

be governed by the provisions of this chapter applicable to city s districts.

17. State university. The term "state university" means the university of New York, as created by article eight of this chapter

17. City. The term "city" means the city school district of such where the context clearly so indicates.

18. Minor or infant. The term "minor" or "infant" means a person has not attained the age of eighteen years.

19. Expenditures. For purposes of computing aid to public s districts, boards of cooperative educational services, nonpublic el- tary and secondary schools, public and cooperative library system public and free association libraries pursuant to this chapter o other law, such aid shall be computed using state aid worksheets d oped pursuant to regulations of the commissioner, designed to re use of the state comptroller's definition of expenditures to the e possible. Such worksheet definitions of expenditures shall be notwithstanding the fact that this chapter or other applicable law use terms such as cash expenditures, expenses, costs, paid, payment such other terms.

24. Career education. The term "career education" means orga educational programs offering a sequence of courses which are dir- related to the preparation of individuals in paid or unpaid emplo in current or emerging occupations requiring other than a baccalau or advanced degrees, and shall include vocational and occupat education. Such programs shall include competency-based applied lea which contributes to an individual's academic knowledge, higher- reasoning, and problem solving skills, work activities, general emp bility skills, and the skills necessary for economic independence productive and contributing member of society. Such term also inc applied technology education. Except where the intent indicates o wise, the terms "vocational education" and "occupational educa shall mean "career education."

S 2-a. Release of directory information; access to institut Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no trustee, president, principal, or officer of any institution belo to the University of the State of New York, or a board of educatio any public school, in any city, union free, common or central s district or the administrator of any non-public school of seco education receiving state funds permits the release of dire information relating to pupils or permits access to school build school grounds or other school property to persons who inform pupi educational, occupational or career opportunities, such tru president, principal, officer, board or administrator shall pr access to directory information relating to pupils and access to school property on the same basis for official representatives o state militia and the armed forces of the United States for the pu of informing pupils of educational, occupational or career opportu within the state militia or armed forces of the United States. Pur to this section, access provided to school property or dire information shall not be used for purposes other than informing stu of educational, occupational or career opportunities.

PATRICIA A. ROMANDETTO
Community Superintendent



June 26, 2001

Dear MS 54 PTA Review Committee,

First, thank you once again for volunteering your time during the summer. Please know your work is important.

As facilitator, there are a few things I want to put in writing regarding this committee.

Your first order of business on Wednesday, June 27, is to call upon a member to volunteer as recording secretary, whose purpose is to take minutes and attendance at all meetings of the committee. Whom ever volunteers, please remember that minutes must be presented to the committee for review and approval. Reading and approval of all minutes will begin all subsequent meetings of this review committee. If at all possible I suggest that the recording secretary volunteer remain constant, rather than rotate.

Second order will be to establish the purpose of this review committee as stated in the MS 54 PTA By-laws: Article 5.6 Disciplinary Action: section b., subsection 3. Please have a member of the committee read this to the group. As per the grievance filed against the PTA President by five members of the Association, this review committee has been formed to investigate allegations regarding the competency of the current President, Betsy Combier, to fulfill her duties as described in the MS 54 PTA By-laws: Article II, Objective of the Association and VII, Section 2. Responsibilities of Officers.

In order to accomplish the second order of business I recommend that first the PTA By-laws be reviewed, followed by reading of the grievance. Discussion should be limited to objective analysis of Ms. Combier's conduct as PTA President, in relation to the duties described in the By-Laws.

Your last order of business on Wednesday will be to set up a calendar consisting of at least 2 additional meetings. Please call me with these dates, so that I may attend. I will return to my office on Wednesday, July 18. I am not available to meet the mornings of July 31, August 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9th. Otherwise my calendar is currently free.

Once again, thank you for volunteering in good faith. I trust all information discussed will be kept confidential. If you have questions or concerns, you may reach me at the numbers/e-mail below.

