

# EXCERPTS FROM COMMUNITY BOARDS' "STATEMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET" FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Reactions to Agency Responses listed in the FY '16 Register of Community Board Budget Requests are collectively listed under Agency Subheading

---

## Dept. of Education

---

### **BRONX 1**

With respect to expenditure projections for programs directly impacting residents of our community board we are pleased that the budget focuses on the most vulnerable population of our city; children, youth; and the elderly. The anticipated expenditure increases for the Department of Education resulting in a 20,000 seat expansion of the City's pre-kindergarten in 2015-2016 will provide a needed opportunity for early advancement of our children's education. However, we also believe that this commitment to education should also be advanced for funding the construction of needed new schools in the district. Recent re-zonings by the Department of City Planning has increased the number of children and youth in the district and a need for additional seats. As expressed in our 2016 Capital Budget Priorities a new school is urgently needed on the presently under demolition former P.S. 31 site at 425 Grand Concourse. A new CODE-STEM Business K-12 school for our youth to embrace the skill sets of the 21<sup>st</sup> century including digital technology and data analytics is needed. The new school and reconstruction of the adjacent presently closed and in need of repair 30,000 square foot Garrison playground would be part of the redevelopment scope. This budget request is our highest Capital Budget tracking code request (101201501C) and should be funded. It is in line with the increased housing and population growth of the district.

### **BRONX 3**

The FY 2016 budget for DOE eliminates funding for the Family welcome Centers. The plan for Pre-k requires CBOs and public schools to convert 27, 241 half day seats to full day and another 13, 845 new seats to enable all 75,250 four year olds access to quality pre-k services.

Bronx Community Board Three is concerned with the elimination of funding from FY 2015 (\$335k) ,which would address upgrades to the student enrollment system to include enhancements that increase enrollment and placement opportunities for ELL and other disadvantaged students in FY' 2016.

Bronx Community Board Three supports funding \$68k for the Language Line Access Campaign to inform parents of language line access services.

### **NYS EDUCATON FUNDING COMMITMENTS**

School Aid is expected to increase 4.8% from SY 2015 to \$23.1 billion in SY 2016 (\$1.1 billion). The condition for such increase is based on NYC implementation of education reforms including systemic improvements in the area of teacher evaluation, tenure, certification and preparation, as well as improvements to failing schools and increased support and accountability to charter schools.

SY' 2016 continues to provide recurring funding in the amount of \$340 million to support statewide universal full day pre-kindergarten programs which began in the fall of 2014.

SY 2016 maintains the two year appropriation that continues Education Law provisions.

### **BRONX 6**

Below is the verbatim written statement submitted by a constituent of Bronx Community Board #6 regarding the Department of Education and Universal Pre-K. The community board endorses the statement completely.

“My only comment is that I believe that Universal Pre-K education should be a budget priority for Community Board 6 and that all the school districts that overlap Community Board 6 should be included.

Policies for early childhood development, including universal Pre-K are crucial for overall social and economic development. The School Construction Authority and the Department of Education do not currently have School District 9 and School District 12 included as a priority for this important nationally acknowledged, city-wide initiative. Community Board 6 should advocate and insist that both Head-Start and Universal Pre-k are imperative budget priorities.”

### **BRONX 7**

The Board thanks the agency for their commitment to replacing the trailers at PS 56 and constructing additional school space at that location, as outlined in tracking code [107201013C](#). It is our hope that after construction is completed that the current PS 56 annex on 361 East Gun Hill Road can continue to serve as an educational facility for community use. CEC 10 continues to be one of the most overcrowded districts citywide and with hundreds of new housing units in planning or under construction in our community, the Board feels strongly that the agency must maximize classroom space across the community.

### **BRONX 8**

We wish to highlight the need for repairs at schools within our Community Board which have been not recommended for funding by the Department of Education, one request which includes the replacement of 15 internal doors that do not open properly and have not been fitted with panic bars.

### **BRONX 10**

1. Request: Increase funding for after school programs.

Agency Response: Funding increases for after school programs have been provided in prior fiscal years and continuity depends on the availability of funds. Specific projects to be funded are

decided at the local level. Please contact your school for specific information.

Board Response: This is the same response in the 2015 Budget Register. Under the Mayor's new plan for educational services, after school funding appears to have taken on a new significance. Our Board requests that the local CECs are contacted by the central office and made aware of the increased funding possibilities.

