

STATE OF NEW YORK

9459

IN SENATE

May 30, 2022

Introduced by Sen. LIU -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on New York City Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to school governance in the city of New York; to amend chapter 345 of the laws of 2009, amending the education law and other laws relating to the New York city board of education, chancellor, community councils, and community superintendents, in relation to the effectiveness thereof; to amend chapter 91 of the laws of 2002, amending the education law and other laws relating to reorganization of the New York city school construction authority, board of education, and community boards, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The section heading and subdivision 1 of section 2590-b of
2 the education law, as amended by chapter 345 of the laws of 2009, para-
3 graph (a) of subdivision 1 as amended by section 43-b of part YYY of
4 chapter 59 of the laws of 2019, are amended to read as follows:

5 Continuation of city board and establishment of community districts;
6 establishment of the city-wide councils on special education, English
7 language learners, ~~and~~ high schools, and district seventy-five. 1. (a)
8 The board of education of the city school district of the city of New
9 York is hereby continued.

10 (1) (A) Such board of education shall consist of thirteen appointed
11 members: one member to be appointed by each borough president of the
12 city of New York; and eight members to be appointed by the mayor of the
13 city of New York.

14 (B) Commencing on July first, two thousand twenty, the board of educa-
15 tion shall consist of fifteen members: one member to be appointed by
16 each borough president of the city of New York, one member to be elected
17 by community district education council presidents, and nine members to
18 be appointed by the mayor of the city of New York. On or before December
19 thirty-first, two thousand nineteen, the chancellor shall promulgate
20 regulations establishing a process for community district education
21 council presidents to elect a member of the board, and processes for

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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removal of such member and for the filling of such position in the event of a vacancy. The first member elected by community district education council presidents pursuant to such regulations shall take office on July first, two thousand twenty and shall serve a term that ends on June thirtieth, two thousand twenty-two. Thereafter, the member elected by community district education council presidents shall serve for a two year term commencing on July first.

(C) Commencing on August fifteenth, two thousand twenty-two, the board of education shall consist of twenty-three members: one member to be appointed by each borough president of the city of New York; five members, one from each borough of the city of New York, to be elected by community district education council presidents; and thirteen members to be appointed by the mayor of the city of New York. The term of the first member elected by community district education council presidents pursuant to clause (B) of this subparagraph shall be extended and end on August fourteenth, two thousand twenty-two. On or before July fifteenth, two thousand twenty-two, the chancellor shall promulgate regulations establishing a process for community district education council presidents to elect members of the board, and processes for removal of such members and for the filling of such positions in the event of a vacancy. All appointed members and members elected by the community education council presidents pursuant to such regulations shall take office on August fifteenth, two thousand twenty-two and shall serve a term that ends on June thirtieth, two thousand twenty-three. Thereafter, appointed members and the members elected by community district education council presidents shall serve for a one year term commencing on July first.

(2) The chancellor and comptroller of the city of New York shall serve as ~~[an]~~ ex-officio non-voting ~~[member]~~ members of the city board.

(3) The city board shall elect its own chairperson from among its voting members.

(4) All appointed members shall serve for ~~[terms coterminous with the terms of their appointing authority]~~ a one year term, provided that any member may be removed ~~[at the pleasure of]~~ for good cause, provided that voting against the appointing authority's direction shall not be cause for removal, by the appointing authority, who shall provide written notice to the member and public explaining the reasons therefor at least ten days in advance of the removal and provide the member a full and fair opportunity to refute such reasons before removal.

(5) Except for the chancellor, no board members shall be employed in any capacity by the city of New York, or a subdivision thereof, or the city board.

(6) No appointed or elected member of the city board shall also be a member, officer, or employee of any public corporation, authority, or commission where the mayor of the city of New York has a majority of the appointments.

(7) Each borough president's appointee shall be a resident of the borough for which the borough president appointing him or her was elected and shall be the parent of a child attending a public school within the city school district of the city of New York.

(8) Each mayoral appointee shall be a resident of the city and ~~[two]~~ four shall be parents of a child attending a public school within the city district, provided that at least one appointee shall be the parent of a child with an individualized education program, at least one appointee shall be the parent of a child who is in a bilingual or English as a second language program conducted pursuant to section thirty-two hundred four of this chapter, and at least one appointee shall be

1 the parent of a child who is attending a district seventy-five school or
2 program.

