

Jeannine Kiely, *Chair*  
Daniel Miller, *First Vice Chair*  
Susan Kent, *Second Vice Chair*  
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*  
Eugene Yoo, *Secretary*  
Ritu Chattree, *Assistant Secretary*

## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

[www.cb2manhattan.org](http://www.cb2manhattan.org)

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: [info@cb2manhattan.org](mailto:info@cb2manhattan.org)

Greenwich Village ♦ Little Italy ♦ SoHo ♦ NoHo ♦ Hudson Square ♦ Chinatown ♦ Gansevoort Market

April 26, 2021

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Mayor  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Corey Johnson  
Speaker of New York City Council  
224 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1206  
New York, NY 10001

Meisha Ross Porter  
Chancellor, NYC Department of Education  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007

Jasmine Gripper  
Executive Director, Alliance for Quality Education  
726 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10003

Dear Governor Cuomo, Mayor de Blasio, Speaker Johnson, Chancellor Porter, and Executive Director Gripper:

At its Full Board meeting April 22, 2021, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

### Funding for Smaller Classes for Fall 2021

#### Whereas:

1. NYC schools continue to have the largest average class sizes in the state, and NY's highest court determined that public school class sizes were too large to provide students with their constitutional right to a sound basic education<sup>1</sup>;
2. Reducing class size has proven to be one of the best ways to improve student learning, lower teacher attrition rates and disciplinary problems, and narrow achievement and opportunity gaps between racial, gender, and economic groups<sup>2</sup>;

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.law.cornell.edu/nyctap/I03\\_0084.htm](https://www.law.cornell.edu/nyctap/I03_0084.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <https://nepc.colorado.edu/files/publications/Mathis%20RBOPM-9%20Class%20Size.pdf>

3. NYC schools are due to receive approximately \$7 billion in federal funds to be spent over the next two to three years, and more than \$530 million in additional state funds next year, rising to \$1.3 billion annually over the next three years in increased Foundation Aid;
4. The additional Foundation Aid is the result of the decision in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) lawsuit, in which the state's highest court determined NYC students had been denied their constitutional right to a “sound basic education”, in part because their classes were too large<sup>3</sup>;
5. The 2007 Contracts for Excellence (C4E) law, which settled the CFE case, required NYC to reduce class size in all grades; and yet, class sizes have increased since that decision was made over 15 years ago;
6. The City Council has proposed in its [Preliminary Budget Response](#) that \$250 million be allocated towards an initiative to lower class size next year, targeted for struggling schools with particularly vulnerable students;
7. The Mayor and the Council have now agreed to fully fund Fair Student Funding at about \$600 million and the Council has proposed \$110 million in spending to ensure that every public school has at least one full-time school counselor and one full-time social worker, as well as other necessary supports for students;
8. \$250 million could pay the salaries of, roughly, 2,500 new teachers, which could reduce the size of 10,000 classrooms – as adding a new teacher lowers class size for all the other students in a school in the same grade or subject;
9. Smaller classes lead to better grades and test scores, stronger student engagement, fewer disciplinary referrals, and higher graduation rates, especially for students who need help the most;
10. Fewer than half of all NYC students would be able to attend school full-time next year with current class sizes if there was a need for three-feet of social distancing; and
11. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the potential need for social distancing next year, smaller classes will be essential to the health, safety and emotional wellbeing of our students, as well as their academic achievement.

**Therefore Be It Resolved**, Community Board 2 urges the Mayor, the Department of Education Chancellor, Speaker Corey Johnson, and the members of the City Council and Elected officials to:

1. Ensure that in the final, negotiated budget for FY 2022, at least \$250 million is allocated to hire 2,500 additional teachers to lower class size, with a priority on K-5, and in school communities that have suffered a disproportionate impact of the pandemic;
2. That there also be rigorous reporting requirements for DOE and accountability provisions attached to this funding so that smaller classes actually result from this funding;
3. Mandate that the DOE partner with SUNY and CUNY teacher workforce diversity programs including [Teacher Opportunity Corps](#) (TOC II) and [NYC Men Teach](#) to fill a significant number of these new positions;
4. That the final budget shall also contain \$110 million to ensure that every public school has at least one full-time school counselor and one full-time social worker;
5. Permanently incorporate fully remote learning into the school system to support teachers, students and families that choose to, or have to, remain remote post-pandemic, for the school year 2021-2022, and develop structures and policies for students wishing to engage in remote learning for

---

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.law.cornell.edu/nyctap/I03\\_0084.htm](https://www.law.cornell.edu/nyctap/I03_0084.htm)[https://www.law.cornell.edu/nyctap/I03\\_0084.htm](https://www.law.cornell.edu/nyctap/I03_0084.htm)

school years beyond including funding for associated technology infrastructure and professional development;

6. Require DOE to secure more private spaces such as Pre-K Centers; Community Based Organizations (CBOs), that are already NYC funded early childhood education providers<sup>4</sup> to create more space in schools by relocating Pre-K classes currently in public schools to stand-alone or CBO sites;
7. That over the next four years, DOE phase in lower class sizes in all schools, which will require the creation of more classroom space and building and leasing more schools with city and state funds, as well as the additional federal funds that will likely result from the Infrastructure bill proposed by President Biden;
8. Require DOE to build out new schools in buildings that private developers have reserved space for public schools, such as Essex Crossing and Bleecker School; and
9. Require the DOE to immediately lease or purchase the buildings where at least 17 Catholic Schools were closing in the wake of the pandemic<sup>5</sup>; and
10. There is no longer any excuse for Mayor de Blasio and future Mayors to deny NYC students their constitutional right to smaller classes.

**VOTE: Unanimous, with 46 Board Members in favor.**

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jeannine Kiely, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Patricia Laraia, Chair  
Schools and Education Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JK/EM

- c: Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman  
Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman  
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senator  
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NYS Senator  
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NYS Assembly Member  
Hon. Yuh-Line Niou, NYS Assembly Member  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, NYC Comptroller  
Hon. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public Advocate  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://ccnnewyork.org/cbo-centers-are-essential-to-educatiNow more than ever they will need that opportunity for health and safety and to recover from the losses they've suffered during the Covid pandemic.ng-nycs-young-children/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://abc7ny.com/what-catholic-schools-are-closing-school-closings-nyc-which-2020/6309217/>

Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Treyger, NY City Council, Chair, Committee on Education  
Hon. Helen Rosenthal, Council Member  
Hon. Daniel Dromm, Council Member  
Sayde L. Campoamor, Director of Community Affairs, NYC DOE  
Marisol Rosales, Executive Superintendent, Manhattan, NYC DOE  
Kelly McGuire, incoming District 2 Superintendent, NYC DOE  
Hillary Casado, Principal, PS 3  
Kelly Shannon, Principal, PS 41 Greenwich  
Renny Fong, Principal, PS 130 Hernando  
Jacqui Getz, Principal, MS 297 75 Morton  
Isora Bailey, Principal, NYC iSchool  
Daphne Perrini, Principal, Harvey Milk High School  
Kate Burch, Principal, Harvest Collegiate High School  
Jaivelle A. Reed, Principal, Chelsea Career and Technical Education High School  
Rachel Seher, Principal, City-As-School High School  
Melissa H. Silberman, Head of School, Broome Street Academy  
Matthew Chook and Len Silverman, D2PC Co-Presidents  
Leonie Haimson, Executive Director, Class Size Matters  
Yolanda Smith, Senior Budget Education Analyst, NYC Independent Budget