Sincerely,


DJ Sheppard
Co-Coordinator

Jamal Young/Rosa Fenton
Cecilia Blewer/Sharon Parker-Frazier
Betsy Combier ✓



Office of Family and Community Engagement

Community School District 3/154 West 93 Street/New York, N.Y. 10025

www.nycenet.edu/cs3/family_engagement.htm

Voice: 212-678-2952

Fax: 212-316-5159

email: d3parents@con2.com

Mr. Jamal Young
Board of Education
110 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

June 28, 2001

Dear Mr. Young,

I am writing this letter to describe to you my despair over this entire mess at Booker T. MS 54. I think at this point it does not matter what I say. No one, absolutely no one, is listening. All of this started with my request for information from Pat Romandetto about missing money from the MS 54 allocations. I also requested a respite from the terrible harassment I have endured from Larry Lynch, prosecutable to the full extent of the law, and, with the additional closed books from me and the PTA, countless violations of the A-660s and "The Blue Book". After I sent the letter to Mrs. Romandetto I gave both Larry and Marie copies. They copied the grievance for two parents who have started a campaign of vengeance and hatred which has left me stunned and devastated. The grievance should have remained confidential until the information I requested was given. But, it was not.

Totally unaware of the distribution of the grievance to the two parents and the resulting hate campaign started by them, I gave to the school a flyer announcing the final PTA meeting for the year, June 7. Larry Lynch did not allow these flyers to be distributed. I know no one who received one. At this meeting the two parents who had read the grievance told the few parents who were there at their invitation, including the OPAE representative DJ Shephard, that there were going to be massive lawsuits filed against each and every parent because of my grievance, and the shouting began. No one wanted me to say anything in my defense. The shouting and verbal abuse got so horrendous - even by DJ, who kept repeating over and over "resign, resign, resign"- that I got up and left, telling all there that "ok, I'm leaving". Everyone took that as "ok, I'm resigning", and DJ proceeded to urge all there to disassociate themselves from me, write Mrs. Romandetto and her with their alienation, and then set up a new PTA with a new President. All in violation of our own Bylaws, which state that any resignation must be in writing - I guess as a protection against this very thing from happening. Very bizarre.

The hatred, desire for revenge, and vindictiveness started by these two parents and aided and abetted by DJ Shephard, all because I filed a grievance against Larry Lynch and Marie Williams which I still feel was justified, was fanned out to the parents at Booker T. I was sent hate email; friends of mine were sent deplorable emails and a party was crashed so that I could be "forced" to hold another PTA meeting. No one, not one person out of this group, cares to know anything about what is in my grievance.

Then I faxed you a request to attend the special PTA meeting on June 25th, because I saw how this escalating hatred would spiral out of control, leaving resentment and a war dividing the parents at Booker T.

When we spoke Monday afternoon the 25th of June I laid all the questions in my mind at your feet. I had every reason to believe that the meeting that night would be the

worst experience of my life, with people taking sides and saying things that not only would they regret, but would have lasting and divisive consequences for everyone there and the school. I asked you to come to this meeting to control the mob and allow all of us a chance to be a community once again. I wanted the meeting to put a stop to the hatred by not allowing any discussion of me, but an overview of the process of grievances. You told me to trust you.

The meeting began with the mob throwing my agenda in the garbage, because the group that was there was totally not interested in hearing anything about grievances against Larry. They wanted my blood. They wanted me to suffer. And they succeeded. Larry Lynch stood up and yelled that I was a liar, Jose Valerio spoke about how I called his house and told his daughter that I would attack him for going against me and he added that he had written a letter to DJ describing the telephone call (I NEVER WOULD TELL ANYONE'S CHILD ANYTHING, AND I NEVER RECEIVED ANY COPY OF ANY LETTER, IF IT WAS WRITTEN); parents I have never personally met, and even a parent whose child was entering the school in the fall, attacked and belittled me for being despicable; Sue Schneider, Amy Frawley, and 3 other parents were allowed by Rosa to stand up and read the first two pages of a grievance filed that afternoon against me with the school board, even though no one wanted to hear what the grievance was against Larry. And, I had never seen the grievance that these parents were allowed to read against me, so could not address any of it because I was not allowed to speak in my defense. This is a blatant violation of my rights to defend myself, and a willful attempt to inflict emotional harm. This is what I was hoping the BOE could prevent, but did not.

