

Jeannine Kiely, *Chair*
Susan Kent, *First Vice Chair*
Valerie De La Rosa, *Second Vice Chair*
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Eugene Yoo, *Secretary*
Ritu Chattree, *Assistant Secretary*

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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April 4, 2022

Hon. Eric Adams
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

David C. Banks
Chancellor, NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Daniel Weisberg
First Deputy Chancellor
NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Nina Kubota
President & CEO
NYC School Construction Authority
30-30 Thomson Ave.
Queens, NY 11101

Andrea Bender
Chief of Staff
NYC School Construction Authority
30-30 Thomson Ave.
Queens, NY 11101

Dear Mayor Adams, and Chancellor Banks, First Deputy Chancellor Weisberg, President & CEO Kubota, Chief of Staff Bender:

At its Full Board meeting March 24, 2022, 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. The Department of Education (DOE) has an option — valued at approximately \$65 million — to build the Bleecker School — a 100,000 sq. ft., K-8 DOE public school on

New York University-owned land — the DOE must either fund the cost of the construction of a school before the option expires on December 31, 2023.¹;

- a. The Bleecker School was a key component of NYU’s community giveback as part of its 2012 rezoning²;
 - b. **If the Bleecker School option expires on December 31, 2023, the Bleecker School site and development rights revert to NYU.** Based on the average price per buildable square foot in Manhattan, and the lack of vacant land in Greenwich Village, NYU will collect a windfall of over \$65 million in taxpayer funded value transfers, which will not be utilized to increase much needed public-school seats in CB 2.
 - c. From 2014 to 2021, CB 2 has passed **seven resolutions** in support of funding and building the Bleecker School, including our September 2019 resolution: *Dyslexia Education: A 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: *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*.
2. 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 site³;
 3. In November 2019 and February 2020⁴, the DOE Capital Plan included language that the DOE “intends to exercise” its option;
 4. In February 2021⁵, 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;”
 5. On October 7, 2021, elected officials once again urged the School Construction Authority (SCA) and DOE to intervene to meet the extended deadline that NYU has offered and would like to meet and discuss how they can commit to building a school at 130 Bleecker Street.

¹For additional details, view <http://bit.ly/BleeckerFAQ>.

²NYU 2012 Restrictive Declaration: <https://www.nyu.edu/content/CommunityAffairs/documents/core-plan-commitments/2012-7-24-NYU-Core-Restrictive-Declaration-Final.pdf>

³Letter and Restrictive Document available on CB 2 website at:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/html/mancb2/html/newpublicschools/trinityschool.shtml>.

⁴SCA and DOE, FY 2020 - 2024 Five-Year Capital Plan, Proposed Amendment, February 2021. For Bleecker School, see page 16: <https://FY 2020-2024 Five-Year Capital Plan, Proposed Amendment.pdf>

⁵SCA and DOE, FY 2020 - 2024 Five-Year Capital Plan, Proposed Amendment, February 2021. For Bleecker School, see page 16: <https://FY 2020-2024 Five-Year Capital Plan, Proposed Amendment.pdf>

6. On December 27, 2021, Letter from NYU to SCA offering an extension to December 31, 2023 for the SCA to provide notice of intent and until December 31, 2025 to commence actual construction was sent to elected officials⁶.
7. On January 24, 2022 Letter from SCA to NYU accepting NYU's offer on an extension of the deadline to December 31, 2023 to provide notice of intent and until December 31, 2025 to commence construction⁷.
8. In February 2022, SCA extended the option on the period of time to exercise the opportunity to develop a school at Bleecker Street and LaGuardia Place, secured as part of the large-scale rezoning of the NYU Core. The City will work with community representatives to identify capital funding and anticipates this building would be built in the next Five-Year Capital Plan; it is possible that design will begin in this capital plan if funding were to be identified⁸.
9. In February 2022, elected officials urged the Department of Building (DOB) to file a stop work order regarding the construction at 181 Mercer Street by New York University ("NYU"). Known as the Zipper Building, this site is part of the NYU Core special permit application dated June 6, 2012 (ULURP No. C120124ZSM), which facilitated an expansion of the NYU campus within two superblocks in the Washington Square area⁹.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Community Board 2 urges the School Construction Authority and Department of Education to:

1. Confirm its intention to construct a school on Bleecker Street before it loses the option and the site return entirely to NYU's control;
2. Continue to meet the extended deadline NYU has offered, and meet with CB 2 to discuss ways Community Board 2 can support the DOE's commitment to siting the school at 130 Bleecker Street;
3. Continue to support that when the Bleecker School is funded and built, 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.

⁶Letter from NYU to SCA Offering Extension: [12/27/21 Letter from NYU to SCA](#)

⁷Letter from SCA to NYU Accepting Extension: [1/24/22 Letter from SCA to NYU](#)

⁸SCA and DOE, FY 2020-2024 Five-Year Capital Plan, Proposed Amendment, February 2021. For Bleecker School see page 19: <https://FY 2020-2024 Five-Year Capital Plan, Proposed Amendement.pdf>

⁹<https://Joint Letter to DOB from Electeds on use of 181 Mercer Street.pdf>

Votes: Unanimous, with 39 Board Members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Patricia Laraia, Chair
Schools and Education Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JK/EM

