



CITY OF NEW YORK
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD
FOUR**

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District Manager

April 11, 2023

Cardinal Timothy Dolan
Archdiocese of New York
1011 1st Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Re: Closing of Guardian Angels School, 193 10th Avenue, in Chelsea

Dear Cardinal Dolan,

At the regularly scheduled meeting on March 13, 2023 of the Arts, Culture, Education & Street Life Committee (ACES) of Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4), the members voted unanimously to send this administrative letter to request you to meet with the Parents Committee of Guardian Angels School following the decision to close the school at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year.

During the Public Session, spokesperson for the Parents Committee Priscilla Serrano, addressed families' needs and interest in having a meeting where the parents can address their concerns about the school's closure. We believe it would be prudent to engage in interactive conversation with the Parents Committee, the community, and your constituents of faith to provide a level of transparency to all those whom this closure will affect.

As there are many pressing issues with the closure of Guardian Angels School, the ACES committee explored the impact the closure will have on the overall community. Although a parochial school, Guardian Angels does provide free instruction for students in the district at the PreK3 & PreK4 level. Upon closure these students will be moved to schools already feeling the pressures of crowded classrooms due to our district's current influx of migrant families.

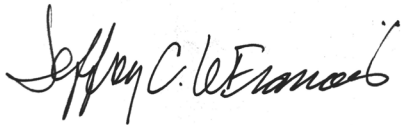
Guardian Angels School, for the past 100 years, has been a significant presence within the community. Many of its current student body are children of alumni and have caregivers, familial ties and generational history within the MCB4 district. The school is the only parochial school available to families within our district providing PreK3-8th grade instruction on one campus. With closure pending, parents are being provided information to alternative schools at various locations making drop-off and pick-up difficult for families with children in different grades.

The notice informing parents of school closings provided several caveats including closing of schools with enrollment below 200 students. As reported to us by parents, Guardian Angels School currently has 213 students and a list of 50 applicants for the 2023-2024 school year. The Parents Committee along with members of the community and alumni have collaborated on a proposal for possible funding strategies and other recommendations for discussion.

As the Guardian Angels School occupies a vital role in the social and educational progress of the students in MCB4, we urge you to meet the Parents Committee as soon as possible as this matter is becoming more dire with the school year soon coming to an end.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and its recommendations.

Very truly yours,



Jeffery LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Allen Oster
Co-Chair
ACES Committee



Kit Tollerson
Co-Chair
ACES Committee

cc: Superintendent Michael Deegan
Deputy Superintendent Mary Stenson
Deputy Superintendent Michal Coppotelli
Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council
Hon. Tony Simone, NYS Assembly
Hon. Brad Holyman-Sigal, NYS Senate