

# MERGER OF SCHOOL SCORED BY ACTORS

Stage Figures and Parents  
Protest the Assimilation  
of 'Performing Arts'

By LEONARD BUDER

The curtain went up yesterday on a new effort to save the High School of Performing Arts.

The school, which trains students for careers in drama, music and dance, is scheduled to be merged with the High School of Commerce. The combined school, which would be known as the Lincoln Square High School, would occupy new facilities on the commerce school's site at 155 West Sixty-fifth Street.

At a meeting at the performing arts school, 120 West Forty-sixth Street, members of the parents' association and figures from the entertainment world mapped plans to oppose the merger.

The group decided to rally public support and to seek Mayor Wagner's help. It made arrangements to set up a committee, representing all segments of the school's supporters, to meet with Mr. Wagner.

Miss Blanche Yurka, an actress, became the committee's chairman. She was instructed to call the Mayor's office for an appointment.

Sam Levenson, humorist and former city teacher, who presided at the meeting, noticed a telephone on a desk. The group decided to have Miss Yurka call the Mayor's office right away.

## Mayor Misses Cue

Cameras clicked as Miss Yurka dialed Cortlandt 7-1000, the number for City Hall, and asked for an appointment. But the Mayor's office missed the cue. An assistant said he would have to check the Mayor's schedule and notify Miss Yurka later.

In the meeting it was said that "amalgamation means annihilation."

Under the Board of Education's plan, the performing arts students—now 660 from all boroughs—would join 1,800 to 2,400 students from the West Side of Manhattan.

Among those who attended yesterday's meeting were John Martin, dance critic and a member of the school's advisory commission; Herman Shumlin, producer-director; Celeste Holm, actress, and Jinx Falkenberg.

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