



COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 30

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RESOLUTION #144

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CITYWIDE COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the thirty-two Community Education Councils (“CECs”) established by State Law and governed by Chancellor’s regulations since 2003, exist to formally include parents in the promotion of student achievement, solicit parent advice on educational policies, approve zoning lines, evaluate Superintendents, and provide input to the Chancellor and Panel for Educational Policy (“PEP”)¹; and

WHEREAS, members of the thirty-two District CECs represent families with students in pre-K through 8th grade and are subject to Open Meetings Laws; and

WHEREAS, District CECs consist of nine elected parents, two members appointed by the Borough President, and one student member selected by the District Superintendent. With the exception of the student member, all members are voting members. The Chancellor meets with each CEC once every two years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the thirty-two District CECs, there are several Citywide Councils: the Citywide Council for High Schools (“CCHS”) in each borough, the Citywide Council for English Language Learners (“CCELL”), the Citywide Council for Special Education (“CCSE”) and the District 75 Council; and

WHEREAS, Education Law 2590-e requires that councils “[h]old public meetings at least every month with the superintendent during which the public may speak so that parents and the community have a voice and a public forum to air their concerns”; and

WHEREAS, elections for all Community and Citywide Education Councils (“CCECs”) are conducted by the DOE and all results are public; and

WHEREAS, there is no formal DOE supported body which allows CCECs to meet, collaborate, share best practices, develop policy proposals on a citywide level, advocate for the role of parent leaders in school governance or address common systemic issues that affect every council; and

WHEREAS, a formal CCEC body, created by State Law, governed by Chancellor’s Regulations, and supported by the DOE would allow for, encourage, and facilitate city-wide collaboration among Community and Citywide Education Councils; and

WHEREAS, city-wide collaboration is necessary to assess and provide feedback on city-wide proposals such as the expansion of Multilingual and Dual Language programs, the establishment of universal Dyslexia screening, the adoption and implementation of Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education (“CRSE”) practices, conflicting proposals to either eliminate or expand G&T programs and screened academic programs, and many others; and

WHEREAS, previously, a private advocacy group called the Education Council Consortium (“ECC”) served in a

¹ NYS Education Law Section 2590-e and Section 2590-b.

quasi-CCEC function, but in May 2020, the ECC changed its mission statement to align with the advocacy for which it had become known. The new mission lists several core values, none of which mention education.

WHEREAS, the ECC is opposed to holding public meetings. In an effort to maintain closed door meetings, the ECC sought and obtained an advisory opinion from the Committee on Open Government (“COG”) which stated that “In our opinion, the Consortium [ECCC] **does not constitute a public body** as it does not require a quorum to perform its functions and **it does not perform a governmental function for the New York City Department of Education.**”

WHEREAS, a formal Community and Citywide Council would provide a welcoming and supportive environment for all parents regardless of race, socio-economic status, or belief where differing views and opinions are tolerated, parents could share their own lived experiences regardless of their children’s educational needs, and promote their ideas for how to best improve the schools and systems which educate their children; and

WHEREAS, precedent exists for an organization of this type in the Chancellor’s Parent Advisory Committee (“CPAC”). CPAC is comprised of the presidents of each President’s Council. Per the DOE, “CPAC meets with the Chancellor and other divisions monthly so they can share information to better support their constituents and be prepared in their advisory role to the Chancellor. CPAC meetings are open to the public.”²

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community District Education Council for District 30 asks the NYS Legislature to establish a formal Community and Citywide Education Council at which Community and Citywide Council designees will meet monthly with the Chancellor or Chancellor’s designee to promote systemic solutions to issues that affect all councils and students throughout the school system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, once codified in State Law, the DOE formalize the relationship between this citywide council and the Chancellor within Chancellor’s Regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all CCEC meetings will be subject to Open Meetings Law.

VOTED AND APPROVED: June 16, 2020

² <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/parent-associations>