



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JOEL I. KLEIN, CHANCELLOR

Region Nine

Peter P. Heaney, Jr. *Regional Superintendent*

Barbara A Gambino *Deputy Regional Superintendent*

Mariano Guzmán *Deputy to the Regional Superintendent*

333 Seventh Avenue • Seventh Floor • New York, NY 10001

Telephone: 212-356-7500 • Fax: 212-356-7514

April 5, 2006

Celenia Chevere

Principal

HS539-New Explorations in Science, Technology, & Mathematics (NEST)

111 Columbia Street

NY, NY 10002

Dear Celenia,

As you know, the Regional Operations Center (ROC) has approved a register projection of 899 (K-12) for NEST for September 2006. With this letter, I am directing you not to exceed this total register projection in admitting students to NEST for September 2006.

Any enrollment beyond this projection must receive the prior written approval of Brian Kaplan, Region Nine SPYFSS Director or Elizabeth Sciabarra, Superintendent, OSEPO.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and compliance with this request.

Yours truly,

Peter P. Heaney, Jr.
Regional Superintendent

C: Joel Klein
Carmen Fariña
Michele Cahill
Elizabeth Sciabarra
Brian Kaplan
Robert Wilson



THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JOEL I. KLEIN, *Chancellor*

OFFICE OF NEW SCHOOLS

52 Chambers Street, Room 405, New York, NY 10007

Phone: 212-374-5419 Fax: 212-374-5581

April 10, 2006

Dear NEST+M parents:

The Department of Education's primary goal is building and supporting great schools, schools that ensure that every student in New York is afforded the promise of a good education.

NEST+M is clearly well on its way to meeting that promise for the students it serves. But even though the Department is proud of NEST+M for this reason and recognizes the school's contribution to the entire school system, it is important that we not allow ourselves to forget that there *are* other schools, and the same public resources that enable NEST+M's success must also support other public schools and other public school students—students who are also our City's responsibility.

In that context, I would like to explain directly to you why the Department is considering dedicating part of the building at 111 Columbia Street, the M022 building, to the Ross Global Academy Charter School.

First of all, the M022 building is designed to serve almost two times as many students as it currently serves. According to standard Department of Education calculations, which are applied to every DOE school building, the classrooms and configuration at the building at 111 Columbia Street should support a student population of 1,407. That's almost double NEST+M's current enrollment of 732 students. Even next year, if NEST+M's population grows to 927 students (the population the school predicted on March 2, as part of the Department's annual enrollment projection exercise), there will still be plenty of extra space in the building. As you know, real estate is expensive in New York City and the Department of Education needs to be prudent and equitable in all of its investments. In this environment, the difference between enrollment and capacity at 111 Columbia Street cannot be overlooked.

Second, no one in the Department of Education or the Board of Education that preceded it ever promised exclusive use of the building to NEST+M. The District 1 resolution creating the school mentions only a school of 700 students located at 111 Columbia Street; the Board of Education resolution creating the school does the same; and the zoning regulation which allowed the school to begin admitting students indicates access to physical space with the capacity to serve 706 students.

Over the past few weeks, I have been surprised and disappointed at the behavior of some

members of the NEST+M community, who have ignored the facts and ignored our call for a fact-based discussion. Some have even attempted to obfuscate and adjust the facts, both to me and my colleagues at the Department of Education as well as to other members of the NEST+M community. Here are a few examples:

