

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



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*  
Keen Berger, *Secretary*  
Erik Coler, *Assistant Secretary*

## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE  
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

[www.cb2manhattan.org](http://www.cb2manhattan.org)

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

April 26, 2019

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Majority Leader  
28 Wells Ave. Building #3  
Yonkers, NY 10701

Hon. Carl E. Heastie  
NYS Assembly Member  
1446 East Gun Hill Road  
Bronx, NY 10469

Hon. John E. Brooks  
NYS Senator  
5550 Merrick Road, Suite 205  
Massapequa, NY 11758

Hon. Jo Anne Simon  
NYS Assembly Member  
341 Smith Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11231

Dear Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Senator Brooks, Assembly Member Heastie and Assembly Member Simon:

At its Full Board meeting April 18, 2019, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

### **Resolution In Support of State Legislation to Mandate Early Screening for Dyslexia for All Children**

#### **Whereas:**

1. Proposed state legislation [S4341](#) and [A5259A](#) requires school districts to conduct mandatory early screening for dyslexia for all children;
2. Dyslexia affects 15-20% of the population, regardless of primary language or background, according to the International Dyslexia Association<sup>1</sup>;
3. Dyslexia is a learning disability, characterized by difficulties with specific language skills, particularly reading, but also spelling, writing and pronouncing words and is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities;
4. The achievement gap between typical and dyslexic readers impacts students as early as first grade and persists and often worsens over time;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dyslexiaida.org/dyslexia-basics/>.

- a. Students who are not reading at grade level by the end of third grade are likely to have very poor reading outcomes after, and while academic recovery can still occur at any grade or age, the chances are lowered if grade-level reading has not occurred at this point, according to the NYC Department of Education<sup>2</sup>;
- b. In NYC, only 19% and 18% of NYC Students with Disabilities<sup>3</sup> (SWD) passed 4th grade state math and ELA exams, respectively, one of the lowest performing demographic groups, dropping to 10% and 12%, respectively, by 7th grade, based on publicly available DOE data for 2018<sup>4</sup>;
- c. Children with undiagnosed dyslexia are more likely to drop out of school and as adults have higher rates of unemployment, anxiety and depression<sup>5</sup>; and,
- d. Some studies estimate that nearly 50% of the prison population is dyslexic<sup>6</sup>;
5. Early screening combined with high-quality, evidenced-based interventions are essential for closing this achievement gap;
6. Low cost screening tests include the Shaywitz Dyslexia Screen<sup>7</sup>, developed by Dr. Sally Shaywitz with the Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity, the Colorado Learning Disabilities Questionnaire-Reading Subscale School Age Screener<sup>8</sup> and others<sup>9</sup>; and,
7. Screening in grades K-2<sup>9</sup> allows for early identification of children who have dyslexia allowing dyslexic children to be identified sooner and receive interventions and accommodations needed to succeed in school.

**Therefore, be it resolved that Community Board 2:**

1. Supports the passage of New York State Senate bill [S4341](#) and New York State Assembly bill [A5259A](#) and urges the Governor to sign them into law; and,
2. Urges our elected officials and the Department of Education to support mandatory early screening for dyslexia for all children.

**VOTE: Unanimous, with 35 Board Members in favor.**

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

Sincerely,

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<sup>2</sup> “Indicators for Successful Reading Acquisition”, Esther Klein Friedman, Ph.D.

Exec. Director, Literacy and AIS Division of Teaching and Learning, NYC Department of Education, 2014, <http://www.ccnyc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/CCCEarlyRdg.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Students with Disabilities (SWD) are 20% of the NYC public school population and are defined as those students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

<sup>4</sup> ELA and Math results for 4th grade students in NYC, in aggregate and by race, sex, disability, economic status and English language learner status, are available at [infohub.nyced.org/reports-and-policies/citywide-information-and-data/test-results](http://infohub.nyced.org/reports-and-policies/citywide-information-and-data/test-results).

<sup>5</sup> “Dyslexia: It’s impact on the individual, parents and society,” Dr. Lamk Al-Lamki, 2012, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3529660/>.

<sup>6</sup> “Prevalence of dyslexia among Texas prison inmates,” Dr. Kathryn Currier Moody, 2000.

