Carter Booth, *Chair*
Daniel Miller, *First Vice Chair*
Susan Kent, *Second Vice Chair*
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*

Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Valerie De La Rosa, *Secretary*
Amy Brenna, *Assistant Secretary*

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN
3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899
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Greenwich Village ❖ Little Italy ❖ SoHo ❖ NoHo ❖ Hudson Square ❖ Chinatown ❖ Gansevoort Market

March 22, 2021

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Meisha Ross Porter
Chancellor, NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Lorraine Grillo
President & CEO, Schools Construction Authority
110 Wall Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10005

Karin Goldmark
Deputy Chancellor of School Planning & Development, NYC DOE
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio, Chancellor Porter, President Grillo, and Deputy Chancellor Goldmark:

At its Full Board meeting March 18, 2021, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution In Support of Ensuring the Bleecker School is Built:
An Option Worth $65 Million to NYC Taxpayers

Whereas:

1. To ensure that the Department of Education retains its $65 million option to build the Bleecker School -- a 100,000 sq. ft., K-8 public school on New York University-owned land -- the DOE must either fund the school before the option expires on December 31, 2021 or extend the option date [1];

    a. The Bleecker School was NYU's key community giveback as part of its 2012 rezoning;

    b. If the Bleecker School option expires on December 31, 2021, $65+ million in value transfers from NYC taxpayers to NYU, based on the average price per buildable square foot in Manhattan and arguably higher due to the lack of vacant land in Greenwich Village;

    c. From 2014 to 2020, CB 2 has passed six resolutions in support of funding and building the Bleecker School, including our September 2019 resolution: *Dyslexia Education: A*

[1] For additional details, view bit.ly/BleeckerFAQ.

Critical Equity Issue for NYC Students – in support of 1) implementation of early screening, curriculum development, teacher training, programs and schools to support and teach children with dyslexia in NYC public schools and 2) the creation of a DOE public school program for dyslexic students at the Bleecker School Site and our July 2020 resolution: *In Support of New York University and Trinity Real Estate Commitments to NYC for the Bleecker School and Hudson Square School and Public Recreation Space*;

d. In December 2019, downtown elected officials sent a letter to the DOE in support of exploring the "possibility of creating a DOE public school program for dyslexic students" at the Bleecker School site[2];

2. The DOE Capital Plan released in November 2019 and February 2020[3] included language that the DOE "intends to exercise" its option;

3. Covid-19 has caused 30,406 deaths[4] in New York City since February 29, 2020, the date of the city's first confirmed Covid-19 case and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a global pandemic[5];

4. In February 2021[6], the DOE Capital Plan included revised language that "the DOE has been working with NYU to extend the period to exercise the option to develop a school at Bleecker Street and LaGuardia Place;" and,

5. On March 11, 2020, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan or Covid-19 Stimulus Package, a $1.9 trillion economic stimulus plan, which will provide billions of dollars of support for NYC public schools.

Therefore, be it Resolved that Community Board 2:

1. Urges our elected officials, New York University and the Department of Education, along with CB 2, to reconvene the Bleecker School Task Force to ensure that the city is able to exercise the Bleecker School option by either funding the Bleecker School or reinstating the School Election Notice to 2025, the date NYU originally promised in its 2012 rezoning; and,

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[2] Letter and Restrictive Document available on CB 2 website at https://www1.nyc.gov/html/mancb2/html/newpublicschools/trinityschool.shtml.

[3] SCA and DOE, FY 2020 - 2024 Five-Year Capital Plan, Proposed Amendment, February 2020. For Bleecker School, see page 16. https://dnnhh5cc1.blob.core.windows.net/portals/0/Capital_Plan/Capital_plans/02202020_20_24_CapitalPlan.pdf?sr=b&si=DNNFileManagerPolicy&sig=I0uRPmk95aGbwzaOUCMHOZ71nBES%2FZ2YKSlzY1xJ4n0%3D.

[4] NYC Health Covid-19 Data, as of March 17, 2021, https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data-totals.page.

[5] WHO Declares COVID-19 a Pandemic, March 19, 2020, https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32191675/.

[6] SCA and DOE, FY 2020 - 2024 Five-Year Capital Plan, Proposed Amendment, February 2021. For Bleecker School, see page 16. SCAhttps://dnnhh5cc1.blob.core.windows.net/portals/0/Capital_Plan/Capital_plans/02012021_20_24_Capital%20Plan.pdf?sr=b&si=DNNFileManagerPolicy&sig=WwokI89NRTMiZswqQQcotO34SDL/1bY9Ks4b9zn2UQI=

Continues to support that when the Bleecker School is funded and built that it serves the educational needs of our community, with particular focus on the possibility of developing a school to serve students with dyslexia and other language-based learning disabilities.

VOTE: Passed, with 43 Board Members in favor.
1 Abstain (M. Fitzgerald)

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

Sincerely,

Carter Booth, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Schools and Education Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

CB/EM

c: Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman
Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Nydia Velázquez, Congresswoman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senator
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Yuh-Line Niou, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, NY City Council
Hon. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public Advocate
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member
Hon. Mark Treyger, NY City Council, Chair, Committee on Education
Sayde L. Campoamor, Director of Community Affairs, NYC DOE
Marisol Rosales, Executive Superintendent, Manhattan, NYC DOE
Kelly McGuire, incoming District 2 Superintendent, NYC DOE
Lynne P. Brown, Senior Vice President for University Relations and Public Affairs, New York University

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March 22, 2021

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Meisha Ross Porter
Chancellor, NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio, and Chancellor Porter:

At its Full Board meeting March 18, 2021, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in Support of an Additional Opportunity for Fully Remote Students to Switch to In-Person Learning

Whereas:

1. By Monday, March 22, 2021, all NYC Department of Education (DOE) public schools will be open for hybrid learning;

2. By early April, the Public School Athletic League will resume for practices and conditioning, with competition beginning in May for all high school students, including those who have opted for fully remote learning;

3. Families who initially elected fully remote learning have not had the opportunity to return to hybrid since November 13, prior to Thanksgiving, Winter Break and the winter cold and flu season; and,

4. Attending school in-person is optimal for the social-emotional and academic development for some (but not all) students, subject to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines for operating schools during Covid-19, updated February 11, 2021[1].

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2 insists that the DOE provide the one additional opportunity for fully remote students to switch to in-person learning for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year and provide school principals sufficient lead time to implement schedule changes.

[1] https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html

VOTE: Passed, with 42 Board Members in favor.
2 Against (G. Silver Seamans, M. Fitzgerald)

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

Sincerely,

Carter Booth, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Schools and Education Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

CB/EM

c: Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman
Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
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