

Friends of Bayside High School, Inc.

32-24 Corporal Kennedy Street, Bayside, New York 11361 Email: friendsofbhs@baysidehighschool.org

David Solano, Vice-President

August, 2019

Dear Bayside High School Alumnus:

Your old school needs your help! Just a phone call or email from you can make a difference.

Our community hub and stellar school continues to be denied equitable funding from the Department of Education while other schools get more than 100% of theirs.

I am enclosing copies of recent articles that outline this discrimination, but the basic story is that a Department and Chancellor that tout equity continue to fund Bayside at 15% to 10% **below what the DOE's own formula dictates is needed.**

Bayside has risen to a 99% graduation rate- right up there with Stuyvesant- with the City's highest rates for college enrollments- but all its progress is under threat- will you help?

The DOE touts community engagement but turns a deaf ear when it comes to what is really needed: adequate funding. They blame the State when the real reason they choose not to fund schools is so that they can waste your tax money on programs that pander to every group along with massive raises to the top tier of the DOE. Billions of dollars are used as a political slush fund while schools go without.

If they get their way, larger class sizes, fewer teachers, less support services, and less security will be the results for your proud alma mater.

I would appreciate your reaching out by phone or email to tell the below decision makers to fully fund Bayside High School now! Protect your legacy!

Yours truly,

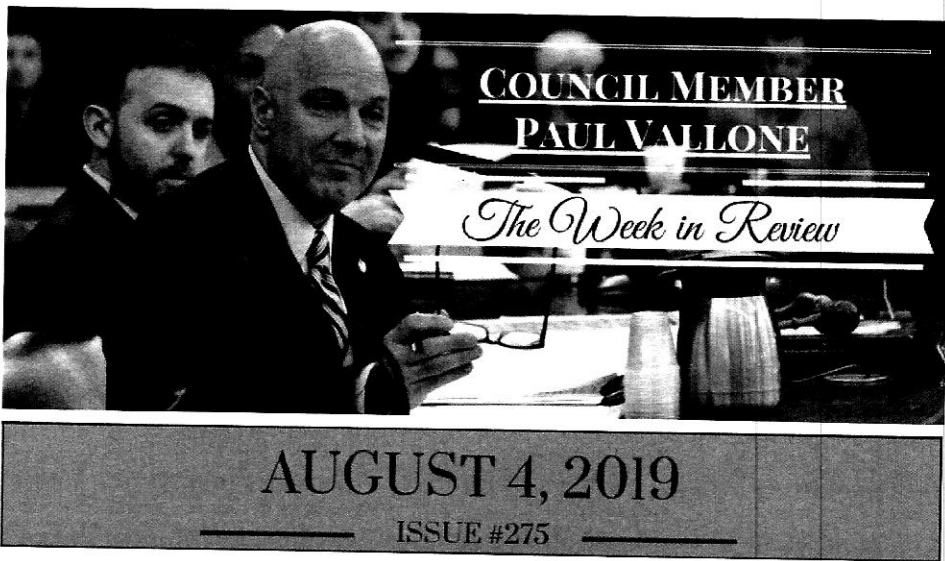
David Solano

Vice-President,
Friends of Bayside High School, Inc.

Protect your legacy. Please call or email these decision makers to FULLY FUND Bayside High School now!

Contact: Mr. Richard Carranza,
Chancellor,
DOE
Tel: 212-374-0200
Email:
Rcarranza@schools.nyc.gov

Contact: Hon. Bill de Blasio,
Mayor, NYC
Tel: 3-1-1 or
Tel: 212-788-2958
Email:
<https://www1.nyc.gov>



— IN THE PAST WEEK —

Vallone Joins Bayside High School PTA in the Fight for Fair Student Funding

Council Member Paul Vallone and the Bayside High School Parent Teacher Association are calling on the Department of Education to increase funding to one of New York City's top performing high schools. In previous school years, Bayside High School has only received 83% -90% of the funding amount expected based upon the Department of Education's own formula. Funding shortfalls for the coming year will result in cutting the career and technical programs, a significant part of what attracts 12,000 annual applicants to the school.