<http://www.educationupdate.com/archives/2008/DEC/html/spec--dyslexia.html> and

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10876375>.

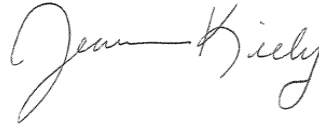
<sup>7</sup> <http://dyslexia.yale.edu/resources/educators/instruction/shaywitz-dyslexiascreen/>.

<sup>8</sup> <https://dyslexiaida.org/screening-for-dyslexia/dyslexia-screener-for-school-age-children/>.

<sup>9</sup> <https://dyslexiaida.org/universal-screening-k-2-reading/>.



Carter Booth, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



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

TB/EM

- c: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman  
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman  
Hon. Nydia Velasquez, Congresswoman  
Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, NYS Governor  
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senator  
Hon. Brad Hoylman, 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. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Speaker  
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member  
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member  
Richard A. Carranza, Chancellor, NYC Department of Education  
Donalda Chumney, Superintendent, District 2, NYC DOE  
Jennifer Greenblatt, District 2 Family Advocate  
Robin Broshi, President, Community Education Council District 2

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April 26, 2019

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

Richard Carranza, Chancellor  
Department of Education  
Tweed Courthouse  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Chirlane McCray  
First Lady of NYC, ThriveNYC  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio, Chancellor Carranza and First Lady of NYC Chirlane McCray:

At its Full Board meeting April 18, 2019, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

### **Resolution To Implement a Mental Health Curriculum Across NYC Schools and Provide Each NYC School a Full-Time Social Worker**

#### **Whereas:**

1. Students experience a range of mental health issues including: anxiety, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder and eating disorders;
2. 8% of New York City high school students have attempted suicide and 13,000 students report feeling depressed;
3. Many students do not have consistent access to mental health support or clear understanding of mental health issues;
4. Students face barriers to getting mental health services including: transportation, expense, guardian intervention, and social stigma;
5. Mental health significantly impacts a student's academic, social and emotional development;
6. School social workers are trained mental health professionals who address mental health concerns,

- behavioral concerns, and provide positive behavioral support, academic and classroom support in consultation with guardians, teachers and administrators;
7. New York State is the first state to include mental health in its required health curriculum;
  8. NYC teachers and administrators have not received basic training on identifying and escalating issues related to student mental health;
  9. For many students there is a stigma attached to mental illness making it less likely those suffering will share with adults or peers;
  10. The stigma attached to mental health is so pronounced people wait an average of eight years between development of a mental health issue and treatment;
  11. The District 2 Middle School Leadership Council (D2 MSLC) focused on the issue of student mental health throughout the 2017-2018 school year and recommended to the Community Education Council D2 (CECD2) that:
    - a. Each school within District 2 and across New York City be provided dedicated funding for a full-time social worker and maintain a 1:100 ratio of social workers to students;
    - b. The DOE implement a mental health curriculum that helps to socialize mental health issues and provides early-detection training to teachers and administrators; and,
  12. In CB 2, local schools find that students need social and emotional support and they meet these needs with a combination of DOE-funded social workers and school psychologists, some of whom split their time with other school, or PTA-funded mindfulness and other programs; and,
  13. Student mental health impacts student learning, the school environment and school safety.

**Therefore, be it resolved that Community Board 2:**

1. Urges the Department of Education (DOE) to implement a mental health curriculum that recognizes the impact of mental health stigma and provides training to school-based staff on identifying and referring cases of mental illness;
2. Urges the DOE to provide a dedicated funding stream toward a social worker in each NYC school with a ratio of at least 1 social worker for every 100 students; and,
3. Urges the DOE to engage the D2 Middle School Leadership Council in a further discussion of student mental health and the need for access to adequate mental health literacy and supports.

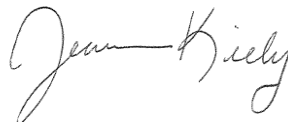
**VOTE: Unanimous, with 35 Board Members in favor.**

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

c: Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senator  
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senator  
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NYS Assembly Member  
Hon. Yuh-Line Niou, NYS Assembly Member  
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Hon. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public Advocate  
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