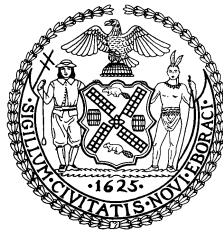


Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com - Website
info@cb8m.com - E-Mail

The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

February 17, 2012

Hon. Dennis Walcott
Chancellor Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

RE: Reforming the City Environment Quality Review standards for the number of school seats needed in our district

Dear Chancellor Walcott:

At its Full Board meeting Wednesday, February 15, 2012, Manhattan Community Board 8 adopted the following resolution by a vote of 32 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention:

WHEREAS all residential construction results in an increased number of families;

WHEREAS an increase in the residential population is accompanied by an increase in needs for community and social services, such as schools, parks, police, and medical care;

WHEREAS a good public education is a right that should be afforded every resident in every neighborhood;

WHEREAS overcrowding continues to be a concern in UES schools, as well as in all of District 2;

WHEREAS, the City Environmental Quality Review formulas to calculate school seats for new residential development are based on long outdated assumptions [for example, the CEQR Technical Manual calculates new residential units to yield .55 K-8 public school children in the Bronx, but only .16 in Manhattan] leading to inadequate planning for school capacity;

WHEREAS, while all new residential construction and residential conversions, regardless of size, can potentially increase the school age population, only residential projects with a minimum of 310 units are required to conduct a detailed analysis of the potential impact on a public elementary or middle school in Manhattan according to the CEQR Technical Manual (Chapter 6 Table 6-1); and

WHEREAS, multiple projects that individually do not trigger a detailed analysis nonetheless can, in an aggregate, have a significant impact on the school age population and increase the demand for public school seats;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Board 8 urges the Department of City Planning to develop more accurate formulas and factors based on current data.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

James Clynes and Judith Schneider
Co-Chair, Youth and Education Committee

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York
Hon. Kathleen Grimm, Deputy Chancellor of Finance & Administration
Hon. Jeff Shear, Chief of Staff
Hon. Martin Barr, Executive Director, Department of Education
Marc Sternberg, Deputy Chancellor of Portfolio Planning
Elizabeth Rose, Chief of Staff for Public Affairs
Drew Patterson, Office of Portfolio, Department of Education
Mariano Guzman, Superintendent Community School District 2
Dara Adams, Office of Portfolio, Department of Education
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Rose Pierre-Louis, Deputy Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, United States Congress Member
Hon. Liz Krueger, New York State Senator
Hon. Micah Kellner, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Daniel Quart, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, New York City Council Member
Hon. Jessica Lappin, New York City Council Member
Hon. Robert Jackson, Chair, Education Committee, New York City Council
Kristen Ellis, Director of Comm. Affairs & Constituent Services, Manhattan Borough
President's Office
Shino Tanikawa, President CECD2