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April 7, 2009

Community Education Council 2
333 7th Avenue
New York, New York 10001

Dear Community Education Council 2 Members,

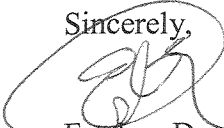
Thank you for taking the time to draft and pass your Resolution # 21, *Department of Education's disregard for role of Community Education Councils*. Resolutions are a vital form of communication and we appreciate your decision to inform us of your preferences.

Let me begin by responding to your concerns in changes to allow for a "straw vote" in the Selection Process. This change was made after listening to parental input and will provide the parental selectors (PA/PTA President, Secretary and Treasurer) with a tool to more accurately assess which candidates their respective parent bodies think are best suited to serve on the CEC. The "straw vote" will not dilute the Parent Selector vote as the final decision is still theirs to make. The purpose of the "straw vote" is to involve a greater number of parents in the process while adhering to the law.

Your comments about special education students will be forwarded to the Office of Special Education Initiatives so they can be aware of your concerns. Lastly, please note that the Department, through the use of Progress Reports, Quality Reviews, Learning Environment Surveys and other accountability tools, has worked objectively to inform the public of the current educational achievement levels of schools. These tools, along with formal and informal input from parent leader groups, such as your Council, are included in making final decisions to close, open or site schools and respect all zoning laws.

Your time and dedication to the students of NYC Public Schools is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Esteban Duran

Community Education Council Specialist
cc: Linda Wernikoff, Executive Director
Office of Special Education Initiatives

Resolution #21
Community Education Councils

Whereas, the City School District of the City of New York and the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of New York, both a/k/a the New York City Department of Education (hereinafter "DOE"), are creatures of the State of New York established and controlled by New York State Education Law ("Education Law"), Part 52-A, §§ 2590 et seq.; and

Whereas, Community District Education Councils ("DCEC") were established by Education Law § 2590-c, which states that "Each community district shall be governed by a community district education council" with such powers and duties established by Education Law § 2590-e and other relevant provisions of law; and

Whereas, the City-wide Council on Special Education ("CCSE") was established by Education Law § 2590-b; and

Whereas, the Citywide Council on High Schools ("CCHS") was established by Chancellor's Regulation D-160; and

Whereas, the aforementioned DCEC, CCSE, and CCHS (collectively, "CEC's") together constitute an important elected parent voice regarding DOE policies as well as possessing specific powers and duties under multiple provisions of law; and

Whereas, the Mayor of the City of New York, the Chancellor of the DOE, and their subordinate agencies and offices have regularly and illegally disregarded and manipulated the mandated role of CEC's to be notified, consulted, and included in DOE decision-making, thus be it

RESOLVED, that the hereunder CECS and/or individual Members denounce the Mayor's and Chancellor's disregard for our legally constituted parent voices raised on behalf of New York City's over one million public school students, and be it further

RESOLVED, that specifically, we now declare that:

The DOE is in breach of the CEC's mandate to responsibly bring about the closings, siting, and zoning of schools to best serve the children and communities of the City of New York and is in violation of the process required for such matters as mandated by Education Law § 2590-h and such other provisions of law; and .

The "straw vote" recently superimposed by the Chancellor onto the process for electing Members to the CEC's is lacking in transparency, impossible to validate, undemocratic, and an expensive waste of time. It is further resolved that the banning of School leadership Team members from running for election to the CEC, is undemocratic, unacceptable, is inconsistent with established precedent, would greatly diminish the potential strength of the CEC's; and

The DOE is inadequately serving the needs of students requiring special education, as mandated by State and Federal law, and is thus acting in a discriminatory and negligent manner toward a large population of students; and

The DOE should restructure the former role of District Special Education Services supervisor whereby parents and students will have a local authority responsible for educating parents and students of services available to them, and to direct these families to the proper advocates, to communicate with principals, to ensure that all facilities have the appropriate classrooms and support for these students; and

The CEC is resolved to restore the superintendent to our district thereby offering support to the principals, cohesion to the districts and supervision for instruction, the most valuable asset, and right our children have: and be it further

RESOLVED, the Community Educational Council of District 2 joins with the public school parents across the city and their representatives on all Community Education Councils for all Districts in fighting for quality public school education through greater parent participation in New York's public schools and to end the disrespect for organized parent voices so far demonstrated by the Mayor and the Chancellor.

Adopted and Approved by CECD2 on March 12, 2009