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Resolution 5 (SY21-22)

**Resolution Calling for the Incoming DOE Chancellor to Rescind & Replace the Recently Announced Middle School Admissions Policies**

**Resolution passed 12/20/21 (8 Yes, 0 No, 3 Absent)**

**Co-sponsors:** Vito LaBella, Stephen Stowe

WHEREAS, Mayor-elect Eric Adams will take office January 2nd and has announced a new Chancellor David Banks, who has in turn announced a new First Deputy Chancellor Daniel Weisberg, and a new Deputy Chancellor for Family Engagement Kenita LLOYD.

WHEREAS, Mayor-elect Adams and soon-to-be Chancellor Banks have pledged to pursue their own policies on several matters, including admissions to middle schools.

WHEREAS, outgoing Mayor DeBlasio and outgoing Chancellor Porter have made several 11th hour announcements including but not limited to: Brilliant NYC, continued suspension of MS screens and the use of limited screens for High School (8<sup>th</sup> grade grades for first marking period & Sample project and Writing Essays from 7<sup>th</sup> grade)

WHEREAS, CEC D20 is dismayed that DOE Central chose to make these decisions concerning Middle School and High School Admissions, when they could have either waited two and a half weeks for Chancellor Banks or at least worked with him, his announced deputies, and/or Eric Adams' transition team.

WHEREAS, DeBlasio's and Porter's actions and timing thereof not only appear to be politically and ideologically motivated but have drastically harmed current students and have left a legacy of family flight out of the DOE, and New York City as a whole.

WHEREAS, suspension of middle-school screening suspension was meant to be a one-year temporary Covid-19 pandemic accommodation.

WHEREAS, while DOE Central in their current announcement has essentially allowed for assessment or "screening" in performing arts and dual language middle schools. CEC20 sees no fundamental difference between this and aptitude, skill, or gifts in academic areas such as math, writing, science, etc.

WHEREAS, Mayor Elect Eric Adams in his current capacity as Brooklyn Borough President has recognized the exceptional work of the Christa McAuliffe Middle School (20KIS187) and by extension, all of the D20 Superintendent's Programs.

WHEREAS, the Christa McAuliffe Middle School and the new middle school Arts Off Third (MS 936) were established in part to retain District 20 students who might otherwise go to other Academic Screened, or Arts-based programs such as Hunter and Mark Twain respectively, and both those schools are screening and holding auditions respectively for the upcoming school year.

WHEREAS, the DOE is allowing the use of Academic Metrics for admission into screened high schools and thus there is no logical reason to preclude their use for Screened Middle schools.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT CEC D20** is fundamentally opposed to the outgoing Mayor's and Chancellor's continued habit of announcements of drastic, far-reaching, lasting actions, especially in regard to admissions for the School Year 2022-2023, without the extensive involvement and approval of Mayor-elect Adams, newly announced Chancellor Banks, Adams' education transition team, and/or newly announced Deputy Chancellors.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT CEC D20** urges the incoming Adams and Banks administration to rescind the current DOE decision to suspend middle school screening for another year as it is disruptive to the continuum of accelerated education from grades K thru 12.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT CEC D20** suggests that temporary screening methods for IS 187 and Screened D20 Superintendent middle school programs could potentially include either / both of the following:

- Current 5th grade 1st semester and/or 2nd semester grades, similar to High School admissions
- i-Ready assessments either previously administered in Fall 2021 and / or to be administered in Spring 2022

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT CEC D20** requests that Arts Off Third Middle School (MS 936) be allowed to fulfill their original mission and begin auditioning incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students for their respective disciplines.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT CEC D20** further suggests that screening methods could also incorporate an algorithm to add bonus points and / or a set-aside based on eligibility for free or reduced lunch, IEP status, ELL status, and other criteria to reach underserved and/or under-represented populations in a more robust and sustainable manner.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT CEC D20** offers these recommendations in the interests of successfully completing admissions this year in a shortened time frame, but otherwise welcomes robust and genuine parent and community engagement suggested by Mayor-elect Adams and Chancellor Banks that has been lacking in the DeBlasio administration.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT CEC D20** looks forward to Chancellor Banks, his deputies, and a new PEP engaging with CECs for advice and input as intended and in particular with this CEC D2 for its uniquely large student and parent population outreach and extensive parent leadership experience