

Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com - Website
info@cb8m.com - E-Mail

**The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8
Youth & Education Committee Meeting
NY Blood Center, 310 East 67 Street, Auditorium
Monday, February 11, 2013 at 7:00 PM
CORRECTED MINUTES**

Community Board Members (Present): Sarah Chu, Ed Hartzog, Hattie Quarnstrom, Judy Schneider, Debbie Teitelbaum,

Community Board Members (Excused): Lori Bores, Deidre Breslin, Jim Clynes, George Fuchs, Lorraine Johnson, M. Barry Schneider,

Community Board Public Members Present: Sophia James

Community Board Public Members (Excused): Michael Hoffman

1. **Introductions** were made by everyone present.
2. **Presentation about PS 267 with Principal Medea McEvoy and the PTA Co-Presidents Matthew Chook and Viviane Tubiana**

Principal Medea McEvoy had the following comments:

- PS 267, also known as East Side Elementary, was established in 2010 in their temporary space at PS 158 and are now at their permanent location at 213 East 63 Street. They will be a K-5th grade school adding one grade a year
 - currently they have K through 2nd and will add 3rd grade next year
 - each grade will have three sections
 - until the school is filled they have 2-half day pre-K classes
- PS 267 is a community of learners “where observation and imagination are celebrated and where the question “why” is welcomed and encouraged”
- A strong math curriculum is being developed and Turk is used as a framework. Math instruction at PS 267 includes:
 - 1-1 math interviews of students to assess learning
 - Puts math in context
- Social, emotional learning is integrated into the curriculum
- The curriculum builds connections between what the students are learning and real life
- They have a strong arts program for all students consisting of theatre, dance, visual arts and music—in conjunction with Turtle Bay Music School.
- The school has a partnership with the NY Historical Society
- The school has an after school program 5-days a week from 3 to 6 PM.

PS 267, PTA co-presidents are Matthew Chook and Viviane Tubiana said:

- The school has a lot of involved parents who put in a lot of time over the last 2 years setting up the framework for the PTA.
- The parents have picked up some of the slack, as the school does not yet have an Assistant Principal or a Parent Coordinator.
- As a new school, there are a lot of exciting opportunities for parents to create/shape the school.
- To get more involved, or to learn more about the school, visit the website at www.ps267.org

3. Discussion and Plan of Action on the intransigence of DOE concerning the use of PS 158 as a Middle School

- We wish to thank all the electeds in our district who have been working on this issue so diligently.
- Guest Speaker Council Member Daniel Garodnick said only a few years ago we were looking for space for Kindergarteners—we had to play catch up because the DOE has not planned ahead. Now the Elementary seats are full we need to be forward looking and plan for Middle School seats rather than playing catch up.
He spoke about how **ALL** the elected on the UES are having War Room meetings and working with the DOE to accomplish this goal.
With reference to the statistics he also mentioned that PS 59 and Lower Lab were left out by the DOE from the numbers given to us and the statistics for Wagner are not correct, as they are still counting classrooms that no longer function as classrooms.
- Todd Helmrich spoke about the PS 158 co-locations, particularly the last one, which was Girls Prep Charter Middle School and all the problems it created.
- The next speaker was Simon Miller a CECD2 board member and a parent with a child at PS 158 continued the conversation. He said the CEC has passed a resolution expressing displeasure with co-locations of charter schools in District 2, as they have a whole set of different rules and regulations they have to comply with.
- Clearly no one had a problem with a charter school in their own building as long as it is not taking away space from our current crowded DOE Building stock for CD8.
- *We want to thank Andy Lachman for all his work on the numbers and his communications with the DOE.*
- Everyone present at the meeting was in favor of PS 158 vacant space being used for a Middle School.
- The committee passed three resolutions after much discussion on each:

- A. **Vote** of 5 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstained (Chu, Hartzog, Quarnstrom, Schneider, Teitelbaum)
Public Member: 1 in favor (James)

WHEREAS this resolution is an update to Community Board 8's prior resolutions of: October 2011 and February 2012 requesting a Middle School at PS 158, and

