

**CHAIR'S REPORT  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009**

**MEMBERSHIP**

- CB No. 9 membership stands at 50 (Refer to attached listing)
- Seventeen (17) members who applied for re-appointment have been appointed
- Eleven (11) new members have been appointed
- Membership Listing – Any corrections should be sent to District Manager
  
- Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, CB9 special session for all board members
- Location: Broadway Housing, 583 Riverside Drive (northeast corner of 135<sup>th</sup> Street)
- RSVP by Monday, April 20, 2009
- Agendas will be emailed next week

**JORDI REYES MONTBLANC TO BE HONORED**

- Former Chair, the Late Jordi Reyes Montblanc will be honored at Broadway Democrats annual Spring Fling (fundraiser)
- Sunday, April 19, 2009 from 1:00 to 4:00
- Location: Restaurant – 107 West on Broadway between 107<sup>th</sup> and 108<sup>th</sup> Streets

**BOROUGH BOARD MEETING**

- Agenda and Minutes attached
- Requested Information – Any actions by NYCDOT without CB input and/or notification

**COMMITTEE SURVEYS**

CB9 Committees: Arts & Culture; Housing; Health & Environment; Land Use and Zoning; Landmarks & Preservation; Parks & Recreation; Senior Issues; Uniform Services/Transportation; Waterfront & Economic Development; Youth, Education & Libraries

- Please complete and submit Surveys to District Manager by Friday, May 1, 2009

**COMMUNITY BOARD #9**

**APRIL 2009 EXPIRATION**

Liaison – Anthonine Pierre

<b><u>BOROUGH PRESIDENT</u></b>	<b><u>ROBERT JACKSON</u></b>
1. Callie Branche	1. Jane Arrendell
2. Debra Byrd	2. <i>Miriam Aristy-Farer</i>
3. <i>Javier Carcamo</i>	3. Larry English
4. <i>Charles Cooper</i>	4. <i>Elvis Hernandez</i>
5. <i>Danielle Chase</i>	5. Dr. Ralph K. Jackson
6. <i>Rudolfo Estrada</i>	6. Barbara Marshall
7. Brenda Tyus Faust	7. Carole Singleton
8. Anthony Fletcher	8. Walter South
9. Christa Giesecke	9. Linda Walton
10. Patricia Jones	
11. Theodore Kovaleff	
12. Patrica Lewis	<b><u>INEZ DICKENS</u></b>
13. William Simpkins	
	10. <i>Tiffany Alston</i>
	11. Carolyn Kent
	12. <i>Monique White</i>

**APRIL 2010 EXPIRATION**

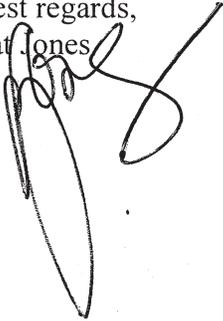
<b><u>BOROUGH PRESIDENT</u></b>	<b><u>ROBERT JACKSON</u></b>
1. Savona B. Bailey-McClain	1. Vernon Ballard
2. Sandra Carter	2. <i>Brandon Brice</i>
3. <i>Donitra Clemons</i>	3. Dr. Vicki Gholson
4. Tamara Gayer	4. Cora Gilmore
5. Winston Majette	5. Tisha Jackson
6. Nicole Monegro	6. Keith Mitchell
7. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas	7. Carmen Perez
8. Martha Norrick	8. Carolyn Thompson
9. Yvonne Stennett	9. Gladys Tinsley
10. Fatima Torres	10. <i>Marshita Washington-Meyers</i>
11. Ernestine Welch	
12. Diane Wilson	<b><u>INEZ DICKENS</u></b>
	11. Marisol Alcantara
	12. Ty Buckelew
	13. Brad Taylor

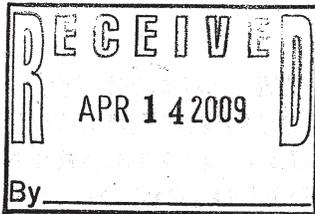
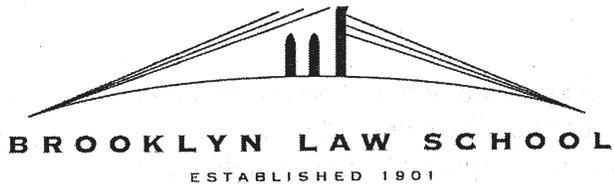
Submitted Re-App – Yellow  
 Not Re-applying – Red  
 Vacancy - Green

Thank you for completing this survey. Over the next month or two, I, in consultation with the other Elected Officers of CB9M, will be considering Committee assignments and re-assignments. We look forward to your continued input and support in this effort.