Roni Wattman, chair of the District 3 school board, said absolutely nothing during the meeting, and as soon as it was over gave me a copy of a letter from the school board rejecting my grievance and also gave me a copy of the grievance filed against me. The timing was extremely ironic - I filed a grievance which is rejected (and I found out today was never presented for a vote because Central Board told the school board not to vote on my grievance). At exactly the same moment I was given a grievance filed against me for deplorable actions as PTA President, all made up after I was re-elected on May 23, 2001, because I filed my grievance against Larry Lynch which no one, not even the newly established review committee, may see or discuss.

As I was shaking in stunned disbelief after the meeting, having been cut into tiny pieces by parents who are in the grips of hatred and I was not allowed to defend myself nor were my friends in the room allowed to speak,, Jose Valerio approached me and Rosa to tell me that all the PTA financial records were in Larry's office, and I should go get them. The dilemma was clear: I go to Larry's office to get the records, and I touch them and am immediately accused of stealing. Or, I do not go get them, and am accused of being derelict in my duties as PTA President. Does any one care that Larry has seriously abused me, and told me that I would be arrested if I enter the building?

Of course you know that there was a review committee set up at the meeting on June 25th. They are forbidden from looking into the allegations in my grievance against Larry Lynch, so they are sending out a survey to the entire school body over the summer asking for information on me. Why this does not concern me is: I have done nothing to warrant my removal for wrong-doing of any kind, and the establishment of the review committee is supported in the MS 54 Bylaws.

Why this review committee worries me is:

- How is this committee going to get the information on all the addresses of the parent body of MS 54? I am not even supposed to get this list, and I am PTA President. Are you, as OPAE Director at the Board of Education, going to OK the school giving out the addresses of every child who attends MS 54? Is this going to stand up in court when a parent sues the school for giving out the home address without his/her permission?
- How am I supposed to contact the teachers and staff of MS 54 who I know will support me? How do I get their summer addresses?
- Is the survey going to be mailed? Who is paying the postage?
- How are parents who are away for the summer going to be contacted? Many of my friends are in Italy right now with an Opera Company.
- How can parents read letters from fellow parents, and know what is true and what is not? Who decides? If someone writes that a parent saw me hitting a child in the hallway, dont you require the child to be interrogated? I of course deny anything as absurd as this, but these parents will do anything to cut me down. I have seen this before: if the petty things are proven as untrue, the lies get bigger and bigger.
- How do I defend my name, after parents receive questions concerning my position as PTA President and questioning my ability to be a loving mother and friend?
- After the letters somehow are sent out to everyone, and the replies come in, who verifies the information?
- Do I get copies of the letters to deny the allegations in them, or who becomes my executioner?

The end result of the review committee will be lawsuits, anger, a divided PTA, and the possibility that the entire school will not be able to function in the Fall. When this story hits the newspapers and television news shows, is there anyone out there who will want to stand up and speak out against anyone, ever? Will anyone want to be a PTA President? On one side I will not resign, because I think I have been the best PTA President anyone can remember, and I want to continue in the school that I love. A school aide who has worked in the office of MS 54 for years told me many times that Larry hates me because I get things done, and I create initiatives which I follow through.

The other side of the coin is that I am crushed with overwhelming unfairness, verbal abuse, and personal attacks of the worst kind.

I have never met you, Mr. Young, but I do not feel at all protected from the bad guys out there, and I am, for the first time in my life, unsure that I will take another attack on my character, my personal beliefs, or my "job" as MS 54 PTA President without jumping ship to the side of those who want to abolish the BOE. In my grievance against Larry Lynch I presented information about his financial mismanagement, secrecy, and harassment which I still believe undermines the foundation upon which the BOE stands. By the way, is he right now doctoring the books so that he can say he actually showed me them all year?

