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**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan  
Youth, Education, and Libraries Committee  
Thursday, June 23, 2022 - 6:30 PM  
This meeting was conducted via Zoom**

**Board Members Present:** Vanessa Aronson, Ed Hartzog, Elizabeth Rose, Rami Sigal, Addeson Lehv

**Resolutions for Approval:**

Item 1 – Resolution in Support of District 2 Community Education Council's [Resolution 199 to Improve School Safety](#)

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

A presentation by District 2 Community Education Council (CEC) Member Robin Kelleher on the current state of school safety.

- In the wake of recent mass shootings across the United States and in New York, CEC District 2 passed resolution 199 providing recommendations regarding the state of safety in the DOE.
- Numerous schools in Education District 2 and Manhattan's Community Board 8 have had threats, lockdowns, evacuations, and disruptions to learning due to violence, weapons, or the threat of violence.
- There is a shortage of NYPD school safety officers at many schools, in part due to the vaccine mandate and COVID.
- Many schools have unlocked front doors that allow anyone to enter which is a security threat.
- Crossing guards are not trained in conflict mitigation and threat assessment.

The committee engaged in a discussion regarding these issues within the school system.

**Resolution for approval**

**WHEREAS:** there have been a spike in gun violence across new york and the country in the past month

**WHEREAS:** Numerous schools in Community School District 2 and Manhattan's Community Board 8 have had threats, lockdowns, evacuations, and disruptions to learning due to violence, weapons, or the threat of violence.

**WHEREAS:** District 2 Community Education Council's [Resolution 199 to Improve School Safety](#) provides recommendations to the NYC Department of Education, Chancellor, and Mayor to improve school safety.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** Community Board 8 supports the recommendations made by CEC2 in Resolution 199 and asks that the NYC DOE adopt the recommendations made.

The resolution passed with a total of 4-0-1-0.

Yes (4): Vanessa Aronson, Ed Hartzog, Rami Sigal, Addeson Lehv

Abstentions (1): Elizabeth Rose

No (0)

Item 2: There was no old business.

Item 3: New Business

- a. Elizabeth Rose requested the committee revisit the issue of high school admissions when we resume meeting and look into admissions data.
- b. The committee has canceled the July 28th meeting and the board will take the month of August off subsequently canceling what would have been the August 25th meeting of the YEL committee. The committee will resume meeting in September.
- c. This meeting was Co-Chair Rami Sigal's last meeting as chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36.

**Vanessa Aronson, Taina Borrero, and Rami Sigal, Co-Chairs**

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

333 Seventh Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10001

Phone: 212-356-3915 E-mail: [cec2@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:cec2@schools.nyc.gov) Website: [CECD2.net](http://CECD2.net)

**Council Members:** Benjamin Morden, *President*; Danyela Souza Egorov, *Vice President*; Lim Fong Sim (Janie), *Recording Secretary*; Chien Kwok, *Treasurer*; Leonard Silverman, *Parliamentarian*; Robin Broshi; Gabriella Calabria; Kaushik Das (Qush); Lupe Hernandez; Robin Kelleher; Ushma Neill; Li Hua Wu (Lily)

## Resolution #199 (Status: Draft)

### Resolution to Improve School Safety

Sponsors: Benjamin Morden, Robin Kelleher, Kaushik Das, Danyela Souza Egorov

WHEREAS, school safety concerns have grown throughout the United States following the mass shooting at a school in Uvalde, Texas, leaving 19 students and two teachers dead;<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, District 2 schools have had a recent increase in lockdowns in response to community safety concerns, including from gunfire incidents on adjacent streets near school buildings;<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, Council Members of CECD2 have repeatedly heard safety concerns from District 2 families, including parent testimony regarding these concerns at CECD2 Calendar Meetings;<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, CECD2 has reaffirmed its commitment to having NYPD School Safety Agents (SSAs) stationed in schools by not passing drafted Resolution #146;<sup>4</sup>

WHEREAS, CECD2 has recently drafted, passed, and adopted Resolution #198 to increase the number of NYPD School Safety Agents at PS 40 and MS 255."<sup>5</sup>

WHEREAS, the NYC Department of Education has other school safety procedures, including Security in Schools, provided by School Safety Agents, members of the NYPD with Peace Officer Powers,<sup>6</sup> and scanners to help keep weapons out of schools;<sup>7</sup>

WHEREAS, NYC public school parents have collected over 8000+ signatures for the petition campaign to "Lock the doors of NYC schools" on the Change.org platform;<sup>8</sup>

WHEREAS, NYC Schools Chancellor David C. Banks said "the school system was considering locking building doors after children have arrived for the day."<sup>9</sup>

