

Statement to PTA [Note: this was written in January prior to the OSI contacting Ms. Schuchmann]:

It was with a mixture of anger, frustration and sadness that I was made aware of the [change.org](#) petition to remove Ms. Jahoda as your interim acting principal. My daughter, Eva Hangartner and I recently described for *The Classic* a direct experience we had with her, whereby Eva did not receive vision services for over a month, which were mandated by her IEP. As a result, Eva had to drop an advanced AP math class or else risk sending grades to colleges that were 40 percentage points below her previous averages. Eva earned the right via a placement exam to take AP Calculus BC her senior year, and Ms. Jahoda denied her this right at a time when she was trying to demonstrate rigor for her college applications.

I believe Ms. Jahoda was lashing out and angry at me and my daughter because we had questioned in earlier years why there was no transparency around placement exams in the math department. There was nothing but support for my daughter's congenital eye disorder by all other teachers at Bronx Science. Other teachers came up with any number of ways to help Eva either by using technology, letting her use her phone to take a picture, making extra copies of the notes, changing her seat, blowing up items in large print or letting her look directly from the source materials so that she could bring them up close to her eyes. Eva worked so hard her entire school career. It was an extra job on top of all the other work she had just to see because of her eye disorder. And, yet Ms. Jahoda seemed hell bent on disrupting Eva by staunchly refusing to help my daughter see the notes AT ALL.

In my four years as a parent at Bronx Science, my daughter's math teachers did not have a positive thing to say about Ms. Jahoda. Instead, they were intimidated by her, felt they would not have her support if they raised a parent's concern, and preferred to fly under the radar rather than incur her wrath. It is no secret how disliked and disruptive Ms. Jahoda was while at Bronx Science. One of your parents recently quoted from the official court records when nearly the entire math department at Bronx Science sought arbitration. The summary comments by the court were nothing short of scathing.

It is impossible to fathom that the Department of Education did not know about Ms. Jahoda's record, interpersonal difficulties, and abrasive managerial style. Therefore, I am angry with the Department of Education for apparently sanctioning Ms. Jahoda's past performance by attempting to give her such a plumb position as the principal of Townsend Harris. I am angry that they continue to hide behind a veil of "no comment" rather than explain their actions. There are currently over 3,600 signatures on the [change.org](#) petition. Isn't anyone at the DOE listening? Apparently not yet. According to *The Classic*, the DOE said they were going to look into our story, however, neither myself nor my daughter has been contacted. The DOE has not sought any comment or information even though they are aware that Ms. Jahoda sought to harm rather than to help Eva's education.

It is frustrating to me that Ms. Jahoda is allowed to stay in education and even be promoted. She is someone who shuts down inquiry and teamwork; someone who does not attempt to seek the best for students or a department. Instead Ms. Jahoda is overly bureaucratic, dictatorial and simply rude. Not only does she not apologize, but she has not learned from her past mistakes either. Given her experience at Bronx Science, one would think that she would tread more lightly, listen a bit more closely, try to understand what has been successful at Townsend Harris, and learn first to work with you and your culture. Instead, she has your entire community distraught at the prospect of having her as permanent principal. If someone cannot learn herself, she has no business being in education anywhere.

Most of all, I am saddened that now even more students and faculty have to suffer from her unprofessionalism, lack of transparency and meanness. I was moved to tears after reading some of the stories that have been unearthed through the excellent reporting by *The Classic*. My daughter and I asked that policies at Bronx Science be put in place to release more information over math placement exams and

to ensure that one person could not interfere with the mandated services of an IEP. We also asked that my daughter receive an apology. We raised with the administration at Bronx Science our experience with Ms. Jahoda. We thought this would affect more positive change than seeking legal action over our experience. We wanted that no other student should have to suffer through what my daughter suffered. I am now questioning the decision to not seek legal recourse because I am just sickened to know that Ms. Jahoda is here at your school wreaking the same havoc all over again - only this time it is a whole school community that is suffering and not just a department. If this sort of thing could happen to my daughter when she is an excellent and vocal advocate for herself, and when I was very active in the school community, this can happen to any of your children too.

I applaud your efforts and your courage to stand up for what is right for your school! I am sorry to not be able to be here tonight in person, but know that you have an ally in me and my daughter in your attempt to stop the permanent installation of Ms. Jahoda at Townsend Harris.