

The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

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

Eileen Miller Chairperson / Joseph Marziliano District Manager

COMMITTEE REPORT

TO:

Board Members

FROM:

Justin Chew, Chair

Education Committee

RE:

Recent incidents of violence at M.S. 158Q

DATE:

March 4, 2020

On March 4, 2020 at 7:30 p.m., the Education Committee met to discuss the above-referenced incidents. Present were Committee Chair Justin Chew, Chair Eileen Miller, 3rd Vice Chair Henry Euler, Board Members Sila Asa, Rosemarie Guidice, Committee Member David Solano, District Manager Joseph Marziliano, and Council Member Barry Grodenchik's representative, Davinder P. Singh.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chew. He introduced the recent violent attacks at M.S. 158Q, Marie Curie, and the most recent Community Education Council of School District 26 meeting on January 17, 2020 with Department of Education (DOE) Chancellor Carranza. The incidents included an assault, and a separate sexual assault. Unfortunately, the Chancellor did not take questions from angry and concerned parents at that event.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Marziliano suggested that the United Federation of Teachers Union agreement should allow and require teachers to get involved to stop violent attacks witnessed from one student to another. Mr. Chew noted that the Bully Hotline was supposed to have already gone into effect this year but was never set up by the DOE. This hotline was supposed to help parents receive answers to how documented incidents of bullying were resolved.

Ms. As a asked why the discipline code has been softened over recent years. Mr. Chew stated that the old disciplinary code was found to be discriminatory towards black students, with harsher punishments impacting them disproportionately. As a result, the code was modified to fit a conflict resolution model rather than punishment.

Mr. Solano made a motion to send a letter from the CB 11 Education Committee to District 26 Superintendent Danielle Giunta for any and all reports on these incidents and the resulting disciplinary actions, seconded by Rosemarie Giudice.

A hand vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee Meeting Adjourned at 8:23 p.m