## **BROOKLYN 2**

The need for additional elementary schools in the western portion of Community District 2 has increased since last year, when CB2 made construction of a new Downtown Brooklyn elementary school its highest capital budget priority (Tracking Code 202201501C). PS 8, the Robert Fulton School, operated at 44 percent above Blue Book targeted capacity in the 2013-2014 school year. Despite your making universal pre-K a priority, these classes needed to be eliminated from PS 8 for space reasons. The 2015-2016 kindergarten enrollment, held earlier this month, exceeded capacity by 20 percent.

Hundreds of additional dwelling units are already approved, impacting not just PS 8 but the Downtown Brooklyn residential community, which does not have a neighborhood school. While CB2 is pleased to read that the Department of Education (DOE) agrees there is identified capacity need, that is not reflected in the current five-year plan. CB2 urges the administration, local elected officials, the DOE and other stakeholders to swiftly identify a site for a Downtown Brooklyn primary school, develop short-, medium- and long-term solutions to overcrowding at PS 8, and allocate the necessary funds to implement these goals.

## **BROOKLYN 8**

The response to Capital Item #7 requesting the provision of a middle school for Prospect Heights residents is convoluted and does not address the concern or request. The request was made because the neighborhood lacks a zoned middle school for students in Prospect Heights. Parents consequently are forced to travel to other neighborhoods, thus creating an unnecessary burden. Almost every neighborhood in New York City has zoned elementary and middle schools, yet Prospect Heights is devoid of this basic educational service. We believe this to be unacceptable.

## **BROOKLYN 9**

Community Board 9 is advocating on behalf of all the children attending schools located within Community District 9; advocating for their right to be afforded an environment that is conducive to learning; advocating on behalf of the faculty and staff for their right to an environment that allows them to do their best to teach our children.

### **Medgar Evers Prep School**

Medgar Evers Prep is an overcrowded high school, with a student body of 1,200 children, in a school built to educate 900 children. This school is overcrowded by a staggering 33 percent! That is an additional 300 children who are forced to try to learn in a classroom that does not have room for them. This situation is unacceptable; the response from the agency, that this request is not recommended for funding, is unacceptable. Additional classrooms are needed to accommodate this overcrowded and constantly growing student body.

To compound this unacceptable condition, this high school has neither an auditorium nor a gymnasium. Let us begin with an Auditorium, what school is built without an auditorium? Where would the students have assembly; where would their parents come to see them in school plays? Concerts? Performances? Again, the agency's response that "this request is not recommended for funding" is actually a non-response.

And, what about a Gymnasium? Aren't students required to have Physical Education credits to graduate from high school? Then why was a high school even built WITHOUT a gymnasium? How are the students attending this school to earn those credits in order to fulfill the graduation requirements? Well, they do jumping jacks in the hallways of their school!! They do whatever they can to fulfill these requirements. This is a clear case of the "haves and the have nots." The agency's response, once again, that "this request is not recommended for funding" is clearly not acceptable.

### **WEB DuBois High School**

This is another high school in the district where students do not have a gymnasium and are forced to overcome all kinds of obstacles to fulfill the Physical Education requirements to graduate high school. Similar to the problems at Medgar Evers Prep, the children at this school have very limited or no access to the gymnasium at Medgar Evers College.

### **Reconstruction of District Schools PS 91, PS 92, PS 161, PS 221, PS 241 PS 397, PS 352 and PS 375 MS 61, MS 391**

All of these school buildings are in critical need of renovation: updating of classrooms, auditoriums, lunch rooms, bathrooms, offices, libraries, wiring, etc. Over time, the failure to repair/renovate/upgrade these schools have resulted in further deterioration of the infrastructure. These conditions have a negative impact upon our students, faculty and staff, and deny them their rights to be afforded an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching.

The electrical wiring in all of these schools is old; it is inadequate and leads to whatever computer equipment is installed to crash when they are being used at the same time. Another school without a gymnasium is PS 161 The Crown. Again these students are being denied the opportunity for a full education.

Community Board 9 will request a meeting with the agency to address the critical needs at all of these schools. In addition, we call on our elected officials to seriously look at these needs on behalf of our children and provide full funding necessary for the restoration and upgrade of these institutions of learning, so that a quality education can be provided for the students.

### **BROOKLYN 14**

We continue to strongly urge that the agency will continue efforts to address overcrowded schools in Community District 14. The agency response is that the Community District is located within an area of capacity need. It is important that the board be *consulted* of efforts *early in the*

*process* to identify *suitable* locations of new schools *within* its district boundaries, as well as any utilization changes intended to address capacity needs.

## **BROOKLYN 17**

Public education – including the built infrastructure to support it, is key to the economic prosperity of our communities and nation. Community Board 17 request that funding be allocated to improve the infrastructure of schools in CB17 District. Responsible management and investment in public school buildings creates a healthy, safe and educationally appropriate building for students and their teachers. We request that the improvements of schools listed under Tracking Code # 217198804C and 217199008C be fully funded.

## **MANHATTAN 1**

CB1's number one capital budget priority for FY 2016 was the following:

- Construct 1,000 new school seats in CB #1 in the next 5 -year Capital Plan as committed by the DOE

CB1 was greatly disappointed by the DOE's response to our number one capital budget request. DOE responded in the following way in the Register of Community Board Budget Requests for the Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2016:

- Location for school will be based on site and funding availability.

There is an urgent and immediate need for the additional school seats that we requested, which has been created by the extraordinary growth in our district's residential population in recent years. This has been our number one capital budget priority for the past five years.

According to the U.S. Census, the population in Community District 1 increased 77% between 2000 and 2010, making it the fastest growing residential neighborhood in New York City. During this period, our district's child population has increased exponentially. The fastest growth occurred in the Financial District, where the population of children aged 0-19 increased 246%, and where there is currently no zoned school. Our research indicates that nearly 4,700 residential units were added to our district between 2010 and 2015, and that another 3,700 residential units are in the pipeline to come online shortly after<sup>1,2</sup>. Using an average household size of 1.94 multiplied by the number of built and expected housing units in CB 1, our research further indicates that district's population has increased by approximately 9,100 residents (15%) from 2010 to 2015 with a projected increase of approximately 7,300 residents within the next couple years.

The recent population growth has raced far ahead of the number of school seats that have been added. It is imperative for the DOE to make a commitment to identify and develop as soon as possible 1,000 new school seats to meet the critical need in our district.

---

<sup>1</sup> Switaj, Diana. *Manhattan Community Board 1 Child Demographics Update*. Rep. N.p., 27 Feb. 2014. Web.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. *Census 2010 Summary File 1*. Esri forecasts for 2012 and 2017.

## **MANHATTAN 4**

### **Ask:**

- **Provide funding for an education needs assessment**

While we applaud the commencement of Universal Pre-K MCD4 would like to ensure the FY 2016 Budget allocates the appropriate funds to address problems of overcrowded classrooms, school safety, special education and at-risk students. Class sizes are continuing to grow and more teaching positions are needed to ensure that every child receives a personalized education.

There exists a heavy concentration of high schools within MCD4; therefore, we would like to be consulted when new schools (provided through either new construction or space rental) are planned. The reason for this provision can best be seen in the case of Park West High School and Graphic Communication Arts, which are within one block of each other. The 3,500 students attending these schools come from all five boroughs. This has led to clogged neighborhood streets at varying arrival and dismissal times, problems at subways and at other transportation points, and disruptive situations affecting our residents and businesses.

### *Better Planning to Address the Increased Number of School Age Children and Public Schools -*

The Board wants better measures to assess the number of additional residents living in CD4 with particular emphasis on the number of school age children and the number of public schools that can accommodate this population. MD4 is one of the fastest growing districts in the City and with the increased development including that of Hudson Yards, the number of school age children will skyrocket.

The needs of the community are growing faster than what the city planners can offer or have planned. The current number of schools in MCD4 cannot meet the increasing number of school age children who will be living in new residential developments throughout the community.

Funding and institutional support for an education needs assessment is essential. There should be a systematic process to acquire an accurate, thorough picture of the strengths and weaknesses of a school community that can be used in response to the academic needs of all students for improving student achievement and meeting challenging academic standards. A process is needed that collects and examines information about school wide issues and then utilizes that data to determine priority goals, to develop a plan, and to allocate funds and resources. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, and other community members should be included in gathering data.