In 2007, Mayor Bloomberg implemented Fair Student Funding (FSF), a formula that pools and distributes city, state and federal school funding allocations to each city school. FSF is the main source of money for most schools and is based on a "weighted pupil-funding model." With input from the School Leadership Team, principals decide how to spend these funds to meet basic educational needs and operating expenses at their schools.

Over the last decade, Bayside High School has faced consistent shortfalls in Fair Student Funding. The majority of City schools, particularly large high schools, face the same issue.

For years, Bayside High School has consistently placed as one of the top performing schools in the City of New York. The graduation rate has increased in recent years to 98%, the third highest graduation rate for large schools in the City. A total 96% of students graduate with college credit.

"Despite its name, this program is clearly not fair to our students at Bayside High School and our high schools in Northeast Queens," said Council Member Vallone. "Year after year, Bayside High School has proven itself to be among the best performing schools in the City, but was shortchanged by nearly three million dollars in the most recent school year alone. Strides to bring Bayside High School fair funding are critical to ensure educators have the resources they need to contribute to continued student success and high graduation rates. I applaud the Parent Teacher Association on their call for true equity and I will continue advocacy efforts at City Hall."

"The DOE has underfunded Bayside High School for more than a decade," said PTA President Paul Di Benedetto. "That's not opinion; that's according to the DOE's own formula! This year, we're looking at \$3 million less than our kids should receive. The DOE should be rewarding excellence, not penalizing it."

Read More Coverage:
Queens Courier
Patch

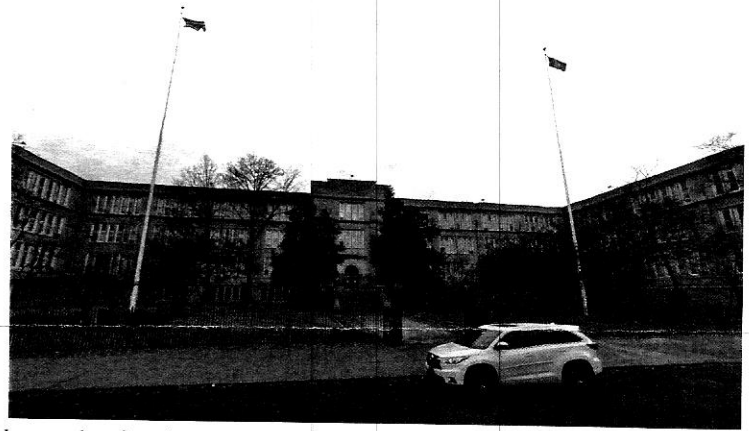
Bayside High School PTA and Vallone Call on DOE to Give Fair Share of Funding

Bayside High School PTA and Councilman Paul Vallone demand school funding equity

By Jenna Bagcal jbagecal@qns.com Wednesday, July 31, 2019

A northeast Queens lawmaker and local parents want the city to increase funding for a top-performing Bayside high school following reports that it received less funding than what was expected.

According to Councilman Paul Vallone and the Bayside High School Parent Teacher Association, the school only received 83 to 90 percent of the funding amount determined by the Department of Education Fair Student Funding (FSF) formula. City records showed that Bayside High School is slated to receive approximately \$17.47 million for the 2020 FSF allocation, which the PTA said is \$3 million less than what they should receive.



DOE calculates FSF based on the number of enrolled students and the needs of each student, which is known as the “weighted pupil-funding model.” Mayor Bloomberg implemented the FSF formula in 2007 to evenly pool and distribute city, state and federal school funding allocations to DOE schools. School principals in partnership with a School Leadership Team determine how to allocate funds between educational needs and operating expenses.

Vallone and the PTA said that Bayside High School has faced consistent FSF shortfalls over the last decade. They added that the majority of city schools, particularly larger high schools, face the same issue.