I so need to have the attacks against me stop, but I see only an increase in the terrorizing and slander which has already spiralled out of control. All of this is totally unfair.

Wetly Corbett

: Thu, 28 Jun 2001
: "D3 Family Engagement" <d3parents@con2.com>
: <MarcyGlanz@aol.com>

Dear Marcy,
Definitely tell the committee that they may meet at the District office on
Monday, July 30th at 6:00p.

My office will pick up the mailing costs for one school-wide summer mailing.
Regarding photocopies, I'm afraid that will have to come from the PA. When
I return, you are welcome to use the xerox in my office.

Regarding the balance of your questions, I will be
forwarding your e-mail to Jamal Young, as I need to get his input.

Again, thank you on behalf of your community.

I look forward to communicating with you upon my return to the District
Office, the week of July 23rd.

Regards,
DJ

Date: Wed, 25 Jul 2001
From: "D3 Family Engagement" <d3parents@con2.com>

To: <MarcyGlanz@aol.com>, "Nelson, Jennifer L (Jenny)", NPONS" <jnelson1@att.com>,
<PALee@aol.com>, <julitney@hotmail.com>, <TedPejov@aol.com>, <JVale7253@aol.com>,
<MonaMaryT@aol.com>, <@netc.net>. "Lisbeth Mark" <lmark@afaweb.org>

Dear Libby and Team,
As facilitator, I will be drafting the agenda. I have requested and am
receiving technical assistance from the Office of Parent Advocacy and
Engagement at 110 Livingston Street. I will forward the agenda upon receipt
of that offices' materials.

Please note that the first agenda item will be acceptance of the last
meetings minutes.

Please remember all members should bring copies of all documents received.
As per your committee's request, I will bring copies all 2000-1 MS 54 PTA
meeting minutes which are in my files: Sept., Oct., Nov., April, May and
June.

Once again this meeting will be begin promptly at 6:00p on Monday, 7/30 in
room 215 at 154 W. 93rd Street. We are limited to 2 hours due to summer
hours.

Sincerely,
DJ Sheppard
CSD 3 Office of Family Engagement

: Wed, 11 Jul 2001 .

"Nelson, Jennifer L (Jenny), NPONS" <jnelson1@att.com>
MarcyGlanz@aol.com, @nete.net, MonaMaryT@aol.com, lmark@afaweb.org,
JVale7253@aol.com, TedPejov@aol.com, julitney@hotmail.com, PALee@aol.com
d3parents@con2.com

Dear MS 54 PTA Review Committee:

My apology for the delay in these Minutes. I have been technologically impaired and believe I am on the verge of a computer failure.

Attached and copied below (for those that may not be able to access the attachments - the attached WORD documents are formatted, whereas I can't control the formatting of a Plain text message) for your review and comment are:

- 1) an updated contact list for the Review Committee;
- 2) the proposed minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, June 27, 2001;
- 3) a TO DO LIST; and
- 4) a draft of the proposed letter to go to M.S. 54 parents.

As requested during the meeting, I spoke with Larry Lynch he is going to request each of the Program administrators provide to him a contact method so they may be contacted by the team. Since some of them may not be available at home, in lieu of home phone numbers, these may be e-mail IDs or remote access phone numbers (the choice is up to the Program Administrator). He or they will call/e-mail the contact method to me. He asked that I respect the privacy of these people and not distribute the contact information. He also gave me his personal e-mail ID and home phone number and asked that I be the contact for the team since he does not want it to become public information. I sent a reminder e-mail to him since I have not heard anything from him yet.

Larry also gave me three contact names/numbers that could give historic PTA information if we are interested. The contacts are Emily Anderson, who founded the PTA 6 years ago; Pauline Brookfield, was the President I think 4 years ago; and Sarah Conley, I think the President three years ago. We need someone to take charge of contacting these people and gathering information. I will do it if no one else can.

