



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166th St. 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197

Richard R. Lewis, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

April 3, 2019

Hon. Richard A. Carranza, Chancellor
NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Resolution in support of the increase of Social Workers in Public Schools

Dear Chancellor Carranza:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention, 2 not voting urging its elected representatives in the City Council, Department of Education and Mayor's office to support and advocate for an increase in social workers in NYC Schools for FY 2020; and calling also on its elected officials to support efforts that would bring our public schools closer to the ratio provided by the National Association for Social Workers.

Whereas: School Social Workers (SSW) play very important role in addressing the needs of students, especially in public schools. The range of their job functioning is very important since they have often to address students issues related to substance abuse and sexuality, homelessness and depression problems. SSWs are key staff to help students with their emotional well-being and academic performance for healthy balance in their lives.

Whereas: Research on mental health indicates that social workers can be a tremendous asset in supporting vulnerable students and improving school learning environments. An increase in the number of social workers can have a positive impact on learning outcomes, reduce absenteeism, reduce suspensions and improve the overall experience for youth and educators.

Whereas: Since the 2010-2011 school year, the number of New York City students identified as homeless increased by 66%. During the 2017-2018 school year, 114,659 students were identified as homeless by New York City school districts and charter schools. More than 100 city schools have at least 50 students living in shelters at any given moment, many of which in our community.

Whereas: According to the Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer Office, in 2017 there was a ratio of just one social worker for every 800 students in the borough of Manhattan, a much higher ratio than what is suggested nationally by the National Association of Social Workers.

Hon. Richard A. Carranza, Chancellor
Re: Resolution in support of the increase of Social Workers in Public Schools
April 3, 2019
Page 2

Whereas: In the borough of Manhattan, school district 6 has 39 public schools from Kindergarten to 8th grade and out of this number, only seven schools have Social Workers on staff full-time.

Whereas: National Association of Social Workers recommends one counselor and social worker for every 250 students, schools in severe need require a much more number. A school in severe need would include a school with a substantial number of homeless students.

Whereas: The lack of social workers in our schools leads to unnecessary stress for teachers who are already burdened with oversized classrooms and lack of essential pedagogical resources. Social workers are trained to support students who may be experiencing trauma derived from lack of housing, and other family instability issues.

Be It Resolved: CB12 Manhattan urges its elected representatives in the City Council, Department of Education and Mayor's office to support and advocate for an increase in social workers in NYC Schools for FY 2020.

Be it further resolved: Manhattan Community Board calls also on its elected officials to support efforts that would bring our public schools closer to the ratio provided by the National Association for Social Workers which is 1 social worker for every 250 students and additionally 1 for every 50 students within the most vulnerable populations, especially students residing in homeless shelters.

Sincerely



Richard R. Lewis
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Mark Treyeger, Committee On Education Chair
Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator

Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member
Hon. Steven Banks, Commissioner NYC HRA
Manuel Ramirez, Superintendent CSD6
Anthony Wells, President Local 371