

Youth and Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: May 8, 2023

Attendees: Youth and Education Committee Members, Emily Shapiro (Founding Principal, PS 958), Staff Members of Sunset Park High School, Community Members, CB7 Staff

Agenda:

1. School Renaming of PS 958
2. Update and Review of Sunset Park High School

Discussion:

Item 1: School Renaming of PS 958

Emily Shapiro, the founding principal of PS 958, presented the proposal and process for renaming the school. The new name that was suggested and received overwhelming support was "Dr. Antonia Pantoja". The school will be moving forward with this renaming and any other steps required by Dept of Ed.

Item 2: Update and Review of Sunset Park High School

A series of staff members from Sunset Park High School, including teachers, counselors, and other stakeholders, voiced their concerns about the current organizational culture at the high school.

Most comments were directed towards the leadership of Principal Victoria Antonini. The main concern was that the school appears to be moving away from its original community school approach, a foundational tenet of the institution, which has been steward by the community. One parent spoke in favor of Ms. Antonini.

The committee noted these concerns and agreed to follow up on these issues.

Next Steps:

1. The committee will continue supporting PS 958 in its renaming to "Dr. Antonia Pantoja".
2. The committee will investigate the concerns raised regarding the leadership and direction of Sunset Park High School, with a focus on the shift away from the community school approach.

Meeting adjourned: May 8th, 2023

Next Meeting: TBA

Minutes prepared by: Cesar Zuniga