



Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council

Tweed Courthouse *52 Chamber Street, New York 10007/Email: InfoCPACNYC@gmail.com

CPAC Parent Advisory Council Board

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May 12, 2022

Members of the NY State Senate and Assembly
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247 and 12248

Dear Members of the NY State Senate and Assembly,

The Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council represents all the Parent Associations and Parent-Teacher Associations in New York City, and through them all New York City public school parents and their families. In February, we emailed you a copy of [our resolution urging you to approve greater checks and balances on mayoral control in New York City](#). We are writing to you today to focus on one aspect of this resolution, which we hope will be included in your legislation on mayoral control: **The majority of the membership of the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) needs to be non-mayoral appointees so that the PEP is no longer a simple rubber stamp of the Mayor and Chancellor.**

Currently the PEP is made up of 15 appointed members, 9 of whom are mayoral appointees. Each borough president appoints one member, and the CEC presidents (representing Pre-K to Grade 8 parents) elect one. High school parents have no voice and no representation. This composition has created a PEP which simply signs off on anything proposed by the Mayor or Chancellor. It is well understood within the broader school community that comments by elected Education Council, Presidents' Council, or CPAC representatives or by individuals after waiting many hours either in person or on zoom calls at PEP meetings will have NO impact on votes taken at PEP meetings. On the very rare occasions that mayoral appointees have been swayed by public comments or their own conscience, the appointees have usually been fired within hours of their vote.

CPAC has long argued that the PEP needs to act as a check on mayoral control. If an initiative, proposal, or contract cannot gain the assent of at least one non-mayoral appointee, then we believe the initiative, proposal, or contract needs additional review and likely revision.

As we noted in our February resolution, we believe that the PEP should be composed of 9 mayoral appointees, 5 borough presidents' appointees, one appointee from the Public Advocate, one appointee from the Comptroller, one member elected by the Citywide/Community Education Council presidents (including the Citywide Council on High Schools), and two members elected from CPAC.

With much appreciation,

The Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council

Approved by the membership at its May 12, 2022 meeting

Cc: Chancellor David Banks, Mayor Eric Adams