

CEC3 Resolution Urging Increased Accountability From The School Construction Authority (SCA) And Division Of School Facilities (DSF)

Sponsor: Sharon Collins, Yael Denbo, Ana Maria Quinones Greenfeld, 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, all funded primarily by city bonds;¹

WHEREAS, the SCA is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of three members, the Chancellor of New York City Public Schools, who holds the title of chair, and two other members appointed by the Mayor;²

WHEREAS, the current SCA Board of Trustees consists of Chancellor Melissa Aviles Ramos and Trustee Peter McCree. The third seat remains vacant;³

WHEREAS, the appointment of the third trustee to the SCA by the Mayor has yet to be made, and this gap in leadership may contribute to challenges in oversight and accountability regarding the billions in school construction funds;⁴

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

WHEREAS, delays in completion of SCA projects results in D3 schools remaining under scaffolding for years on end, negatively impacting student learning, school operations, and community well-being, with disadvantaged communities disproportionately affected;

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

WHEREAS, contracts are awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, such that contractors are not always adequately vetted during the bidding process, and the selection process for supervisory staff is not transparent;⁵

WHEREAS, research shows contracts are often paid in advance of the completion of work, resulting in significant outlays with sometimes minimal progress, and that these problems are endemic to the SCA;⁶

WHEREAS, a different agency, the Division of School Facilities (DSF) is responsible for the ongoing maintenance, repair, and operational upkeep of school buildings, including plumbing, electrical systems, heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC), and general custodial services;

WHEREAS, DSF manages a network of borough-based facilities teams, school custodians, and contracted service providers to ensure that school buildings remain safe, clean, and functional for students and staff;

WHEREAS, DSF is distinct from the SCA in that it focuses on routine repairs, emergency maintenance, and smaller-scale projects, while the SCA oversees major capital construction and large-scale renovations;

WHEREAS, a lack of clarity regarding whether a project falls under DSF or SCA creates confusion among school administrators, families, and district representatives, leading to delays in addressing critical facility needs;

WHEREAS, many smaller and even mid-sized projects can be addressed by the Division of School Facilities

WHEREAS, many principals and school communities might not be aware of which agency handles which projects or the means to get these projects funded via applying for discretionary funding from the budgets of elected officials.

WHEREAS, D3 principals surveyed by CEC3 in January 2025 documented problems in their schools including unusable bathrooms; buckling gym floors in need of repair; tripping hazards and broken fences in playgrounds and broken auditorium chairs

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CEC3 will launch a project to look at the infrastructure needs in our D3 Schools. This project will be done in collaboration with the D3 Superintendent's Office, as part of a pilot project on CEC/Superintendent Collaboration being conducted 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 our district and highlight the repairs and improvements needed in our buildings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC3 members will reach out to their individual liaison schools to identify SCA projects that are significantly delayed or have been funded

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC3 members will reach out to their individual liaison schools to identify and suggest priorities for repair projects that need the attention of the DSF;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC3 requests that DSF ask CECs across all 32 districts for an annual district repair priority list, similar to what SCA does for major projects

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CEC 3 urges the City Council to convene a task force to study and implement reforms in the SCA and conduct hearings on contract management, spending, and project oversight;

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SCA 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 develop stricter internal protocols for project selection, management, and contractor performance reviews;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SCA hold community listening sessions to address concerns and ensure responsiveness to local needs;

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SCA implement enhanced training for managerial and supervisory staff;

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SCA modernize its project management and communication tools to improve efficiency;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor appoint the third trustee to the SCA Board to ensure full leadership and oversight;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC3 requests 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 engage in ongoing dialogue with school leadership and District 3 to align priorities with the most pressing school needs and explore solutions for projects that do not receive funding;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SCA and DSF 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.

Member	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Sharon Collins	Yes		
Jill Rackmill,	Yes		
Ramata Sackho	Yes		
Noah Odabashian	Yes		
Jon Nassimi	Yes		
Noah Strote,	Yes		
Sharon Meiri Fox			
Ana Quiñones Greenfield	Yes		
Yael Denbo	Yes		
Kristin Savov	Yes		

VOTE: Yes _9 NO ___ ABSTAIN_