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**Edward F. Stancik**  
Special Commissioner

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**IRREGULARITIES UNCOVERED IN ADMISSION PROCESS FOR  
THE MICHAEL J. PETRIDES SCHOOL**

Today Special Commissioner of Investigation Edward F. Stancik released a report, *BROKEN PROMISE: An Investigation into the Admission Process for the Michael J. Petrides School*. Despite public representations that admission to the school would be random and fair by means of a lottery open to all children residing on Staten Island, the report reveals that student selection was tainted in a number of ways:

- ?? Students were admitted by administrators in conscious disregard of the lottery results, for reasons other than diversity of the student population.
- ?? Siblings of students at the Petrides School were admitted in disproportionate numbers, suggesting an unfair advantage to those families.
- ?? A policy known as “professional courtesy” was stretched to allow not only children of teachers at the Petrides School to gain admission, but to allow school staff and other BOE employees to enroll their children and extended relatives, including nieces, nephews and grandchildren.
- ?? Parents who repeatedly called school and district officials were able to push their children ahead of others on the waiting list.
- ?? Decisions were made behind closed doors generating an appearance of impropriety.
- ?? Administrators failed to maintain records vital to the verification of the lottery and selection procedures.

The investigation was greatly hampered, and the scope of the impropriety left unclear, because critical documents – original applications, random number lists, and hand-written notations, all supporting the choices actually made – disappeared.

The report recommends that if the Board of Education and Community School District 31 wish to revive community confidence in the school’s admission process, substantial changes must occur.