



Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council

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CPAC Parent Advisory Council Board

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February 03, 2022

Resolution on School Governance and Mayoral Control

Approved at CPAC meeting on February 10, 2022

The Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council (CPAC) membership consists of parent leaders who have been elected as President(s) of their Community Schools District Presidents' Councils, District 75 Presidents' Council, and the five (5) High School Borough Presidents' Councils; a total of 38 members. CPAC membership serves on NYC District and School Leadership Teams, representing 1.1 million NYC public school students, including children who are receiving special education services, who are Multilingual Language Learners and their families. The Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council was established by NYC Chancellor's Regulations A660 Article II Section J ("CPAC is a citywide organization that advises the Chancellor on issues of importance to parents of New York City public school students. CPAC supports Presidents' Councils by providing information on important issues affecting the schools and guidance in the development of local parent leadership.") to support Presidents' Councils and their constituency PA/PTAs address issues, concerns and questions that affect students, families, and school communities throughout the entire city. Advise the NYC Chancellor in matters that concerns students, families and communities such as providing feedback and comment on educational policies, visions, goals, and escalate questions, concerns, suggestions on shaping and deciding on rules, policies, procedures and regulations that affects the New York City Public School system and Department of Education from parents.

The NY State Legislature by Chapter 91 of the Laws of 2002, Education Law 2590, significantly restructured the governance of New York City Public Schools, effective June 30, 2003, giving the Mayor and the Chancellor greater authority over the school system. This law was to sunset on June 30, 2009 unless amended or continued by the New York State legislature. The law was amended and continued in August 2009 and was to sunset on June 30, 2015, unless amended or continued by the NYS Legislature. The Law has twice been extended for one year, on June 30, 2015 and on June 30, 2016. The Law was set to sunset on June 30, 2017, when the NYS

Legislature extended the law for two years. It has been extended yet again in 2019 and is now scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2022. Currently, Governor Kathy Hochul is in favor of extending NYC Mayoral Control.

We would like the NYS Legislature to take into consideration the recommendations of the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council (CPAC) regarding school governance, NYC Mayoral Control and the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP). CPAC's resolution offers amendments to the current law.

The following resolution offers amendments to current NYS law, should it continue and be extended, this resolution was developed with input from CPAC members based on their experiences in their schools, district and school leadership teams, presidents' councils, PA/PTAs and their vast knowledge of the effects of mayoral control on the New York City Public School System.

WHEREAS, Mayoral control of the school system has severely curtailed parental empowerment, parent voice and advocacy, and community participation. It has not eliminated historical flaws in the contracting process, communication, transparency, stakeholders' representation, and has not created more accountability; and

WHEREAS, CPAC does not support the current structure of mayoral control as it presently stands now, as the governance body of the New York City public school system; and

WHEREAS, changes to the present law will improve the system substantially to make it more democratic and provide for more meaningful participation of stakeholders; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that CPAC recommends that the Law be amended to implement strong checks and balances that are enforced to assure transparency and accountability to the public, as follows:

PANEL FOR EDUCATIONAL POLICY:

- The Law be amended to provide for the appointment of all the members of the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) to fixed terms, with no limits to the terms they may be appointed; that the majority be currently parents of children in NYC public schools; that in addition to the five borough president appointees, the Public Advocate and the Comptroller appoint one member each; and that the majority of members not be appointed by the Mayor, with the Mayor having the power to appoint the Chancellor, with meaningful input from all 38 district and borough presidents' council members of CPAC;
- The Law be amended to have two (2) CPAC members representing NYC public school students and their families and they be elected by CPAC voting members.

CHANCELLOR'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

- CPAC establishes a citywide educational policy, in coordination with the Chancellor and the Chancellor's cabinet, to be involved with the planning of new initiatives for the New York City Department of Education that affects our constituent bodies and NYC Public school students which includes academic curriculum, social emotional learning/mental well-being, remote learning platform, cyber safety, school food meals, health and safety, technology and internet access, etc. and the PEP must provide an explanation as to why they are not following the recommendations of the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council regarding any significant school changes;
- CPAC be an integral part of the process of choosing an executive superintendent, FACE Liaisons that will support presidents' councils and PA/PTAs, including interviewing and recommendation of candidates to be chosen by the Chancellor and/or Chancellor's team;

- CPAC is part of the process to establish, implement and improve **ACT: Accountability, Communications and Transparency**; this includes ensuring multilingual students, families and communities receive communications in the language of their choice and at the same time as English speaking families.

PRESIDENTS' COUNCILS:

- District and Borough Presidents' Councils establish educational policy in their districts, in coordination with the District Leadership Team (DLT), District Superintendents & Community and High School District Teams, including establishing and providing parent leadership trainings, workshops for PA/PTAs, equipping PA/PTAs with tools and equipment necessary to have effective and productive meetings and family involvement; and that the Superintendent(s) must provide an explanation as to why they are not following the recommendations of the District and Borough Presidents' Councils regarding any significant school changes;
- District and Borough Presidents' Councils have an integral part of the process in choosing an executive superintendent, and district superintendent, including interviewing and recommendation of candidates to be chosen by the chancellor.

MANAGEMENT/ADMINISTRATION:

- The Chancellor and their appointee in charge of teaching and learning must be an educator who does not require a waiver to be appointed;
- The Law, as set forth originally, clearly define the role of the District Superintendent, who must have extensive education experience, as the District Education Leader to assure their responsibility to hire, fire and evaluate principals, assistant principals and other district office staff within the geographical boundaries of their respective school district, as to honor the integrity of the functions of the local school district, with adequate resources and support provided to assure compliance;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CPAC strongly urges the above recommendations to the amendments of the Law be approved and implemented immediately to ensure that all NYC public school families are included in meaningful opportunities to be involved, engaged, equipped and empowered in the development of policies that affect their children's education and create an elite education school system where all students received an equitable high quality academic and social emotional learning education, resources, opportunities and services. In order to be inclusive with the parent leaders of New York City Public Schools Presidents Councils, the Law should be amended to have two (2) CPAC members representing NYC public school students and their families who shall be elected by CPAC voting members.

Educationally yours,

The Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council (CPAC)