- c: Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman
- Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
- 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. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public Advocate
- Hon. Erik Bottcher, Council Member
- Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
- Hon. Christopher Marte, Council Member
- Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member
- Hon. Mark Treyger, Council Member
- Hon. Helen Rosenthal, Council Member
- Dr. Cristina Melendes, Director of F.A.C.E. NYC DOE
- Kenita Lloyd, NYC DOE Deputy Chancellor of F.A.C.E. and External Affairs
- Dr. Danika Rux, (Acting NYC DOE Deputy Chancellor D1-6
- Carolyn V. Quintana, NYC DOE Deputy Chancellor of Teaching and Learning Opportunities
- Kelly McGuire, NYC DOE District 2 Superintendent
- Vivian Orlen, NYC DOE Superintendent Hight Schools
- Marisol Rosales, NYC DOE Executive Superintendent, Manhattan
- Dr. Kara Ahmed, NYC DOE Deputy Chancellor of Early Childhood Education
- Community Education Council District 2
- Joshua Adams, External Affairs Manager, NYCSCA
- Arlene Peralta-Avila, Senior Director, NYU

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Hon. Kathey Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capital Building
Albany, NY 1224

Hon. Eric Adams
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Betty A. Rosa
NYS Commissioner of Education
New York State Education Building
Albany, NY 12234

David C. Banks
Chancellor, NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Carl Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
1446 East Gun Hill Road
Bronx, NY 10469

Dear Governor Hochul, Mayor Adams, Commissioner Rosa, Chancellor Banks, and Speaker Heastie:

At its Full Board meeting March 24, 2022, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in support of the Peer Defense Project

1. **Whereas** nearly seventy years after the landmark and unanimous United States Supreme Court ruling in *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka*, New York City has one of the most segregated school systems in the nation;
2. **Whereas** despite Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education (CRSE) frameworks by the New York State Department of Education (NYSED), and adoption of the School Diversity Advisory Group recommendations by the New York City Department of Education (DOE), policies and practices that perpetuate racism at all levels (internalized, interpersonal, institutional and structural) remain in place in NYC schools;
3. **Whereas** such policies and practices include but are not limited to:

- a. Gifted & Talented programs that categorize students based on a narrow definition of “gifts and talents” and actively segregate students;
 - b. Middle school and high school admissions processes that act as gatekeepers, denying Black and Hispanic students, students with disabilities, students in temporary housing or foster homes, and English Language Learners equitable access to high quality schools;
 - c. Curriculum that is Euro-centric, normalizing white experiences and marginalizing the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC);
 - d. Teaching force that is majority white and female, depriving BIPOC students of mentors and role models who can better relate to their experiences; and
 - e. Student discipline practices that criminalize Black students, perpetuating the school-to-prison pipeline.
4. **Whereas** BIPOC students continue to experience racial animosity racial insensitivity, which often go unaddressed by the school;
 5. **Whereas** the DOE has not provided sufficient professional development and training to equip school staff (including but not limited to: administration, teaching, support, and security personnel) with tools to address racial incidents appropriately, thereby leaving BIPOC students, who are harmed, to suffer without support;
 6. **Whereas** a group of high school students in NYC public high schools and [IntegrateNYC](#), a youth-led organization, filed a complaint against the DOE, NYSED, the Mayor, the Chancellor, the Governor and the Commissioner on March 9th, 2021¹;
 7. **Whereas** the complaint claims that because of discriminatory and racist policies and practices within the DOE and its schools, plaintiff students were denied a sound basic education, which is a constitutional right for all students in NYS;
 8. **Whereas** the complaint seeks injunctive relief through elimination of the G&T and middle and high school admissions screens currently in use, and prohibition of such screens in the future to the extent that they have been shown to operate in a racially discriminatory manner;

¹https://iapps.courts.state.ny.us/nyscef/ViewDocument?docIndex=jHAVRjM/0VBF2bxhnEz7aA==&link_id=7&can_id=5b2d0a9f37e91a08eccf05f58a403ad1&source=email-support-youth-movements-to-dismantle-systemic-racism&email_referrer=email_1480276&email_subject=support-youth-movements-to-dismantle-systemic-racism

- a. adoption of evidence-based programs to improve recruitment and retention of school leaders, administrators, teachers, social workers, and guidance counselors of color;
 - b. monitoring and enforcement of schools' compliance with the New York State Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework;
 - c. establishment of a system of accountability whereby Defendants;
 - d. Monitor conditions that deny students a sound basic education, such as segregated schools and programs; disproportionately low numbers of school leaders, administrators, teachers, social workers, and guidance counselors of color; and failure to provide sufficient mental health supports to students, including failure to implement trauma-informed practices; and
 - e. Intervene in a timely manner to address identified conditions that deny students a sound basic education.
9. **Whereas** many BIPOC students in public schools in Manhattan Community District 2 experience the same racial animosity and insensitivities within their schools;
10. **Whereas** while many schools are actively engaged in creating an inclusive and anti-racist school culture, there remains a clear need for more professional development and supports as well as for prioritizing this work in all schools;

Therefore be it resolved that Manhattan Community Board 2 supports efforts to desegregate New York City schools through steps such as those outlined in the legal complaint filed by IntegrateNYC.

Be it further resolved that Manhattan Community Board 2 supports the actions called for under the injunctive relief sought by the plaintiffs.

Votes: Passed, with 34 Board Members in favor.

5 Abstain (S. Aaron, D. Raftery, R. Sanz, K. Shea, F. Sigel)

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

Sincerely,



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Patricia Laraia, Chair
Schools and Education Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JK/EM

c: Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman
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