



**COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK**

June 17, 2025

**CEC15 Resolution for Hybrid Public Comments at the
Panel for Education Policy Meetings**

The District 15 Community Education Council (CEC15) held a meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2025. After reviewing all the evidence and facts, CEC15 approved the following resolution provided and authored by the Education Council Consortium:

WHEREAS, the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP or the City Board of Education) is a 24-member voting body overseeing New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) and is comprised of community leaders across every neighborhood and borough of New York City. The PEP meets once a month to vote on matters pertaining to public education;

WHEREAS, the PEP is a state-mandated public body that is bound by Open Meetings Law ([OML](#)), which gives the public the right to attend meetings of public bodies, listen to debate and watch the decision-making process;

WHEREAS, per the U.S. Department of Education, boards of education are not required to take public comment but it is appropriate and the board should be diligent in assuring public comment takes place at appropriate times during board meetings;

WHEREAS, the PEP Bylaws *Article IX¹: Meetings* provide for Open Comment limited to only in-person attendees;

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic PEP meetings were live streamed but held in-person, in all five boroughs with public comments limited to in person attendees only;

¹ PEP Bylaws Article IX Section 9.1.4. Speaking Protocol During Calendar Meetings

Public comment may be made regarding specific business items on the agenda, or during the open comment period as further described below. Comments made during the business item portion of the meeting are limited to items on the agenda. Community leaders are encouraged to share the voices of the communities they represent during that portion of the meeting. Additional speaking time during the open comment period may be held at the conclusion of the meeting and is open to all speakers. All speakers are welcome to sign up to deliver comments to the PEP.

WHEREAS, during the pandemic remote meetings were instituted and public comments at PEP meetings were taken through an online platform using language interpretation and closed captioning. Consequently, public engagement increased due to better and easier access;

WHEREAS, the PEPs capabilities to host hybrid meetings is superior compared to those of other volunteer education bodies like Community Education Councils and School Leadership Teams due in part to a larger budget and IT support;

WHEREAS, in June of 2023, the PEP abandoned remote meetings and returned to in-person only meetings, no longer allowing hybrid public comments and leading to a decline in attendance, prompting communities to asking for a return to hybrid public comments;

WHEREAS, evening meetings pose a challenge for many parents/guardians wanting to attend in person, and the inability of people to participate due to hardships such as travel, childcare, disability, and the city's spread-out nature, including traveling between boroughs, further limits involvement;

WHEREAS, hosting hybrid meetings aligns with the core principles of Open Meetings Law and embodies true public accessibility and civic engagement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Panel for Education Policy resume hybrid meetings to allow for both in-person and virtual public comments to be received;

AND, BE IT RESOLVED, that PEP members be seen and heard by the public in both in-person and virtual spaces using language interpretation and ASL upon request.

This resolution was duly adopted by the Community Education Council 15 on June 17, 2025 by a vote of the members present, including: Antonia Ferraro Martinelli, Leslie King, Vanessa Gonzalez Ueoka, Nancy Cruz, Katina Rogers, Jonathan Davis, and Donalda Chumney.

7 members voted Yes