



## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166<sup>th</sup> St. 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10032

Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197

Website: [www.nyc.gov/mcb12](http://www.nyc.gov/mcb12)

Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq., Chairperson  
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

---

December 26, 2017

Hon. Carmen Fariña  
Chancellor of the NYC Department of Education  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY, 10007

### **RE: Resolution supports for Safer and More Supportive Schools in the School District 6.**

Dear Ms. Fariña:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, December 19, 2017 Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 39 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 supporting additional and continuous professional development for non-punitive, restorative practices and the expansion of the aforementioned initiative of the Community School District 18 model; and

**Whereas**, Every child deserves a school that is safe, supportive, and inclusive; and

**Whereas**, New York State adopted an accountability framework under the Every Student Succeeds Act (**ESSA**), that measures schools in part on their ability to create a positive school climate and reduce suspensions; and the New York City Department of Education has made historic investments and echoed this framework to improve school climate and implement alternatives to suspensions; and

**Whereas**, Restorative Justice (RJ) is one of the successful alternative implemented in the Community School District 18, and supported by DOE, which focuses on reducing punishment, and to improve students' learning experience.

**Whereas**, Despite these investments, citywide, students of color are 3.5 times more likely to be suspended than their white peers, and black boys and girls are far more likely to be suspended than their white peers; and

**Whereas** Students living in homeless shelters are suspended at twice the rate of their peers with permanent housing; students with disabilities are two times more likely to be suspended than their peers with no disabilities; students who are suspended three or more times by their sophomore year are more than five times as likely to drop out of school; 65% of teachers say student discipline is a challenging issue at school, and 75% of teachers know a colleague who left the profession because of student discipline issues; and

**Whereas, Under the umbrella of the** Department of Education, in the School District 6 (SD6), students of color and students with disabilities have been more likely to be suspended than their peers; and although District 6 has made progress in reducing suspensions and removals by 16.6%, yet 786 students were suspended/removed in SY 2016-2017; and

**Whereas,** The District 6's student population includes 85.4% Hispanic students, 7.4% black students, 18.5% students with disabilities, 27.7% English Language Learners, 86.9% students in poverty, and 13% homeless students; and

**Whereas,** There is a need for an expansion of non-punitive/restorative practices in the SD6 that may include restorative circles, advisory, peer mediation, de-escalation training, social and emotional learning, restorative justice action teams (RJATS), and racial equity training; and

**Whereas,** There are several selected schools in District 6 that are benefitting from school-wide restorative practices such as M.S. 324 Patria Mirabal (M324) and the High School for Law and Public Service (M467); and

**Whereas,** The Community School District 18 (CSD18) Restorative Practices pilot program, a district-wide restorative justice model, initiated by the DOE in FY 2016-2017 to promote positive school culture, has helped contribute to a roughly 25% reduction in suspensions in District 18 and

**Whereas,** CSD18 Restorative Practices pilot program seeks to expand its model to other schools districts in the SY 2018-2019; and

**Whereas,** The Community School District 18 Restorative Practices pilot program includes restorative circles, social and emotional learning, advisory programs, intensive training and coaching, racial equity and anti-bias training, and de-escalation training; and

**Whereas,** Across the country, these practices have not only reduced suspensions but also address the root causes of conflict, restore relationships, and help the community move forward productively. As a result, they've contributed to improved graduation rates and reading growth, and decreased chronic absenteeism and drop-out rates; and


**Whereas,** Over 1,200 DOE teachers throughout the city, including teachers at 16 schools in District 6, have signed on to a letter calling for more restorative practices;

**Therefore Be It Resolved,** That Community Board 12 supports additional and continuous professional development for non-punitive, restorative practices and the expansion of the aforementioned initiative of the Community School District 18 model that seeks to:

- Expands the Community School District 18 Restorative Practices pilot program to all New York City districts including DOE District 6; and
- Includes DOE District 6 in the next round of expansion of the program, whether an additional pilot program or full citywide implementation; and
- Gives staff, students, and parents in DOE District 6 a say in choosing which Community Based Organization(s) they work with including the option of local organizations; and
- Supports schools to select programming that matches the needs of their students and their community; and

- Engages parents as a major stakeholder in issues related to school climate; and
- Provides ongoing training for school staff and consistent implementation.

Sincerely,



Shanabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.  
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor  
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Borough President  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman  
Hon. Michael Mulgrew, President UFT  
Hon. Evan Stone, CEO Educators for Excellence

Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator  
Hon. Marisol Alcantara, State Senator  
Hon. Alfred Taylor, Assembly Member  
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member  
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member  
Daniel Dromm, Chair of Education Committee  
Hon. Beverly Wilkins, Superintendent District 18