



## **COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 30**

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### **RESOLUTION #162**

#### **REGARDING SCHOOL GOVERNANCE**

**WHEREAS**, a majority of the Board of Education, also known as the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), is currently appointed by the mayor; and

**WHEREAS**, the structure of the PEP in most cases effectively makes it a proxy for the mayor, as mayoral appointees on the PEP have been removed or forced to resign if they vote against the mayor's will; and

**WHEREAS**, while the PEP must vote on contracts, school sitings, and Chancellor's Regulations, there are many policies, including some relating to student enrollment and curriculum, set by the Department of Education without the consent of the PEP; and

**WHEREAS**, from chronic failures in busing;<sup>1</sup> to longstanding lack of support or accountability for parent engagement; to the persistent refusal to reduce class sizes despite multiple state laws designed to do so;<sup>2</sup> to insufficient support for translation and interpretation at schools;<sup>3</sup> to insufficient attempts to integrate one of the most segregated school systems in the country;<sup>4</sup> the DOE under mayoral control has failed to address some of the most frequent concerns of parents, students, and school staff; and

**WHEREAS**, neither parents, nor the City Council, nor communities at large have an effective voice in shaping DOE policy or holding the DOE accountable under the current system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chancellor, who leads the DOE, is appointed by the mayor; and

**WHEREAS**, the concentration of power in the hands of the mayor, whether Democratic, Republican, or Independent, whether progressive, centrist, or conservative, has hampered the ability of the system to create and enact those policies that would best serve its students, families, and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, a task force made up of stakeholders and experts is necessary to explore and create a new kind of structure with more accountability and shared responsibility, but not total autonomy; and

**WHEREAS**, a new, more democratic form of School Governance will allow for greater parent voice, transparency, and accountability.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the New York State Legislature should create a task force to conduct a comprehensive study on school governance in New York city, and submit recommendations on a transition plan for school governance in New York City that will increase parent voice, increase shared responsibility in school governance, and add checks and balances for greater oversight and accountability.

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1 Julian Roberts-Grmela, “NYC Parents Push to Get ‘School Bus Bill of Rights’ on Nov. Ballot After Years of Transportation Failures,” *The 74 Million* (February 14, 2022), <https://www.the74million.org/article/nyc-parents-push-to-get-school-bus-bill-of-rights-on-nov-ballot-after-years-of-transportation-failures/>.

2 Danielle Farrie, Monete Johnson, Wendy Lecker, and Theresa Luhm, “Reducing Class Size in New York City: Promise vs. Practice” Education Law Center (June 2016), [https://edlawcenter.org/assets/files/pdfs/publications/Reducing Class Size in NYC - Promise vs. Practice.pdf](https://edlawcenter.org/assets/files/pdfs/publications/Reducing%20Class%20Size%20in%20NYC%20-%20Promise%20vs.%20Practice.pdf); Leonie Haimson and Wendy Lecker, “The State Should Restart the City’s Clock on Shrinking Class Sizes,” *Gotham Gazette* (June 7, 2021), <https://www.gothamgazette.com/opinion/10542-new-york-state-restart-city-clock-class-sizes>.

3 Amy Leipziger, “Opinion: This Year, NYC Schools Must Invest in Language Access to Help Immigrant Students Catch Up,” *City Limits* (September 13, 2021), <https://citylimits.org/2021/09/13/opinion-this-year-nyc-schools-must-invest-in-language-access-to-help-immigrant-students-catch-up/>.

4 Danielle Cohen, “NYC School Segregation Report Card: Still Last, Action Needed Now,” The Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Derechos Civiles (June 10, 2021), <https://www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/k-12-education/integration-and-diversity/nyc-school-segregation-report-card-still-last-action-needed-now>.