3 (9) All parent members shall be eligible to continue to serve on the
4 city board for two years following the conclusion of their child's
5 attendance at a public school within the city district.

6 (10) Any vacancy other than by an expiration of term shall be filled
7 by appointment by the appropriate appointing authority within ninety
8 days of such vacancy and shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired
9 term.

10 (11) Notwithstanding any provision of local law, the members of the
11 board shall not have staff, offices, or vehicles assigned to them or
12 receive compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for the
13 actual and necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of
14 their duties.

15 (12) Every appointed and elected member of the city board shall, with-
16 in the first three months of his or her term, complete a minimum of six
17 hours of training on the financial oversight, accountability and fiduci-
18 ary responsibilities of a city board member, as well as a training
19 course on the powers, functions and duties of the city board.

20 (b) The city board shall hold at least one regular public meeting per
21 month. At least one regular public meeting shall be held in each borough
22 of the city of New York per year; any additional meetings may be called
23 at the request of the chairperson. The city board shall consider appro-
24 priate public accommodations when selecting a venue so as to maximize
25 participation by parents and the community.

26 (c) (i) Notice of the time, place and agenda for all city board regu-
27 lar public meetings shall be publicly provided, including via the city
28 board's official internet web site, and specifically circulated to all
29 community superintendents, community district education councils, commu-
30 nity boards, and school based management teams, at least ten business
31 days in advance of such meeting.

32 (ii) A city board regular public meeting agenda shall be comprised of
33 a list and brief description of the subject matter being considered,
34 identification of all items subject to a city board vote, and the name,
35 office, address, email address and telephone number of a city district
36 representative, knowledgeable on the agenda, from whom any information
37 may be obtained and to whom written comments may be submitted concerning
38 items on such agenda.

39 (iii) A city board meeting that includes an item subject to a city
40 board vote related to approval of a school closure or significant change
41 in school utilization including the phase-out, grade reconfiguration,
42 re-siting, or co-location of a school pursuant to paragraph h of subdi-
43 vision one of section twenty-five hundred ninety-g of this article shall
44 be held in the borough of the city of New York where the school that is
45 subject to such proposed school closing or significant change in school
46 utilization is located.

47 (d) The chairperson of the city board shall ensure that at every regu-
48 lar public meeting there is a sufficient period of time to allow for
49 public comment on any topic on the agenda prior to any city board vote.

50 (e) Minutes of all city board regular public meetings shall be made
51 publicly available, including via the city board's official internet
52 website, in a timely manner but no later than the subsequent regular
53 city board meeting.

54 § 2. Subdivision 7 of section 2590-b of the education law is renum-
55 bered subdivision 8 and a new subdivision 7 is added to read as follows:

7. (a) There shall be a city-wide council on district seventy-five created pursuant to this section. The city-wide council for district seventy-five shall consist of eleven voting members and one non-voting member, as follows:

(i) nine voting members who shall be parents of students receiving city-wide special education services in a district seventy-five school or program to be selected by parents of students who receive such services pursuant to a representative process developed by the chancellor. Such members shall serve a two year term;

(ii) two voting members appointed by the public advocate of the city of New York, who shall be individuals with extensive experience and knowledge in the areas of educating, training or employing individuals with disabilities and who will make a significant contribution to improving special education in the city district. Such members shall serve a two year term; and

(iii) one non-voting member who is a high school senior appointed by the administrator designated by the chancellor to supervise district seventy-five schools and programs. Such member shall serve a one year term.

(b) The city-wide council on district seventy-five shall have the power to:

(i) advise and comment on any educational or instructional policy involving the provision of district seventy-five services;

(ii) issue an annual report on the effectiveness of the city district in providing services to district seventy-five students and make recommendations, as appropriate, on how to improve the efficiency and delivery of such services; and

(iii) hold at least one meeting per month open to the public and during which the public may discuss issues facing district seventy-five students.

