



# Community District Education Council 26

## New York City Department of Education

*Address:* 61-15 Oceania Street, Bayside, NY 11364    *Phone:* (718) 631-6927    *Fax:* (718) 631-1347    *E-mail:* CEC26@schools.nyc.gov

<b>Albert Suhu</b> <i>President of the Council</i>	<b>Cassandra Louie</b> <i>First Vice- President</i>	<b>Sae-Jung Lee</b> <i>Second Vice President</i>	<b>Dennis Chan</b> <i>Recording Secretary</i>	<b>Hsuante (Louis) Tsai</b> <i>Treasurer</i>
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### Approved Resolution Urging Members of the Panel for Education Policy to Exercise Professional Responsibility in Voting on the SHSAT Request for Authorization

**Approved December 12, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, in 1972 the Hecht-Calandra Act required, “Admissions to The Bronx High School of Science, Stuyvesant High School and Brooklyn Technical High School and such similar further special high schools which may be established shall be solely and exclusively by taking a competitive, objective and scholastic achievement examination, which shall be open to each and every child in the City of New York”<sup>i</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the most recent contract to develop the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT) has expired, and the New York City Department of Education (DOE) has selected a vendor for award of a follow-on contract in accordance with DOE Procurement Policy and Procedures through a Request for Proposal (RFP) issued in the Fall 2023<sup>ii</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, DOE Procurement Policies and Procedures govern the involvement of the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) for certain contract approvals, e.g. - “the value of such contract exceeds, or projects an annual expenditure exceeding, one million dollars”<sup>iii</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the DOE has scheduled a Request for Authorization to be considered for approval of the proposed follow-on contract at the Dec 18, 2024 Panel for Educational Policy meeting<sup>iv</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been efforts by the previous mayor and state legislators to eliminate the SHSAT as the sole criteria for admissions, believing the SHSAT reduces diversity in these schools, and current members of the PEP reportedly oppose award of the proposed follow-on contract based on the same ideological grounds<sup>v</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, DOE Procurement Policies and Procedures states: “members of the Panel for Educational Policy shall place professional responsibilities above personal interests”<sup>vi</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the stated purpose of the DOE Procurement Policies and Procedures is, “to guard against favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud, and corruption; to ensure that contracts are awarded consistent with law and on the basis of best value, including, but not limited to maximum quality, lowest cost or lowest possible cost, and efficiency”<sup>vii</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, on the contrary, the stated reasons of the opposition to the proposed contract by certain PEP members are not related to the objective criteria by which they should evaluate the proposed contract; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, Community Education Council 26 demands that the members of the PEP who do not “place professional responsibilities above personal interests” to recuse themselves from voting on the SHSAT Request for Authorization.

*During the CEC26 meeting held on December 12, 2024, the resolution was reviewed and unanimously approved by all members in attendance.*

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.gothamgazette.com/government/5392-the-history-of-new-york-citys-special-high-schools-timeline>

<sup>ii</sup> [https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/data/contracts-agendac5e42b19-b471-4be6-aac5-6985c414342d.pdf?sfvrsn=2cdf075e\\_1](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/data/contracts-agendac5e42b19-b471-4be6-aac5-6985c414342d.pdf?sfvrsn=2cdf075e_1)

<sup>iii</sup> <https://infohub.nyced.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/departmentofeducationprocurementpolicyandprocedures.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/panel-for-education-policy/panel-meetings>

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2024/10/17/nyc-specialized-high-school-admissions-test-shsat-could-go-digital/>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://infohub.nyced.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/departmentofeducationprocurementpolicyandprocedures.pdf>

<sup>vii</sup> *ibid.*