

Focus Group Notes – 11/18/20 – Russian (group 1)

Participants: host, two stenographers and 8 guests

Introduced: Ekaterina G. from Kelly and Robert G., Natalia G., Olga B., Ruslana Z., Lyudmila P., Alex S. from Harrison Park and Michele (a teacher from Harrison Park)

Lyudmila: Do I need to register?

Presenter: You've already here

Alexey: I want to say right away that it is very good in Harrison Park!

Presenter: How familiar are you with the changes?

All were silent and the presenter began the presentation.

The presenter at the end asked: What positive do you see and what are the potential difficulties?

Lyudmila: We have already gathered with other parents and we want to be heard. We strongly disagree with the dissolution of K-8 schools and the relocation of our children to different schools, I will have three different schools for my children, and it is hard for parents. Our school has many ethnic groups, and we live in harmony. We have never had any conflicts and we are very happy with the teachers, the principal, and the fact that we have an international school. We want to leave everything as it is now, as there is one school for all. However, if we fail to save the school, this is stressful for us and for the children morally and psychologically. Older children take care of the younger ones and there will be an additional burden for us. We would like our ethnic Slavic group, together with teachers, to move to the one school, the former Clark on 92nd Street. Since our older children were there before, and it is very close to our neighborhood where we live. Moving our kids past 82 is unthinkable, This is very dangerous for the little ones and it's a lot of stress for the kids We'd love to be back in Clark.

Presenter: This issue is related to the boundaries of schools, and you need to look at the map. You have to ask Enrollment and Transfer Center.

Alexei: I will speak in English. I agree with Lyudmila. I have 7 kids. We want to have the same place for every child. It is important safety. This school is a family school. Please do not do changes. We have big families. Safety and helping each other are very important for us, and to be together as a Slavic community.

Natalia: We recently arrived, and I saw how my children were really suffering at school in another district, but when the children started going to Harrison Park everything changed. It is horror if our school is disconnected. It is a big difference when I see how my children look like when they come from school, happy or not.

Robert: I have several children. This is very convenient one school, and the younger ones are still here. I am analyzing; there are many programs here at Harrison Park. Children went to the museum before pandemic, and only a few times I heard about the clashes, mostly very positively feedback. Please do not divide our school, but if it is necessary do not divide the team so that the children do not worry about it. They are under the stress. The task of the school is to give knowledge and educate to be a good citizen, and I would like the whole team to stay together because the microclimate in the school is very important, this school has a homely atmosphere.

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Ruslana: We have not regretted a single day that we are here.

Lyudmila: We know that in other schools there is a bad attitude towards us, towards our ethnic group. However, the previous principal (Mr. Walden) and the current one in Harrison Park are amazing. After all, the attitude is visible. Teachers, such as Michelle, in Harrison Park are very good. The district thinks probably that we are not active and hears us a little because we learn everything at school. We care, we just discuss everything with our principal and we have an interpreter, Natasha, who helps us

Presenter: Chinese program carried over from Woodstock

Lyudmila: So Harrison Park will have Chinese programs for middle classes. What part of the school will be studying Chinese? Why do not leave the program at Woodstock?

Presenter: More Chinese families are living in this area

Ludmila: Proposal: transfer the Chinese program to Bridger and us, our ethnic group,
To former Clark

Ruslana: I am from Moldova, have 5 children. I find it hard to be torn between schools.

Lyudmila: I take the eldest daughter to Clackamas and it is very difficult. The elder children can take the younger ones to former Clark to help me.

When is the meeting tomorrow and how to find a link so that tomorrow you can also tell about our request?

I gave my phone number in case they will have more questions in the future.