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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

October 19, 2023

Chancellor David C. Banks
New York City Department of Education
52 Chambers St
New York, NY 10007

President Nina Kubota
School Construction Authority
30-30 Thomson Avenue
Queens, NY, 11101

RE: Requesting that the New York City Department of Education develop a plan to increase number of fully accessible schools in District 2

Dear Chancellor Banks and President Kubota,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on October 18, 2023, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 42 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS, Advocates for Children of New York released a report on August 23, 2023 entitled “Access (Still) Denied: An Update on the Physical Inaccessibility of New York City Public Schools;

WHEREAS, according to the latest City data, the Department of Education operates more than 1,400 buildings that are each home to one or more schools or programs in 2023-24;

WHEREAS, of those for which accessibility status is available: 454 buildings (34.2%) are fully accessible (a BAP rating of 9 or 10); 263 buildings (19.8%) are partially accessible (a BAP rating between 3 and 8); 65 buildings (4.9%) are not fully accessible but are in the construction pipeline for accessibility improvements under the 2020-2024 Capital Plan; and 547 buildings (41.2%) are functionally or fully inaccessible and are not currently in the pipeline for renovations;

WHEREAS, according to this report, as of August 2023, only 33.6% of schools in District 2 are fully accessible and an additional 0% of schools are currently in the pipeline for accessibility improvements under the 2020-2024 capital plan;

WHEREAS, public schools within Community Board 8 fall within New York City Department of Education Community District 2;

WHEREAS, there are currently three schools (P.S. 158 Bayard Taylor, Yorkville East Middle School, and Eleanor Roosevelt High School) within Community Board 8 that are close to reaching full accessibility (i.e., received a BAP rating of 8 out of 10);

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 sees it as a top priority for the aforementioned schools within our district to receive financial upgrades to get them to full accessibility;

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 has an ultimate goal that all schools in District 2 and citywide become fully accessible but also recognizes that there is a need for accessibility upgrades to be made in the most expedient and practical manner possible;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 8 Manhattan calls on the leadership of New York City Department of Education in the next capital plan process to prioritize within District 2, the schools that are currently close to full accessibility in order to get them to full accessibility.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire

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Chair

Taina Borrero and Addeson Lehv

Taina Borrero, and Addeson Lehv
Co-Chairs, Youth, Education and Libraries Committee

cc: Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Jerry Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Rita Joseph, NYC Council Member, 40th Council District