



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL 32

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CEC32 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ECC's RESOLUTION ON UPDATING AMENDMENTS ON GOVERNANCE OF NY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Approved at CEC 32 meeting of January 16, 2020 by a unanimous vote

Community Education Council District 32 (CEC 32) held a meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2020. After reviewing all the evidence and facts, CEC 32 passed the following resolution:

The Education Council Consortium (ECC) is a group of parents and community members who have been elected or appointed to serve on District and Citywide Community Education Councils, representing 1.1 million public school students. The ECC was formed to address issues that affect schools and communities throughout all the boroughs and meets regularly with the Chancellor to help shape, advise, provide feedback and comment on educational policies, visions and goals.

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. The Law was most recently amended and extended through June 30, 2022 in the budget bill passed on April 1, 2019.

The ECC has reviewed the law that took effect on July 1, 2019, and is seeking to clarify the omission in some amendments dealing with citywide education councils and is recommending that a commission be established by the NY State Legislature to review the system of mayoral control as the system of governance of NY City public schools.

The following recommendations were developed with input from ECC members based on their experiences in their schools and their vast knowledge of the effects of mayoral control on their school communities.

WHEREAS, change of eligibility status of members of the Citywide Council on High Schools, the Citywide Council on Special Education and the Citywide Council on English Language Learners presently requires a member to leave the respective council before the expiration of the term to which they were elected. This creates a vacancy that is often difficult to fill in the middle of a term, leaving councils short of a full membership and unable to capably fulfill their responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the amendment that provides for at least one position on the district community education council be filled by a parent of a current student who is or has been at any time an English language learner does not mention that the same provision should also apply to eligibility of parents to serve on the Citywide Council on English Language Learners; and



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WHEREAS, conversations with legislators and testimony during the NY State Senate's NY City Education Committee Public Hearing on Mayoral Accountability, revealed strong support for the establishment of a Commission on NY City School Governance and Mayoral Accountability; be it therefore,

RESOLVED, that the law be amended to allow members of the Citywide Council on High Schools, the Citywide Council on Special Education and the Citywide Council on English Language Learners to serve out their term following their change of eligibility status, effective immediately; and therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the amendment language provide that parents of current students who are or have been at any time an English language learner, shall be eligible to apply to serve on the Citywide Council on English Language Learners, effective immediately; and therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the CEC32 supports the ECC's recommendations that the NY State Legislature establish a Commission on NY City School Governance and Mayoral Accountability beginning with the January 2020 session and continuing until the sunset of the law on June 30, 2022. Commission membership shall include all NY City public school stakeholders, including parents, students, administrators, teachers, support staff, and community members who are education advocates.

RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY