

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

Resolution 8 (SY21-22)

Resolution on School Governance - Superintendent Evaluation Process

Resolution approved 2/9/22 with 8 Yes; 1 Abstain, and 2 Excused

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|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Steve Stowe- Yes | 7. Jona Isufi- Yes |
| 2. Jennifer Hu- Abstain | 8. Li Ping Jiang- Yes |
| 3. Elizabeth Chan- Excused | 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 recently proposed extending Mayoral Control of the New York City public school system for 4 years. The State Legislature is now required to approve this proposal prior to expiration in June 2022. At this stage in the process it is highly unlikely that there will be material changes to the framework of Mayoral Control. Nonetheless, reports have indicated that the State Legislature is open to making some minor modifications¹.

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*"².

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 often results in a low-quality DOE-parent collaboration process, reducing trust between parents and the DOE.

WHEREAS, Community Superintendents are responsible for day-to-day formulation and implementation of education policy in Community School District's (CSDs) and are hired by and serve at the pleasure of the Chancellor of the DOE. As shown in Appendix 1, Community Superintendents report to an Executive Superintendent. Executive Superintendents report to the First Deputy Chancellor who reports to the Chancellor. This results in a governance structure in which Community Superintendents are ultimately accountable to the Chancellor, albeit one in which the strength of this accountability is reduced somewhat due to the layers of management.

¹ "Hochul proposes \$2.1 billion increase for NY schools, extension of NYC mayoral control", Chalkbeat, January 18, 2022

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

WHEREAS, by comparison, CECs provide only “consultation” input into the Superintendent hiring process³. CECs do submit an annual evaluation of the Superintendent however the entirety of this responsibility is limited to Subsection 15 which reads “Submit an annual evaluation of the superintendent to the chancellor”⁴. The acceptance and utilization of the evaluation is entirely at the discretion of the DOE with no transparency into the Community Superintendent’s final evaluation by the DOE. CECs do not have any governance relationship with the Executive Superintendent or First Deputy Chancellor. This results in a very weak accountability and governance structure between CEC’s and the Community Superintendent.

WHEREAS, the Mayoral Control system does however enable timely and definitive decision-making. And employment stability is an important attribute in attracting qualified CSD personnel including a Community Superintendent. Furthermore, CECs are volunteer organizations without the time or expertise to adequately understand the full, day-to-day operation of the CSD. Therefore, any governance changes at this time shall not remove ultimate oversight of the CSD from the Department of Education and the Community Superintendent.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Community Education Council of District 20 calls upon the Legislature of the State of New York to amend Section 2590-E, subsection 15, in order to make changes to the Community Superintendent evaluation process. These amendments should be done in such a way to increase CEC input thereby enhancing transparency, trust, accountability and governance.

At a minimum such amendments must include:

- Allowing for CEC attendance and / or participation in the DOE review meeting of the Community Superintendent.
- Require that the CEC evaluation is included in the formal DOE evaluation of the Community Superintendent with equal weight applied to CEC and DOE evaluations.
- Require that the final DOE evaluation of the Community Superintendent is made available to the CEC.
- Require the DOE to provide a written response to the CEC’s annual evaluation of the Community Superintendent.
- Require that a summary of the CEC evaluation and the DOE response is posted publicly on the DOE website.

Appendix 1: Governance in the Department of Education*

