



COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

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Social Services and Education Committee – Community Board Two --

{Seniors, youth, LGBT, homeless, youth education, adult education, immigrants, disabled, others }

Minutes – January 17, 2008, 6:30- 8:30 at PS 3

Attendance: Keen Berger,(Chair), Steve Ashkinazy (Vice Chair), Lisa Cannistraci, Vern Fry, Zella Jones, Rhea Sohne Vadher, Naomi Wender

Excused: Chris Leonard, Wendy Schlazer

The Social Services Committee held a massive Public Hearing “No Room to Learn” to focus on School Overcrowding in our district. Despite rain and cold, the crowd was estimated at 300 --- including hundreds of parents and children, principals from all the local schools (including 3, 41, and 130), several additional board members, and dozens of other people from the community.

The press attended, including ABC television news. More than 50 people signed up to speak, but time constraints forced Chair Brad Hoylman to call on children who had prepared speeches, most of the elected representatives present (Senator Tom Duane and Assemblymember Deborah Glick, Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum, Councilmember Rosie Mendez, Councilmember and Education Chair Robert Jackson, Deputy Borough President Rose Pierre-Lewis). Michael Mirasola, a former CB2 member, who is now the Manhattan representative to the School Construction Authority, spoke as well as several key parents and other leaders.

The testimony left no doubt that our district is seriously overcrowded, even by Department of Education standards, and that our district needs at least three new schools – an elementary school, a middle school, and a high school. Political efforts at every level of government need to demand more class space as well as revisions to the Department of Education’s formula, projections and mindset. Our neighborhood has a population boom of young children as well as of new buildings. A conservative city estimate is for the Manhattan child population to increase 18 % in the next few years.

Two very informative Power Point presentations provided eye-opening statistics that described the issues with dramatic power. They will be on our new web site.

In order to do justice to all of the valuable information that was gathered during this Hearing, the committee decided to review and digest all of the testimony before presenting a comprehensive resolution to the Board next month. We will try to summarize the problem and lay out actions that will lead to a solution.

The entire Hearing was video-recorded, and a summary will be on Youtube.com. We urge all board members to view the power points and the Youtube summary. All are welcome to attend our strategy planning meeting on February 19th.