



## Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council

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### **CPAC Parent Advisory Council Board**

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December 08, 2022

New York State Senate  
New York State Assembly

Dear NYS Legislature:

The Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council (CPAC) membership consists of the president of each Presidents' Council in the city (5 boroughs), all 32 school districts, District 75 Council and High School Borough Presidents Councils/Federations who serve their communities as unpaid volunteers, who have been elected or appointed to serve the stakeholders across the city, representing 1.1 million public school students, including children who are receiving special education services and who are English Language Learners.

The following resolution offers CPAC's position regarding the current Open Meetings Law:

### **RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW TO ALLOW FOR FLEXIBILITY OF CONDUCTING PUBLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT) MEETINGS**

**WHEREAS**, all schools are required to have a form of school-based management called a School Leadership Team, or SLT (New York State Education Law Section 2590-h). Administrators, teachers, and parents comprise the SLT, which meets monthly; and

**WHEREAS** School Leadership Teams (SLT's) are a group of people who develop educational policies for their school. They also make sure there are resources to support those policies.; and

**WHEREAS**, SLT's must hold at least one public meeting per month and actively participate. All SLT members must communicate regularly with the members of their school community in an ongoing and meaningful way; and

**WHEREAS**, since the Governor has ended the Executive Order, many public bodies are required to go back to in-person meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, under the existing Open Meetings Law, public bodies may allow their members to attend meetings via videoconferencing. However, the sites from which members attend virtually must be open to the public. This prevents members of a public body from attending meetings virtually from their homes unless there are extraordinary circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, synchronous hybrid meetings where a public body meets in person with some members of the public attending virtually present technological challenges, particularly when members of the public attending virtually are not simply observing but are also allowed to speak. Most school buildings are not equipped for this type of hybrid meetings and conducting hybrid meetings requires additional staff who manages the technology and equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Open Meetings Law remains outdated and should be amended to include some level of flexibility and discretion to allow each council to manage meetings to best suit the needs of their members and community; and

**WHEREAS**, allowing members of the SLT the flexibility to attend meetings in person, fully virtual or hybrid, will create more inclusive community participation/involvement, especially for members who are also parents and/or caregivers of young children; and

**WHEREAS**, public bodies shall make or cause to be made all reasonable efforts to ensure that meetings are held in facilities that permit barrier-free physical access to the physically handicapped, as defined in subdivision five of section fifty of the public buildings law; and

**WHEREAS**, many New York City Public Schools are not ADA compliant; and

**WHEREAS**, under certain conditions, such as a rise of COVID infections and/or inclement weather, the SLT should have the ability to shift the meeting to a fully virtual platform to avoid not meeting quorum and/or limiting the SLT's ability to perform its duties; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that we strongly urge the Legislature to to review and amend the Open Meetings Law; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Open Meetings Law should allow for flexibility of each SLT to manage its meetings in person, fully virtual or hybrid to best suit the needs of its members and community stakeholders.

Approved at the December 08, 2022 CPAC meeting.