**PLEASE RETURN SURVEY TO:  
EUTHA PRINCE, DISTRICT MANAGER  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9  
16-18 OLD BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027  
FAX: 212 662 7396  
EMAIL: [EPRINCE@CB9M.ORG](mailto:EPRINCE@CB9M.ORG)**

Best regards,  
Pat Jones

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Jones', written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and includes a long, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.



April 6, 2009

Ms. Patricia A. Jones  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board #9  
16-18 Old Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

Dear Ms. Jones:

Thanks once again for participating in our Sparer Symposium, **Getting It Right: Government's Role in Housing and Economic Development**, co-sponsored with our JOURNAL OF LAW AND POLICY.

And please accept the enclosed *tchotchke* as a token of our appreciation for being part of Brooklyn Law School's extended family!

Yours,



Debbie Bechtel



David Reiss



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

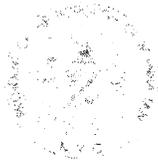
SCOTT M. STRINGER  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**AGENDA**

**Manhattan Borough Board Meeting  
Thursday, April 16, 2009  
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.  
163 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

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- **Adoption of the April 16, 2009 Borough Board Agenda**
- **Adoption of the March 19, 2009 Borough Board Minutes**
- **Parents Commission Proposal on Mayoral Control**
  - Leonie Haimson, Tamara Rowe and Vern Ballard, Parents Commission
- **Tradeswomen on Manhattan Construction Projects**
  - Amy Peterson, President, and Kathleen Culhane, Vice President, Programs for NEW – Nontraditional Employment for Women
- **Vote on resolution in support of Access to the Region's Core ULURP Application**
- **Report by the Borough President**
  - Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer
- **Communications & Reports**
  - Council Members and Community Board Chairs
- **Adjournment**



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SCOTT M. STRINGER  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MANHATTAN BOROUGH BOARD**

March 19, 2009

***In Attendance:***

***Presiding:*** Hon. Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President

***Council Members:*** Mr. Jesse Bodine (representing Hon. Gale Brewer), Ms. Diane Stein (representing Hon. Alan Gerson) Ms. Abigail Cole (representing Hon. Robert Jackson), Ms. Lisa Kaplan (representing Hon. Rosie Mendez), Mr. Dan Pasquini (representing Hon. Daniel Garodnick), Ms. Ede Fox (representing Hon. Melissa Mark-Viverito)

***Community Boards:*** Ms. Julie Menin (CB 1), Mr. Dominic Pisciotta (CB 3) Mr. JD Noland (CB 4), Mr. Lyle Frank (CB 6), Ms. Helen Rosenthal (CB 7), Ms. Jackie Ludorf (CB 8), Ms. Henrietta Lyle (CB 10), Ms. Pam North (CB12)

8:55a.m. – Shaan Khan called the meeting to order and moved for adoption of March 19, 2009 Borough Board agenda and the February 19, 2008 Borough Board Minutes. Both motions carried.

***Uncalculated Risk: How plans to drill for gas in upstate New York could threaten New York City's water system***

Stephen Corson, policy analyst for Borough President Stringer, presented his recent report on hydraulic fracturing. Plans for drilling upstate could pose a serious risk to NYC's drinking water. Approximately 90% of NYC's water comes from the Catskills watershed. "Frac-fluid", a mixture used to crack rock, contains unknown chemicals that can cause kidney, heart or liver damage through repeated exposure.

The report includes several recommendations: 1) prohibit drilling in the NYC watershed, 2) disclose the ingredients in frac-fluid, 3) track the movement of fluids, 4) study safer versions of frac-fluid, 5) hold hearings in NYC, 6) regulate and monitor, and 7) plan for emergencies.

***Borough President's Report***

The tenants of Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village had a major victory. An Appellate Court ruling found that the landlord could not deregulate apartments while receiving J-51 tax benefits. This means that thousands of tenants whose apartments were deregulated could potentially be compensated. My office wrote an amicus brief to support this case.

BP Stringer, Council Member Lappin, Assembly Member Bing and Senator Krueger joined residents and survivors of the East 51<sup>st</sup> Street crane collapse for a one year memorial. Construction safety and regulation has improved in the last year – Borough Construction Watch has helped – but there is more work to be done.