WHEREAS, NYS passed a law "requiring school districts statewide to seriously consider installing silent panic alarms to alert law-enforcement authorities during emergencies."<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/26/us/mass-shooting-school-security.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://nypost.com/2022/06/02/bullets-hit-covid-vaccine-bus-in-nyc-2-schools-face-lockdowns/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://youtu.be/crkwg7q7UM?t=2210>

<sup>4</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/11kwPEihMDdZ-\\_hFQffFIBkfaLpd7f4la/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11kwPEihMDdZ-_hFQffFIBkfaLpd7f4la/view?usp=sharing)

<sup>5</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1spLD7csw3WYomqATr7-D9QxT1FqkweVv/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>6</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_York\\_City\\_Police\\_Department\\_School\\_Safety\\_Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City_Police_Department_School_Safety_Division)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/safe-schools/school-safety>

<sup>8</sup>

[https://www.change.org/p/lock-the-doors-of-nyc-schools?fs=e&s=cl&fbclid=IwAR12jR1s3aiznm0HrQ971s\\_deGyLQOsL0kryg0UusyLvdDBBpuX\\_PxjQ1a1l&fs=e&s=cl](https://www.change.org/p/lock-the-doors-of-nyc-schools?fs=e&s=cl&fbclid=IwAR12jR1s3aiznm0HrQ971s_deGyLQOsL0kryg0UusyLvdDBBpuX_PxjQ1a1l&fs=e&s=cl)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/25/nyregion/parents-school-shooting-risk.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://nypost.com/2022/06/04/panic-alarms-could-be-coming-to-ny-schools-after-alyssas-law-passes/>

WHEREAS, some schools in District 2 have surveyed families on School Safety issues;

WHEREAS, the DOE is under a GPS bus tracking contract with Via Transportation and “will start phasing in student tracking next fall.”<sup>11</sup>

WHEREAS, NYPD School Crossing Guards are civilian employees with no Peace Officer Powers;<sup>12</sup>

WHEREAS, "Chancellor's Regulation A-414 requires that the following individuals are required to serve on a school's Safety Committee: The principal, the UFT Chapter leader, the PT/PTA president (or designee), the school's Level III School Safety Agent (or designee), the custodial engineer, the dietician (or designee), the NYPD commanding officer (or designee) of the local precinct, and a student representative."<sup>13</sup>

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, CECD2 requests that each District 2 school Safety Committee complete a school audit by June 27, 2022, providing the status of working buzzers (to remotely unlock doors from within), door locks (that are locked to the outside but can be opened from within), school Public Address (PA) system, and video cameras with recording and streaming capabilities, to the members of the school's SLT, PTA, District 2 leaders, including the District 2 Superintendent, respective CECD2 school liaison, the DOE, and the New York City Police Department School Safety Division.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, CECD2 requests that each District 2 school have working buzzers, door locks, and a school PA system by September 8, 2022.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, CECD2 requests that all District 2 schools adopt a Locked School Doors policy by September 8, 2022.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, CECD2 requests that all District 2 schools should be staffed with NYPD School Safety Agents at numbers equal to pre-Covid levels no later than September 8, 2022.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, CECD2 requests that all District 2 schools implement silent alarm systems by December 31, 2022.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, CECD2 requests all school buses serving District 2 schools be equipped with working GPS systems letting parents know where their child is in real-time by December 31, 2022.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, CECD2 requests that all District 2 schools provide a parent text/email notification system when students arrive/enter/dropoff and exit/pickup school buildings by June 27, 2023.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, CECD2 requests that each District 2 school have working video cameras with recording and streaming capabilities by June 27, 2023.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.axios.com/2021/12/08/school-buses-that-track-your-childs-location>

<sup>12</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_York\\_City\\_Police\\_Department\\_School\\_Safety\\_Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City_Police_Department_School_Safety_Division)

<sup>13</sup>

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/safe-schools/school-safety/parent-guide-to-school-safety-and-emerge-ncy-preparedness>

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, CECD2 requests that there be greater School Safety transparency by appointing parent SLT (School Leadership Team) grade representatives to all District 2 School Safety Committees.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, CECD2 requests District 2 School Safety Committee members be fully trained in school emergency safety procedures.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, CECD2 requests that all District 2 schools survey families regarding school safety issues and share reported findings with respective CECD2 liaisons and the District 2 Superintendent.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, CECD2 requests that NYPD School Crossing Guards be trained and raised to the status of School Safety Agents and be given the same NYPD Peace Officer Powers to be able to work in schools along with existing SSAs after school dropoff and pickup times.