To the Community of District 28,

We are the Working Group for the D28 Diversity Plan process.

The D28 Diversity Planning process is a process where community members who live, work, and go to school in District 28 will create recommendations based on community feedback on how to promote middle school diversity and academic outcomes. Diversity has a broad definition, so recommendations can cover a wide range of solutions that will benefit all D28 children.

The Working Group is responsible for guiding the planning process and synthesizing feedback from D28 community members from the public workshops. We are tasked with:

- Working to keep the process inclusive, accessible, and accountable to all D28 residents;
- Generating interest in the D28 public workshops, which have yet to begin;
- Reviewing and providing feedback on community findings; and
- Using these findings to shape the plan’s framework and recommendations.

We are D28 community members and the many roles we play in this community informs our tasks. We collectively represent a wide range of groups and perspectives, and we recognize that it is a challenge to represent the voices of everyone in the District 28 community. We are not here to represent specific groups, and our aim is to gather voices of everyone in the D28 community. We all share a common commitment to the success of all students in our District. WXY is supporting us by facilitating our conversations and providing data analysis. The NYC Department of Education is supporting this process by providing logistical support, food and refreshments, childcare, MetroCards, and translations services at meetings and workshops.

We look forward to working with you throughout the process. Please feel free to send your feedback to info@d28diversityplan.com which is monitored by WXY on a regular basis.

Thank you,

Mohamed Q. Amin, Founder and Executive Director of Caribbean Equality Project
Oswald Araujo, Director of Beacon Services at Queens Community House
Stephanie Barreto-Lastra, Community Affairs Borough Manager, Division of Community Empowerment, Partnerships, and Communication of the NYC Department of Education
Sadio Comrie, Teacher at Redwood Middle School
Simone Dornbach, PTA Co-President at The Academy for Excellence through the Arts PS 303
Merari Gallimore, PTA President of PS 80 Thurgood Marshall Magnet School of Multimedia and Communication
Shavonne Jackson, PTA Recording Secretary, SLT member, and Title 1 Board member for Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School
Mohammed Enamul Karim, Parent of a student at PS 182 Samantha Smith
Venus Ketcham, Community and Parent Leader in Education, Southeast Queens, School District 28, parent of a student at JHS 217 Robert Van Wyck
Seiw Kong, District 28 Acting Superintendent
Karin Marroquin, Parent Leader at the Queens School for Leadership and Excellence PS 349
Maureen McTigue, Teacher at PS 117 J Keld Briarwood School
Patricia Mitchell, Principal of PS 48 William Wordsworth
Shernette Pink, Program Manager at Queens Youth Justice Center
Howard Pollack, Community Education Council District 28 member, PS 196 Parent/Teacher Leadership Team member
Vincent Suraci, Principal of JHS 157 Stephen Halsey
Mazeda Uddin, Director of South Asian Fund for Education Scholarship Training
Stella Xu, Education Committee Chairperson for Forest Hills Asian Association
Student – JHS 8 New Prep
Student – JHS 190 Russell Sage