

Community Education Council For District One

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK



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October 11, 2013

To the school communities at PS 63 STAR Academy and The Neighborhood School:

We are writing to inform you that, per our request, the construction project scheduled to commence on Monday, October 14th, 2013 will be temporarily delayed with a start date to be announced at the next regularly scheduled weekly morning meeting. The Department of Education ("DOE") and the School Construction Authority ("SCA") have agreed to temporarily postpone the start date to enable the school communities to resolve some outstanding matters.

Lorraine Grillo, SCA President, will attend the meeting on Thursday, October 17th at 8:30 a.m. She will announce the new start date and explain next steps, as well as answer any questions from the school communities. Benjamin Goodman, Manhattan Borough Director for DOE's Office of Public Affairs, will also be in attendance.

Please note that at the October 9th meeting, SCA's Mike Mirisola addressed PS063M's eight (8) key requirements. He informed the school communities and elected officials that the SCA **would not** postpone construction until the Summer of 2014 since serious conditions exist that need to be addressed immediately as a result of the leaking roof, the flooded basement, the cracked terra cotta and porous bricks and mortar. The building requires immediate attention for the waterproofing of the foundation, abatement of the asbestos paint on the exterior of the building, replacement of the entire brick surface and a new roof. At the meeting, the Assistant Principal of P.S. 63 STAR Academy stated that she could not agree to such a long delay because their classrooms have severe leaks and possibly mold that is affecting the school children's learning environment.

At the October 17th meeting, any health and safety issues will be addressed and a joint school health and safety committee can be designated. Furthermore, we will discuss:

- An alternative location for the Wingspan Arts After-School program, as well as
- Additional play space for outdoor recess and Physical Education classes for both schools.

It is essential that we work together as a community to ensure that these important repairs move forward in a timely manner so that the building's physical integrity can be maintained for the safe use of the building for our children today and in the years to come.

It is equally important that the impact on students, staff, parents and surrounding neighborhood residents be mitigated with appropriate and creative solutions that your local elected officials, community members and school officials have been working towards over the last several weeks.

We look forward to working further with you on addressing the school community's needs after this holiday weekend.

Sincerely,



Rosie Mendez
Councilwoman
Council District 2



Lisa B. Donlan
President
Community Education Council 1