### ***Community Board Public Member Policy***

Shaan Khan announced that there were a record number of community board applicants this year. There were many more qualified applicants than seats available, but we want to retain these individuals in community board life. Public membership is one way to retain them. Mr. Khan proposed that the Borough Board agree upon a set of “best practices” for public memberships that all boards would adopt. Chairs were asked to review their current policy with their executive boards.

### ***Staff Performance Evaluations***

Nakia James, Director of Operations for BP Stringer, discussed best practices for performance management. Performance management is an ongoing process, not a one-time event. It is intended to help staff grow, learn and succeed in their jobs. Information should never be shared in a performance evaluation for the first time – there shouldn’t be surprises. To begin the process – discuss its importance, schedule a meeting with the CB’s personnel committee, prepare an action plan and share it with the staff member, allow for feedback from the staff. Conversations should happen every three months with a formal evaluation once a year. Remember that performance evaluations are a great way to let staff know when they are meeting or exceeding expectations and should therefore be viewed positively.

### ***Communications & Reports***

Chairs were asked to forgo their report in the interest of time. The meeting was adjourned.

**Manhattan Borough Board  
Resolution in Support of  
Access to the Region's Core Project**

**Whereas**, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey ("Port Authority") and New Jersey Transit seek a **special permit pursuant to § 74-62(b) of the Zoning Resolution ("ZR")** to allow the construction of a railroad passenger station, ventilation facilities ("fan plants"), and station entrances, and to allow a modification of height and setback regulations pursuant to ZR § 43-43 for two proposed fan plants;

**Whereas**, Port Authority and New Jersey Transit seek a **zoning text amendment** to modify ZR § 74-62 in order to create the aforementioned special permit;

**Whereas**, Port Authority and New Jersey Transit propose to build a tunnel that would cross the Hudson River, enter Manhattan at approximately the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and West 28<sup>th</sup> Street, terminating in a station beneath West 34<sup>th</sup> Street between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues;

**Whereas**, Port Authority and New Jersey Transit propose to construct fan plants at the following locations:

- north side of West 28<sup>th</sup> Street between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenues;
- north side of West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues;
- south side of West 35<sup>th</sup> Street between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues;
- north side of West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues;

**Whereas**, Port Authority and New Jersey Transit propose to construct public station entrances at the following locations:

- east side of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue between West 33<sup>rd</sup> and West 34<sup>th</sup> Streets;
- south side of West 34<sup>th</sup> Street between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues;
- northwest corner of the intersection of West 34<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue;
- west side of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue between West 33<sup>rd</sup> and West 34<sup>th</sup> Streets;
- northwest corner of Broadway and West 34<sup>th</sup> Street;
- south side of West 34<sup>th</sup> Street just west of Broadway;

**Whereas**, Port Authority and New Jersey Transit propose to construct a private station entrance for employees on West 34<sup>th</sup> Street between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues;

**Whereas**, the project is designed to meet the following needs:

- Provide increased rail capacity to meet population growth west of the Hudson River and jobs in New York City;
- Provide a new station facility to relieve severely overcrowded and inadequate conditions at New York's Penn Station;
- Eliminate commuter rail delays caused by unanticipated events or routine maintenance;

**Whereas**, the proposed actions would directly impact properties in Community Districts 4 and 5 and were therefore referred to Manhattan Community Boards 4 (CB4) and 5 (CB5) for review as part of the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP);

**Whereas**, at its full board meeting on March 4, 2009, CB4 voted 34 in favor, 4 opposed, 0 in abstention, and 1 present but not eligible to vote for a resolution recommending conditional approval

of the application, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) The design of Fan Plant 1 is developed in consultation with CB4 to be architecturally compatible with its surroundings and create an active appearance at street level, including sidewalk lighting and street trees;
- 2) The design of Fan Plant 2 is modified as much as possible to reduce its impact on the surrounding residential buildings, and includes sidewalk lighting and street trees;
- 3) A process is established to design and develop the open space adjacent to Fan Plant 2 in consultation with CB4;
- 4) The applicants agree to establish a construction coordination task force to plan for and advise the community of construction activities at the Fan Plant 2 site as they progress; and
- 5) The mitigation measures identified in the FEIS are in place to protect the St. Michael's School building and the adjacent apartment buildings and their occupants during construction at the Fan Plant 2 site;