(c) Vacancies shall be filled for an unexpired term by the city-wide council for district seventy-five, pursuant to a process developed by the chancellor that shall include consultation with parents of students attending district seventy-five schools or programs; provided, however, that where a vacancy occurs in a position appointed by the public advocate, the public advocate shall appoint a member to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

§ 3. Subdivisions 1, 4, 5 and 6 of section 2590-c of the education law, subdivision 1 as amended by section 43-c of part YY of chapter 59 of the laws of 2019, subdivisions 4 and 6 as amended by chapter 345 of the laws of 2009, subparagraph 2 of paragraph (b) of subdivision 6 as amended by chapter 103 of the laws of 2014 and subdivision 5 as amended by section 2 of subpart B of part II of chapter 55 of the laws of 2019, are amended to read as follows:

1. Each community district shall be governed by a community district education council. The community councils shall consist of ~~eleven~~ twelve voting members and ~~one~~ two non-voting ~~member~~ members, as follows:

(a) (1) For councils whose terms begin prior to two thousand twenty, nine voting members shall be parents whose children are attending a school or a pre-kindergarten program offered by a school under the jurisdiction of the community district, or have attended a school or a pre-kindergarten program offered by a school under the jurisdiction of the community district within the preceding two years, and shall be selected by the presidents and officers of the parents' association or parent-teachers' association. Such members shall serve for a term of two

1 years. Presidents and officers of parents' associations or parent-teach-
2 ers' associations who are candidates in the selection process pursuant
3 to this section shall not be eligible to cast votes in such selection
4 process. The association shall elect a member to vote in the place of
5 each such president or officer for the purposes of the selection proc-
6 ess. Provided, however, that a parent of a pre-kindergarten pupil shall
7 vacate his or her membership on such community district education coun-
8 cil where the parent no longer has a child that attends a school or
9 pre-kindergarten program offered by a school under the jurisdiction of
10 the community district.

11 (2) For councils whose terms begin in two thousand twenty-one and
12 thereafter, nine voting members shall be parents whose children are
13 attending a school or a pre-kindergarten program offered by a school
14 under the jurisdiction of the community district, or have attended a
15 school under the jurisdiction of the community district within the
16 preceding two years, and shall be elected by parents of children attend-
17 ing such schools and pre-kindergarten programs in accordance with a
18 process developed by the chancellor pursuant to subdivision eight of
19 this section. Provided, however, that a parent of a pre-kindergarten
20 pupil shall vacate his or her membership on such community district
21 education council when the parent no longer has a child that attends a
22 school or pre-kindergarten program offered by a school under the juris-
23 diction of the community district.

24 (b) Two voting members shall be appointed by the borough presidents
25 corresponding to such district. Such appointees shall be residents of,
26 or own or operate a business in, the district and shall be individuals
27 with extensive business, trade, or education experience and knowledge,
28 who will make a significant contribution to improving education in the
29 district. Such members shall serve for a term of two years.

30 (c) One voting member shall be a parent whose child is attending a
31 district seventy-five school or program, or has attended a district
32 seventy-five school or program within the preceding two years, and shall
33 be elected by parents of children attending such schools or programs in
34 accordance with a process developed by the chancellor. Such member
35 shall serve for a term of two years.

36 (d) Two non-voting [~~member~~] members who [~~is a~~] are high school
37 [~~senior~~] seniors residing in the district, shall be appointed by the
38 superintendent from among the elected student leadership. Such [~~member~~]
39 members shall serve for a one year term.

40 Members shall not be paid a salary or stipend, but shall be reimbursed
41 for all actual and necessary expenses directly related to the duties and
42 responsibilities of the community council.

43 4. Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, the communi-
44 ty district education council may appoint [~~a secretary~~] an administra-
45 tive assistant, pursuant to the policies of the city board, who shall
46 perform the following functions: (a) prepare meeting notices, agendas
47 and minutes; (b) record and maintain accounts of proceedings and other
48 council meetings; and (c) prepare briefing materials and other related
49 informational materials for such meetings. Each council shall be respon-
50 sible for the appointment, supervision, evaluation and discharge of the
51 [~~secretary~~] administrative assistant.

52 5. No person may serve on more than one community council or on the
53 city-wide council on special education, the city-wide council on English
54 language learners, [~~or~~] the city-wide council on high schools, or the
55 city-wide council on district seventy-five and a community council. A
56 member of a community council shall be ineligible to be employed by the

community council of which he or she is a member, any other community council, the city-wide council on special education, the city-wide council on English language learners, the city-wide council on high schools, the city-wide council on district seventy-five, or the city board. No person shall be eligible for membership on a community council if he or she holds any elective public office or any elective or appointed party position except that of delegate or alternate delegate to a national, state, judicial or other party convention, or member of a county committee.

