

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A NEW CHANCELLOR REGULATION CLOSING SCHOOLS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS AT ALL DISTRICT 75 VOTER POLLING SITES FOR ANY AND ALL ELECTIONS GOVERNED BY THE NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

-RESOLUTION CECD75 (17-19)(02)(18.06.20)-

THE CITYWIDE EDUCATION COUNCIL FOR DISTRICT 75, DURING ITS CALENDAR MEETING OF JUNE 20, 2018, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND RATIFIED RESOLUTION CECD75 (17-19)(02)(18.06.20), AT COURT SQUARE CONFERENCE CENTER, 45-18 COURT SQUARE, LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11101.

THE RESOLUTION READS AS FOLLOWS:

Whereas, District 75 is a specialized school district comprising of approximately 25,000 students with moderate to severe physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities;

Whereas, District 75 school sites are located across all the five boroughs of New York City and in Syosset, NY;

Whereas, most District 75 school programs are administered to students in Public Schools;

Whereas, District 75 schools sites have additional, specific safety protocols in place due to the different disabilities of the students who are served;

Whereas, New York City Public Schools are used as voter polling sites throughout the five boroughs of New York City for general, primary and special elections;

Whereas, the principal authority for selecting voter polling sites in the City of New York is, **The Board of Elections in the City of New York**, Executive Office, 32 Broadway, New York, NY 10004-1609

Whereas, the **Citywide Education Council for District 75**, through its standing Committee on Busing and School Safety (herein "The Committee") received information regarding significant breaches of security during the past primary election in 2017, which placed District 75 students and staff at imminent risk to their health, safety and wellbeing;

Whereas, The Committee alerted Mr. **Ketler Louissaint, Superintendent of District 75**, regarding breaches in Security at the polling site(s), in a letter dated September 15, 2017, (*attached hereto as Exhibit 1*);

Whereas, The Committee researched the issue and authored an **Advisory Opinion**, dated September 26, 2017, and distributed the same to all interested stakeholders, including **The Board of Elections in the City of New York** (*attached hereto as Exhibit 2*);

Whereas, **The Board of Elections in the City of New York**, by and through its **General Council, Mr. Stephen H. Richman**, acknowledged said Advisory Opinion in a letter dated November 2, 2017 (*attached hereto as Exhibit 3*);

Whereas, **The Board of Elections in the City of New York**, by and through its **Executive Director, Mr. Michael J. Ryan**, sent follow-up correspondence to the Citywide Education Council for District 75 Committee on Busing and School Safety, dated January 2, 2018, outlining legislative efforts to change NYS Election Law as well as Chancellor Regulations in regards to school closure during instructional days (*attached hereto as Exhibit 4*);

Whereas, The Community Education Council for District 37 passed a resolution in 2014 addressing the use of public schools as voter polling sites during instructional days (*attached hereto as Exhibit 5 –only addresses District 75*);

Whereas, two bills currently re-committed in their respective Education Committees by the New York State Assembly (A6040B) and the New York State Senate (S4787A) seek to amend New York State Education Law §4-104 and §3604 which, if passed in their current form, would be insufficient to address the safety needs of District 75 students and will in fact maintain the dangers and imminent risks to the health, safety and wellbeing of District 75 students and staff;

Whereas, District 75, as of October 2017, has a total of 373 school sites, 48 are self-contained and 343 are co-located (excludes home-based, hospital based and institutional programs);

Whereas, The Board of Elections in the City of New York, is currently utilizing 152 District 75 school sites as voter polling centers for all elections (general, primary and any other election governed by *The Board of Elections in the City of New York*);

Whereas, all Public Schools are currently closed only for General Elections

The Citywide Education Council for District 75 hereby puts forth the following:

- I. **Let it be resolved that:** the Citywide Education Council for District 75 formally supports Proposal #17-3 outlined in the March 21, 2017 letter by the New York City Board of Elections, addressed to the Governor of the State of New York and to members of the State Legislature, proposing a new subdivision in Election Law 8-100 to read as follows:

“Notwithstanding, any other provision of law to the contrary, on any day on which a general election or primary election is conducted pursuant to subdivisions 1(a), 1(b), or 1(c) of this section, the public schools within such jurisdiction conducting primary election shall not conduct any classes or other activities within its buildings which require the presence of students enrolled herein”

- II. **Let it be resolved that:** the Citywide Education Council for District 75 formally supports a new Chancellor Regulation closing ALL self-contained and co-located District 75 school sites for instructional days designated as voter polling school sites for any and all elections governed by The New York City Board of Elections.

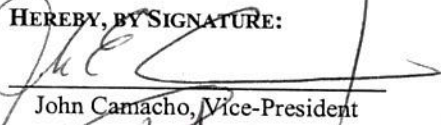
REFERENCES

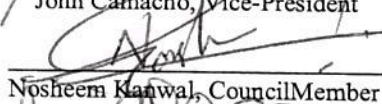
1. District 75 enrollment records
2. New York State Assembly Bill A6040B
3. New York State Senate Bill S4787A
4. New York State Election Law 8-100

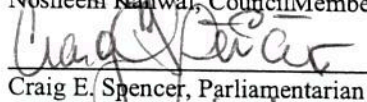
DOCUMENTATION

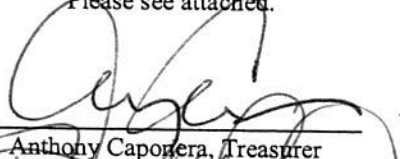
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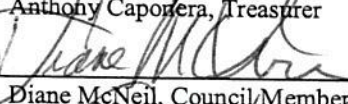
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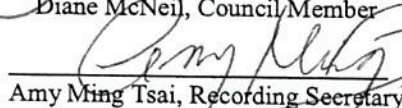

John Camacho, Vice-President


Nosheem Kanwal, Council Member

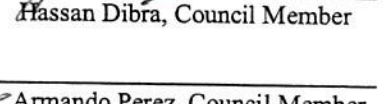

Craig E. Spencer, Parliamentarian

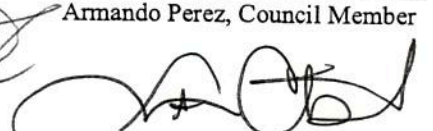

Anthony Caponera, Treasurer


Diane McNeil, Council Member


Amy Ming Tsai, Recording Secretary


Hassan Dibra, Council Member


Armando Perez, Council Member



Latisha Corbett, Council Member