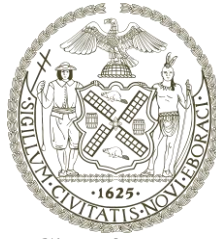


Valerie S. Mason
Chair

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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Youth, Education, and Libraries Committee
April 27, 2026 - 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely via Zoom**

Minutes

Board Members Present: Danielle Avissar, Taína Borrero, Edward Hartzog, Addeson Lehv, Valerie Mason

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 17

1. Updates on Early Childhood Education on the Upper East Side (with representatives from the New York City Department of Education (DOE): Serge St. Leger, Jr. - Office of Policy & Advocacy, Myisha Taylor-Myke - Intergovernmental Affairs, and Makeetah Cochy - Division of Early Childhood Education)

- A. Makeetah Cochy (DOE Director of Family Engagement, Division of Early Childhood Education) shared:
- NYC Public Schools is pursuing a targeted, data-driven expansion of 3K and introduction of 2K.
 - Expansion efforts prioritize:
 - High-demand communities.
 - Areas with unmet childcare needs.
 - Strong utilization rates.
 - More than 50 ZIP codes are included in the expansion.
 - The Upper East Side is included in this effort.
 - A new center at 403 East 65th Street is expected to add:
 - 72 new Pre-K seats.
 - 60 new 3K seats.
- B. The meeting focused on growing concerns from Upper East Side families regarding access to early childhood education programs, specifically 2K, 3K, and Pre-K admissions in District 2. Parents, community board members, and childcare providers voiced significant frustration around transparency, seat availability, affordability, communication gaps, and the complexity of navigating the DOE admissions process.
- C. CB8 Board members and members of the community asked the DOE representatives questions about a variety of issues, including: the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in schools; concerns regarding school capacity issues, in particular for families zoned to PS 267; and the new no-phone policy in schools.
- D. A major theme throughout the meeting was that families feel unable to reliably plan for childcare and schooling because:
- Seat availability is unclear.
 - Lottery outcomes feel unpredictable.

- Admissions timelines conflict with private school/deposit deadlines.
 - Parents lack centralized information.
- E. Parents and board members suggested several improvements:
- Interactive maps showing:
 - Districts
 - Zones
 - Nearby schools
 - Program types (2K, 3K, Pre-K)
 - Admissions statistics:
 - Seats available
 - Historical acceptance rates
 - Number of applicants
 - Informational pamphlets and guides with definitions about:
 - Lottery
 - Zoning
 - Districts
 - Admissions terminology
 - Centralized timelines/calendars for applications.
 - Recorded or after-hours informational workshops about navigating the mechanics of the public school, including the application process.
 - Easier-to-access FAQs and guides.
- F. Camila Farooqi (Founder, Manhattan Schoolhouse) raised concerns about the sustainability of existing childcare providers and CBO-run programs. Key issues raised included:
- DOE teacher salary increases are creating staffing disparities with CBO programs.
 - Teachers are leaving private/community-based programs for DOE jobs.
 - Lack of cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) in contracts.
 - Inflation has significantly increased operating costs.
 - Delayed DOE payments are forcing providers to take loans.
 - Teacher shortages threaten expansion efforts.
- G. Community Board members asked DOE representatives to comment on a reportedly vacant DOE-leased facility at 1010 Third Avenue. DOE representatives did not have immediate answers but agreed to follow up after reviewing the referenced article and gathering more information.
- H. DOE agreed to:
- Continue gathering and escalating parent feedback.
 - Strengthen communication between Community Board 8 and Community Education Council 2 (CEC2).
 - Share DOE and CEC resources more proactively.
 - Provide a written FAQ and resource document describing, in greater detail, issues related to:
 - 2K
 - 3K

- Admissions
 - Timelines
 - Expansion information
- I. DOE representatives acknowledged community concerns, shared that feedback sessions on 2K expansion are ongoing citywide, and committed to improving communication, strengthening coordination with CEC2, and providing additional resources and FAQ materials to families and the community board.

2. Old Business – There were no Old Business items

3. New Business – There were no New Business items

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:43pm.

Taína Borrero and Addeson Lehv, Co-Chairs