**Whereas**, at its full board meeting on March 12, 2009, CB5 voted 31 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 in abstention for a resolution recommending denial of the application, unless the applicant:

- 1) Enlarges the northwest corner entrance at West 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway so as to provide a chamfer corner at that intersection and a larger entrance;
- 2) Includes new entrances to the station on the west side of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue;
- 3) Includes plans for fan plants and station entry portals which enhance the cityscape in their surrounding areas with aesthetically pleasing or artistically challenging enhancements to the area;
- 4) Renews efforts to study alternative locations for the fan plant on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street [between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues] and agrees to provide adequate compensation to all current leaseholders on property to be taken for fan plants and station entry portals, including the costs of relocation and the loss in value of the goodwill of those businesses;

**Whereas**, because the proposed actions would impact properties in more than one community district, the application is referred to the Borough Board, in addition to the Borough President, for a subsequent 30-day review period following the community board review period;

**Whereas**, representatives of Port Authority presented the proposal at the monthly Manhattan Borough Board meeting on February 19, 2009;

**Whereas**, pursuant to § 85 of the New York City Charter and the ULURP rules as promulgated by the Department of City Planning, voting members of the Manhattan Borough Board include the Manhattan delegation of the City Council, chairpersons (or their designees) of the community boards that represent community districts directly affected the proposed action, and the borough president;

**Whereas**, Port Authority has agreed to a number of commitments in response to concerns raised during the public review process, including:

- 1) Continue to meet with, seek input from, and where appropriate incorporate suggestions of CB4, concerning design of all fan plants and adjoining open space in CD4;
- 2) Continue to meet with, seek input from, and where appropriate incorporate suggestions of CB5, concerning the design of all fan plants and station entrances in CD5, including the alternative "Scheme B" for Entrance 2, regardless of whether it is subject to additional land use approvals or which approval process is required, should it be pursued;

- 3) Continue to explore means to expand Entrance 5, including collaborating with DOT to coordinate the entrance with the planned closure of Broadway in Herald Square to auto traffic and pulling in a support column from the entrance's corner;
- 4) Continue to seek use of the MTA Subway entrances at the corners of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and West 35<sup>th</sup> Street and the corridor beneath 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue as access points to the station;
- 5) Implement all mitigative measures, related to construction impacts and otherwise, as outlined in the FEIS, to protect St. Michael's School and other nearby buildings;
- 6) In the three months prior to and during every phase of construction until completion, coordinate monthly construction task force meetings with CB4 and CB5, including but not limited to representatives of CB4, CB5, all local elected officials, representatives of Port Authority and/or New Jersey Transit, and representatives of the construction contractors, to discuss all construction-related concerns; and such meetings shall also provide a forum for a monthly progress report by Port Authority on non-construction related aspects of the project as a whole and adherence to all agreed upon conditions for the project and elements of this resolution;
- 7) Maintain a construction coordination center during every phase of construction until completion, to be open and staffed during appropriate times during the work week and weekends, in an area convenient to residents and other impacted stakeholders, with up-to-date information on, but not limited to, blasting schedule and trucking activities;
- 8) Provide reasonable assistance, financial and otherwise, consistent with Title 49, Part 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, to all displaced leaseholders in relocating within the vicinity of their current places of business, with the understanding that any relocation compensation plan is subject to final approval by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA);
- 9) Prioritize relocation sites located in the nearby vicinity of the current places of business to better retain current clientele and location-specific aspects of business;
- 10) Attempt to acquire properties for fan plant and station entrances through negotiated transactions, subject to FTA approval, and during these negotiations PA will encourage the fair treatment of leaseholders by property owners.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Manhattan Borough Board recognizes the critical importance of the ARC Project to the borough, the city, and the greater New York Region as a major investment in public transit and in the continued growth of Manhattan as a major commercial center, but also recognizes the importance of mitigating all adverse impacts of the project wherever practical;

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Manhattan Borough Board recommends conditional approval of the application on the condition that the Port Authority and New Jersey Transit follow through on each of the commitments included in this resolution and made in their letter to the Manhattan Borough President.



