

President Steve Stowe  
First Vice President Jennifer Hu  
Second Vice President/IEP Rep Elizabeth Chan  
Recording Secretary Vito LaBella  
Treasurer/ BBP Appointee Marie Brugueras



Council Members

Ghada Amin Maya Rozenblat- ELL Rep  
Jona Isufi Joyce Xie  
Li Ping Jiang Kevin Zhao- BBP Appointee

**Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir**

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Resolution 12 (SY21-22)

**Resolution Proposing Extension of and Amendments to Mayoral Control**

**Resolution approved 5/11/2022 with 10 Yes; and 1 excused**

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Steve Stowe- Yes     | 7. Jona Isufi- Yes         |
| 2. Jennifer Hu- Yes     | 8. Li Ping Jiang- Yes      |
| 3. Elizabeth Chan- Yes  | 9. Maya Rozenblat- Excused |
| 4. Vito LaBella- Yes    | 10. Joyce Xie- Yes         |
| 5. Marie Brugueras- Yes | 11. Kevin Zhao- Yes        |
| 6. Ghada Amin- Yes      |                            |

**Sponsors: Stephen Stowe, Vito LaBella**

**WHEREAS**, Governor Kathy Hochul has proposed extending Mayoral Control of the New York City public school system for 4 years. The State Legislature is now considering whether to approve this proposal, not approve it, or approve it with amendments.

**WHEREAS**, Mayoral Control of the New York City school system has largely removed legal power from the Community Education Councils (CEC's) and by extension, the public school parents, and the school communities that are served by the Department of Education (DOE). As stated in Section 2590-E of the Education Law of the State of New York "*The community councils shall have no executive or administrative powers or functions*"<sup>1</sup>.

**WHEREAS**, the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) is vested with continuing oversight authority of the New York City school system under State Education Law, Section 2590-B which also stipulates that the PEP shall consist of 15 members of whom 9 are appointed by the Mayor, 5 by each Borough President and only 1 elected by parent representatives. The election of the parent representative is regulated by Chancellor's Regulation D-200 which among other provisions calls for CEC Presidents to vote on the representative from a group of applicants selected by a Nominating Committee<sup>2</sup>.

**WHEREAS**, the natural result of the Mayoral Control governance structure is one in which incentives to incorporate parent input are low and largely at the discretion of the DOE. This can result in a low-quality DOE-parent collaboration process, reducing trust between parents and the DOE.

**WHEREAS**, while Borough Presidents are elected in popular, at-large elections, they are accountable to all voters, not solely to parents in the school system. Meanwhile CEC representatives are directly elected by parents and as such are a more representative governing body of public school parent stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> Education Law, CHAPTER 16, TITLE 2, ARTICLE 52-A, SECTION 2590-E, "Powers and duties of community district education council"

<sup>2</sup> Chancellor's Regulation D-200, "COMPOSITION AND SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION", issued December 19, 2019

**WHEREAS**, the Mayoral Control system does however enable timely and definitive decision-making, centralizing accountability in the Mayor’s Office and the Chancellor of Education. And the previous system of New York City school boards was proven to be an ineffective governance model with numerous reports of corruption and fraud, not to mention a generalized lack of accountability.

**WHEREAS**, in contrast to the previous Mayoral administration, the current DOE under Chancellor Banks has engaged in significant parent outreach and collaboration including appearing at Town Halls hosted by CECs, a meeting soliciting input on Gifted & Talented program on March 24, 2022, a focus group on the School Quality reporting process on April 26, 2022 and generally demonstrated strong accessibility recording the issues raised at meetings, providing points of contact, and following up. This collaborative approach has begun to restore trust in the current DOE.

**WHEREAS**, it is now May 11, 2022 and transitioning to an alternative governance model for the start of School Year 2022-2023 would represent an extremely short window of time to implement significant changes. Therefore these recommendations preserve the ability of the Mayor to control the system this year while granting parents - the ultimate stakeholders - a moderately stronger governing role beginning in School Year 2023-2024.

**WHEREAS**, other Council’s are currently considering similar resolutions including CEC District 2 in Manhattan and the Citywide Council on High Schools (CCHS).

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Community Education Council of District 20 calls upon the State Legislature of the State of New York to extend Mayoral Control of the DOE for an additional 3 years.

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the CEC of District 20 calls upon the Legislature of the State of New York to modify the selection process for PEP members serving in the School Year 2023-2024 by amending Section 2590-B (“Continuation of city board and establishment of community districts; establishment of the city-wide councils on special education, English language learners, and high schools”) and allowing for the following<sup>3</sup>:

- Add Citywide Councils (together with CEC’s defined herein as CCEC’s) as voting members and allow all CCEC members to vote for PEP representatives, not simply CCEC Presidents
- Expand the number of CCEC-elected representatives on the 15 member PEP to 6 with the Mayor continuing to appoint the remaining 9 members of the PEP.
  - Geographic representation - the Mayor shall be required to include one representative from each borough
  - Student type representation - of the CCEC-elected representatives, there must be one representative with a child in high school, one representative with a child who is or has been an English Language Learner (ELL), one representative with a child with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and one representative with a child in an advanced learning program (either Gifted & Talented, a school utilizing a selective academic admission screen, or one of the 8 Testing Specialized High Schools).
- Allow an open primary nominating process for PEP representative candidates, not a closed process run by a Nominating Committee
- Allow candidates running for PEP representative to run on common platforms or slates in which each candidate publicly acknowledges their participation in such platform or slate.
- Require that elected PEP representatives have a child either currently enrolled in a DOE school or have had a child enrolled within the last 3 years.

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<sup>3</sup> Certain proposed amendments may also require amending Chancellor's Regulation D-200