



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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Burt Lazarin
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

March 14, 2019

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

Re: Specialized High School

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its Full Board Meeting on March 6, 2019, voted of 39 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, to recommend that the Mayor and schools Chancellor make a greater effort to engage with Community Education Council District 2 (CECD2) in order to permit more community participation in the proposal to change how students are admitted to the city's Specialized High Schools.

At the February 11, 2019 meeting of the Arts, Culture, Education & Street Life Committee (ACES) a member of CECD2 came before our committee to speak about the process to develop and roll out the proposed new admission policy. It is the opinion of CECD2 that the lack of community input has led to strained relations between parent groups affected by these proposed changes which were manifested in a chaotic atmosphere at CECD2 board meetings.

In the February 2019 report by the New York City Independent Budget Office (IBO) on the Admission Overhaul, the IBO states that within the debate around school integration, the proposal to alter the admissions process is among the most controversial.

It is not the intent of the ACES committee to opine on the proposed new policy but rather to urge the Mayor and the Chancellor to consider CECD2's suggestion to meet with representatives from all NYC Public School Districts in an effort to create a plan that all stakeholders can consider fair.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Community Board 4



Allen Oster
Co-Chair
ACES Committee

[signed 3/14/19]
Inge Ivchenko
Co-Chair
ACES Committee

cc: Richard A. Carranza, Chancellor, NYC Department of Education
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, City Council
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
CEC District 2