“Despite its name, this program is clearly not fair to our students at Bayside High School and our high schools in northeast Queens,” said Vallone. “Year after year, Bayside High School has proven itself to be among the best performing schools in the city but was shortchanged by nearly 3 million dollars in the most recent school year alone. Strides to bring Bayside High School fair funding are critical to ensure educators have the resources they need to contribute to continued student success and high graduation rates. I applaud the Parent Teacher Association on their call for true equity and I will continue advocacy efforts at City Hall.”

As a result of the funding inequity, the school will be forced to cut the career and technical programs for the upcoming school year. According to the high school, which boasts a 98 percent graduation rate — the third-highest graduation rate for large schools in the city — the programs are a significant draw for the 12,000 annual applicants.

In May 2019, Community Board 11 wrote a letter to Mayor de Blasio advocating for an increase in funding for Bayside High School and other northeast Queens schools.

“Community Board 11’s high schools are funded less by the Department of Education under the Fair Student Funding formula relative to other schools with comparable populations. Benjamin Cardozo High School, Bayside High School and Francis Lewis High School are all funded in the 90 percent range, which is still lower than comparable schools,” wrote Community Board 11.

The high school’s PTA said that getting their full share of funding would help in several areas including properly covering operating costs for the school’s high veteran educator population and allowing the school to keep more guidance counselors and student support.

“The DOE has underfunded Bayside High School for more than a decade,” said PTA President Paul Di Benedetto. “That’s not opinion; that’s according to the DOE’s own formula! This year, we’re looking at \$3 million less than our kids should receive. The DOE should be rewarding excellence, not penalizing it.”

In a letter-writing campaign to Mayor de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Richard Caranza, the Bayside High School PTA demanded 100 percent of funding per the FSF formula. The PTA also sent thousands of mailers to alumni and current parents asking them to join the campaign.

“Other schools get full funding, some get more than 100 percent. Why not this community?” said David Solano, chairperson of the school’s Industry Advisory Council and former PTA president. “It’s a clear case of equity delayed being equity denied. As a resident of Bayside, parent of an alum, and active member of the school’s CTE Board, I find it very troubling that these popular and practical programs are not being funded and may need to be cut.”

Bayside High School PTA Decries \$3M Funding Shortfall

Parents in Northeast Queens are fighting for more school funding after Bayside High School cut its career and technical programs.

By Maya Kaufman, Patch Staff Jul 30, 2019 5:34 pm ET
Bayside High School in Queens. (Google Maps)

BAYSIDE, QUEENS — Bayside High School's Parent Teacher Association is fighting for more public money after the school cut its career and technical programs for the upcoming year.

The high school nixed the popular programs in the face of a \$3 million shortfall for the upcoming year, according to PTA President Paul Di Benedetto.

Bayside High School has faced funding shortfalls under that formula for the last decade, each year receiving 83 percent to 90 percent of the amount the NYC Department of Education promised.

"The DOE should be rewarding excellence, not penalizing it," Di Benedetto said in a statement.

The DOE uses a formula known as "Fair Student Funding" to pool and distribute city, state and federal school funding to each city school. It is the main source of money for most schools, according to the agency.

Most city schools face similar shortfalls, but Queens Community Board 11 members claim that Northeast Queens high schools are getting even less of the funding they're due than other similarly-sized schools.

The DOE blames the shortfalls on the state's failure to provide the adequate school funding required by a landmark court ruling. New York State contributes over a third of city school funds, and New York City provides 57 percent.

"We'll be able to fund all schools at 100 percent Fair Student Funding when the state pays the \$1.2 billion it owes the city," DOE spokesperson Danielle Filson said in a statement.

Under Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration, the agency has raised Bayside High School's funding from 84 percent to 90 percent of the formula-determined amount, according to Filson.

City Council Member Paul Vallone and the Bayside PTA say that isn't enough.

"Despite its name, this program is clearly not fair to our students at Bayside High School and our high schools in Northeast Queens," Vallone said.

