

Harlem Prep merges with Park East High

By J. ZAMGBA BROWNE
Amsterdam News Staff

In an effort to save Harlem Prep from phasing out because of substantial decline in its enrollment, the Central Board of Education this week gave the green light for the institution to merge with Park East High, an alternative school in Manhattan.

An orientation program was conducted at Park East High Tuesday and Wednesday to provide the incoming students from Harlem Prep an opportunity to discuss their curriculum with the principal and guidance counselors.

Mrs. Louise Latty, superintendent for Manhattan high schools said in an interview that enrollment at Harlem Prep had declined drastically over the past years and something had to be done to save the institution.

She decried Park East High School, located at 234 East 105th St., as an outstanding institution whose youngsters she said will be used as role models for the incoming Harlem Prep students.

"The new students," says Mrs. Latty, "will observe how involved the youngsters at Park East High are with their studies and will no doubt be stimulated to follow their examples."

Bob Terte, a spokesman for the Board of

Education told the Amsterdam News that District 5 School Board in Harlem has already turned over to the Central Board the facility at I.S. 201 where Harlem Prep was housed to be developed into a high school.

He said the new high school which is being developed in consultation with the community will be known as the Schomburg High School, and will be in operation by next fall.

Harlem Prep was founded 15 years ago as an experiment to prove that high school dropouts, mostly from the Black and Puerto Rican communities, were in fact good college material.

College acceptance was one of the prerequisites for graduation from Harlem Prep.

Student plays

Two student productions are scheduled for Feb. 18. The first is a student rendition of the game show, "To Tell the Truth," beginning at 2 p.m. followed at 3 p.m. with a performance that will profile famous African-Americans.

The month-long program will culminate with a celebration on Feb. 26, beginning at 1 p.m., that will include an art exhibit and dinner.