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COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

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June 25, 2009

Hon. Michael Bloomberg
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Mr. Joel Klein, Chancellor
NYC Board of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Michael Markowitz, Vice Pres.
Community Education Council, District 2
333 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10001

Dear Mayor Bloomberg, and Chancellor Klein:

At its Full Board meeting June 18, 2009 Community Board #2, Manhattan, adopted the following resolution:

Mayoral Control of the Public Schools

And whereas the final legislation may take many forms, but whatever the specifics the following seems essential to correct current problems:

1. An independent budget office established and funded outside the DOE
2. An independent data office so that information regarding test scores, class size, capacity, graduation rates and so on be forthcoming and trustworthy.
3. A parental grievance procedure that is responsive, quick, and free of favoritism
4. Fixed terms and more equitable representation for the citywide Public Education Policy (PEP) group, so no public official can remove them at will. The PEP must embody cooperation and accountability, and must include current parents and teachers. One possibility: a chair and four members appointed by the mayor, and an appointee from the five Boro Presidents, the Comptroller, the Public Advocate, the City Council.
5. Empowerment of CECs on zoning, new schools, closed schools, school report cards, and space for charter schools.
6. Empowerment of the 32 District Superintendents who should be accountable and responsible for effective education within their districts.

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board Two urges our elected officials to pass legislation that enshrines a partnership between the Mayor, other elected officials, and those directly involved in the schools (teachers and parents). The new law must include parental input, transparency, administrative effectiveness, checks and balances on the DOE and the Mayor, accountability at every level, and redress of parental concerns.

Vote: Unanimous, with 34 Board members in favor

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely



Brad Hoylman, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Keen Berger, Chair
Social Services Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

BH/gh

cc: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Thomas K. Duane, NYS Senator
Hon. Deborah Glick, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Scott Stringer, Man. Borough President
Hon. Christine Quinn, Council Speaker
Hon. Alan J. Gerson, Council Member
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
Angelica Crane, Community Board Liaison, MBPO
Manhattan Director, Lolita Jackson, CAU