

^{The} NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

June 3, 2013

Dear Office of Portfolio Planning

Inspired by the pilot admissions project in Brooklyn at PS 133, the School Leadership Team at the Neighborhood School (PS 363) in District 1 is requesting a new admissions mechanism that would help create a student population that better reflects the economic diversity of the District 1 community and serves a more proportionate number of English language learners (ELLs).

The current ethnic composition of students at the Neighborhood School is: 30.1% Hispanic, 1% American Indian or Alaskan Native, 9.36% Asian, 1.67% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 14.05% Black, 42.81% White, and 1% Multi-racial, 35% Free or Reduced Lunch, and 4% ELL. The school currently serves a proportionate number of students with disabilities to the district averages and therefore the new policy need not address that population.

The School Leadership Team at the Neighborhood School stands in support of the DOE for addressing these questions together with school communities as was done at PS 133 in Brooklyn. The Neighborhood School SLT would like to replicate a similar pilot program where, after sibling preference, there be a set-aside of 40% of seats for students receiving free or reduced lunch and/or who are English language learners. We want to ensure our population doesn't drop any further. The District 1 free or reduced lunch average is 60% and of ELLs is 12%.

The proposal, discussed at multiple PTA and SLT meetings, has overwhelming family and staff support and aligns strongly with the school's vision. We have joined forces with a District 1 Diversity Task Force to explore possible options to reach similar goals on a districtwide scale, as we believe that our own schoolwide change is but a small piece and will, in fact, serve primarily to maintain already low current levels of demographic diversity.

The Neighborhood School community is hoping to implement the set-aside admissions program no later than the fall of 2014. We look forward to working together on this endeavor.

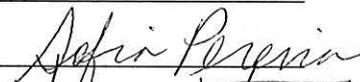
Sincerely,

The SLT of The Neighborhood School

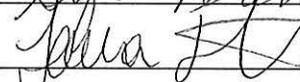
Principal – Milo Novelo



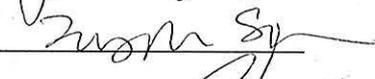
Teacher – Sofia Pereira



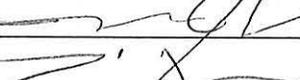
Teacher – Laura Tiktin-Sharick



Teacher – Amy Masters-Sheridan



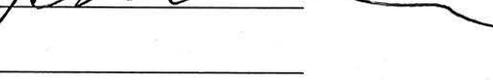
Parent – Michael Joseph



Parent – Laurie Buck



Parent – Dina Weiss



Parent – Alessondra Sgarlato



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A DISTRICT ONE SCHOOL OF CHOICE