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THE SENATE STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY RANKING MINORITY MEMBER: CONSUMER PROTECTION INVESTIGATIONS & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEES: CODES CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME & CORRECTION CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS & RECREATION JUDICIARY

April 16, 2013

Alex Shub Executive Director of New School Development New York City Department of Education 52 Chambers Street New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Shub:

I am writing to support the Letter of Intent sent by Principal Jon Levin of MS260 - The Clinton School for Writers and Artists (the Clinton School), to the Office of Portfolio Management at the New York City Department of Education (DOE) that calls for the school to become a combined middle and high school, enrolling students in grades 6 through 12.

The Parent Association of the Clinton School strongly supports the proposed grade expansion, as does Manhattan Community Board 5 (CB5). In its April 11, 2013 resolution on the issue, CB5 noted that a combined middle and high school under the direction of one principal would promote a "coherent philosophy and curriculum, as well as a cohesive use of shared resources." The Board also welcomes the grade expansion because it would create hundreds of new desperately needed high school seats in the community. Furthermore, this proposal is eminently feasible, as the new building at 10 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street in which the Clinton School will be housed is designed to accommodate both a middle and high school.

Parents report that students are thriving in the existing middle school, and that enrollment has increased every year under Principal Levin. They also note that the school's artsoriented curriculum is in high demand at the high school level, as is evident from the tremendous popularity of the similarly-focused Beacon High School. I share their belief that this successful program is worthy of expansion. I therefore urge DOE to favorably consider this proposal, and to do so as expeditiously as possible. As you know, the Clinton School is slated to move to its new building in the fall of 2014 and families are already evaluating their high school options.

Please contact me at (212) 633-8052 if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Brod Hageman

Brad Hoylman New York State Senate 27<sup>th</sup> District