The Department of Education and the Department of City Planning must revise Chapter 6 of the City Environmental Quality Review, which grossly and unfairly under counts needed school seats in our community. The problem is worst in Manhattan; as each residential “unit” is calculated to yield three times more 4-17 year olds in the Bronx [.74] than in Manhattan [.22]. Calculations must be based on the most recently available data to update the borough formulas.

## **MANHATTAN 5**

CB5 believes the City of New York has insufficiently invested in the human capital development of our children. While we applaud such investments in university education the City has

undertaken, we believe our City continues to underinvest in the physical capital that drives our public education system. Public education is the bedrock of human capital formation vital to our City's success and Manhattan CB5 wants to see a greater emphasis placed the development of real estate capacity that can serve the human capital formation needs of our district.

CB5 urges the City to increase funding for schools so that we can have more teachers to support smaller class sizes.

## **MANHATTAN 6**

Manhattan Community Board Six still experiences overcrowding in our District's schools, so we continue to advocate for our expanding population of school-aged children and their parents. Large residential developments that have been completed or are near completion exacerbate the problem. The District plainly needs more seats and additional facilities to house the growing population. We call on the Department for increased transparency in its student-population projections for our area so that we can address these issues head on in partnership. It would be helpful to evaluate the needs of the community if this Board were included in future Department formulations of capital plans.

We will monitor the Department's response to the request to install fiber-optic cable in our schools to provide adequate speed Internet connectivity, as the Department indicated that portion of the request is included in the Five-Year Capital Plan. We would like to ensure that funds that are allocated in the Plan are sufficient to cover upgrades to the networking infrastructure within our District schools, and to assess where they stand in the timeline.

We will follow up with the Department to request an assessment of the state of electrical wiring in our schools, and also ask that the Department make this a priority in future capital plans to ensure our schools' infrastructure is entirely state-of-the-art.

Manhattan Community Board Six is working directly with our District schools to identify capital and expense needs. The Department responded positively about bathroom repairs at PS 116 and PS 40, with work scheduled to finish this year. We will follow up with the schools' administrators for their assessment upon completion.

The need for high-tech educational methods is greater than ever. Our schools deserve the best instructional aids, such as additional computers and smart boards, together with training so that teachers can incorporate them into their daily lesson plans. We urge the Department to find funds this fiscal year in order to provide these valuable tools, and will continue to push for the latest technologies in our classrooms.

Finally, we were happy to learn of the increased funding for youth services and after-school programs. We hope that our District gets its fair share of them as soon as they are rolled out by the lead agency, the Department of Youth and Community Development.

C-07: 306201203C - Replace/install fiber optic cable in all schools

C-08: 306201601C - Upgrade new electrical wiring in all schools

CS: 306201202C - Repair bathrooms in PS 116 and PS 40

CS: 306201404C - Repair and renovate auditorium in PS 116

E-04: 306201203E - Upgrade security measures at schools

E-07: 306199804E - Funding for youth services and after school programs (see also DYCD)

E-12: 306201202E - Additional computers and instructional tech training

## **MANHATTAN 7**

**Tracking Code:** 307201401C

**Request:** 2016-1. Amend the DOE Capital Plan to Include Renovation of the West End Secondary School (f/k/a Beacon High School) Building. --- \$50M

**Agency Response:** This project was funded in a prior fiscal year and the scope is now underway.

**Reply:** CB7 thanks the DoE and School Construction Authority for incorporating this community priority in the latest amendment to the 2014-2019 capital plan.

The addition of this funding to the capital plan was confirmed after CB7's statement of budget priorities was submitted.

**Tracking Code:** 307201605E

**Request:** Fund Primary Day Security in Schools Used as Polling Places.

**Agency Response:** Funding for this type of program is decided at the local level. Contact your local community board or Children First Network.

**Reply:** This response is unhelpful in that the party initiating the request is in fact the Community Board. In addition, given the reorganization of the Department announced by Chancellor Farina, approaching the respective Children's First Network representative is not a route to a long-term solution.

In our charter-mandated function of submitting the peculiar and specific priorities of our District, this concern was brought to our attention by principals and parents alike, expressing the same concern that the security of our schools is being compromised because the standard police presence during polling is on maintaining order within the polling place (typically the cafeteria), not the rest of the building. Reports of voters either intentionally or accidentally accessing areas that should be reserved exclusively for use by children are both alarming and deserving of an adequate remedy.

For as long as schools designated as primary day polling places are open to students, adequate provision must be made to keep the adult voters and the school-age children in their respective places.

