

TEACHERS COLLEGE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 17, 2007

Hon. Joel Klein
Chancellor
New York City Department of Education
50 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Joel:

As you and I have discussed, it is Teachers College's intention to develop a new neighborhood public school, pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, in Manhattan Community Board District 9. We would like to create a demonstration school that would serve approximately 500 students and that would provide supplementary educational services before and after school. In addition, our vision includes community educational programming and a professional development "hub" for pre-service and veteran educators.

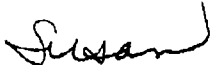
We are ready to begin the planning process as soon as the DOE and the College have agreed upon the conditions and commitments that will ensure the success of this demonstration university-assisted public school. Hopefully that can be accomplished very soon, at which point we are prepared to immediately undertake an inclusive community engagement process with DOE with the intention to inaugurate the new school in September 2009. The planning process will include planning committees that reflect the broad base of community stakeholders as well as liaisons with civic, business social service and cultural organizations. This process is intended to produce a framework for educational and community programs at the school. The process will assure that the design of the school is consistent with best educational practices and the educational vision we develop with DOE and the community.

If the plans go forward as we hope, Teachers College is prepared to have an ongoing affiliation with the school for a minimum of 10 years during which time we are prepared to do the following:

- Assist in the development and evaluation of the school curriculum
- Advise the principal regarding staffing and resource allocation
- Provide professional development for teachers at the school
- Connect the school to Teachers College and Columbia University resources
- Use the school as a site for educational research and teacher preparation
- Help develop community programming for use of facilities in non-school hours
- Strengthen pre-kindergarten in the community in order to prepare students for a strong school start

We are enthusiastic about working with DOE to create this affiliation with a new West Harlem public school. We look forward to working with you and the west Harlem Development Corporation or its successor, as well as Congressman Rangel, Mayor Bloomberg, Council Members Jackson and Dickens as well as other community leaders to make this vision a reality.

Very truly yours,



Susan Fuhrman
President