



March 25, 2025

RE: Comments at the SCA board meeting 3/20/25

Via: Electronic Mail

Leonie Haimson

leonie@classsizematters.org

Dear Ms. Haimson,

The Trustees have asked me to respond on their behalf. We thank you for attending the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the School Construction Authority (SCA). Public engagement and transparency are paramount to the Authority's mission, and we welcome input from our stakeholder community.

In that vein, I would like to take this opportunity to address the comments you made. Specifically related to transparency, all information regarding our Capital Plan and compliance with local laws including but not limited to Local Law 167, which you cited, can be found in [dedicated sections on our website](#). All documents are kept current and up to date.

The School Construction Authority, in partnership with New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) has done extensive work related to the State's Class Size law. After the passing of the State Class Size law, we have adjusted our existing methodology to identify seat need as well as the framework of New Capacity program to support the NYCPS' class size reduction plan. This adjustment is necessary as the class size mandate is not on a geographic area level but on individual school and class level. To respond to the comments we have received since the publication of the original Plan, our Proposed February 2025 Amendment not only identifies boroughs/districts/sub-districts with high level of seat need and receiving seat allocation, but also reserves our ability to support individual schools that are located in boroughs/districts/sub-districts where the broader area as a whole don't have seat need. This is especially critical to ensure capital funding is utilized equitably and schools located in economically disadvantaged areas have access to capital funding as their districts and sub-districts typically show little or no need as a whole. The Class Size Plan published by DOE annually provides information on buildings that will come online in future years.



With regards to SCA's Board of Trustees, as per our enabling legislation, our Board of Trustees is comprised of three members and all matters regarding governance, finance, and all other required matters go before the full board. We have official policies for time and attendance and whistleblowing. Our most recent amendments to these policies were issued on May 3, 2021 and November 3, 2022, respectively. More than 50% of the SCA's employees are governed by collective bargaining agreements, and their salaries are based on those agreements. Salaries are also publicly available on New York State's Authorities Budget Office (ABO) website. We are in compliance with our enabling legislation as well as the Public Authorities Accountability Act. We have been working closely with City Hall to ensure proper selection and vetting of our prospective third trustee member and should have an appointment to fill the current vacancy in the near future.

We are always happy to explain our methodology and process as we work diligently to ensure that the public school students of NYC can learn, grow, and thrive in 21st century learning facilities.

Sincerely,

Nadine Rivellese
General Counsel