**SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**December 2020**

The Schools and Education Committee of Community Board 2 met on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom webinar. We hosted a Student Panel on High Schools with representatives from 16 schools.

**CB 2 Board Members Present**: Jeannine Kiely (Chair), Patricia Laraia (Vice-Chair), Akeela Azcuy, Keen Berger, Amy Brenna, Rich Caccappolo, Mar Fitzgerald, Betty Kubovy-Weiss and Matt Metzger

**Public Members Present:** Barbara Glassman

**Public Members Absent with Notice:** Michael Markowitz

**Other CB 2 Members Present:** Carter Booth.

**Participants:** 522

**MINUTES**

**Why a Panel.** CB 2 hosted a student panel on public high schools in response to requests from parents and 8th grade students. Typically, families tour high schools in the fall and submit their applications shortly after Thanksgiving. This year, there have been no high school fairs, only virtual tours, and as of December 17, the NYC Department of Education has not yet announced the timing or process for high school admissions. Our panel included student representatives from 16 high schools, recognizing that there are many more local high schools that were not able to participate. We excluded specialized and transfer high schools.

**Focus.** The panel focused on student experience, not the NYC DOE admissions process.

**Participants.** 522 community members participated in our event, highlighting the need for this information.

**Our Panel.** ***Thank you to committee member and high school senior Betty Kubovy-Weiss who masterfully moderated our panel and to the 19 students who volunteered for our panel and shared their insight on 16 high schools:***

1. **Art and Design**, Erika Allmen
2. **Bard**, Liane Chapin & Wes Yan
3. **Baruch**, Leila Kaufman
4. **Beacon**, Helen Burris
5. **Clinton**, Charley Schwartz
6. **Eleanor Roosevelt**, Layla Abroon & Kaan Mac Donald
7. **East Side Community**, Daniel Velez
8. **Essex Street Academy**, Lili Clarke
9. **Harvest Collegiate**, Stephanie Ramos
10. **Institute for Collaborative Education**, Jasper Krents
11. **Lab**, Dylan Maudsley
12. **Millennium**, Sofia Dorf
13. **Museum**, Nicholas Lee
14. **NYC iSchool**, Vera Topcik
15. **School of the Future**, Alex Laraia & David Zheng
16. **University Neighborhood HS**, Alexander Coloti

**Two Key Takeaways.** Students have the option to apply to many fabulous high schools. The one piece of advice we heard from every student is to focus on a school that provides the best fit, not the most prestigious reputation.

**Additional Information.**

* View a recording of the panel on CB 2’s Facebook page at <https://fb.watch/2ro3C7vDYL/>.
* View demographic and admissions data on schools represented on the panel at [bit.ly/CB2HSData2020](http://bit.ly/CB2HSData2020).
* View the 2021 NYC DOE Admissions Guide at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2021-high-school-and-specialized-high-schools-admissions-guide----guide-to-the-shsat>.
* When compiled, we will post the written questions and answers on CB 2’s Facebook page.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannine Kiely

Chair, Schools & Education Committee

Community Board 2, Manhattan