**Tracking Code:** 307201407E

**Request:** Physical Fitness Programs – \$55K per school.

**Agency Response:** Funding for this type of program is decided at the local level. Contact your local community board or Children First Network.

**Reply:** This reply appears to be unresponsive, especially since it appears to recommend that CB7 contact itself with respect to the adequacy and allocation of budget line items over which it has no control.

The suggestion that the public contact the Children First Network responsible for collaborating with each individual school with a playground that could be made available to the public through this budget priority is similarly unresponsive. One of the continuing frustrations of the network system is the difficulty experienced by parents and community members in finding let alone engaging in dialogue with the network leaders for each school.

CB7 would welcome a candid and productive dialogue with DoE aimed at finding sustainable sources of funding to keep these community facilities available to the community.

## **MANHATTAN 9**

As for District 9's Capital Budget Requests submitted to the Department of Education ("DOE"), CB9's longstanding request for a District high school (Capital Request No. 5) and request for an Adult Learning Center (Capital Request No. 18) are, like the Capital Requests submitted to the New York Public Library, principally intended to comprehensively address the District's markedly high unemployment rate and abysmally low educational attainment rate.

As stated previously, adolescents account for approximately thirty-percent (30%) of the

District's entire population and nearly fifty percent (50%) of District 9's adult population is not in the labor force. It is irrefutable that District 9 has traditionally been an underserved educational community and has been stigmatized by its longstanding lack of quality primary schools. Few of District 9's public school graduates satisfy the academic prerequisites to gain admission to the District's own leading secondary educational institutions, such as Columbia University, Barnard College, and City College.

Therefore, CB9 respectfully wishes to emphasize to Your Honor that DOE's response to the District's Capital Request No. 5 for a High School and DOE's denial altogether of Capital Request No. 18 for an Adult Learning Center is confounding as well as untenable (*see* DOE Responses to Capital Request Nos. 5 and 18, respectively). Since almost fifty percent (50%) of District 9's adult population is not in the labor force, District 9 must minimally keep pace with other Community Districts within the City by addressing the inadequacy of its resources for education and job training, and cannot reasonably be expected to do so in the face of DOE's apparent indifference thereto and when several Community Districts in Manhattan already have both multiple high schools and multiple adult learning centers.

CB9's Expense Request No. 5, submitted to the Department of Education ("DOE"), to retain and expand existing and needed academic, arts, and mentoring after-school programs through grades 8 and grades 9 thru 12 is also legitimately warranted. Over the past decade or more, CB9 has analyzed and repeatedly concluded, more recently by way of public testimony during its Public Hearing on Your Honor's FY2016 Preliminary Budget, through public session testimony during its monthly General Board meetings, and through the diligent work of its Committee on Youth, Education & Libraries, that special tutoring and educational needs for District 9 children during their critical stages of educational development - in a community where nearly one-half (1/2) of the subject youth's parents are not in the labor force - is alone a statistic that necessarily calls for a specific, programmatic plan of action by the DOE to identify District 9 children in need of special attention and the corresponding need for a tailored educational support mechanism. In a District that has no high school (*see* Capital Request No. 5 and CB9's rationale for said Capital Request), the DOE has exacerbated this reality by altogether ignoring it.

While CB9 appreciates that the DOE provided a response, the response in and of itself that "[S]pecific projects to be funded are decided at the local level" amounts to an abrogation of this City agency's fundamental purpose and responsibility - to ensure an education that diminishes the probability that District 9's youth will bear a high unemployment rate and be wrought by an abysmally low educational attainment rate when adults.

## **QUEENS 5**

Mayor de Blasio's successful efforts to expand pre-K for many more children will provide a stronger foundation for children, families and society.

\$20+ Billion is spent by the NYC Department of Education, to teach children, ages 4 to 20, in often less than desirable conditions. What is learned and where the learning takes place is paramount. Basic literacy in English, Mathematics, History and

Geography, Sciences and other languages are vital to our mental fitness.

Many of our public schools are packed with children and teenagers, who do not live in good environments. The teacher is responsible for imparting and advocating learning for much of the day, but what a youth learns and does after 3 o'clock dictates a great deal, or a dangerous one.