From: sschneider@manhattanreading.org
[mailto:sschneider@manhattanreading.org]
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2001 1:17 PM
To: lmark@afaweb.org
Cc: Pwpbro@aol.com; CONDEEGAN@aol.com; Mfrawley@erols.com;
Barbara.mellor@nyu.edu
Subject: Review Committee

Hi Libby:

What is happening with the review committee? I've heard that the committee is not reconvening until July 30th. Is that correct?

Is there a plan/schedule of which we should all be aware? Target dates, etc? Vacations are spread throughout the summer so it would seem to be the better part of wisdom to schedule ahead, which I've no doubt you've already considered - therefore I am wondering what we should expect? I know it's not ideal to be working without the OFACE office but it's what we're faced with so, what info can the committee share with us?

Do you need anyone's e-mail address? I will keep all of those on this end informed of any communications - would you please do the same for the committee? Just let me know if that's O.K.- O.K.?

Hope your summer's been good so far. Nice break in routine....Best....Sue

Dear Marcy,
I am back, but just not answering my phone regularly until Monday the 23rd
as I am trying to tunnel out from under.
I briefly read the to do list and minutes. See alot of questions for me,
which I will try to answer as best I can:

I have reserved the conference room (215) in JOA: 154 West 93rd Street
for=20=
Monday, 7/30 6:00-8:00p.

The committee may have copies of minutes of PTA meetings for 2000-1. Best
to submit the request, being as precise as possible, by Friday, July 27 and
I will have 8 sets ready for your Monday eve. meeting.

It has been suggested that the committee contact teachers as this is a
PTA,=20=

other administrators and of course parents.
As a courtesy to Mr. Lynch, I would consult him as to the method of
contacting teachers and admin.

Regarding contacting parents, my office will provide the ability to Xerox
and first class postage for one mailing. Given this, the committee needs to
discuss most effective time to do a mailing given time constraints.

Marcy. Sue Schneider had asked if the committee was going to
meet/interview=20=
the grievants. Let me know if this is something the committee wants and I
will work with you to get information to all parties.

If you would like to speak with me on Friday, just leave a message on the
machine and will call you back as soon as I'm able.

Regards,
DJ

Fri, 13 Jul 2001

Dear Marcy,

I have a print-out of a message from D.J. to you dated June 28, 2001. In
the message, D.J. says it is okay for us to meet at the District Office on
~~Monday, July 30th at 6:00 PM.~~ She also says her office will pick up the
mailing costs for one school-wide summer mailing. She says that the PTA
will need to absorb the costs of the copies made so far, but any future
copies can be made at her office. She says she will forward the e-mail to
Jamal Young for his input on the other requests. She says she will return
to the District Office the week of July 23rd, so that may be when we will
get the rest of our questions answered. I would forward the message except
I must have deleted it (I rarely delete anything so I am still searching for
it).

Jenny

Sat, 21 Jul 2001 21:08:23 EDT

TedPejov@aol.com

Jnelson1@att.com, julitney@hotmail.com, JVale7253@aol.com, lmark@afaweb.org,
MarcyGlanz@aol.com, MonaMaryT@aol.com, PALee@aol.com, [redacted]@nete.net

Hello everyone. I have read all the latest e-messages. Thank you all for keeping us updated! I am available to orchestrate a mailing as soon as needed. I would rather not be a liason between the review committee and Betsy Combier and, honestly, I'm not sure why she needs to be involved in this process at all. If there is no one else, I will take that responsibility on.

Please let me know what else I can do to facilitate our goals.

I look forward to seeing you on July 30. Anne

Tue, 24 Jul 2001

Lisbeth Mark <lmark@afaweb.org>

"MarcyGlanz@aol.com" <MarcyGlanz@aol.com>, jnelson1@att.net, [redacted]@nete.net,

Lisbeth Mark <lmark@afaweb.org>, MonaMaryT@aol.com, JVale7253@aol.com,

TedPejov@aol.com, julitney@hotmail.com, PALee@aol.com, d3parents@con2.com

- I understand the concerns about a mailing. It's an awkward situation. But how else can we fulfill the duties of the review committee, as stated in the bylaws and agreed upon by us on June 27, if we don't solicit input from all members of the PTA either in support or rebuttal of the proposal that Betsy, by her own conduct, is incapable of performing the duties of PTA pres? A school wide mailing seems the most equitable method. (I think the idea of an email address is brilliant and we should discuss that Monday.)