- When I was in the building, NEST+M claimed to be planning for an enrollment next year of 1,100, and more recently the school has clarified that the target is 1,083. These numbers are inconsistent with the enrollment of 927 that the school projected only a few weeks earlier, on March 2nd, as part of the Department's formal register projection process. Moreover, in the last few weeks, after normal admissions processes had closed, NEST+M has sought to admit an additional 57 students into the kindergarten and the sixth grade, presumably in reaction to our inquiries into the building. And, although the school does not control high school admissions, it appears that the NEST+M administration has also offered places to eight additional private school students, outside of the City's high school admissions process. All of these admissions appear to violate both the school's own admissions plan and standard DOE admissions procedures. The idea that a school would circumvent our established system and unilaterally offer seats to private school students in order to beef up enrollment is troubling.
- According to first-hand accounts by parents and students, NEST+M administrators and teachers sought to mislead Department of Education visitors on our recent walk through of the school building. School sources have told us that the school administrators and teachers adjusted student schedules and broke classes into smaller units while the Department's staff visited the building, so that more of the rooms would appear to be full and active when DOE staff was in the building. This is obviously troubling and disappointing as well.
- We understand that parents have been told that the Department of Education is poised to place trailers in the school courtyard, cause an increase in class size at NEST, and hurt both the school and the physical building. In fact, we haven't yet made a specific proposal to the NEST+M community about what space would be used. We have never suggested that transportable classrooms would be necessary, and our goal in considering whether NEST+M could share its space would be more effective use of the building, not an increase class-size.

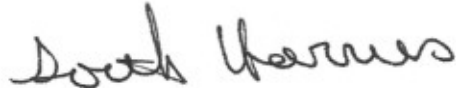
Now, let's turn to the Ross Global Academy Charter School, which you all know is the leading alternative for how we intend to use the extra space. Ross is a public charter school, open for admission to all students by lottery and targeted to serve residents in the immediate neighborhood of the school building. Ross has a nationally recognized curriculum, and a track record in serving students of many different backgrounds and ability levels. Furthermore, we are clear that Ross would not grow to its full size in the building. It would incubate there in its early years, with only a portion of its enrollment. NEST+M certainly has space to share, and I believe the NEST+M community could gain and learn a lot from collaborating with Ross.

Our Chancellor has been a strong supporter of the NEST+M school in the past. NEST+M was established as a District 1 school, to participate in normal D1 admissions, and the Chancellor supported NEST+M's transition into a gifted and talented program. However, only 32% of the school's population lives in District 1, and there remains a compelling need for high quality options for the students of the Lower East Side who cannot qualify for a citywide gifted and talented program. Given the resources of the system, and the resources in the 111 Columbia street building in particular, the key question for the Department is whether other educational options can flourish alongside NEST+M in this building.

I have received correspondence from many parents who are concerned about the outcome of this decision. While most of the correspondence has been opposed to placing a new school in this building, one parent sounded a very different note: "To my way of thinking there are amazing amounts of space that are used NOT for education but for simply for nice to have 'extras'... The facility belongs to the people of New York not the current parent body of NEST... Simply stated: I believe that the NEST+M community can share our strength... Good luck on finding a space and teaching that part of being 'gifted and talented' comes a responsibility to share the gifts."

I look forward to changing the tone of our recent conversation and to having a more productive, thoughtful, and realistic discussion about the use of the DOE building at 111 Columbia Street. At the Department, we must keep the facts in mind and we must remember our responsibility to the entire New York City community, including NEST+M, other schools that exist now, and the future students of Ross Global Academy.

Sincerely,



Garth Harries
Chief Executive Officer, Office of New Schools



THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JOEL I. KLEIN, *Chancellor*

OFFICE OF NEW SCHOOLS

52 Chambers Street, Room 405, New York, NY 10007

Phone: 212-374-5419 Fax: 212-374-5581

April 26, 2006

Dear Principal Chevere:

Our core question, as we have investigated whether two schools can share the building at 111 Columbia Street, has been whether NEST+M and another school would be able to flourish under the same roof, without undermining the excellent program at NEST+M.

We recognize that sharing the school building will require some compromises. NEST+M might have to shift a bit; it might not be able to use the facilities in exactly the same way it has in the past. But, for the reasons Chancellor Klein and I have discussed with you, members of your PTA, and others, we have determined that the space can be comfortably made available to students of the Ross Global Academy Charter School. The Department plans to set aside the following space for Ross Global within the building at 111 Columbia:

- First Year (i.e. 2006-2007 School Year): 9 classrooms and two offices
- Second Year (i.e. 2007-2008): 11 classrooms and two offices
- In addition, the Ross Global Charter School will have access to shared spaces in the building, including the gym, auditorium, library, and cafeteria.

We are confident that this arrangement is well within the capacity of the building, will not create over-crowding, and that each school will be able to maintain their program, maintain class size, and maintain the quality of the educational experience for their students.