WHEREAS PS 158, the Bayard Taylor School, at 1458 York Avenue, has for the last 5 years temporarily accommodated a number of schools including: PS 267; the East Side Middle School located on the upper floors and the re-located Girls Prep Charter School in their building, and

WHEREAS PS 158 has had vacant seating capacity since September 2012, and is currently being used by DOE for emergencies as they arise and has become a “stop gap” location for any problem, and

WHEREAS the increasing elementary school student population in the Upper East Side (UES) over the last several years has resulted in a substantial increase in Kindergarten classes particularly with 3 new elementary schools in Community District 8, thereby creating a need for increased Middle School seats in the community, and

WHEREAS Wagner Middle School and East Side Middle School, which seem to be filled to capacity, are the main middle schools located in the Manhattan section of Community District 8, and

WHEREAS Community District 8 has already expressed, by a **unanimous votes, a strong desire for the vacant space at PS 158 to be used for a public middle school, which was reaffirmed at this current meeting,**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 representing the parents of the Community District 8 do not want PS 158 co-located with **any type of Charter School**, as Charters function differently and use the facility in a dissimilar manner from a zoned Public School, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community District 8 representing the parents of Community District 8 do not want PS 158 co-located with **any type of Charter School**, as a great majority of school buildings in Community District 8 are at or above capacity, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community District 8 representing the parents of Community District 8 strongly recommend Charter Schools use their own resources and the means to find their own facilities outside of DOE's building inventory in Community District 8, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 representing the residents of Community District 8 **strongly request the vacant space in PS 158 become a Middle School once again**, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Community Board 8 recommends the DOE make a decision **now for the use of this building** in time for the September 2013 school year.

B. Vote of 4 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstained (Hartzog, Quarnstrom, Schneider, Teitelbaum)

WHEREAS Robert Wagner Intermediate School located at 220 East 76 St, and

WHEREAS parents in Community District 8 have consistently expressed their preference to send their children to a neighborhood Middle School and not to a 900 seat school on Morton Street, and

WHEREAS the Wagner has two types of programs: the Academic Program—which is open to all students living in Community District 8 and the Special program—which is a Choice option and open to all students residing in Community Education District 2, and

WHEREAS while the enrollment in October 2012 was 1,263, based on current trends that number will likely increase by June 2013, and

WHEREAS the DOE has phantom space listed for students that do not exist, such as the two (2) classrooms and library that were converted to a media center or the three (3) ICT classes that have 12 students each but are still listed as 33 student seats per class etc., and

WHEREAS it is essential in future planning for the DOE and parents to know the actual number of seats that can be occupied by students, and

WHEREAS Wagner Middle School and East Side Middle School, which seem to be filled to capacity, are the main middle schools located in Community District 8, and

WHEREAS the increasing elementary-school student population in the Upper East Side (UES) over the last several years has resulted in a substantial increase in Kindergarten classes, particularly with 3 new elementary schools in Community District 8, thereby creating a need for increased Middle School seats in the community, and

WHEREAS the UES is being ignored by the DOE when it comes to establishing additional Middle School space

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 on behalf of the parents of Community District 8 would like accurate information on the actual number of seats available for students at Wagner so that the proper planning can take place, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 on behalf of the parents of Community District 8 strongly urge that the phantom seats be removed from the number shown in the Blue Book, **which we recommend being updated this year.**

C. **Vote** of 4 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstained (Hartzog, Quarnstrom, Schneider, Teitelbaum)

WHEREAS Life Science Secondary School located at 320 East 96 St, and

WHEREAS the DOE designates Life Science as a District 4 school located in District 2, and

WHEREAS few if any parents in Community District 8 send their children to this school

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 urges the DOE to correctly reclassify Life Sciences as a District 4 school and not count those seats as Community District 8/District 2 seats, in order to plan for the needed additional Middle School Seats in CD8.

4. **Old/New Business**

- Kindergarten applications are due by Friday, March 1
- Resource workshop for children with special needs Friday, February 15 at the DOE District 75 Main Building on First Avenue and 23rd Street.

5. **Future Meeting Dates:**

- March 11: Featuring PS ? + D. A. Office on their Youth Initiative + Update on Middle School at PS 158 + Update on 2nd Teacher/Aid in Classroom
- April 8th: Featuring PS 290 +

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