



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**BURT LAZARIN**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

April 4, 2019

Hon. Corey Johnson  
Speaker, City Council  
224 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1206  
New York, NY 10001

Hon. Gale A. Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President  
1 Centre Street, 19<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, New York 10007

Re: Community District 4 School Funding

Dear Speaker Johnson and Borough President Brewer,

In writing this administrative letter, Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) would like to keep you informed of the ongoing efforts of the Arts, Culture, Education, and Street Life Committee (ACES) of MCB4 to provide needed resources for our public schools and local arts and cultural organizations as well.

As part of the 2020 budget cycle, ACES has reached out to the principals of the schools in Community District 4 (CD4). MCB4 members were assigned to individual schools and spoke to school administrators to better understand their needs and to translate those needs to the City's Budgeting Process. The requests we received were made part of the MCB4 Fiscal Year 2020 Statement of District Needs and Budget Requests.

We received the City's responses to these requests and were disappointed that the Department of Education (DOE) would not be funding a majority of them (see enclosed.) In addition, in its response to several of our requests, DOE indicated that additional studies were needed. We ask your assistance in ascertaining from DOE what is meant by further studies and when such studies will begin and be completed.

During the past year, the ACES Committee has heard several presentations on issues of great concern to residents and students in our district. We heard from the Action for Reform in Special Education Coalition and Parents for Inclusive Education on the need to

make our schools accessible to all students and parents. We heard from the Manhattan Student Leadership Council on the need to provide more mental health resources in our public schools. The committee also heard from Community Education Council District 2 on the debate regarding the Mayor's proposal to amend the process for admission to the City's Specialized High Schools. Our letters to the appropriate agencies on these issues offered both support and suggested proposals to address these issues.

In our efforts to enrich the cultural environment of our district, ACES has had The Shed present on their programming and community outreach. Working together over several meetings, we are developing a ticket and entrance fee schedule to enable more of our community residents to attend these arts and cultural events.

We support small independent theatres as they offer opportunities for actors, writers and stage personnel and lower cost productions for the public. Listening to these small theatre operators we initiated, through the Office of Media & Entertainment, a study on the financial impact of these small theatres on the city's economy.

Our efforts to support our public schools and cultural organizations can only succeed if we can provide them with the resources and infrastructure they need to achieve their goals.

The ACES Committee and all the members of Community Board 4 are very thankful and appreciate the support your office provides. We look forward to working together to continue to enhance the quality of life for the residents and businesses of Community District 4.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Burt Lazarin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Burt Lazarin  
Chair

Manhattan Community Board 4

Enclosure

CB4 FY2020 Capital Budget Request Responses

Priority	Request	Reason	Location	Agency	Agy Response	Agy Category Description	Additional Comment
06	Renovate or upgrade a high school	Food and Science High School: Fund \$2 million for a chemistry lab.	Location Site Name: Food and Science High School Address: 525 West 50th Street	Department of Education	Unable to prioritize funding for this project request at this time.	The agency does not/cannot give priority to funding this request	
09	Renovate or upgrade a high school	H.S. Environmental Studies: Complete funding for \$100,000 shortfall for new roof at High School for Environmental Studies.	Location Site Name: HS for Environmental Studies Address: 444 West 56 Street	Department of Education	Further study by the agency of this request is needed.	This request requires further study	
16	Renovate or upgrade an elementary school	PS 111 - Upgrade adult and student bathrooms on lower level. Upgrade pre-k bathrooms and sink areas	Location Site Name: P.S. 111 Address: 440 West 53rd Street	Department of Education	Unable to prioritize funding for this project request at this time.	The agency does not/cannot give priority to funding this request	
18	Renovate or upgrade a high school	NYC Lab School: Increase Funding for additional \$300,000 to complete renovation of Third Floor student and staff bathrooms. Increase funding for additional	Location Site Name: NYC Lab School Address: 333 West 17th Street	Department of Education	Unable to prioritize funding for this project request at this time.	The agency does not/cannot give priority to funding this request	
19	Renovate or upgrade a high school	P.S.35M: Increase funding of \$135,000.00 to upgrade library to include also computer and media lab.	Location Site Name: P35M at Manhattan High School Address: 317 West 52 Street	Department of Education	Unable to prioritize funding for this project request at this time.	The agency does not/cannot give priority to funding this request	
27	Renovate or upgrade an elementary school	Fund upgrades to make P.S. 111 School entrance and gymnasium ADA accessible.	Location Site Name: P.S. 111 Manhattan	Department of Education	Unable to prioritize funding for this project request at this time.	The agency does not/cannot give priority to funding this request	
29	Renovate or upgrade an elementary school	PS51: Increase Funding for the following items: Fund a \$100,000 Earth Science Lab, three Laptop Carts, 25 Chromebooks, and 25 Teach Macbooks	Location Site Name: PS 51, The Elias Howe School Address: 525 West 44th Street	Department of Education	Unable to prioritize funding for this project request at this time.	The agency does not/cannot give priority to funding this request	

30	Renovate or upgrade a high school	Arts & Craftsmanship High School: Fund \$70,000 for 10 Smartboards for classrooms.	Location Site Name: Arts & Craftsmanship High School Address: 439 West 49th Street	Department of Education	DOE supports the use of technology in schools. Pending the availability of additional funds in the DOE's budget and/or Capital Plan, the DOE will see to addressing this need in schools.	The agency supports this request, but funding is not available at this time.	
CS	Renovate or upgrade an elementary school	Continue funding to renovate the following areas and items in P.S. 33: Bathrooms Kitchen Cafeteria PA system Security cameras	Location Site Name: P.S. 33 Address: 281 9 AVENUE	Department of Education	This request includes more than one proposal. Funding for part is recommended.	The agency agrees with this request, will accommodate in part	
CS	Renovate or upgrade an elementary school	PS11 Captial Needs: Complete Scope and fund Handicap Lift for universal access to the building. This school of approximately 950 students is not yet handicap accessible.	Location Address: 320 West 21 Street	Department of Education	Unable to prioritize funding for this project request at this time.	The agency does not/cannot give priority to funding this request	
CS	Provide a new or expand an existing middle/intermediate school	With schools operating a full or over capacity, we need to identify sites to build new district middle schools. Development on the west side, including Hudson Yards, will bring in an extraordinary number of students, in a short time frame.		Department of Education	Community District is located in a school district with identified seat need. Projects are in process or have been completed.	The agency agrees with this request, will accommodate	