As we have discussed, the Department's most recent calculation of capacity in the building was 1407 students, indicating space for both programs to operate. Even aside from this capacity, we have also discussed that both your specific assertions and NEST+M's student admission pattern reflect an intention to grow NEST+M to over 1200 students in the long-term, as the school increases the size of the Kindergarten, 6th grade, and 9th grade admissions. Both you and the PTA have asserted in numerous conversations that the long term enrollment of NEST will be at least 1200 students. Your admission pattern of at least 120 students a year into the Elementary and Middle school, as the school is doing, puts the school enrollment at 1200 students long-term, even assuming an extraordinarily high attrition of 12% a year. However, at no time in the next two years will NEST+M's enrollment approach 1200 students; the school's practice reflects the well-considered plan to phase into that size by gradual escalation of grade size, as larger Kindergarten and 6th grade classes move through the school. So your own plan demonstrates that the building in fact does have the capacity needed to house the Ross Global Academy for two years. With NEST+m at its current projected size over the

next two years, and roughly 250 students from the Ross Global Charter School in the building, at no time in the next two years will the building have more students than your own plan call for.

Furthermore, as we discussed with your team, there is ample room to maintain the NEST program based on the Department's suggested configuration of space. After the classrooms have shifted to Ross in the 2007-2008 school year, NEST will still have 47 full-size classrooms, as well as 2 science labs, 5 half-size class rooms, roughly 10 offices, exercise spaces, library, auditorium, and cafeteria. As you know, the ability to schedule and program a school is based on the number of sections of students who need classes, and the number of instructional spaces available: with the school's current average class size of 21 students, NEST will have at most 45 sections of students, leaving ample building space both within the school as a whole, and within any one segment of the school (i.e. the elementary school, the middle school, and the high school), to offer the full NEST+m program. Although you and your various school-level directors will have to make a number of scheduling choices to make in order to provide the classrooms to Ross, such scheduling is a common practice that can happen without undermining the quality of the instructional or extracurricular program. For instance, a portion of teachers in the middle and high school may need to rotate classrooms rather than have dedicated space; this is an entirely common arrangement in the City's secondary schools. Please note that a new school the size of NEST is entitled to approximately 38 classrooms (including labs and resource rooms) and 5-6 offices, or more than 25% less classroom space: many schools in the system make do with far less space, and still achieve exemplary results.

It is important to note that the arrangement will be temporary, lasting no more than two academic years. The Ross Global Academy will not grow to its full size, or grow into other classrooms in the building. If the Department identifies a feasible alternate location for the Ross Global Academy before the end of two years, we will work to move the Ross school before the full incubation period. After Ross Global Academy moves out to its final location, the Department will work with NEST+M to dedicate the 111 Columbia Street building for use by the NEST+M school, adjusting the program and enrollment of NEST+M so that it appropriately and fully uses the school. As long as NEST+M develops and maintains an enrollment of more than 1200 students, the Department will not place additional instructional programs in the building.

Again as we have discussed with your team, the Department's suggested arrangement of the building is for the Ross Global Academy to group its classrooms on the east side of the third floor, stretching between room 301 and 323. This stretch of rooms on the 3rd floor is composed of basic classrooms which can be used for any purpose, and a computer room, which can be replaced with portable computers so that technology can be integrated into classes taught in the normal course of the curriculum. In addition, to expand further the instructional space available in the building, the Department is willing to assess and divide oversize and double-size rooms in the building, where feasible.

The Ross School will be a good partner and neighbor, for however long they are in the building. Ross is a public charter school, open for admission to all students by lottery and targeted to serve residents in the immediate neighborhood of the school building. The Department is only one of many supporters of the Ross School; recently, the Community School District 1 Community Education Council passed a resolution supporting the Ross Global Academy Charter School, and called on the Department to follow through on placing the school in the building at 111 Columbia. For the CEC, the incubation of the charter school is a way to begin a program that will serve local students: currently, only about a third of the students in NEST+m are from District 1.