MarcyGlanz@aol.com [mailto:MarcyGlanz@aol.com]

Thursday, July 19, 2001 7:45 PM

Jenni,

What's happening with the draft of the letter to parents? I fear we are

running out of time! Do you need help?

If we are ready with a final draft by the meeting date of 7/27, I think that

DJ will be able to make the necessary copies and add the postage to get the mailing out ASAP.

Dear Team,

Larry gave me his home office number and personal e-mail asking that I be his liaison as I noted in my message to the team. I'll contact him on Monday to find out about getting the parent list. I assume we include 8th grade parents but exclude incoming 6th grade. Is that right?

What ever happened to the Sue Schneider update e-mail?

Jenny

Dear Review Committee,

I am very conflicted about the letter we send to families for many of the reasons that have been voiced. Maybe it needs to be more vague rather than more specific. That way, if parents have been involved and know what has been going on, they will know what it refers to and if they have not been involved and don't know what has been going on, it will reduce possible impacts on the children. Attached and below I have put together three versions of the letter.

Jenny

PROPOSED LETTER 1:

Dear M.S. 54 Parents:

At a Special Meeting of the M.S. 54 P.T.A. on June 25, 2001, a P.T.A. Review Committee was created to address the concerns expressed in a grievance filed by five M.S. 54 parents requesting the removal of Betsy Combier from the Presidency of the M.S. 54 P.T.A. The grievance alleges that Betsy Combier behaved in ways or took actions that created an unworkable situation at M.S. 54.

As part of the review process, the P.T.A. Review Committee is soliciting information from you that would help support or deny these allegations. If you have any comments or information that would help the committee in its review, please submit them as soon as possible, but no later than September 1. All responses should be directed to the M.S. 54 P.T.A. Review Committee facilitator, D.J. Sheppard, Co-coordinator of the Community District 3 Office of Family and Community Engagement by e-mail to d3parents@con2.com or by mail to:

D.J. Sheppard

OFACE CSD 3

154 West 93rd Street

New York 10025

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

M.S. 54 P.T.A. Review Committee

PROPOSED LETTER 2:

Dear M.S. 54 Parents:

At a Special Meeting of the M.S. 54 P.T.A. on June 25, 2001, a P.T.A. Review

Apartment P-21
New York, New York 10023

August 8, 2001

Ms. DJ Sheppard
Office of Family and Community Engagement
CSD 3
154 West 93rd Street
New York, New York 10025

Dear DJ:

After serious deliberation, I find that I must dissociate myself from the Review Process examining the charges brought against Ms. Betsy Combier as President of the M.S. 54 PTA. As such, I resign from the committee, effective immediately.

I will no longer participate in this process as I consider it fatally flawed by the composition of the committee and the continuing attempts to expand the review to any matter that might serve to justify the removal of Ms. Combier. I can not envision a manner in which this committee can conduct an impartial review of the facts surrounding the charges and render an unprejudiced report and recommendations to the general membership. I do not know if Ms. Combier's conduct rises to the level of disciplinary removal, but am unable given the "evidence" and ever expanding allegations to see how an ethical fact finding can ever be completed.

At the special meeting of the M.S. 54 PTA on June 25, 2001, several members of the committee openly demanded the ouster of Ms. Combier. Mr. Valerio publicly stated that he would resign from the position of Treasurer unless Ms. Combier was removed. Another member of the committee, Ms. Glanz, joined Mr. Valerio in writing letters against Ms. Combier's presidency prior to the convening of the committee. One member of the committee, Ms. Loretta Williams, was elected Co-President/First Vice President for the 2001/2002 school year and, therefore has an impermissible conflict of interest, as she will serve out the remainder of Combier's term in the event of removal.

