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**Resolution #133
In Support of French Dual Language Program
at the 76th Street Pre-K Center**

Co-sponsors: Maud Maron, Edward Irizarry, Thomas Wrocklage, Benjamin Morden
9 in Favor. 1 abstention. Passed 2/13/20

Whereas

1. There is overwhelming support for French Dual Language programming in District 2 as evidenced by:
 - a. a petition in support of said programming with close to 200 signatures¹;
 - b. over 100 parents attending a forum on December 13, 2019 advocating for French DL on the upper east side²;
 - c. repeated requests by parents to the CEC D2 to assist with the establishment of French DL programs in elementary schools³;
 - d. long waitlists at the nearest French DL programs in District 3;
 - e. long waitlists at private schools such as Lycee Francais de New York, Lyceum Kennedy, and The Ecole,
 - f. several newly established private schools offering French DL programs.

2. It is well established that learning a second language in early childhood has many advantages including:
 - a. **Cognition** people who speak two languages generally outperform monolinguals on measure of executive function and speaking two languages may protect against dementia;
 - b. **Empathy** bilingual children outperform monolingual children on tests meant to measure social and emotional skill⁴;

¹ <https://benkallos.com/petition/french-dual-language>

² <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6621157403876478976/>

³ <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6623677716581404672/>

⁴ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/bilingualism-language-and-cognition/article/the-effects-of-bilingualism-on-theory-of-mind-development/5D9E2C458663A60A255268A839CA8D31>

- c. **Academic success** Reading scores go up;
 - d. **Overall happiness** including better attendance, fewer behavioral problems and higher parental involvement⁵;
 - e. **Diversity and Integration** DL programs offer a unique opportunity to create classrooms of children who would not otherwise be in the same school or class together.
3. The Universal pre-K Center at 76th Street is under capacity with only approximately 90 of 121 seats filled in the last school year;

Therefore be it resolved that CEC D2 asks the Department of Education to establish 2 French Dual Language pre-K classes at the 76th Street Pre-K Center for the 2020-2021 school year.

⁵ <https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2016/11/29/497943749/6-potential-brain-benefits-of-bilingual-education>