

MPSA - Committee on School Board and Administration
Report on Munsey Park Capital Project.

Nov, 2006

MPSA findings:

The School Board stated in the October 4th referendum regarding Munsey Park capital project that based on an independent third party study, school enrollment is projected to increase over the next five years. The School Board in the week preceding the vote wrote a full-page letter to the Manhasset Press stating that the Referendum was based on the "best enrollment information available".

However, when MPSA obtained the independent study the projections were for ten years not five years as indicated in the referendum. So why did the School Board leave out the last five years?

You guessed it! The independent study shows a significant and precipitous decline in student enrollment during those last five years. In fact, the study shows current Munsey Park student enrollment at 932 based on the 41 classrooms, while expected capacity to eventually shrink to 761 students by year 2015/16 or 82% capacity. Further, long term enrollment is projected to fall at the other three schools.

MPSA Solution

Manipulating information so that the whole story is not exposed is a serious breach of Public Trust. The School Board should request from its external auditors an independent review of the School District's apparent violation of its own School Board Members Ethics # 2160. It appears the School Board's own ethics require Board decisions to be based on available facts to promote Public Confidence. Clearly, available facts that projected a decline in school enrollment were ignored and not shared with the voters nor disclosed in the referendum.