

# ***COMMUNITY BOARD 11 QUEENS***

## **RESOLUTION ON SCHOOL GOVERNANCE**

**Whereas**, the School Governance Law for New York City will expire in June, 2009 and the New York State Legislature will be debating the continuance of Mayoral Control of the schools, and

**Whereas**, The Commission on School Governance was formed by the Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum to solicit input on the future of NYC Public Schools, and

**Whereas**, the CB 11 Education Committee reviewed the Final Report of the Commission on School Governance and made additional recommendations, and therefore,

**Be it resolved**, that Community Board 11 voted to approve the following recommendations to the School Governance Law for New York City:

1. The Mayor should continue to appoint the Chancellor and eight out of eighteen members of the Panel on Educational Policy. The other ten members of the Panel on Educational Policy shall be appointed two each, by the Borough Presidents. At least one of each Borough President's appointees shall be a parent of a child (i) who attends a New York City K-12 Public School at the time or (ii) who attended a New York City K-12 Public School within the previous five years.
2. Member of the Panel on Educational Policy should serve for fixed terms of four years and be removable only for cause in order to ensure their independence.
3. The Panel on Education Policy should approve all policies that relate to organizational structure, education standards, the executive and capital budget, collective bargaining agreements, and contracts that exceed a certain amount (as designated by the New York State Legislature).
4. The Panel on Education policy should select a chair from its own membership. The Chancellor should serve as an Ex Officio member of the Panel.

5. The Department of Education should be required to abide by the rules of the Procurement Policy Board in contracting for services as defined by the City Charter. The Legislature should affirm that the City Comptroller has the same audit powers over the Department of Education as pertain to City Agencies, but this power should not negate the prerogatives assigned to the State Comptroller in State Law.
6. The Independent Budget Office for the City of New York should be given explicit responsibility to report on the performance of the Department of Education.
7. The State Legislature should set standards, based on the principles established in the Budget and Reform Act of 2007, for meaningful public input prior to initial formulation of education policies and practices at the citywide, community and school levels.
8. The Panel on Education Policy should be required to hold well-publicized monthly public meetings on matters under its consideration with adequate public notice and ample opportunity for public input.
9. School District Offices headed by Community Superintendents should be re-established and adequately staffed to oversee the schools as provided by State law within the boundaries of respective districts and provide information to parents.
10. Each school district shall have an elected Community School Board of nine members with two year terms and stand for election every two years in the general elections in November (in odd numbered years). These would be non-partisan positions with operating expenses funded out of the office of the District Superintendent. The Chancellor shall engage in meaningful consultation with Community School Boards in selecting District Superintendents for their respective districts and they shall retain a formal role in evaluating the Superintendent on an annual basis. The Chancellor shall engage in meaningful consultation with Community School Boards on a regular basis on all matters concerning the budget, education practices, and the opening and closing of schools in their respective Districts in a process that conforms to the standards established in recommendation 7 above.
11. School Leadership Teams (SLTs) must be re-invigorated at the school level to serve as a voice for parents and a resource for Principals, Teachers, and Administrators in the development of a comprehensive education plan tied to the School Budget.

Dated: January 5, 2009