In addition, I have personally been accused of a "blatantly illegal attempt to manipulate the outcome of the election," and my continued participation on the committee limits my ability to seek redress. I have received "warnings" from parents and staff members, informing me that I should remove my daughter from the Delta Program, or face the consequences. I have no need justify my conduct in this letter, but wish to show the bitterness, manipulation, and attempts at intimidation that condemn this process.

Sincerely,


Deborah L. France

cc: Members of the Review Committee
Jamal Young, Director, Office of Parent Advocacy and Engagement

Dear Debbie,

I am sorry you felt it necessary to resign from the MS 54 PTA review committee.

Regarding the comments concerning for your daughter, I suggest you immediately contact Mr. Lynch with names of staff members and parents who engaged in such activity. Please know that I am here to assist you in anyway regarding this matter.

Next, I want you to know that the MS 54 PTA election process, which you oversaw this past spring, is fully documented and complies with A-660 and the PTA by-laws. Further, I would welcome you on any future nominating committees at any CSD 3 school your children attend.

While I do not feel it is warranted, I must remind you that you are still bound by the confidentially clause of the review committee. I trust that you will execute that fiduciary responsibility by not discussing or sharing any information or written documents that you were privy to as a member of the review committee.

May I recommend that to alleviate any concerns or allegations, you return all review committee documents to my office at your earliest convenience. I will be in my office tomorrow (Friday 8/10/1) from noon until 5:00p. Of course you may also leave the material with the security guard if my hours do not meet your schedule.

Debi, I hope that this experience will not deter you from your wonderful volunteer efforts in the MS 54 library. Please know that your work is vital to the children of MS 54.

Sincerely,
DJ Sheppard

Aug. 9
2001

From:
DJ
Sheppard
to Debi

Chancellor Harold Levy
Board of Education
110 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

August 12, 2001

Dear Mr. Levy:

I am forwarding to you once again a request to stop the activities in District 3 which are now, in my opinion, prosecutable under the law.

Mr. Jamal Young at the BOE, Mrs. Pat Romandetto, Superintendent of District 3, and DJ Sheppard of the OPAE office in District 3 have refused to ask Mr. Larry Lynch, Principal of MS 54, to stop his harassment of me, a parent of an in-coming 7th grader and the PTA President.

I filed a grievance against Mr. Lynch in June, citing financial secrecy (at best) of the school account, leaving the children in the school without an extended day program. We also do not know where our Barnes & Noble check is for \$13,787.77 from Dec. 13, 1999 which Mr. Lynch never gave to us.

On June 25 Ms. Rosa Fenton, from the BOE, and DJ Sheppard from the District 3 office, set up an investigation into my competency because I filed a grievance against Larry. This committee is comprised of 9 MS 54 parents, and there will be hate and fingers pointed among the parent body for years to come. Parents are being threatened, and their children as well, if any one says that I am actually terrific. I have sent to you the material in previous faxes and in the mail.

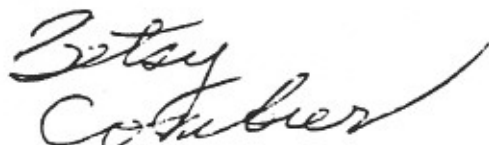
Mr. Stancik gave the case to Mr. Switach, who also never looked at my grievance and sent it back to Mrs. Romandetto, who is in charge of the investigation against me for filing the grievance! Mr. Lynch never gave anyone the finished CEP which we all signed, and has now forbidden me entrance to the school or I will be arrested. He has violated numerous Sections of the A-660s, and no one cares.

Please, Mr. Levy, I need to hear from you as to what to do? The Review Committee cannot continue - my friends are suffering because they cannot judge me or anyone, and they are receiving hate email from other parents. Everybody is suffering. Larry Lynch has become worse than he ever was in his vindictiveness, and his insults.

