



COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 30

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Resolution #145

In Support of Rehoming, Redefining, and Reimagining the Role of Safety Agents in District 30 Public Schools

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is responsible for all interactions between students and adults in our school buildings in order to promote a positive school climate and ensure the safety of our students; and

WHEREAS, the Community Education Council for District 30 (“CEC30”) believes that our public education system necessitates a school environment in which conflicts are de-escalated and students are provided developmentally appropriate and fair consequences for misbehavior that address the root causes of their misbehavior, while minimizing the loss of instructional time;

WHEREAS, recent actions of officers in the New York Police Department (“NYPD”) and its history of disparate policing based on zip code and racial demographics run afoul of the DOE’s vision of Equity and Excellence for All; and

WHEREAS, research does not support that police presence in schools makes them safer, but shows police interactions can bring unintended consequences for students and can contribute to a climate of fear, counter to the creation and maintenance of a productive learning environment; and

WHEREAS, the appearance of police officers in schools may impose a climate of fear and intimidation in school communities, especially among Black and Latinx students, and that climate inhibits schools from providing a nurturing, inspiring, and rigorous learning experience¹; and

WHEREAS, the DOE's current budget does not clearly prioritize the health and wellbeing of students, nor does it prioritize mental health programs, trauma-informed curriculum, culturally responsive education, tech access, food access, etc. when weighed against the budgetary scale of police funding; and

WHEREAS, CEC30 believes that no child should feel criminalized nor unsafe in school; and

WHEREAS, members of school communities collectively create a safe environment utilizing existing infrastructure that promotes overall school safety through Building-level School Safety Plans pursuant to Chancellor’s Regulation A-414² and A-412³, of which the NYPD-recruited, trained, managed and evaluated safety agents are not accountable to the DOE; and

WHEREAS, individual members of the District 30 school safety agent workforce are often valuable and trusted members of many school communities; and

¹ <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/de-blasio-deaf-students-raise-concerns-school-safety-article-1.3864047>

² <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-414-3-24-101e8ac6a2a5b14bdeaae96554efd49f3d>

³ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-412-security-in-the-schools-english>

WHEREAS, historically, major policy changes regarding NYC schools are not implemented without significant community input⁴

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2020, CEC30 heard public comment on this issue and took additional time to engage all District 30 schools via their principals, SLTs, and PTAs and the overall majority of responses favored moving school safety agents under the auspices of the DOE; and

WHEREAS, CEC30 believes it has a responsibility to provide not just reactive but proactive policy recommendations as it represents its families; and

WHEREAS, by example, the Minneapolis Board of Education voted to terminate its contract with the police department for school resource officers⁵ and simultaneously engaged a task force to develop a revised school security plan⁶ and the Minneapolis Superintendent must present a new student safety plan to the School Board by August, 2020 that includes retrained security officers⁷.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, based on community feedback, that the Community Education Council for District 30 recommends the DOE's termination of its Memorandum of Understanding with the NYPD and that the governance and accountability of school safety agents be immediately moved from the NYPD to the DOE *concurrent with the recommendations below*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, recommends that, *concurrent with the recommendation above*, the DOE immediately convene a School Climate and Safety Task Force ("Task Force") to reimagine the current system of school safety. This Task Force shall include educators, parents, and experts on both school safety and restorative justice. Within three months of its convening, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Mayor, Chancellor, and public. Community feedback sessions shall immediately follow the publication of the Task Force recommendations. The DOE shall implement a new plan for school safety and climate, codified in Chancellor's Regulations, no later than six months from the convening of the Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, if the DOE opts to take no action on this issue, and/or in addition to any citywide action, CEC30 recommends the following district-specific changes be implemented in District 30:

1. The DOE and/or District 30 shall rename the school safety officer position as "School Resource Agent," ("SRA") require every school's Safety Team to complete and discuss the Checklist recommended on the website "End Zero Tolerance: Combating the School-to-Prison Pipeline⁸" and share the results with their school communities;

⁴ See, most recently: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/admissions-engagement>

⁵ <https://www.startribune.com/mpls-school-board-ends-contract-with-police-for-school-resource-officers/570967942/>

⁶ <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/06/04/whats-next-for-school-policing-in-minneapolis.html>

⁷ <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/06/04/whats-next-for-school-policing-in-minneapolis.html>

⁸ <https://www.endzerotolerance.org/police-in-schools-policy-reforms>; <https://strategiesforyouth.org/sfysite/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ParentGuide-SROs-InSchool-062518-EN.pdf>

2. All D30 principals shall convene a meeting of their entire school community devoted to reimagining and redefining the role of the SRA in their school. This meeting shall take place by the end of calendar year 2020;
3. The Superintendent shall ask every District 30 school to submit to the District Leadership Team, along with their CEPs, a reimagined plan for school safety and climate based on specific feedback received from their respective school communities, including but not limited to the newly defined role of the SRA;
4. School Safety Teams shall discuss repositioning SRAs' physical posts within school buildings away from the entrance, with entry to and egress from the building monitored instead by a member of the school's staff, with the understanding that this change in job description would have to be approved by the SRA's union and supervising agency
5. SRA uniforms shall *not* be NYPD-issued, nor shall they be recognizable as law enforcement uniforms.
6. The following, while already the district norm, shall be codified in each school's Safety Plan: SRAs shall not be involved in the enforcement of school-based rules. Disciplining students shall be the responsibility of non-SRA school staff. Designated school staff may request their SRA's assistance only as a last resort when: (1) required by law; (2) as appropriate to address or prevent actual criminal conduct; or (3) there is a real and immediate physical threat to a student, teacher, or public safety;
7. Any SRA who has contact with students shall first receive the requisite training on how to work with youth, especially and specifically children with special needs and children from high-risk or high-need backgrounds and receive additional, regular anti-bias training;
8. Each school's Safety Plan shall enact a specific strategy to combat school SRAs having disproportionately more negative and/or punitive contact with vulnerable student populations⁹. To the extent that SRA contact with students is disproportionately and negatively and/or punitively with vulnerable student populations, the School Safety Team shall set actionable goals for reducing the disparities and develop a measurable action plan to reach such goals.
9. District 30 shall identify any services or resources that are needed from the community to support students who have experienced multiple SRA contacts and to reduce such contacts.
10. The District 30 Superintendent shall keep a log of all complaints received by her/his office with regard to SRA and make that data available to the public on demand, to the extent allowable by law, as well as share out the data quarterly at a CEC meeting

VOTED AND APPROVED: June 25, 2020

⁹ Such groups include, but are not limited to: low-income students, multi-lingual learners, students of color, students with special needs, LGBTQ students, immigrant students, and students in temporary housing.