



Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

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Albert Suhu <i>President of the Council</i>	Todd Friedman <i>First Vice- President</i>	Cassandra Louie <i>Second Vice President</i>	Adriana Aviles <i>Recording Secretary</i>	Dennis Chan <i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Council Members:</i>				
Norman Cohn	Sulinda Hong		Danielle Giunta	
Dilip Nath	Taeho Hwang		Community Superintendent	
Jennifer Catherall			District 26	

Resolution to Extend Mayoral Accountability for the Department of Education

Approved on May 12, 2022

WHEREAS, mayoral candidates typically appeal to the electorate by establishing a campaign platform that includes education policy, and election by popular vote implies the majority of the electorate supports the incoming mayor’s proposed education policies; and

WHEREAS, New York City Charter Chapter 1 §8a states, “The mayor shall be responsible for the effectiveness and integrity of city government operations and shall establish and maintain such policies and procedures as are necessary and appropriate to accomplish this responsibility including the implementation of effective systems of internal control by each agency and unit under the jurisdiction of the mayor.”¹; and

WHEREAS, New York City Charter Chapter 1 §4 states, “The mayor shall hold office for a term of four years”²; and

WHEREAS, measurable effects of policy changes are generally not observable over short periods of time, i.e. – 1 or 2 years³; and

WHEREAS, the previous mayor in a candidate statement submitted in Jun 2013 promised, “Parental engagement will be a key element to my administration. As a public school parent, I understand the importance of parental engagement at the school, community and system level.”⁴; and further

WHEREAS, the previous mayor also stated he planned to, “Raise the level of significance of the CEC's. The Panel for Educational Policy must address the PEP's vote on major school utilization changes in their PEP meetings. They must state why they disagree with the local CEC and work with the local CEC for alternative solutions.”⁵; and

WHEREAS, the 8-year record of the previous mayor markedly contradicts his claims of elevating the importance of parent engagement and considering CEC input on major changes to education policy; and

WHEREAS, in contrast to the previous administration, the current Chancellor has participated in numerous Town Halls hosted by CECs, and has demonstrated a measure of accountability by genuinely recording the issues raised, providing points of contact, and following up; and

¹ <https://nyccharter.readthedocs.io/c01/index.html>

² *Ibid.*

³ <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/148748/1/861283775.pdf>

⁴ <https://nyckidspac.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/NYC-Kids-PAC-Questionnaire-Bill-de-Blasio.pdf>

⁵ *Ibid.*

WHEREAS, prior to modifying and restoring the cancelled Gifted & Talented program on April 14, 2022, the Chancellor arranged for the Chancellor’s Parent Advisory Council and Citywide and Community Education Councils to provide input on program design in a dialogue hosted by the Deputy Chancellor of Family and Community Engagement & External Affairs on March 24, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on Apr 26, 2022, Family and Community Engagement & External Affairs arranged a Focus Group on School Quality hosted by the Office of Policy and Evaluation and the Office of Post-Secondary Readiness to obtain feedback to improve the School Quality Snapshot, the Quality Review, and the NYC School Survey; and

WHEREAS, on Apr 29, 2022, the Deputy Chancellor of School Leadership briefed the CPAC and CECs on plans to provide CECs greater involvement in the selection of district superintendents; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2022, the New York Daily News reported the Department of Education is implementing a major organizational change by closing borough support offices and shifting power and responsibility to district superintendents⁶; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CEC 26 strongly urges the New York State Legislature to extend mayoral accountability for the New York City Department of Education to Jun 30, 2026, renewable for periods of 4 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC 26 requires the Chancellor to formalize a process to continue soliciting input and feedback from the Chancellor’s Parent Advisory Council and Citywide and Community Education Councils, as the primary stakeholders, prior to finalizing and implementing major policy changes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC 26 requires the Chancellor to uphold his promise that in recognition “there is no one-size-fits-all solution,” community districts be granted greater autonomy to determine and/or tailor policies at the district level.

Community Education Council District 26 approved this resolution on May 12, 2022, monthly meeting by 6 Yes, 3 No and 1 abstain. Members Present: Norman Cohn, Dilip Nath, Todd Friedman, Adriana Aviles, Albert Suhu, Dennis Chan, Sulinda Hong, Taeho Hwang, Jennifer Catherall, and Cassandra Louie.

Vote: Yes: Adriana Aviles, Albert Suhu, Dennis Chan, Dilip Nath, Norman Cohn & Sulinda Hong

No: Cassandra Louie, Taeho Hwang & Todd Friedman

Abstain: Jennifer Catherall

⁶ <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/ny-doe-bureaucratic-reorg-role-of-superintendent-20220507-r4ltlx2qndwjpwpxp52a7ey6jm-story.html>