

Susan Kent, *Chair*  
Valerie De La Rosa, *First Vice Chair*  
Eugene Yoo, *Second Vice Chair*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*  
Amy Brenna, *Secretary*  
Brian Pape, *Assistant Secretary*  
Mark Diller, *District Manager*

## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE  
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

[www.manhattancb2.org](http://www.manhattancb2.org)

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: [info@manhattancb2.org](mailto:info@manhattancb2.org)

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

September 27, 2023

Mayor Eric Adams  
City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, New York 10007

Chancellor David Banks  
NYC DOE  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007

Superintendent Kelly McGuire  
NYC DOE  
333 Seventh Avenue  
New York, NY 10001

Dear Mayor Adams, Chancellor Banks and Superintendent McGuire,

At its Full Board meeting on September 21, 2023, Community Board #2 Manhattan adopted the following resolution.

### **Resolution in Support of Streamlined Middle School Admissions for Education District 2**

**Whereas**, in recognition of the significance of equitable access to quality education for all students within District 2 (D2), CB2 has consistently passed resolutions and letters in support of the elimination of admissions screens for intermediary schools including;

- *Resolution in Support of Eliminating Screens for District 2 Middle School Admissions for Fall 2021 and Using New York State Integration Grant Funds to Enhance These Changes for Subsequent Admissions Years*<sup>1</sup>
- *Community Board 2 Letter to Support Middle School Admissions Policy November 17, 2022*<sup>2</sup>

**Whereas**, NYC DOE Chancellor David Banks is quoted as saying he is “not a big believer in screens.”<sup>3</sup>; and

**Whereas**, the previous system of screened admissions placed undue burdens on families such as convoluted rubrics, metrics and requirements that varied school to school, further exacerbating educational inequalities; and

<sup>1</sup> <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb2/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2022/11/01-January-2021-Full-Board-Minutes.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [CB2-Letter-to-Support-MS-Admissions](#)

<sup>3</sup> <https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2021/12/14/22834144/nyc-middle-high-school-admissions-changes-2022>

**Whereas**, in 2020 NYC announced sweeping changes to middle and high school application process that included the suspension of enrollment barriers including test scores and other academic “screens” to select students<sup>4</sup>; and

**Whereas**, in 2021, NYC announced 2022-23 admissions policies that extended the pause on middle school academic screens; and

**Whereas**, Chancellor Banks directed the superintendents of each of the city’s 32 geographic districts to engage the community to determine whether middle schools would use screened admissions<sup>5</sup>; and

**Whereas**, after extensive community engagement, District 2 Superintendent Kelly McGuire implemented a simplified middle school admissions process for the academic years 2023-2024; and

**Whereas**, District 2 schools should reflect the demographic and academic diversity of the district; and

**Whereas**, this unscreened middle school admissions process has resulted in improvements in demographic and academic diversity in some of the most sought-after middle schools in district 2<sup>6</sup>; and

**Whereas**, District 2 Superintendent McGuire's revised middle school admissions policy has helped all students have increased access to rigorous and accelerated instruction, addresses "scarcity" concerns, establishes honors programs and access to Regents-level coursework in every school, allowing more students’ participation in these curricula.<sup>7</sup>; and

**Whereas**, this streamlined admissions process addressed challenges for families still grappling with the lingering impacts of the pandemic face; and

**Whereas**, admissions screens criteria might include without limitation: state test scores, course grades, attendance, punctuality, and behavior; and

**Whereas**, last year’s transition to unscreened middle school admissions has begun to level the educational landscape by prioritizing the development and elevation of all students over a mere sorting process; and

**Whereas**, The D2 community, comprising parents, educators, students, and community members, has consistently and emphatically supported the discontinuation of middle school admissions screens; and

**Whereas**, this support has been demonstrated through various initiatives;

- Educators for an End to Middle School Screening: 585 educators, 113 parents - including 14 of 16 District 2 middle school principals<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2020/12/18/22188384/changes-nyc-school-application-process>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/news/2022/09/29/city-changes-admissions-process-for-middle-schools--selective-high-schools>

<sup>6</sup> [Demographic-Snapshot-2018-2023](#)

<sup>7</sup> <https://twitter.com/456trainMama/status/1585273875113431040/photo/2>

<sup>8</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QAVva-Qg8FmMukoigA\\_xJny49z8YQsM4y89IVB5vjts/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QAVva-Qg8FmMukoigA_xJny49z8YQsM4y89IVB5vjts/edit)

- Call to Permanently End Middle-School Screens 45 organizations, 469 students, parents, educators, and community members<sup>9</sup>
- Support for D2 Superintendent McGuire, 169 parents, educators, and community members<sup>10</sup>

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved,** CB2 firmly and resolutely endorses and supports Superintendent McGuire's continued leadership in fostering a streamlined middle school admissions process for the academic year 2023-2024.

**Vote: Unanimous, 39 Board Members in Favor**

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

Sincerely,



Susan Kent, Chair.  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Patricia Laraia, Chair  
Schools and Education Committee

cc: Hon. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senate  
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NYS  
Senate Hon. Deborah J. Glick,  
NYS Assembly Hon. Grace Lee,  
NYS Assembly  
Hon. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public  
Advocate Hon. Brad Lander, NYC  
Comptroller  
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough  
President Hon. Alvin Bragg, Manhattan  
District Attorney Hon. Erik Bottcher, Council  
Member District 3 Hon. Christopher Marte,  
Council Member District 1 Hon. Carlina  
Rivera, Council Member District 2  
Lupe Hernandez, Education and Opportunity Office, NYC Public  
Advocate Mark Treyger, Executive Director of Intergovernmental  
Affair, NYCDOE Daniel Weisberg, First Deputy Chancellor, NYCDOE  
Danika Rux, Deputy Chancellor for the Division of School Leadership  
NYCDOE Kenita Lloyd, Deputy Chancellor, Family & Community  
Engagement NYCDOE Sarah Kleinhandler, Chief Enrollment Officer  
NYCDOE  
Matthew Broggini, Executive Director Middle/High School Admissions  
NYCDOE Carlyne Quintana, Deputy Chancellor of Teaching and Learning  
NYCDOE Jennifer Foti, Chief of Special Education, NYC DOE  
Education District 2 Community Council

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.nyappleseed.org/wp-content/uploads/End-MS-Screens-Permanently\\_Oct82022-1.pdf](https://www.nyappleseed.org/wp-content/uploads/End-MS-Screens-Permanently_Oct82022-1.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fY4kviuUgge6yvlmPcGBJnMDRIBITTIEdqnXPEqdnU/edit?usp=sharing>