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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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Greenwich Village v Little Italy v SoHo v NoHo v Hudson Square v Chinatown v Gansevoort Market

October 27, 2014

Carmen Fariña, Chancellor
Tweed Courthouse
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Lorraine Grillo
President and Chief Executive Officer
10-10 Thomson Avenue
Long Island City, New York, 11101

Dear Chancellor Carmen Fariña and President & CEO Lorraine Grillo:

At its Full Board meeting October 23, 2014, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Bleecker School Resolution

Whereas New York University has made a series of promises to build a public school over the last 50 years, starting in the 1960s when NYU promised to build an elementary school for neighborhood children where the Coles Sports Center is today and again in 2010, when NYU promised to build the core and shell of a new 600-seat public elementary school on one of its three superblocks;

Whereas, in 2012, NYU promised the land for the SCA to build a 100,000 square foot school in the Bleecker Building (“Bleecker School”), with the option expiring in 2025,

Whereas, in the final Restrictive Declaration of Large-Scale Development for the NYU LSGD (“Restrictive Declaration”), NYU promised the land for the Bleecker School, but with the option or “School Election Notice” now expiring on December 31, 2014,

Whereas, NYU is in the business of education and a public school on its core campus would be attractive to its faculty, staff and their families and the Bleecker School could serve as a lab school for NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development,

Whereas 2014 is too early to exercise this option because 1) there are more than 500 unfunded elementary school seats in Community Board 1, 2) there is no funding for the Bleecker School in the DOE’s proposed capital plan for FY 2015-2019 (“DOE’s Capital Plan”) and 3) the opening of new downtown schools at Foundling in fall 2014, 75 Morton in fall 2017 and the Trinity School later this decade, may impact what type of school is needed at the Bleecker School.

Whereas, thanks to a generous grant from Council Member Margaret Chin, CB 2 engaged Ontodia to conduct a projection of the under-five population in 2019,

Whereas, the Study Area consists of the Fall 2014 school zones for P.S 3, PS 11, PS 41, PS 130 and PS 340 based on the assumption that new construction and population growth in Chelsea will reduce capacity for Greenwich Village families currently zoned for PS 11 and PS 340,

Whereas, demographic analysis clearly demonstrates the need for 600+ public school seats at the Bleecker School due to:

- 31% growth in the under-five population from 2000 to 2010 vs. less than 1% in Manhattan,
- 26% growth in births from 2000 to 2010, a stark contrast to a drop of nearly 2% in Manhattan, which the DOE mistakenly has used to predict the continued growth in our under-five population,
- Mid-range population projections for 2019 showing a need for a 600+ seat school,
- Overcapacity at all three CB 2 elementary schools in 2013-2014 school, based on outdated Blue Book figures that underestimate overcrowding, at 111% at PS 3, 124% at PS 41 and 104% at PS 130,
- Need for 184 additional seats to expand pre-kindergarten seats to full day and 50% of the kindergarten cohort,
- Need for 88 additional seats at the Trinity school assuming a CEQR ratio of 0.16 based on the actual change in residential units and elementary school enrollment from 2002 to 2012 vs. the Manhattan CEQR ratio of 0.12,
- The continued fast pace of residential construction, particularly of family-sized apartments, and
- Significant additional capacity needed to comply for Contract for Excellence class size reductions.

Therefore be it resolved that CB2 recognizes the need for 600 public school seats at the Bleecker School,

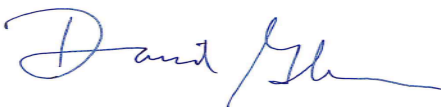
Be it further resolved that while CB 2 acknowledges, applauds and supports the decision to reopen the Restrictive Declaration to extend the School Election Notice by four years to December 31, 2018, CB 2 urges NYU to reinstate the School Election Notice back to 2025 and to extend the requirement to commence construction from July 1, 2018 to 2025, which was NYU's original proposal and will allow the Bleecker School to be funded in the SCA's next five year capital plan as opposed to requiring an amendment of the current one, and

Be it further resolved that CB 2 urges the School Construction Authority and the Department of Education to take into account the demographic analysis and projections developed by CB 2 and fund the Bleecker School in the SCA's next five year Capital Plan.

Vote: Unanimous, with 46 Board Members in favor.

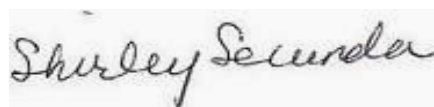
Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



David Gruber, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

DG/EM



Shirley Secunda, Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

- c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
- Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
- Hon. Deborah Glick, State Assembly Member
- Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
- Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member