I would like to be PTA President once again (I won re-election on May 23, 2001), because I am a fundraiser, and I just finished the 501 (C) 3 process for the PTA. I have never done anything wrong. I do not understand why Mr. Young and Ms. Rosa Fenton, Mrs. Romandetto, and DJ Sheppard are all pursuing torturing me to resign, and are not at all interested in finding out where the school allocations and CEP are.

I am not rich, and I am the mother of 4 children, all in the public school system... must I sue the Board of Education? Cant we stop all of this before this becomes absolutely necessary?

My address is: Betsy Combier
315 East 65th Street,
New York, NY 10021



October 4, 2001

MS 54 / PTA Fact Sheet

As outlined in the MS 54 PTA by-laws, elections for executive board members occurred during May 2001. These officers will serve for the 2001-2 school year. Shortly after the election, information was obtained that caused five members of the association to request that the President call a special meeting. At that meeting, members questioned the ability of an executive board member to fulfill the duties as outlined in the Association's by-laws. In response to the attending members, a review committee was formed by majority vote.

The review committee is charged with the task of fact finding to determine the ability of the executive board member to fulfill the duties. It will convene on October 16. The committee will be facilitated by a mediator from *You Participate in Solutions* with Dorothy Baker-Woode, Co-Coordinator of the Office of Family and Community Engagement, also in attendance. Fact gathering will occur in the later part of October and early November, with the committee reporting its findings and recommendations at the November PTA meeting. The membership will discuss the review committee's recommendation, and make a decision at the November meeting.

In order to provide technical assistance and to facilitate collaboration at MS 54:

- a parliamentarian will be present at future PTA meetings;
- Dorothy Baker-Woode and DJ Sheppard, Co-Coordiators of the Office of Family and Community Engagement, will attend executive and general PTA meetings;
- Jay Hecht and Dr. Myrna Levine, Community School District 3 staff will be attending School Leadership Team meetings.

Through a grant obtained by the district, *Every Person Influences Children* (EPIC) will be actively recruiting parents, providing workshops on parent leadership skills and building capacity through EPIC's *Home/School Partnership* program. Paula Pringle, EPIC program coordinator assigned to MS 54, will begin workshops in early November.

BETSY COMBIER
315 East 65th Street, 4C
New York, New York, 10021

Ms. Nancy Stern
Barnes & Noble Community Relations
66th Street & Lincoln Triangle
1972 Broadway
New York, New York 10023

February 12, 2002

Dear Ms. Stern,

As per our conversation yesterday, I am sending you this letter to request a xeroxed copy, both front and back, of the check which was sent to Booker T. Washington MS 54 in February, 2000. The check was issued by Barnes & Noble and was made out to Booker T. Washington MS 54 for a PTA fundraiser on December 13, 1999. The amount was \$13,783.77.

I am requesting a copy of this check because I, as PTA Co-Chair for the MS 54 PTA, signed the contract along with Ms. Meredith Millich for the MS 54 PTA fundraiser at Barnes & Noble on December 13, 1999. I wrote the flyers and had 5000 of them made in gold and green, and worked, with 30 other terrific parents, from 9AM to 9PM. It was a wonderful day. When we heard that we had made a record amount of \$13,783.77, we were indeed thrilled.

However, we never saw the check, and never received any of the money raised that day. I have been working non-stop since February, 2000, to find out what happened, and how the MS 54 PTA may profit from the hard work of so many parents. I filed a Verified Petition with the New York State Board of Regents' Office of Counsel against Mrs. Patricia Romandetto, Superintendent of District 3, at the end of September, 2001, to uncover the mystery surrounding the Barnes & Noble check. I am the "Attorney", or Petitioner, in this case. As such, I would appreciate your sending to me at your earliest convenience the front and back of the Barnes & Noble check for \$13,783.77 made out to, according to your statement made yesterday, "Booker T. Washington MS 54". I must incorporate this information into my documents filed in Albany with the Commissioner.

Please send the copy of the check to:

Ms. Betsy Combier
315 East 65th Street, 4C
New York, NY 10021

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and do call me at 212-794-8902 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Betsy Combier