. District priority will be eliminated this year. However, zone-based, borough-based, and district-based screens will be

permanently eliminated and all geographic screens will be eliminated next year. Academic screens will remain in place. 2018-2019 state tests may be used.

- The process will continue to use ranking of high schools, based on choice.
- The objective will be to increase access to schools and eliminate barriers.

b. **Elizabeth Rose:** Implications of the Admissions Process – How to Approach It

- Every year there were families from UES and UWS who were frantic about their high-achieving child who was not admitted to the high schools they ranked. This new admissions policy will exacerbate this problem.
- Students should use all 12 application choices so they have reach schools, target schools, and safe schools, included in their choices. This will reduce the chance that a student is placed in a school that they had not included in their ranked choices.
- Students need a balanced list: The ‘highly screened schools’ are a reach for everyone. Families should also look at schools that are not as highly ranked by academic screens. Families need to look at schools in other districts and consider commute time based on transportation options.

c. Additional Information and Resources for Families

- Why has attendance and behavior been considered in middle school screens?
 - We need to do this in the most fair and equitable way. Attendance screen was changed across middle and high school admissions.
- The DOE ‘MySchools’ Portal: Families can’t always access this in order to submit their ranked choices. There are a number of ways these families can reach out, including:
 - Email or call info links are available: Family welcome centers and 311 are sources to get support.
 - Structures are also in place to support parent coordinators and guidance counselors so they can help families in the process.
 - In reviewing schools, use the ‘School Performance Dashboard’ to assess each school (<https://tools.nycenet.edu/dashboard/>) and check out performance of individual schools.
- The DOE is also offering families resources, including multiple meetings each week for families of various backgrounds, where parents can interact.

d. Andrew McClintock (DOE) spoke about Wagner and Eleanor Roosevelt:

- Wagner previously had zoned and specialized admissions that operated as separate pathways. Now Wagner is operating on a single platform.
- Priority is given to zoned students in admissions, but once kids are admitted, it is up to each school to determine how it wants to manage its program and course offerings.
- Eleanor Roosevelt has diversity in admissions. It is prioritizing students with certain characteristics – such as free or reduced lunch – for a percentage of the seats (e.g. 50%). If the school doesn’t fill these seats, others can be considered to fill those seats.

e. **Links:**

- <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade> -DOE admissions page
 - <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/3k-3K> info
 - <https://www.myschools.nyc/en/> - MySchools
 - <https://schoolsearch.schools.nyc/> -Zoned School finder
 - <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enrollment-help/family-welcome-centers> - DOE Welcome Center
 - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMBereJO_FYx9dgZ2FdYCvpJ8c2FQ7pU0aSlBVPmsTYAmQuw/viewform - DOE Admission newsletter signup
 - Office of student enrollment 718-935-2009
2. **Old Business** – No old business
3. **New Business:**
- a. **Universal Literacy** - If anyone would like to participate in the discussion about our Universal Literacy initiative, they can contact any of the three Co-Chairs of the Youth & Education Committee, Peter Patch, Rami Sigal, Taina Borrero, or the CB8 board office.
 - b. **The Dual Language Initiative for the Upper East Side**
 - Stephane Lautner discussed how his group of 150 parents has been trying to develop a dual language Francophone pilot school in District 2. However, in the past few weeks the DOE changed their position, reporting they would not continue a program into kindergarten for students presently in a dual language Pre-K program.
 - Reportedly, District 2 only has two dual language programs, while there are 13 on the Upper West Side.
 - DOE rejected the idea of expanding the program, based on the following issues:
 - Space - DOE doesn't want to expand the program because seats are being held for families who may return after pandemic ends.
 - Teachers - DOE was concerned there would be a lack of teachers. However, the team reports it has already lined up teachers.
 - DOE questions the need for French dual language programs.
 - Regarding funding, French teachers don't make more money. There are some funding requirements for books and teacher development.
 - However, the team has applied and received grants to support the DL program.
 - In a resolution, the Committee is asking for a good-faith conversation with DOE, to deliver on prior conversations and commitments to make these programs available.
 - Motion to vote on the resolution by Peter Patch, Seconded by Vanessa Aronson, Taina Borrero, Billy Freeland

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS CB8 Manhattan recognizes a tremendous need for dual-language programs across CB8 Manhattan, NYC Education District 02, and the entirety of the NYC school system and

WHEREAS this includes identifying a continuity plan of dual language services to the 36 dual-language French students entering Kindergarten in 2021 and outlining a future pathway for the students enrolling in the French Dual-language Pre-K program in 2021 and beyond in response to demonstrated community interest and need

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CB8 Manhattan calls on the New York City Department of Education, and NYC Chancellor’s Office to engage in dialog and explore how to deliver these highly valued programs.

VOTE: 11-0-0

In Favor: Peter Patch, Taina Borrero, Rami Sigal, Edward Hartzog, Elizabeth Rose, Alida Camp, Marco Antonio Tamayo, Gayle Baron, Rebecca Dangoor, William Freeland, & Vanessa Aronson.

c. **Proposal for DOE Initiative: Diversity our Narrative** – Justin Greenberg and Kaitlin Kushnir

- Working on making high school curriculum more diverse, and more reflective of our diverse population.
- Jesse Moskowitz of the 67th Street YA Library (jessemoskowitz@nypl.org) offered book lists and book club options to the ‘Diversify our Narrative’ group.
- Motion in support of further discussion of Diversify Our Narrative: William Freeland, Seconded by Peter Patch and Taina Borrero.
- Motion to vote on the resolution: Peter Patch, Seconded by Jack Zimmerman.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS The New York City Department of Education should support the “Diversify our Narrative” initiative.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED CB8 supports this resolution without any stipulations or addendums.

VOTE: 11-0-0

In Favor: Peter Patch, Taina Borrero, Rami Sigal, Edward Hartzog, Alida Camp, Marco Antonio Tamayo, Gayle Baron, Rebecca Dangoor, William Freeland, Jack Zimmerman & Vanessa Aronson.

Taina Borrero, Peter Patch, and Rami Sigal, Co-Chairs