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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

www.manhattancb2.org

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: info@manhattancb2.org

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SCHOOLS & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

July 2025

The Schools & Education Committee met on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at 6:30 PM, in the conference room of the CB2 office (hybrid).

CB 2 Schools & Education Members Present: Patricia Laraia (Chair), Mar Fitzgerald (Vice Chair), Rich Caccappolo

CB 2 Committee Members Remote: Keen Berger, Juliet Kaye, Ed Ma

CB 2 Schools & Education Board Members Absent with Notice: Emma Smith

Representative from Electeds (remote): Nicole Barth of CM Eric Bottcher

Attendees (remote public): Emma Gossett, Julia Konrad, Yung Vu, Jocelyn Chao, Alex Laraia

Agenda:

1. Analysis of 3-K and pre-K enrollment, capacity, and utilization trends. Presentation by the Independent Budget Office (IBO)
2. Preliminary Budget Discussion: Capital and Expense for Fiscal Year 2027

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm

Chair Patricia Laraia introduced Julia Conrad and Emma Gossett from the [NYC Independent Budget Office](#) (IBO), who shared findings from their report “[Utilization Up, Capacity Down,](#)” examining trends in 3K and Pre-K programs. While 3K enrollment rose slightly, capacity declined, and Pre-K saw stagnant enrollment with reduced capacity. Fill rates improved, but mainly because fewer seats were available—not because more students enrolled. The IBO noted that many families are offered seats far from home, limiting actual attendance, and stressed the need for better outreach and demand-based seat planning.

The presentation also explained that early 3K expansion relied heavily on federal stimulus funds, which have now been replaced by city and state dollars. The FY2025 executive budget includes

funding for extended day programs, families without offers, and DOE outreach—but concerns remain about whether those funds will be effectively spent. Committee members, including Juliet Kaye, emphasized the need for more localized, data-informed planning to address gaps in access and better match seat locations to neighborhood needs.

Patricia then reviewed capital and expense funding requests from CB2 schools for FY2027, including technology upgrades, gym and HVAC improvements, and accessibility renovations. Schools mentioned included PS 3, PS 41, PS 130, 75 Morton, multiple high schools, and two D75 programs. The committee also reaffirmed priorities like class size reduction, arts funding, science of reading curriculum, and 3K expansion. Patricia noted the committee will follow up with schools in August and revisit advocacy priorities in September after FY2026 funding decisions are released.

Business session: CB 2 Schools and Ed Committee met in business session to discuss how to prioritize the District Needs for CB 2 Schools.

Schools & Education Committee • Capital and Expense Priorities

Capital

1. Allocate funds for technology improvement, including smart boards for [Harvey Milk High School](#), devices, connectivity, laptops, and computers for [Harvest Collegiate High School](#). (NYC DOE)
2. Allocate funds to create a sensory gym at [PS 3 Charrette School](#) for their students in the [ASD Horizon](#) D2 program. (NYC DOE)
3. Allocate funds to upgrade the air conditioning system in the gymnasium (shared by [Chelsea Career and Technical School](#) and [NYC iSchool](#)). Level the flooring and replace the seats with bleachers to improve functionality. (SCA)
4. Allocate funds to upgrade windows on the building and light fixtures at [PS 130 Hernando Desoto School](#). This will be included in the SCA 5-year plan (SCA)
5. Allocate funds for [Manhattan School for Career Development \(751M@323\)](#):
 - a. Health & Wellness Studio: Multi-purpose recreational space for students to participate in movement and mindfulness. (SCA)
 - b. Student Success Lounge: Space to promote literacy, digital citizenship, and success on assessments. Electrical reconfiguring, adaptive seating, and technology will be needed. (SCA)
 - c. Sensory Hallway: Built in sensory activities in hallways to help students self-regulate as a part of our SEL supports for students. (SCA)
6. Allocate SCA funds to renovate the cafeteria and lobby at [M721 Occupational Training Center](#) with: (1) accessibility upgrades, (2) sensory-friendly design elements, and (3) age-appropriate modifications to better serve our special needs students' social-emotional and sensory requirements. (SCA)

7. Allocate funds for the creation of a 100,000 square foot school to be built at/near the corner of Bleecker Street and LaGuardia Place on land reserved for such use during the [2012 rezoning](#) undertaken by New York University. (SCA)
8. Allocate funds to [75 Morton](#) to move forward with the approved playground project (start date pending) and to upgrade classroom smart boards, though they don't have cost estimates for the technology updates as yet. (SCA) + (NYC DOE)

Expense

1. Allocate funding to reduce class size city wide at an estimated cost of \$137 million for hiring teachers, covering only about 1,300 out of the estimated 10,000 to 12,000 teachers needed. Prioritizing first elementary schools, middle schools then high schools within District 2 within the five-year phase-in period ending in 2028. (NYC DOE)
2. Allocate funds for the [NYC Men Teach](#) to recruit, train, and retain talented non-traditional public school educators in order to close the representation gap between our students and those who teach them. (NYC DOE)
3. Allocate funds for teacher training and for reading and writing curricula aligned with the science of reading and structured literacy practices. (NYC DOE)
4. Allocate funds to maintain the most recent baseline funding for arts education (\$41 million, FY25). (NYC DOE)
5. Allocate funds for the City Environment Quality Review (CEQR) process for funding, siting, and building new public schools. (NYC DOE)
6. Allocate funds for an array of before-and-after school activities across all grade levels that are free of charge to students and families. (NYC DOE)

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Laraia, Chair
Mar Fitzgerald, Vice Chair