Office of Manhattan Borough  
President Scott M. Stringer  
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

ph. 212-669-8300  
fax. 212-669-4305

HOME

LAND USE

MANHATTAN INFO



## Press Releases

Name  Zip   
Email

As debate grows on mayoral control, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer urges more independence, defined duties for local education councils

### BLOG

#### THE MBPO

- Borough President Stringer
- Deputy Borough President
- Role Of The Office
- Contact Us
- Employment

#### ON THE ISSUES

- Housing
- Transportation
- Environment
- Health
- Education & Youth
- Economic Development
- Domestic Violence

#### BUDGET & GRANTS

- Capital Program
- Borough Needs Program
- Cultural Tourism Program

#### CONSTITUENT SERVICES

#### USEFUL LINKS

### ***Plan would use community board model to build parental involvement, could result in savings of as much as \$5 million per year***

Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer has proposed a far-reaching revision of state education law that would make local Community Education Councils (CECs) in New York City more independent from the city's Department of Education, with more clearly defined roles in the school system. Legislation to implement the Borough President's plan will be introduced by Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz.

The planned reforms -- designed to give parents more of a voice in the educational decisions that affect their children -- would for the first time specify both the issues and the timetables on which the Department of Education must consult parent councils. The plan would reform CECs to make them function more like Community Boards, with greater independence from the City's executive branch and a Uniform Parental Engagement Procedure (UPEP) providing opportunities for hearings and input on specific timelines. The plan could save as much as \$5 million in city budget funds every year.

Borough President Stringer said: "We can and we must insist on accountability in the schools, but the system works best when public school parents are at the table. Community Education Councils must be reformed and empowered to be the voice that public school parents and school communities need and deserve."

"The city's 51 community boards have specific and well-defined advisory roles in land use decisions, roles that enable their input to be considered and at times to improve planned projects. Developers have learned that local board members, who know and understand the issues of the people who live in their communities, have something to add to this process. That same model can and should be employed by the city's 32 Community Education Councils." Assemblyman Dinowitz (D-Bronx), the primary Assembly sponsor of the bill enacting these changes said "there is a direct correlation between the success of our children and their parents' involvement in their education. The current structure concentrates and minimizes parental input and influence. Despite claims that parents were empowered under the current law the exact opposite is true. This legislation aims to give parents a real voice in important educational decisions that affect their children. Reforming the community education councils will give parents a real say- an unfulfilled promise of the law that created CEC's."

"Borough President Scott Stringer is providing leadership on a high priority issue for parents," said April Humphrey, Coordinator for the Campaign for Better Schools. "The Education Councils have not had the independent role the Legislature intended, primarily because DOE controls the information and support they receive. This proposal provides a sound framework for independent support and training that will enable the robust involvement of Education Councils in important decisions that affect families in their communities."

As part of the reforms, the plan would transfer to the city's five borough presidents the training and supervision of local education councils. The savings of an estimated \$5 million are based on using Borough President staff members who now train and act as liaisons to community boards, and adding local education councils to their portfolios. Doing so would permit the Department of Education to redirect some of the \$5.8 million now devoted to the Office of Family Engagement and Advocacy while retaining a small central administrative staff.

In a new report, "A New Day for Parental Engagement," Borough President Stringer's Office compares the current model of CECs with the more successful model of Community Boards. The report concludes that CECs have not succeeded in providing parents with an empowered voice for two main reasons. First, Community Education Councils depend upon the Department of Education for their training and support, unlike Community Boards, which have the support of an independently elected official, the Borough President. Second, CECs have no formal timeline for reviewing and providing input into proposals, unlike Community Boards, which have ULURP and other City processes. The report and new legislation would make the following reforms:



1. Make CECs more independent from the Department of Education.
  - Responsibility for training and supporting CECs should be given to the City's five Borough Presidents. Borough Presidents are well-positioned to play this role because they are independently elected executive officials with sufficient distance from the City's Executive Branch; they have similar experience and infrastructure supporting their borough's Community Boards; they already play a role appointing members of the CECs; and they can support CECs cost-effectively and with minimal additional overhead.
  - Borough Presidents should provide dedicated staff to ensure that CEC members are trained in their duties and have the resources to perform them. They should also be responsible for publicizing opportunities to serve on CECs, encouraging high participation in CEC elections, and recruiting good candidates to serve in appointed CEC roles.
  - Borough Presidents should chair a Borough Education Council (BEC), modeled after the Borough Board, which brings together the Chairs of each borough's Community Boards. The BEC would be composed of the presidents of each borough's CECs and the City Councilmembers representing each borough. The BEC would allow parent leaders to convene on borough-wide issues, issue opinions on issues affecting more than one school district, and engage in regular and public dialogue with officials from the Department of Education.
  - Borough Presidents should promote strong ties between CECs and Community Boards by bringing them together under the same government umbrella and encouraging their collaboration and communication on land use, capital planning, and other issues.
  
