



Chancellor David Banks  
New York City Department of Education  
52 Chambers St, New York, NY 10007

Deputy Chancellor Desmond Blackburn  
New York City Department of Education  
52 Chambers St, New York, NY 10007

07/05/22

Dear Chancellor Banks and Deputy Chancellor Blackburn,

We are writing to you today in our capacity as city, state, and federal representatives for the District 15 community to express our disappointment over the firing of Superintendent Anita Skop and to request her immediate reinstatement.

During her 13-year tenure, Superintendent Skop has been an invaluable part of our community. Throughout her time as Superintendent, she has shepherded equity initiatives like the D15 Diversity Plan that centered community input and created a model for equitable, integrated classrooms. Her commitment to including families and youth in decision-making and visioning is evident in her advocacy for the creation of PS 958, a new inclusive school in the district which parents had long advocated for, and her creation of the Youth Equity Congress to ensure youth have a seat at the table. She has always been an incredibly thoughtful partner in ensuring the children of our community receive the best possible education and has always worked closely with our offices when we needed assistance.

Superintendent Skop's uniquely inclusive and trusted leadership has guided District 15 to success throughout her tenure and especially during the most challenging parts of the past two years. It comes as no surprise to us that school leaders, parents, and community members across District 15 have unanimously communicated their support for Superintendent Skop and her trusted leadership. Our community has universally voiced that she is their only choice to lead them through the coming years and during the difficult recovery from COVID-19.

When our community was informed that there would be a process for rehiring the superintendent in District 15, our offices received thousands of emails requesting that Anita Skop be rehired as superintendent. Additionally, the Community Education Council (CEC) for District 15 unanimously passed a [resolution](#) outlining their strong support for her reappointment.

Given the outpouring of support we have received for her continuation, we were shocked to learn that the Department of Education has decided to fire a trusted leader in our community.

As elected officials and members of this community, we know this decision is a mistake. Our community has said loudly and clearly that we trust our children's future with Superintendent Skop. This decision is the opposite of what our community wants or needs. A change in leadership this significant threatens to disrupt much of the important work our schools have embarked on over the past few years. The total disregard and dismissal of public feedback in this process has demonstrated how little the Mayor and School Chancellor value family engagement, student voices, or the District 15 community when making critical decisions that impact their lives.

Superintendent Skop has helped build and guide this district to the successful place it is in today. The decision to let her go goes against the will of this community. We demand this decision be reversed and for Superintendent Skop to remain Superintendent of District 15.

Sincerely,



Shahana Hanif  
NYC Council Member  
Council District 39



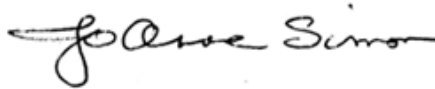
Jabari Brisport  
NYS Senator  
SD 25



Zellnor Myrie  
NYS Senator  
SD 20



Robert Carroll  
NYS Assemblymember  
AD 44



Jo Anne Simon  
NYS Assemblymember  
AD 52



Marcela Mitaynes  
NYS Assemblymember  
AD 51



Alexa Aviles  
NYC Council Member  
District 38



Lincoln Restler  
NYC Council Member  
District 33