

1970 LETTER
+ PERSONAL STORY
RELATED TO IT

OF NEW YORK
NEW YORK 11201
SCHOOLS

September 16, 1970

Mr. Adrian Blumenfeld
School Planning
Board of Education
110 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Mr. Blumenfeld:

As you well know, John Dewey High School has been open for the past year. During the September term we have had a two-fold increase in staff and student body. This increase in staff has created a serious problem in terms of faculty parking facilities.

At present there are 150 staff members and 99 parking spaces. However, it has come to my attention that there is an area which has been designated as a parking lot for teachers. Upon investigation I find that the area, which faces Avenue X, has been paved and completely enclosed by a cyclone fence. For some reason there is no curb entrance nor is there a gate to the cyclone fence. In effect this makes the lot nonuseable.

In view of the fact that the area has already been paved and fenced in, it would seem to me that we ought to expedite any changes needed to enable teachers to use the parking lot.

Inasmuch as parking is a serious problem for teachers, I would be most appreciative of your expediting the necessary changes.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

SL:es

Sol Levine, Principal

cc: Mr. Irving Brecker, School Planning
cc: Mr. Jacob Zack, Assistant Superintendent

The Making of an "Urban Legend"
by Brian J. McCarthy

In the September 16, 1970 letter from Mr. Adrian Blumenfeld (School Planning, Board of Education), he refers to the need for more parking spaces for the staff members and indicates

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I began teaching at Dewey in its second year in September 1970 and I can still remember driving past this enclosed, fenced off, and unused area each day.

The story I was told at the time was that Mr. Sullivan, the original custodian, the person who supervised the construction of Dewey, noticed that the lot referred to had no curb entrance and went back to the construction company and told them that the plans indicated the area was to be fenced in, curbs cut so that cars can enter, and therefore this secondary parking lot could be used by Dewey personnel.

When all of this was finished, a person apparently came over and told them that it was nice that they had finished building this lot, however, he was the owner of the lot, not the Board of Education. Now you can see a bus company uses it to park their buses at the end of the day.

True or false??? A Dewey legend handed down from one susceptible teacher to another??? It seems to fit the facts and the letter of September 16, 1970. Whether it's true or false, it makes for a nice story to tell.