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October 3, 2013

Mr. Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor, NYC DOE
Tweed Courthouse
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chancellor Walcott,

Recently I.S. 171 in the Cypress Hills community of my district was selected for the proposed co-location of District 19 school K760. I am writing today to express my disfavor of this capricious and arbitrary proposal, and urge you to reconsider the co-location.

It is my understanding that I.S. 171 was recently deemed “developing,” after receiving a poor rating in the 2010-11 school year, and gains were made in the areas of student performance and progress. However, the school’s, and students’ performance is not cited as a reason for the proposed co-location; providing “new school options” is.

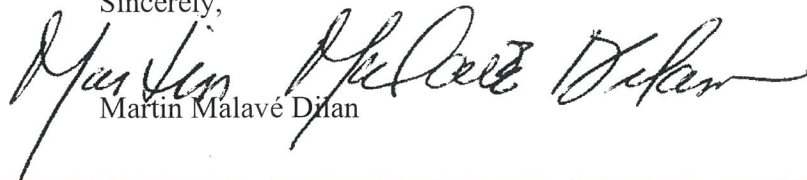
I.S. 171 recently completed its first year as a sixth through eighth grade middle school, after phasing out fifth grade students. This restructuring, and new measures taken to improve performance at I.S. 171, have put the school on a path to success, as shown in recent reports. A proposed co-location at I.S. 171 at this point in time would be premature.

In its first year as a sixth through eighth grade facility, I.S. 171 surpassed all measurable standards that accounted for its poor performance in the past. In addition, the new middle school was graded “proficient” in its ability to “make strategic organizational decisions to support the school’s instructional goals and meet students’ learning needs as evidenced by meaningful student work products.”

Any co location at this time would not only undo what improvements have been made at I.S. 171, but prevent additional improvements from fully developing. It is difficult to determine the necessity of the co-location and under the auspices of improved school options, I cannot support this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Martin Malavé Dilan

