

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

154 West 93rd Street New York, New York 10025 - Room 204 Tel (212) 678-2782 Fax (212) 678-2804 Email: [CEC3@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CEC3@schools.nyc.gov)

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D75

## CEC3 Resolution Urging Increased Accountability from the School Construction Authority (SCA) and Division of School Facilities (DSF)

Sponsors: Sharon Collins, Yael Denbo, Ana Maria Quiñones Greenfield, Sharon Meiri Fox, Jon Nassimi, Jill Rackmill, Kristin Savov

**WHEREAS** the New York City School Construction Authority (SCA) manages all major school construction and renovation projects in New York City; and

**WHEREAS** the SCA has an annual operating budget of \$281 million as of 2024, and a five-year capital plan for fiscal years 2025–2029 totaling \$19 billion, funded primarily by city bonds; and

**WHEREAS** the SCA is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of three members: the Chancellor of New York City Public Schools (Chair) and two other members appointed by the Mayor; and

**WHEREAS** the current SCA Board of Trustees consists of Chancellor Melissa Aviles Ramos and Trustee Peter McCree, with the third seat vacant; and

**WHEREAS** the absence of a third trustee may contribute to challenges in oversight and accountability of billions in school construction funds; and

**WHEREAS** there are ongoing SCA projects in District 3, but the number of projects, their timelines, and specific details remain unclear; and

**WHEREAS** delays in SCA project completion leave D3 schools under scaffolding for years, negatively impacting student learning, school operations, and community well-being, disproportionately affecting disadvantaged communities; and

**WHEREAS** school and district leadership lack authority over SCA projects, leaving principals and families uninformed and without recourse; and

**WHEREAS** contracts are awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, with contractors not always adequately vetted, and the supervisory staff selection process lacks transparency; and

**WHEREAS** research shows contracts are often paid in advance of work completion, causing major financial inefficiencies within SCA; and

**WHEREAS** the Division of School Facilities (DSF) is responsible for ongoing maintenance, repair, and operational upkeep, including plumbing, electrical systems, HVAC, and custodial services; and

**WHEREAS** DSF differs from SCA in that it focuses on routine repairs and small-scale projects, while SCA handles major capital work; and

**WHEREAS** lack of clarity between DSF and SCA responsibilities creates confusion among school administrators, families, and district representatives; and

**WHEREAS** many small and mid-sized projects can be handled more efficiently by DSF; and

**WHEREAS** principals and school communities often do not know which agency handles which projects or how to access discretionary funding through elected officials; and

**WHEREAS** in a January 2025 CEC3 survey, D3 principals reported infrastructure problems including unusable bathrooms, buckling gym floors, playground hazards, and broken auditorium chairs and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CEC3 will launch a project to assess infrastructure needs in D3 schools, in collaboration with the D3 Superintendent's Office, as part of a pilot project led by Chancellor Melissa Aviles Ramos and the Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE). This project will seek to demystify the SCA and DSF, examine the current status of projects in the district, and highlight necessary repairs and improvements.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CEC3 members will reach out to their liaison schools to identify SCA projects that are significantly delayed or already funded.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CEC3 members will identify and suggest priorities for repair projects needing DSF attention.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CEC3 requests that DSF solicit an annual district repair priority list from all CECs, similar to SCA practices.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CEC3 urges the City Council to convene a task force to study and reform the SCA, including conducting hearings on contract management, spending, and project oversight.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SCA Board of Trustees should be restructured to include the New York City Comptroller to enhance financial oversight.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SCA should establish clear communication practices with school leadership, district representatives, and the public, including regular project updates and accessible reports.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SCA must develop stricter internal protocols for project selection, management, and contractor reviews.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SCA should hold community listening sessions to address concerns and ensure responsiveness.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SCA should publish transparent project timelines and provide periodic reports to the City Council's Education Committee.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SCA should appoint a dedicated coordination team to improve communication between schools and local communities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SCA should review its bid selection process to prevent low-quality contractors from receiving repeat contracts.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SCA should implement enhanced training for managerial and supervisory staff.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SCA should establish a performance monitoring system to ensure contractor accountability and compliance with quality standards.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SCA should modernize project management and communication tools to improve efficiency.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor must appoint the third trustee to the SCA Board to ensure full leadership and oversight.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CEC3 requests that the SCA provide detailed transparency on project selection, including decision-making criteria, funding timelines, and plans for addressing unmet needs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SCA should engage in ongoing dialogue with school leadership and District 3 to align priorities with the most pressing school needs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SCA and DSF must provide a clear and accessible breakdown of which projects fall under each agency's jurisdiction and ensure this information is readily available to schools and the public.

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**VOTE TALLY:**

Sharon Collins – Yes  
Jill Rackmill – Yes  
Ramata Sackho – Yes  
Noah Odabashian – Yes  
Jon Nassimi – Yes  
Noah Strote – Yes  
Sharon Meiri Fox – (no vote recorded)  
Ana Quiñones Greenfield – Yes  
Yael Denbo – Yes  
Kristin Savov – Yes

VOTE RESULT: Yes: 9 No: 0 Absent: 1