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Apology is necessary

To the editor [of the Brooklyn Paper],

I am writing to demand that The Brooklyn Paper apologize for its deeply irresponsible coverage of the Department of Education's proposal to locate the Kahlil Gibran Academy in the school building that houses PS 282, and that you remove the article dealing with this issue from your Web site.

Your article unfairly characterizes a legitimate dispute about where the Kahlil Gibran school should be housed into an ethnic or religious conflict.

The specific proposal to locate Kahlil Gibran together with PS 282 raises a host of concerns, just like other situations where two schools are housed within a single building. It is entirely appropriate for current PS 282 parents to express these concerns. PS 282 parents, just like supporters of the Kahlil Gibran school, want the best for both groups of students.

Worst of all, I fear that your suggestion that religion or ethnicity is at issue in the PS 282 disagreement gives credence to a reprehensible bigotry that, regrettably, does exist. Responsible Brooklynites must not and do not abide such bigotry. Your article was a cheap attempt to sensationalize a legitimate issue that needs to be addressed with good faith and good will. You owe your readership an apology.

Sincerely,

Council Member David Yassky