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



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*
Keen Berger, *Secretary*
Erik Coler, *Assistant Secretary*

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

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

March 24, 2017

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

Bill Chong
Commissioner
NYC Department of Youth and Community Development
2 Lafayette Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Melissa Mark-Viverito
Speaker of the NYC Council
105 East 116th Street
New York, NY 10029

Hon. Daniel Dromm
Council Member
Chair, Committee on Education
250 Broadway, Suite 1826
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Blasio, Councilman Dromm, Speaker Mark-Viverito and Commissioner Chong:

At its Full Board meeting March 23, 2017, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in Support of Funding After School Programming for MS 297

Whereas:

1. In Fall 2014, New York City expanded funding by \$145 million for free after-school programs at 562 middle schools under *School's Out New York City* (SONYC) through the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD);
2. DYCD last issued a Request for Proposals in 2015 to award contracts for SONYC programs at middle school sites for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 with an option to renew for two additional years;
3. Qualified nonprofit organizations provide SONYC programs for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades at public school sites from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., five days per week for 36 weeks during the school year;
4. Within District 2, nonprofit organizations that provide SONYC programs include Educational Alliance, Immigrant Social Services, Manhattan Youth and University Settlement;
5. In April 2016, DYCD released an evaluation of SONYC programs that showed that “ninety-eight percent of parents surveyed reported their sons and daughters like coming to the program, and nearly all

of the families said they would recommend SONYC to other families;”

6. SONYC programs provide middle school students with the support of caring adults and offer engaging, fun activities designed to encourage participants to pursue their passions and help them through the challenging years of early adolescence, a period of extraordinary change and a demanding time for both students and their families;
7. As students transition from elementary school to high school, after school programs targeted to middle school students help students develop new skills and interests, prepare for high school, encourage greater experimentation in academics, arts and athletics and provide students with safe environments and absorbing activities to occupy them after school, particularly important for working parents;
8. High quality after school programs bring a wide range of benefits for middle school students including improved academic performance, improved classroom behavior, reduced drug use, and positive health outcomes, particularly when programs encourage physical activity and good dietary habits, and reduces the achievement gap among diverse communities;
9. Within District 2, 100% of the choice middle schools and 100% of the unzoned middle schools south of 23rd street offer their students free after school programs including:
 - a. District 2 schools serving grades 6-8 at Simon Baruch Middle School, City Knoll Middle School, East Side Middle School, Hudson River Middle School, Lab School, Lower Manhattan Community Middle School, Manhattan Academy of Technology, Salk School of Science and Yorkville East Middle School;
 - b. District 2 schools serving grades 6-12 at Clinton School for Writers & Artists, Institute for Collaborative Education Professional Performing Arts School, Quest to Learn and School of the Future; and,
 - c. District 2 schools serving grades K-8 at Battery Park City School, Ella Baker School and Spruce Street Middle School;
10. MS 297 will enroll students who live in the MS 297 zone as well as students throughout District 2 and will compete for these students with the 23 other District 2 middle schools;
11. To be on equitable footing with the other District 2 middles schools, particularly for working families that rely on free after school resources, MS 297 will need DYCD funding to provide free after school programs for its students;
12. For the 2017 – 2018 school year, because MS 297 will be co-located, temporarily, at MS 260 Clinton School, MS 297 will need DYCD to allocate additional seats to the SONYC program at the Clinton School site to accommodate the additional demand for after school programs from MS 297 students; and,
13. For the 2018-2019 school year, DYCD will need to issue a RFP to approve after school contracts at new school sites that have opened since it issued its 2015 RFP, including a new SONYC program at MS 297 at 75 Morton.

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan (CB 2) urges the Mayor and our City Council to allocate funding in the FY 2018 budget for additional SONYC seats at the Clinton School site to accommodate students at MS 297; and,

Be it further resolved that CB 2 urges the Department of Youth and Community Development to issue another Request for Proposals for SONYC programs at new school sites for the 2018-2019 school year, to include MS 297 at 75 Morton.

