

LARCHMONT MEETING
12/14/09

- 1) Why should our children have to leave Larchmont, and be put in limbo just because the board wants to put a charter school in its place? 2) If they do close Larchmont, are you going to provide busing? I have 6 children, 4 in Larchmont and 1 in 8th (HAAD) and I work and my elderly Mom has to pick them up. She can walk because we live around the corner. 3) Why were never any interpreters for the parents who don't speak or understand English? Comments!! I will not sit quiet...I think we should keep Larchmont OPEN!!

I am very upset!! Why is this the first we heard of this, one day, my son came home saying Larchmont was closing! Why didn't we know sooner! Larchmont really is part of my family, this is such a good school! They have a buddy system here that I just love! Where the 6th graders help out the Kindergarteners. I just love my school.

Please don't close this school! Larchmont! We love this school, the teachers and staff are awesome! They care and are great. I tried the charter school but didn't agree with the audition part of enrollment. We don't want to go to another school our school is safe!! And they work with everybody no matter their nationality. Please, Please, Please reconsider!

- For me Larchmont is the best school because we have great communication with teachers and the principal. I think this is the wrong idea you guys trying to do. Probably you guys have all kind the things in your life many good life condition but in my case I don't have money to pay the bus. I lost my job 8 months ago. For me and my neighbors are very concerned because this school have the best scorts in my area. My kid in special, she always got the honor student because the teachers really pay attention in very small detail about my child's education. Please put yourself in my shoes and you will see the difference and how difficult it is to live like that. No I am leading with this problem and I think this is not fair, not only for me but for the big impact on our kids. I hope you guys read my paper. Thank you.
- How many people in our community are charter parents?

- My kids love Larchmont. Why is Larchmont getting closed? My tax money pays for this school. Why didn't you guys ask us, or tell us, what we can do to help? You guys pay our teachers, and the community can pay for our school. We have people that are very handy and would be happy to help.
- Larchmont is fun to play at and it helps me learn.
- You are good, we love Larchmont. Please don't close Larchmont.
- Can Larchmont start its own charter school?
- Larchmont has very good things like: 1) Great Principal 2) Great Teachers (regular classes) 3) Wonderful special classes 4) Wonderful Teachers (special classes) 5) The students show good discipline, they use uniforms 6) Every morning before the school start all the children and the teachers do exercise to help the children over weight 7) For children that don't have a uniform the school provides the uniforms for students (the community makes donations). If you can call me any time. 8) Everyday the parents can talk with the teachers, the teacher's every time are available. Please don't close Larchmont.
- I want the kids to have fun at Larchmont Elementary School. I hope we won't go to a different school. Larchmont's cool it's our school. Can you please tell these kids to start picking up trash to keep our school clean? I hope nobody cries it might be okay. Love Larchmont.
- Have they checked the child's safety for the kids that walk after school? I went to Larchmont from 4th grade to 6th grade and I had great teachers and they have great faculty. Now I am wondering why is my little brother not going to be able to have the same experience as my sister and I. When I first came to this school in 2001, I did not speak much English, and here I was helped and I had 3 wonderful teachers that pushed me to succeed and they helped me when ever I needed. The teachers are available most of the time to help the students. What is going to happen to the teacher-student relationship? What happens to the children that are shy and have friends they made here and it will make them feel vulnerable?
- Questions: 1) Why is the school closing? 2) Will I ever see Mrs. Martin again? 3) Who is in charge of closing this school? 4) What gives who the rights to closing down the school? Village has a very lower number then Larchmont.

- Larchmont is 738 of growth but Village is 690 of growth. Our school Larchmont is a bigger number. So what I don't get is why you choose Larchmont to shut down.
- I have two daughters in Larchmont in special classes. They went on 2 different schools before but when they start coming to Larchmont they starting to talk, they starting to read and doing math. Larchmont have wonderful teachers, principal and great special teachers. Please leave Larchmont open.
- What I don't get is why would they close Larchmont when they have a growth of 738.
- My child is in special ed - special day classes. How will this affect her? What school will she go to? Will she go to the school her teacher is transferred to? Please. Larchmont's special ed is wonderful. Her teacher Mr. Tealdi is great. Don't want to lose her learning momentum. Make Larchmont a K-7th or through 8th grade school. What about bussing? Transportation - my daughter is currently bussed to Larchmont. She was transferred from Pioneer Elementary.
- Since Larchmont is mostly a walking school - do our kids continue on to Don Julio/Highlands? Do we know which elementary schools do not have students continue on to local Jr. High and High Schools? In other words, do more kids from Larchmont continue on vs. other schools?
- Where or what schools will my daughter go to if Larchmont closes? Will they get the same challenge as they do now? Though I don't want them to close Larchmont down. They treat me like family and no other school is as high leveled as Larchmont. Need an answer.
- A school is more than its individual components. Taking successful units and dispersing them to help others doesn't work. See sports for many examples of how the "team" supersedes its individual members.
- I know this school should not shut down. Yes I know. It will be so sad. I wish we stay. But it will be so sad if the school shuts down. I hope it stays open.
- My one question is will I ever see Mrs. Martin again?
- Larchmont's residential location makes it one of the safest elementary schools in the area. Has the safety of the students been taken into consideration when evaluating the schools? After relocated teachers' salaries, student bussing, and

other necessary expenses are taken into account, how much money would actually be saved by closing Larchmont? Has the board considered expanding the schools to include more grades instead of closing them down? Based on enrollment figures, doesn't it make more sense to close a junior high or high school where only about half of the seats are filled? All of the kids at Larchmont (with the exception of special education) walk to school or provide their own transportation. How will the board address bussing issues should Larchmont be closed? Are these closures in line with Obama's policies regarding equity in education? Have other courses of action been considered?

- Why didn't the guys at the meeting answer the questions? I got hit in the head with a rock at F.C. Joyce. It is the closest school if Larchmont gets closed.
- Why are all district people acting like this is all this is already a done deal? This was preliminary?
- To whom this concerns. My daughter is attending Kindergarten. I feel that she is in a very safe environment school. I have 3 other daughters and one of them is going to need special _____. My daughter is working so hard that she's been an honor student. My daughters as well as myself and my husband we're one of the families that are very happy to visit Stanford University (because of my baby daughter's needs) and she will need several surgeries. We've been at Stanford Hospital at (Lucile Packard). My daughter's as we were walking they told us Daddy one day when I grow up I'll be attending this school, and myself I was very surprised that my daughters are very motivated to go to school and one day be able to attend Stanford. Larchmont is a very good school for our kids and the teachers teach our kids very very good.
- Why don't they make Larchmont a K-8 and close down the west campus at Highlands? What will happen to the children who live 2 min. from the school? How will they get to other schools? How far away do they have to live in order to be bussed to another school? And will parents have to pay for the busses?
- Would it not cost more for them to be bussed than for them to walk? What are the 17 categories they went by? We have kids being bussed out and we have high star testing scoring.
- Did they include the charter schools in the numbers or did they take away numbers from our schools?

- Having heard that Larchmont was closing I immediately went and observed the surrounding schools which would be the alternative choices for my children to attend. And the first thing that struck me was that none of these surrounding schools are as safe of a location as Larchmont. From playground being visible to pedestrians, passing traffic, bus stops, high school students, etc. After consulting with a city logistics traffic engineer he confirmed to me that schools located in housing developments have a lower percentage of attempted kidnapping, traffic accidents involving children, etc. So what closing Larchmont looks like (putting numbers aside) is closing a safe school and sending them to an increased unsafe environment. This shows a complete lack of concern for the safety and well-being for these children.
- What about carbon monoxide with schools on busy roads? What about the economic impact of losing a school in the neighborhood? i.e., the value of having a short walk to school. Didn't we create Twin Rivers to have "more clout/pull" for resources? Didn't the Superintendent just get a pay raise? Aren't we paying him to work for us? Not so happy about consolidating now. "If you fail your children, you've failed." Jacqueline Kennedy Onasis.
- What happened to the bond monies, for the former Rio Linda Schools, that was to be used for modernization of those schools? I would like facts.
- I can list many negatives reasons for relocating special day class students. There is not (as far as students are concerned) a benefit to moving these students. 1) The students in the K-6 SDC program have a variety of disabilities (including specific learning disabilities, autism, mental retardation, hard of hearing, etc.) and these students need consistency. They are located at a site where they are familiar and cared for by all staff. This is a critical support that they need and they will not benefit from a relocation. 2) Support staff (such as psychologist and speech therapist) are critical supports to these students, their families and the growth of the students. They also have a history with the students and have attended past IEP meetings. Relocating these students and taking away these specific people that support them will not benefit them. 3) Most important separating these students from their teacher will certainly set them up for a fall (academically) and (behaviorally). 4) I am a better Special Day Class Teacher because I teach at Larchmont! 5) Special Day Class students who show wonderful academic growth are able to smoothly transition into RSP and Gen Ed setting because they are familiar and comfortable with Larchmont staff and the staff is more than willing to work with all students! I know this is not true at all sites

within our district. 6) Caring, loving and supportive staff is not a statistic that can be read on a paper.

- The district could keep schools open if they would stop spending so much money on "consultants" and the multitude of "Assistant Superintendents".
- What is the profit margin of replacing Larchmont with GCC? How much will transportation cost to bus these Larchmont students to other schools? How much will the district save taking all of these factors into consideration?
- Why not make Larchmont a K-5 school, close a middle school with only 6th and 7th grade and add a 6th grade program to a 7th, 8th, and 8th grade school? Larchmont is severely important to the families of this community. Try something new before closing something and giving up.
- Why did the committee not notify the community? This greatly affects the whole Larchmont community not just the families of our students. It may affect property values, not having a neighborhood school. They have a right to be heard too.
- How can we as a community, get the secondary schools improved so Larchmont community will not move away to other districts?
- Were the committee members that made the decisions in a school comparable to the schools chosen to be closed? Basically was it a large school parent or a charter school parent?
- Kids are going to get left behind if the classes are too full. People buy homes with intentions on their kids going to that school. Some parents have to let their kids walk to school, what's going to happen if the school is too far away to get to? We are paying an arm and a leg in taxes we should have enough money for our schools. It is not a bad thing to not be in full capacity. It just means teachers can get more one on one with students. One way to save money is to not let so much foot that hasn't been touched to be thrown away. What will happen if we chose to send our kids to Creative Connections because we don't like the other schools and we have 4 kids but only 1 can get in so we have to let our other kids go to the other school, that is so stupid! Shouldn't the parents get to vote? Really who is on the committee? People keep moving into North Highlands, we need to keep Larchmont open!!