

Boys & Girls High School: A View From a Parent Leader

By Mark Winston Griffith

It was a moment many had expected for years, ever since Boys and Girls had begun receiving poor and failing marks on their progress reports from the Department of Education: An auditorium full of parents and community stakeholders making the case to Department of Education officials as to why the venerable Bed-Stuy institution should not be closed. The meeting, held Tuesday, December 4th, was part of the process that the DOE uses to help decide the fate of failing schools.

And while much of the press attention was on the human lightning rod in room, Principal Bernard Gassaway, it was PTA leader Lisa Dunn and her fellow parent leaders who were probably most responsible for the impressively large turnout, leaving little doubt that parents were willing to go toe-to-toe with the DOE in order to save their beloved school.

“We must have called at least 250 people for this event,” Dunn said with an instinctive understanding of how to effectively mobilize people.

[Read Full Article.](#)

Announcing: A+ NYC Online Policy Hub

The A+NYC Policy Hub is a one-stop online shop that provides accessible fact sheets on education research evidence and best practices to elected officials, media, policymakers and the public. The Policy Hub seeks to contribute authoritative educational research to the debate surrounding the 2013 mayoral election and ground the public conversation in evidence about what works in the nation’s schools.

[Check it out here!](#)

Grants Available to PTA's

The Brooklyn Movement Center has teamed up with the Brooklyn Community Foundation to offer a grant to parent associations operating in Community School District 16 for the 2012 – 2013 school year. Up to \$1,000 will be awarded to support literacy and parent engagement efforts within the district.

[Click here for how to apply.](#)
[Check out what the Bed-Stuy Patch has to say about our District 16 project!](#)

Latest Blog Posts

[Talking Turkey on Junk Food in Schools](#), By Monifa Bandele

Getting family members together with different practices, politics and palates for one big meal can be complicated and controversial.

Lots of thought and effort go into the meals we serve at home and on holidays.

And there is an equally serious and intense conversation happening right now about the profound impact that school foods have on the health of our children.

[Food, Culture & Politics](#), By Ajamu Brown

A natural disaster like Hurricane Sandy can really exacerbate social and economic inequities that exist in society, and it raised questions for me about how best to address food security for the world's growing urban population as food prices and income inequality rise, immigrant farm workers and the low-wage restaurant workforce are often mistreated, climate change wreaks havoc throughout the world, and the competition for limited resources intensifies.

Food Justice Internship

The BMC is looking to work with a highly motivated and talented undergraduate or graduate student who seeks to gain experience in community organizing, institution building, and food policy advocacy by serving as a BMC Food Justice Intern. The Internship begins in January and ends in June 2013. The BMC Food Justice Intern is an opportunity for a socially conscious young person with proven leadership skills to make an impact in Central Brooklyn.

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)

Set up FEMA Emergency Alternative Housing in the Rockaways NOW

New Yorkers for Sandy Relief, [part of a coalition of 45 political and advocacy groups](#) seeking to bring attention to the needs of people in the Rockaways following Hurricane Sandy has started a [change.org petition](#) to demand FEMA Emergency Alternative housing in the Rockaways.

Unless FEMA steps in right away, children, the elderly, and the sick could be in danger of hypothermia as they are exposed to freezing nighttime temperatures this week.

Join Brooklyn Movement Center in signing this petition to demand emergency services for our neighbors in the Rockaways!

[Click here to sign this petition!](#)

Event Blast: Project Safe Surrender

Friday, December 14, 2012 and
Saturday, December 15, 2012 9am to 3pm
The Mount Sion Baptist Church
365 Ralph Ave., Brooklyn, NY
Court and defense attorneys will be
available to resolve outstanding
summons warrants. For more
information call: [718-250-3888](tel:718-250-3888)

MWG on BrianLehrer.TV

Last month, Mark Winston Griffith
participated in a post election debate
on Brian Lehrer TV along with Greg
David from the CUNY Journalism
School. [Watch it here!](#)

Happy Chrismahanukwanzakah!

The Brooklyn Movement Center wishes all of you a safe and happy holiday
season! Our offices will be closed from Monday, December 24th through
Tuesday, January 2nd.

Happy New Year!