Whatever reasonable expenditures are needed to provide adequate classrooms for children and teenagers, 'safe schools' with little decay and educational material must be a top priority. These funds are enormous and have to be spent toward the good of our youth, not for selfish interests.

### **Budget Priorities for Education**

#### **Capital Budget Request: Renovate Deteriorated Schools and Construct School Space, Where Needed, in the Community Board 5, Queens Area**

Historically, Community School District 24 has been among the most overcrowded districts in the city. This has been especially true in the Ridgewood community. **P.S. 81Q, on Cypress Avenue, has deteriorating temporary classrooms in the school yard. P.S. 81Q is long overdue for a school addition.** A new school, P.S. 320, has been built on Metropolitan Avenue at Tonsor Street, which should alleviate overcrowding at some nearby public schools.

Schools that recently received school additions include: P.S. 113Q in Glendale, P.S. 49Q and P.S. 87Q in Middle Village. A new school has been built for P.S. 128Q in Middle Village in the past few years.

Existing school buildings throughout the CB5Q area need to be kept in good repair, with renovations to roofs, heating systems, parapet walls, plumbing and other important building components. Ongoing funding for these basic upgrades will be needed. Providing sufficient classroom space through careful property acquisition, renovation, rental, or new construction, so that class size is not larger than 30 students is very important. Community School District 24, which comprises our communities of Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale, is very crowded with students from all walks. The county of Queens has seen tremendous settlement by people from almost everywhere. As a result, our schools are bursting.

It is critical that new schools be established in communities where youth live, so that other communities are not overwhelmed with bused-in students, and, more importantly, so that children and teenagers are not worn out by transportation demands.

#### **Need for New High Schools to Educate Community Board 5, Queens**

**Students** – Fortunately, a new High School has been completed to serve students of Community Districts 5 and 6, Queens. This large site is in the area bordered by

Metropolitan Avenue and Woodhaven Boulevard.

In addition, the Department of Education has built two small high schools for 1,100 students on 74<sup>th</sup> Street at 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Maspeth. Community Board 5, Queens sincerely believes that any high school at this site should accommodate teenagers from Maspeth and nearby communities, considering existing area congestion with other schools in the immediate area.

### **Expense Budget Requests:**

**Provide Well Trained Teachers in Sufficient Numbers** - It is critical that New York City see to the training and employment of good, educated and caring teachers, providing support for the keepers of our young so that both are nurtured. Teachers must be paid a reasonable salary, especially those starting out, in this competitive economy.

**Purchase New Books and Educational Materials** - No one wants to hear that students use worn-out textbooks from twenty years ago. New books of learning, educational supplies and computer experience must be readily available to students. Resources must be based on need and funds spent wisely.

**School Safety** - Students will not be able to learn in a fearful environment. Every effort must be made to hire competent, well trained security staff, and they must be paid a living wage.

**School Meals** - With too many students coming from families where both parents work, or from single-parent households, the availability of 'nutritious' meals at school is important. Much of our energy level and clear thinking is reliant upon what we put into our bodies.

### **QUEENS 8**

Priority# 6 was a request for air conditioning and 220 wiring to support the electrical needs of MS216Q. Please provide an explanation for not recommending funding.

Priority #13 was a request for additional funding for: Smart Boards in every classroom, computers for every classroom and administrative offices. It is also requesting an update for the sound system for the school auditoriums within our district that are in need. We understand that funding in part is recommended, please inform us as to which part.

Priority #16 was a request to upgrade to 220 electrical wiring to support the electrical needs of smart boards and air conditioners at P.S. 173. This work must be done in advance of installing air conditioning that needs 220 wiring. The addition of smart boards puts an extra strain on the electrical power of the building. In response, the agency stated that it was more than one proposal and funding was recommended in part. Electrical wiring is only one proposal. Please elaborate on the funding determination.

## **QUEENS 11**

A major concern and high budget priority is the need for a new high school in northeast Queens to relieve the overcrowding of Benjamin Cardozo HS (3,591 students), Bayside HS (3,108 students) and Francis Lewis HS (4,084 students). All these buildings have student populations at almost double their built capacity. The Department is funding the construction of another elementary school in the district, over the objections of the residents and parents asking for a high school. Unfortunately, the overcrowding in the area high schools has been chasing families out of eastern Queens. The five-year Capital plan estimates that 2,802 seats are needed for Queens high schools. The DOE should consider that a significant number of seats must be in northeast Queens.