



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

April 2, 2012

Resolution on Opposition to the Closing of Beacon Program at M.S.158 Marie Curie Middle School by Community Board 11Q

WHEREAS, Community Board 11 of Queens is obligated to safeguard the well being of our community and to oppose any actions that will cause irrevocable damage to our community and the residents who reside within;

WHEREAS, Ample research, including studies done by the Harvard Graduate School of Education, has found that participation in after-school programs is associated with better attitudes toward school and higher educational aspirations, higher school attendance and less tardiness, less disciplinary action (e.g., suspension), lower drop-out rates, better performance in school (as measured by achievement test scores and grades), greater on-time promotion, improved homework completion, and engagement in learning;

WHEREAS, Mayor Bloomberg on January 24th 2012 testified before the State Assembly Ways and Means Committee and State Senate Finance Committee that "what happens after the final school bell of the day rings is as important to students as what goes on in the classrooms";

WHEREAS, The Beacon Program at M.S. 158Q has been an integral part of the Bayside community for nearly twenty years and has served *thousands* of participants since its inception in 1993;

WHEREAS, The Beacon Program at M.S. 158Q has not only met its targeted middle school student participant quota of one hundred and fifty this year, but has doubled it with a participation number of over three hundred;

WHEREAS, The Beacon Program at M.S. 158Q also currently serves over eight hundred participants, from elementary and high schools and through adult programs;

WHEREAS, The Beacon Program at M.S. 158Q, at its inception, ran with a budget of \$400,000., but despite the inflation and cost of living adjustments of twenty years, has been able to provide the same high quality of service twenty years later with a smaller budget of approximately \$350,000.;

WHEREAS, The Beacon Program at M.S. 158Q has consistently achieved, upheld, and surpassed the Beacon Core Elements of 1. Academic Enrichment 2. Career Awareness/School to Work Transition 3. Recreation/ Health and Fitness 4. Culture/Art 5. Civic Engagements/Community Building and 6. Life Skills;

WHEREAS, The Beacon Program at M.S. 158Q makes it possible for working families to place their child in a supervised, safe, and nurturing after-school environment, thus, the Beacon Program at M.S. 158Q can be seen as a method of economic improvement and not just as expenditure and;

WHEREAS, According to the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, approximately 28% of households in Community Board 11 have an income under \$40,000. and those families would be financially impacted to have to pay for an after-school program.

WHEREAS, despite the Deputy Commissioner of Department of Youth and Community Development Andrew Miller's claim that this will not disproportionately impact one community over others, by closing the ONLY Beacon program in our district, it is clearly apparent that Queens Community Board 11 has been unfairly targeted.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, That Queens Community Board 11 urges Mayor Bloomberg and the Department of Youth and Community Development to allow the Beacon Program at M.S. 158Q to continue to provide essential services to our community and;

That Queens Community Board 11 asks that Mayor Bloomberg recognize the invaluable services that Beacon Programs offer to our children, families, and overall long term prosperity of our community and no longer view this program as expendable and;

That Queens Community Board 11 will continue to do all in its power to oppose the scheduled closure of Middle School 158 Beacon Program in Queens.