Our Chancellor has been a strong supporter of the NEST+M school in the past, including converting the school to gifted and talented admissions when it was not originally created that way by the Board of Education. He will remain a supporter in the future, but it is imperative that the school operate within the management, resources, and constraints of the public school system.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in welcoming the Ross Global Academy as a neighbor in the building at 111 Columbia. Please respond in writing by noon tomorrow, April 27th, to affirm your willingness and commitment to create a temporary, two-year location for the Ross Global Academy, under the terms I have laid out.

Sincerely,



Garth Harries
CEO, Office of New Schools

Cc: Joel I Klein, Chancellor
Peter Heaney, Region 9 Superintendent
Michael Best, General Counsel
Eric Nadelstern, Chief Academic Officer, Office of New Schools

School District _____

____ Ross School (Goodfriend Drive, East Hampton)

____ Ross School @ Hampton Day (Butter Lane, Bridgehampton)

Transportation Request Form
Private & Parochial Schools

In accordance with the laws of the State of New York, I hereby formally request transportation for _____ to _____
(Name of pupil) (Name of school)

during the 2006-2007 school year on all days this school is in session. The pupil for whom I am requesting transportation is _____ years of age, (please enter date of birth) _____, he / she will enter the _____ grade in September and resides at _____.

The closest intersection to his / her home is _____.

Fill out an individual request for each child.


This district must receive all requests no later than April 1st of the preceding school year. PLEASE MAIL/FAX REQUEST TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT. It is a possibility that there may not be a seat available after this date.

A request form must be filled out each year that the child will attend a private or parochial school.

(Signature of parent or guardian)

(Phone #)

(Date of request)

 This message was sent with high importance.

TRS-EXCH1\IUSR_TRS-EXCH1

From: Hailey London
To: Faculty Staff News; Student Announcements; Parent News
Cc: Beth Collins
Subject: Soda on Campus
Attachments:

Sent: Mon 4/3/2006 9:57 AM

Hello all,
Happy Spring.
Not to put a damper on spring and end of school festivities but...

This is just a reminder that soda is never allowed on campus, not after school, not at school sponsored parties or dances, etc.

Also please remember to plan end of year parties amongst your grade level so that parties with food are limited to one a month.


In addition, outside food is never allowed on campus, unless a once month approved party (grade wide), once a month approved bake sale (school wide), or after 3:45.

The Cafe staff and I just returned from a school food conference and these policies are becoming the norm in public school as well, and are to model and educate you on the ideal.

From the words of Cookie Monster 21st century style "Cookies are a sometimes food"

Hailey London

Hailey P London, MS, RD
Chair of Wellness/Nutrition Specialist
Ross School
631-907-5398
hlondon@ross.org

 This message was sent with high importance.

TRS-EXCH1\IUSR_TRS-EXCH1

From: Michele Claeys **Sent:** Sun 4/16/2006 5:01 PM
To: Parent News; Student Announcements
Cc: Christopher Sarlo; Steve Kenney; Faculty Staff News
Subject: Monday Morning Arrival 4/17
Attachments:

Dear Students and Parents,

As you may have read in the East Hampton Star this past week, a group of parents from a school in Manhattan, NEST+m, is planning a protest at Ross School Monday, April 17th. The building where their school is located is one that the New York City Department of Education is considering for the location of the Ross Global Academy Public Charter School; the two schools would share the space for a few years until Ross Global Academy grows and needs its own space. As you know if you read the article, Ross Global Academy has no say as to where it will be located. It has been approved by the New York State Board of Regents to open in September, but its location – like the locations of all other public charter schools in New York City – will be assigned by the Department of Education.

For Monday, our goal is to respect the rights of the NEST+m parents to assemble peacefully along Goodfriend Drive (a public road under the jurisdiction of East Hampton Town) while running a normal school day with no disruptions for our students or their learning. Of course, students will be informed of what is happening and will have opportunities to ask questions and discuss the situation at our regular MS and HS morning meetings. As noted above, the location of the Ross Global Academy Public Charter School will be assigned by the New York City Department of Education and is not something that any of us at Ross School can determine.

Please try to arrive at Ross School a little early Monday in order to avoid possible congestion on Goodfriend Drive. Thank you for your assistance.

Best regards on behalf of Leadership Council,
Michele Claeys
Head of Middle School