



THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dominick A. D'Angelo , Principal

Scott Herman, Assistant Principal

Eric Ierardi, Assistant Principal

Joyce Sigona, Assistant Principal

DAVID A. BOODY

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 228 FOR MAGNET STUDIES

“EYES ON EXCELLENCE”

(718) 375-7635

FAX (718) 998-4013

NEWS:

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Parents Must Be Involved in Schools, Markowitz says

David A. Boody Middle School Opens New Parent Engagement Center

Parental involvement is crucial in today's schools, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz said Monday at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new Parent Engagement Center at David A. Boody Middle School (I.S. 228) in Gravesend.

“Show me a child who excels and I will show you a parent who excels,” Markowitz said. He noted that parents in some ethnic groups think they should visit a school only if a child is having trouble. He encouraged all parents to make regular visits to schools. “It is important to be fully engaged,” he said.

Markowitz congratulated Principal Dominick D'Angelo for opening the new center, one of the first in the city.

“Our vision is to provide a comfortable and professional center where the parents of our students will feel more welcomed, respected, and supported,” Mr. D'Angelo said.

State Sen. Martin Golden said the center will help parents navigate the school system. “Parents don't know how to get into the system,” he said. But the center will help them ensure that their children “get the education they need to be a success,” he said. “It allows engagement. It allows the parents to get a little bit extra.”

“My hat is off to you,” Sen. Golden told Mr. D’Angelo and other school officials at the ceremony. Also attending the gathering were Assemblyman Alec Broc-Krasney, a representative from Assemblyman William Colton’s office, and Lee Boody, great-great-grandson of the school’s namesake, a former mayor of Brooklyn and champion of public libraries.

“This is fantastic,” said Martine Guerrier, Chief Family Engagement Officer of the City Department of Education. “This school understands the importance of parents feeling welcomed, respected, and supported.” She turned to Mr. D’Angelo and said, “Dominick, we are friends!” Ms. Guerrier also announced that the DOE is donating a new computer to the I.S. 228 center.

The newly refurbished, 500-square-foot Parent Engagement Center is on the first floor of the school, adjacent to the main entrance, and features comfortable furniture, a waiting room, a private conference room, coffee service, and other amenities. The conference room will allow parents to speak privately with teachers and other school officials about student performance and other issues. It also offers a wide range of brochures about city and state programs.