2. Establish a formal process for CEC review and input into educational decisions –the Uniform Parental Engagement Procedure (UPEP).
  - A Uniform Parental Engagement Procedure (UPEP), modeled after the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure defined in the City Charter, should be established in state law, with specific timelines for CEC review and input into educational decisions. Generally, CECs should be given a review timeline that is sufficient to conduct a public hearing, solicit input, refer an issue to a committee for deliberation, and issue a formal decision.
  - Proposals requiring CEC approval, such as changes to zoning district lines, should be submitted to CECs for a 90-day review, public hearing, and decision period.
  - Proposals requiring CEC consultation, such as proposals to create, eliminate, or relocate new schools within a District, should be submitted to CECs for a 60-day review and consultation period. Any input the CEC provides regarding the action must be submitted to the Chancellor and responded to in any final decision.
  - Broader educational policy decisions requiring approval of the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) should first be referred to all Borough Education Councils for a 45-day review period. Any comments must be included in the materials submitted to and voted on by PEP members and must be addressed in the PEP's resolution on the issue.
  - CECs should be given the responsibility, and the necessary resources, to serve as the primary vehicle for soliciting parental input into educational decisions affecting a School District and providing a point of contact with the District Superintendent.

### Background

Community Education Councils are supposed be consulted on citywide and local issues by the DOE administration and the central Panel for Educational Policy, but the terms of that consultation are ill-defined in current law. Members say that they are rarely informed, much less consulted, on important district issues and proposals.

The councils themselves are the legacy of the 32 Community School Districts into which the city school system was divided for decades. The members of the local education councils are drawn from the PTA and Parent Associations of schools in their districts, along with two members appointed by the Borough President. There are also two citywide councils for high schools and special education.

Under the proposed legislation, the transfer of training and supervision of the 32 councils would be designed to make them more independent of the Department of Education and more responsive to parent concerns, ideally making it easier to find candidates willing to serve.

Nearly 20 percent of current council seats are unfilled. Earlier this month the DOE pushed back the filing deadline for parents who want to be on the councils in order to recruit more parents for the slots.

A survey by Borough President Stringer in 2007, "Parents Dismissed", showed that more than half the members of CECs had no knowledge of the School District Report Card their council was mandated to create; fewer than half said their council was performing their mandated evaluation of local instructional superintendents; 37% said their council did not hold or participate in legally mandated capital plan hearings.

### Community Board Model

The city's community boards, which originated as community planning boards in the 1960s, have clearly defined advisory roles in processes such as the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) process. Community boards have the opportunity to review proposals subject to numerous State and City processes, with specific timetables during which project plans must be submitted.

Community board members then have the opportunity to discuss and review plans, and may approve or disapprove plans, including offering changes to the city and to developers, though their recommendations are advisory. In the case of ULURP, their recommendations are sent to the Borough President, City Planning Commission, and ultimately to the City Council that takes final action in permitting projects to go forward.

There are 51 community boards in the city (12 in Manhattan). There are 50 people on each board, 25 appointed by the Borough President and 25 appointed by the Borough President at the suggestion of local Council members. All serve in an unpaid capacity.

To read the report "A New Day for Parental Engagement" [click here](#)

**Press Coverage:**

Daily News  
Amsterdam News  
West Side Spirit

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NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER WILLIAM C. THOMPSON, JR.

MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT SCOTT M. STRINGER

STATE SENATOR JOSÉ M. SERRANO

COUNCIL MEMBER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO

&

The Children's Aid Society • Class Size Matters • CEC 4  
East Harlem Little League • Harlem RBI  
Hope Community, Inc • Manhattan Community Board 11  
New Yorkers for Parks • Union Settlement Association

*Invite you to a*

## TOWN HALL MEETING

*To discuss*

## RANDALL'S ISLAND

The City is currently negotiating a contract for use of  
the sports fields on Randall's Island.

Be a part of the conversation and join us on:

**Monday, April 20**

**6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Taino Towers, Crystal Ballroom**

**240 East 123<sup>rd</sup> Street**

RSVP: 212-669-4451 or [conference@manhattanbp.org](mailto:conference@manhattanbp.org)