

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Carmen Farina
Chancellor
New York City Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Harbor School Potential Location

Dear Chancellor Fariña;

I hope this letter finds you well.

At our recent meeting here at Staten Island Borough Hall, we briefly discussed our mutual desire (along with Councilmember Rose) to have a Harbor School located on the North Shore of Staten Island. This maritime-themed middle school would be a feeder for the Harbor High School on Governor's Island.

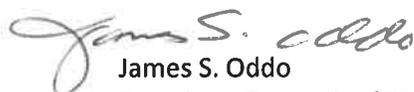
I believe we have found a location that is worthy of strong consideration. It is on the grounds of the National Parks Service's (NPS) Fort Wadsworth campus, which is part of the Gateway National Parks system. Fort Wadsworth has a history dating back to the Revolutionary War, and is home to United States Coast Guard (USCG) Station New York.

On the campus, Building 120 (also known as the Visitors Center for NPS) is a modern structure that is severely under-utilized. Only Floor 1, a visitor's center and a small museum, is occupied. Floors 2 and 3 are virtually unused, and I believe investigations should be made as to the feasibility of converting this space into a middle school. With the USCG as their neighbor, spectacular views of the Verrazano Bridge, and Lower Bay at their feet, I believe this is an ideal location for students interested in a maritime career.

I hope you agree that this is worthy of pursuit, and that the appropriate person on your staff will contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss a possible site visit.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,



James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

