



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Jerry Iannece Chairperson / **Susan Seinfeld** District Manager

JOINT YOUTH SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEES REPORT

To: Board Members

From: Ted Teng and Laura James, Chairs

Date: 5/7/2012

The Youth Services and Education Committees held a joint meeting on Tuesday, April 17 at the CB 11 office. In attendance were Laura James, Education Committee Chair, Ted Teng, Youth Services Committee Chair, Roy Giusetti, George Karahalos, Christina Scherer, Henry Euler, Steve Newman, Steve Behar, Mel Meer, Douglas Montgomery, Steve Pivawer. Also present were David Solano, Community Representative and the PTA President of Bayside High School, Kim D'Angelo, PTA President of MS 158, two parents and Alan Stark from the Beacon Program. The purpose of the joint meeting was to discuss the proposed closing of the Beacon Program at MS 158 and various education issues.

The Dept. of Youth and Community Development has proposed closing eight Beacon Programs city wide, with two in Queens including MS 158. At the April 2nd meeting, the Board passed a Resolution opposing the closing which was sent with a letter from Jerry Iannece to the Mayor, DYCD Commissioner Mulgrav and all our elected officials. The committee wants to help the Samuel Field Y, the program sponsor, and the MS 158 PTA to continue to fight and rally to save the Beacon Program. There is a rally on April 19th at Borough Hall and on April 24th MS 158 PTA is holding a rally at the school. The committee shared with them ideas and suggested contacting the press and elected officials. It was discussed that since DYCD was cutting the programs, based on neighborhood poverty rates, that they will have to show that there are people in need in the district and statistics should be obtained on numbers of students on the free lunch program.

After the joint meeting, Education Committee members had a preliminary discussion about multiple issues facing our high schools - threats of closures and the effect on our district schools, persistent and escalating overcrowding, and school admission and selection. These will be on the agenda for further discussion at a May Education Committee meeting, A date will be announced in the near future.

One item raised by Mel Meer again, was the selection process for Townsend Harris High School. It states that they discriminate against D. 26 students because they do not take all high scoring students but some high scoring students from each district. Other specialized schools do not do this, but take all high scoring students no matter from where they live such as Bard Schools, Beacon Schools and Eleanor Roosevelt Schools in Manhattan.

David Solano discussed the high school application process, the closing of high schools in the city and how it is going to effect high schools in CB 11. He is on the School Leadership Team at Bayside HS and he states that seats are not being filled in order for the Office of Student enrollment to place students from other schools outside the district in the school. When the high schools are closed they only re-enroll 50% of the former students and the overflow must go somewhere. Mr. Solano said that the OSE is placing these students, in other areas, in the schools here, particularly Bayside High School that has a zoned program, thereby not letting local zoned students attend. The overcrowding in our three high schools will continue. The selection process is not transparent.