



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**Delores Rubin**  
Chair

**Jesse R. Bodine**  
District Manager

March 14, 2017

Ms. Robin Broshi  
President  
Community Education Council District 2  
333 Seventh Avenue  
New York, NY 10001

Re: School seats in Community District 4

Dear President Broshi:

As you are aware, the School Construction Authority (“SCA”) has a predetermined formula for calculating the number of public school seats needed in each community. The current formula only calculates that 0.12 new elementary school seats are needed for every new apartment built in Manhattan.

We are concerned that the formula does not accurately represent the actual need for seats in the area covered by Manhattan Community Board 4 (“MCB4”), the areas of Chelsea, Hudson Yards and Hell’s Kitchen/Clinton, since it does not take into consideration:

- More births in our community
- More families staying in CB4 after kids are born
- More families moving into CB4 neighborhoods
- More families choosing public school, as ratings for schools improve
- Grandfather laws which allow kids to remain in the elementary school they are currently attending, even if they move out of zone
- The closing of Catholic schools which could send several hundred students into local public schools with little warning
- The construction of more 2-3 bedroom apartments in CB4 as the number of residential buildings west of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue increases exponentially

We have been informed that the Department of Education (“DOE”) is currently reviewing new data models to more accurately project the need for additional seats in elementary and middle schools. We want to be sure that the factors influencing the number of seats needed in CB4 are part of the conversation.

As the new formula will impact the number of seats needed throughout Manhattan, we believe it makes sense for the Community Boards to be working together on this issue. As we have already discussed with Shino Tanikawa, Vice President of CECD2, we are asking you to organize a meeting of Community Board representatives to begin this process. We feel strongly that if the local Community Boards work together with CECD2, we can influence DOE and SCA to modify their formulas to reflect what we perceive to be the actual need for more school seats in our neighborhoods.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this most important issue.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin  
Chair  
Community Board 4



Allen Oster  
Co-Chair  
ACES Committee

[signed 3/14/17]  
Inge Ivchenko  
Co-Chair  
ACES Committee

cc: Hon. Corey Johnson, City Council  
Elizabeth Rose, Deputy Chancellor of Operations, DOE  
Sadye Campoamor, Director of Community Affairs, DOE