



Parent Association

of P.S. 145 M, The Bloomingdale School

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VIA MAIL & E-MAIL

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Community Education Council District 3
154 West 93rd Street
New York, NY 10025

Re: Desegregation and School Equity

Dear Representatives of CEC3,

The Parent Association of P.S. 145 is writing to express our concern about the issue of racial and economic segregation that persists in the schools within our district. Although our district is socioeconomically diverse, our schools are not. Despite decades of attempts to end this problem in our district, and successful efforts to end the problem elsewhere, schools in District 3 remain racially and economically segregated. As Justice John Marshal Harlan wrote in his lone dissent in *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896, "Our constitution is color blind and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens." We believe Justice Harlan would be sorely disappointed if he were alive to take a look at the schools in District 3 in 2016.

We understand that there are to be two forums in March about this issue and we are eager to attend and participate. The voices of those from schools such as ours, which have majority black and Latino populations and which have a large percentage of children living in temporary housing, must not only be heard but also be given amplification. It is clear our voices have been unheard for far too long.

Further, we support the efforts of some of the other schools in our district that have called for a task force on Community Controlled Choice as one option for ending segregation in our district. Community Controlled Choice may serve to end racial segregation, and thus discrimination, within our

district, and thus deserves full exploration. We also support the formation of investigative committees into any other options that would immediately put an end to this problem that should have been solved in 1964.

We know that you are as concerned as we are about the problem of racial and economic segregation in our district. *Brown v. Board of Education* was decided in 1954, and in 1955 the court spoke further to say that the matter needed to be handled with “all deliberate speed.” Yet, sixty-one years later, we still must assert that “separate is not equal.”

We look forward to working with you to find an immediate and successful solution to this crisis in our District 3 schools.

Sincerely,
The Parent Association of P.S. 145