

SDM COMES TO A NEW SCHOOL

Our very first (and still incredibly valued and engaged) partner was the Cooke School, and because transition age youth are most likely to be at risk for unnecessary guardianship, we have found working with schools especially rewarding. This week we began work with a new one, the IDEAL School (great name!) on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.



The school's mission, "reflecting the rich diversity that is New York City" and foregrounding inclusion to prepare its students "for productive lives as full members of a diverse and global society," corresponds well with SDMNY's work and connections to an international human rights movement. We were delighted to be invited by a member of the school's Board, whose son Troy signed his SDMA last Fall (you may remember the Good News about him [8/27/2021] when, as a great basketball lover, he set off to begin his studies at college basketball powerhouse Syracuse University). Another IDEAL student, a friend of Troy's, is now in Phase 2 of SDMNY's facilitation process.

This past Wednesday the IDEAL School hosted an information session with SDMNY Director Kris Glen and SDMNY Site Coordinator Joan Cornachio, attended by 18 very interested and engaged parents and family members. As we had experienced at other schools, a number of the parents had never been told about SDM, and were thrilled to hear that there was a viable alternative to guardianship, especially after Troy's mom spoke so enthusiastically about his experience with SDMNY. We've already received one request for a follow-up meeting with a potential Decision-Maker because, of course, we have always insisted that participation in our process must be the Decision-Maker's choice, not their parents'.



We are excited to expand our work to a new community that seems aligned with our values, and look forward to providing its students and graduates with the tools that will enable them to retain all of their legal and civil rights, and to make their own decisions with the support of trusted persons in their lives.