



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

Burt Lazarin
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

December 10, 2019

Karen Goldmark
Deputy Chancellor of School Planning and Design
NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York New York, 10007

Vanessa Leung
Chair
Panel for Educational Policy
52 Chambers Street
New York New York, 10007

Re: Temp Relocation of City Knoll School in P.S.111 Building at 440 West 53rd Street

Dear Deputy Chancellor Goldmark and Chair Leung,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4), at its general meeting on December 5, 2018, voted 33 to approve, 0 to deny, 0 to abstain, and 1 present not eligible to request that the Panel for Educational Policy postpone its vote scheduled for December 19, 2018 regarding the temporary co-location of the City Knoll Middle School M.S.933 to the Adolph Ochs Elementary School P.S.111 building, 440 West 53rd Street, beginning in September 2019. The request to postpone is for all parties to have additional time to meet with the Department of Education (DOE) and School Construction Authority (SCA).

As you know, M.S.933 is presently located in rented facilities at 425 West 33rd Street. The current lease will not be renewed as the building is scheduled for redevelopment. MCB4 recognizes that M.S.933 urgently needs a location as soon as possible.

However, MCB4 has received correspondence from concerned parents of P.S.111, which highlights the lack of information provided in the DOE's Education Impact Statement regarding the co-location. As a result, the co-location proposal was then discussed on a conference call held on November 30, 2018. On the call were P.S.111 PTA Co-Presidents Fania Washington and Laura Voss, as well as other parents, Carl Wilson, Community Liaison for Speaker Corey Johnson's office, Patrick Joseph Senior, Education Policy Analyst for the Manhattan Borough President's office, Jesse Bodine, MCB4 District Manager, and members of MCB4 including Inge Ivchenko, Lowell Kern and Allen Oster. It became apparent to the MCB4 members on the call that there was insufficient information and time for the community, including the P.S.111 PTA, to come to a consensus about the Educational Impact

Statement before the December hearings and vote. In addition, a number of parents of P.S.111 attended MCB4's Full Board meeting on Wednesday, December 5th to voice similar concerns.

It is MCB4's understanding that the Educational Impact Study may not be required to provide the level detail to support the Department Of Education's conclusion that the co-location will have absolutely *no* negative impact on either P.S.111 or M.S.933 students. Therefore, a postponement of the vote is necessary for all stakeholders to receive the information and assurances that DOE and SCA will provided additional support and resources to mitigate the impacts the co-location will have on the students.

MCB4 has a number of concerns related to the school facilities and their uses including, but not limited:

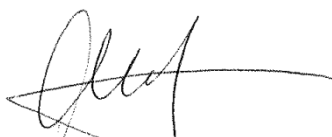
- P.S.111 students receiving special services currently use the 4th floor classrooms slated to be used by M.S.933. Are the alternative spaces available suitable to conduct these services and will DOE\SCA provide the resources for any needed renovation prior to use?
- How would the gym, library, cafeteria, bathrooms and other common areas be shared and monitored? Will DOE\SCA provide the resources for any needed renovation prior to use?
- Will DOE provide resources to both schools to monitor and secure school entrances and ensure students from both schools can enter and exit the school safely? In particular for Pre-K and Kindergarten students.
- What efforts in working with the community stakeholders are being made to secure a permanent home for M.S.933?

MCB4, again, would like to stress that M.S.933 urgently needs a new location as soon as possible. However, MCB4 urges DOE/SCA to postpone the PEP vote to engage in further constructive dialogue with both schools to address their concerns and develop a comprehensive plan.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Community Board 4



Allen Oster
Co-Chair
ACES Committee

[signed 12/10/18]
Inge Ivchenko
Co-Chair
ACES Comittee

cc: Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, City Council
P.S. 111 PTA
M.S. 933 PTA
CECD2