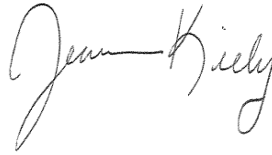
VOTE: Unanimous, with 36 Board Members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



Terri Cude, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Schools and Education Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TC/EM

c: Hon. Deborah Glick, State Assembly Member
Hon. Yuh-Line Niou, State Assembly Member
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Daniel Squadron, NY State Senator
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Latisha James, Public Advocate
Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Member
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Bonnie LaBoy, Superintendent, District 2, NYC DOE
Lorraine Grillo, President and CEO, School Construction Authority
Robin Broshi, President, CECD2

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March 24, 2017

Carmen Farina
Chancellor
Department of Education
New York, NY 10271
Tweed Court House
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chancellor Farina:

At its Full Board meeting March 23, 2017, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in Support of Naming MS 297 in Honor of Jane Jacobs

Whereas:

1. Community Board 2 (CB 2) has nurtured and shepherded a new public middle school at 75 Morton Street for 11 years, passed 17 resolutions and hosted three rallies and numerous forums and public meetings;
2. MS 297 will open in Fall 2017 and move into 75 Morton Street in Fall 2018, due to sustained, community-driven, grass roots advocacy by CB 2, Community Education Council District 2 (CECD2), parents, community activists, community organizations and our elected officials, who identified the existing building and put forth a recommendation for its reuse as new school;
3. Jane Jacobs, an author, activist and community organizer who lived in Greenwich Village, had a profound impact on our community:
 - a. Jacobs' 1961 book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, became one of the most influential American texts about the inner workings and failings of cities, inspiring generations of urban planners and activists;
 - b. Jacobs disagreed with the notion that the city's oldest neighborhoods should be demolished to make way for high-rise buildings and highways;
 - c. Instead, Jacobs helped preserve neighborhood from the West Village to Little Italy and led initiatives to i) prevent the demotion of a 14-block stretch from West Eleventh Street to Morton

Street for an urban renewal project, ii) block Robert Moses from allowing cars to drive through Washington Square Park and iii) stop the construction of the Lower Manhattan Expressway; and,

- d. Jacobs championed new, community-based approaches to planning, which created a framework for community boards, community education councils and other community organizations to give voice to local communities in decision-making and planning;
4. Our community's push to open a new middle school in Greenwich Village is the embodiment of the spirit of Jane Jacobs work, in particular, the grassroots movement that identified the 75 Morton building and advocated for its reuse as a new public school in response to the problem of overcrowding in our neighborhood schools;
5. The addition of 600 new middle school students and 100 new District 75 students combined with the design of the new school, which includes a light-filled ground floor cafeteria and the regeneration of a corner parking lot into a welcoming play yard, will breathe new life into our community and add to the sidewalk ballet – an unrehearsed choreography of urban dwellers going about their business – that, according to Jacobs, creates the vitality of city life;
6. This example of community-based urban planning can become a model for how the local community partners with the Department of Education and School Construction Authority to site, design, envision new public schools;
7. The legacy of Jane Jacobs provides rich curriculum opportunities for middle school students at MS 297; and,
8. Greenwich Society for Historic Preservation supports naming MS 297 in honor of Jane Jacobs in light of Jacob's historical importance in our community and her advocacy for community-based planning and in recognition of the community-driven effort and grassroots campaign to identify the 75 Morton building and reuse it as a public school.

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan (CB 2) urges the Department of Education to name MS 297 the Jane Jacobs Middle School in honor of the legacy of Jane Jacobs to community-based urban planning and the preservation and regeneration of the West Village and surrounding neighborhoods, and how our community's advocacy for a new middle school at 75 Morton Street embodies this legacy; and,

Be it further resolved that CB 2 urges the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority to embrace the 75 Morton model of local community engagement and input for how the city sites, designs and envisions new public schools.

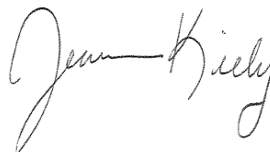
VOTE: Unanimous, with 36 Board Members in favor.

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

Sincerely,



Terri Cude, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Schools and Education Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TC/EM

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Hon. Yuh-Line Niou, Assembly Member
Hon. Daniel Squadron, NY State Senator
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Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Member
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Lorraine Grillo, President and CEO, School Construction Authority
Yolanda Torres, Executive Superintendent of Family and Community Engagement, NYC DOE
Bonnie LaBoy, Superintendent, District 2, NYC DOE
Jacqui Getz, Project Leader, M.S. 297, NYC DOE
Robin Broshi, President, CECD2
Andrew Berman, Executive Director, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation