



September 9, 2022

Greetings --

Yesterday New York City public schools opened their doors for the 2022-2023 academic year. I know that the start of the school year can be both exciting and stressful. If your school community is in need of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me and as always I would love to come speak with your school's Parent Association on how my office can be of assistance.

The City Budget Cuts

Unfortunately, this school year starts with unnecessary budget cuts to our public schools. These cuts are unacceptable and have caused principals to increase class sizes, eliminate art and music programs, excess beloved teachers and staff, and make do with less resources. This is even more frustrating because the state and federal government have funded our public schools at record levels. In fact, the State budget passed in April included an historic high of \$31.2 billion in total school aid, a 7% increase from last year. This included \$21.3 billion in "Foundation Aid", an increase of \$1.5 billion from last year. Foundation Aid are those funds distributed to school districts throughout the state based on a per-pupil and needs-based formula. Of the \$31.2 billion total, \$12.3 billion was dedicated for New York City, a *\$475 million increase from the prior year*. What's more, the City, has billions in unspent federal stimulus funds that could be dedicated to the schools. The Mayor has tried to justify these cuts based on enrollment decline, but the Mayor's funding formula does not take into consideration the immense difficulties our school and students have faced and are facing as a result of the pandemic.

The Mayor has been called on by 41 Council Members to use federal funds to restore these disastrous cuts. He should do so immediately. I will continue to advocate at all levels of government to see that our schools are appropriately funded, but it is incumbent on the Mayor and the City Council to get their "house" in order by holding schools harmless this year and then going forward working to revise the City formula used to distribute funding.

The New York City Department of Education has updated its Covid-19 protocols, [please make yourself aware of them here](#).

The NYC DOE also has a host of other [resources for families on their website here](#).

NYC Class Size Bill Signed

Yesterday the Governor signed legislation, [A10498/S09460](#), to lower class size in New York City Schools. Starting in September 2023, class sizes will be capped at 20-25 depending on grade level. The legislation requires a gradual phase-in and will be fully implemented by 2028. This is an important reform and will have a positive impact on students learning and I was proud to support it.

Dyslexia Task Force Act

As you may remember, last June I sponsored and passed [A.2185 \(Dyslexia Task Force Act\)](#) which will require New York State to examine the appropriate and effective evidence-based screening, intervention, and support for students with and at risk of dyslexia and dysgraphia. We now need Governor Hochul to sign this important piece of legislation so that the Commissioner of the State Education Department can create this task force of educators, doctors, researchers, parents and advocates to help ensure all our children can become fluid and fluent readers. Please [sign our petition](#) calling on Governor Hochul to sign the Dyslexia Task Force today.

Congestion Pricing Hearing

One of the most important policy issues facing the City this fall is the implementation of congestion pricing – i.e. a fee structure to enter Manhattan’s central business district. The Legislature voted to approve congestion pricing in 2019 and now the MTA is moving forward. Traffic congestion in Manhattan is simply unsustainable. It wastes our time, hurts our economy, and harms our air quality, while contributing to climate change. I realize that some will not like the idea of paying to drive into Manhattan but done correctly the benefits will outweigh the costs. Congestion pricing will help ameliorate the problems caused by heavy traffic and provide much needed funding for public transportation. The authorizing legislation does exempt any vehicle that goes directly from an East River Crossing to the FDR Drive or West Side Highway and exits north of 60th Street, provides a tax credit for residents in the zone who make less than \$60,000 a year, and exempts emergency vehicles and vehicles carrying people with disabilities. I testified on congestion pricing at the MTA’s public hearing on August 29th. You can watch my testimony [here](#) at the 52:10 mark.



BQE (Interim) Repair Detours Meeting

I am hosting a meeting along with Community Boards 7, 12, and 14; and City Council Members Shahana Hanif and Rita Joseph to hear a presentation from The New York City Department of Transportation about the proposed BQE traffic detours in 2023. You may have seen [reporting on the DOT's plan over the Summer](#).

These detours, which will include tractor trailer trucks and other oversized commercial vehicles, will be in effect while interim repairs are made on the BQE from March 2023 - October 2023. Please join us for this important presentation and discussion about how the BQE repairs will affect your local roadways. See meeting details below and [RSVP here](#).

Thursday, September 22

6:30pm

The Parkside Educational Complex (PS 130/MS 839)

713 Caton Avenue

Gymnasium, 2nd floor

(there is an elevator)

*This meeting will also be livestreamed

MTA Metro Card Van is Back on 9/29

The MTA MetroCard Van is Coming to Park Slope!

Sponsored by Assemblymember Robert Carroll



Thursday, September 29th
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
416 7th Avenue



Services Offered:

- Get help with a Reduced-Fare application
- Transfer MetroCard balances (Full fare and Reduced-Fare)
- Exchange a damaged Reduced-Fare MetroCard for a temporary replacement
- Report a lost/stolen Reduced-Fare MetroCard
- Ask our team about any MetroCard-related issues

If you can't come on September 29th, here is
the regular MetroCard Bus/Van Schedule for Brooklyn

Location	Day	Time
Sheepshead Bay at 3520 Nostrand Ave. (Between Avenue V & Avenue W)	1st Tuesday	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Starrett City at Pennsylvania Ave. & Twin Pines Drive	1st & 3rd Tuesday	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Coney Island at Neptune Avenue (Between West Fifth St. & Sixth Street)	1st Tuesday	1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Flatlands at Kings Plaza Shopping Mall (Avenue U & Flatbush Avenue)	1st & 3rd Tuesday	2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Flatlands at 2424 Ralph Avenue (Avenue N & Mill Lane)	1st & 3rd Tuesday	12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Bensonhurst at 86 Street & Bay Pkwy.	2nd & 4th Friday	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Bay Ridge at 86 St & Fourth Avenue	2nd & 4th Friday	1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

**FREE Covid-19
Test Distribution**
Assemblymember
Carroll's office will have
free tests
available

Thursday,
September 29th
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
416 7th Avenue

Call the District Office if
you need tests but are
not available to stop by
on September 29.



For additional information on this event or any other local or state issue,
please call Assemblymember Robert Carroll's District Office at 718-788-7221



If you have questions or concerns about any community or legislative matter please email carrollr@nyassembly.gov or call (718) 788-7221.

-Bobby

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