

September 12, 2008

Emily Gould, Principal
Harlem Success Academy 3 Charter School
141 East 111th Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10029

Regarding: Scholar, Matthew Sprowal

Ms Emily Gould,

I am writing this formal complaint in response to my son, Matthew Sprowal's recent suspension from HSA 3. Though I appreciate the concerns stated to me, the gravity of the incidents leading up to this decision was never communicated to us in writing, or for that matter, the potential consequences. Had they been, we certainly would have exhausted all possible resources to intervene and mitigate the issues.

A psychological assessment was scheduled for Matthew on Sept 8, 2008 without parental consent or prior notification. In doing this, you have not allowed this family any kind of input or due process. Your request for us to find another school for him and statements to suspend him, are unacceptable. In addition to this, your deadline date of Sept 17, 2008 for the complete correction of his unfocused participation, or be expelled from school, is not an educational plan.

We acknowledge our son is experiencing some unforeseen challenges as he transitions into Kindergarten. However, we are not clear as to what (if any) special educational supports may be required for him at this time, which makes your suspension and deadline date unrealistic and dismissive. Your comments in our discussion on Sept 9, 2008 clearly communicated your school's position. It appears to us that after only twelve days in your school, you have assessed and concluded that our son is defective and will not meet your scholar criteria.

Transferring Matthew is clearly not in his best interest or for the school as well. It was our understanding, upon enrolling Mathew to HSA 3, that your charter school was committed to enriching the learning process for children, open to ensuring diversity of students and that the school would use ethical and best practices regarding both enrollment and suspensions. The intervention and subsequent consequence regarding this matter displays total disregard for parental input and is clearly, culturally insensitive. As a result of this, we are requesting the following:

- ❖ Procedural assessment and educational plan for Matthew.
- ❖ Copies of your schools policies and procedures for scholar discipline, school suspension and filing complaints.
- ❖ Schools policy/guidelines (if any) for educating children with Special Needs and/or challenges.
- ❖ Harlem Success Academy 3 board of trustees contacts information.
- ❖ "Inclusive" meeting with school to discuss an immediate plan of action for Matthew educational needs during this assessment/transition period.

Our position is clear, we challenge the suspension and intend to use all resources available to ensure that our son is neither minimized nor experiences negative consequences due to a failed process.

Finally, we have demonstrated cooperation in our actions by initiating meetings, provided Matthew's ERB test results and accompanying him throughout his school day. We will continue to be cooperative and pro-active parents with our only objective being to reach an amicable solution as described above.

Attached to this compliant is a documented summary of all communications with your staff regarding this matter.

Respectfully,

Katherine Sprowal, Mother
Rodney Hunter, Step Father

Enc
cc: HSA 3 Board of Trustees
Ms. Maus
Dr. Koopercamp
Ms. Lee