A person may be permanently ineligible for appointment to any community district education council for any of the following: (a) an act of malfeasance directly related to his or her service on the city-wide council on special education, the city-wide council on English language learners, the city-wide council on high schools, the city-wide council on district seventy-five, community school board or community district education council; or (b) conviction of a crime, provided that any such conviction shall be considered in accordance with article twenty-three-A of the correction law.

Any decision rendered by the chancellor or the city board with respect to the eligibility or qualifications of the nominees for community district education councils must be written and made available for public inspection within seven days of its issuance at the office of the chancellor and the city board. Such written decision shall include the factual and legal basis for its issuance and a record of the vote of each board member who participated in the decision, if applicable.

6. (a) In addition to the conditions enumerated in the public officers law creating a vacancy, a member of a community district education council who refuses or neglects to attend three meetings of such council of which he or she is duly notified, without rendering in writing a good and valid excuse therefore vacates his or her office by refusal to serve. Each absence and any written excuse rendered shall be included within the official written minutes of such meeting. After the third unexcused absence the community council shall declare a vacancy to the chancellor.

(b) (1) Vacancies in positions that were not appointed by a borough president or elected by parents of children attending district seventy-five schools or programs shall be filled for an unexpired term by the community district education council after consultation with the presidents' council or other consultative body representing parents' associations and other educational groups within the district. Recommendations made by such parents and other educational groups shall be submitted in writing and included within the record of the meeting at which the vacancy is filled.

(2) If such vacancy results in the council not having at least one member who is a parent of a student who is an English language learner or who has been an English language learner within the preceding two years, or results in the council not having at least one member who is a parent of a student with an individualized education program, the community council shall select a parent having such qualifications to fill the vacancy.

(c) If the vacancy is not filled by the community council within sixty days after it is declared due to a tie vote for such appointment, the chancellor shall vote with the community council, to break such tie vote. If the community council has failed to fill the vacancy within sixty days after it is declared because of any other reason, the chan-

1 cellor shall order the community council to do so pursuant to section
2 twenty-five hundred ninety-1 of this article.

3 (d) Where a vacancy occurs in a position appointed by a borough presi-
4 dent, the borough president shall appoint a member to serve the remain-
5 der of the unexpired term.

6 (e) Where a vacancy occurs in a position elected by parents of chil-
7 dren attending district seventy-five schools or programs, the chancellor
8 shall develop a process for parents of children attending district
9 seventy-five schools or programs to select a member to serve the remain-
10 der of the unexpired term.

11 § 4. Subdivisions 7, 19 and 20 of section 2590-e of the education law,
12 subdivision 7 as amended and subdivision 19 as added by chapter 123 of
13 the laws of 2003, subdivision 20 as amended by section 43-a of part YY
14 of chapter 59 of the laws of 2019, are amended to read as follows:

15 7. participate in training and continuing education programs pursuant
16 to the provisions of this subdivision.

17 (1) Community district education council members shall participate in
18 training to acquaint them with the powers, functions and duties of
19 community council members, as well as the powers of other governing and
20 administering authorities that affect education including the powers of
21 the commissioner, city board, chancellor and community superintendents.
22 Such participation shall be completed no later than three months from
23 the date in which a community council member takes office for the first
24 time.

25 (2) Each community district education council member shall be required
26 to participate in continuing education programs on an annual basis as
27 defined by the chancellor. Participation in training pursuant to para-
28 graph one of this subdivision by a community district education council
29 member who takes office for the first time shall be deemed to satisfy
30 the requirements of this subdivision for the first year of such member's
31 term.

32 (3) such training and continuing education programs shall be approved
33 by the chancellor, following consultation with the commissioner, and may
34 be provided by the state education department, the city board, the chan-
35 cellor or a nonprofit provider authorized by the chancellor to provide
36 such training and continuing education programs.

37 (4) the chancellor is authorized to promulgate regulations regarding
38 providers and their certification, the content and implementation of the
39 training and continuing education programs. Any such regulations shall
40 be developed after consultation with the commissioner.

41 (5) such training and continuing education programs shall be offered
42 by the chancellor on an annual basis or more frequently, as needed, to
43 enable community council members to comply with this subdivision.

44 (6) failure of community council members to comply with the training
45 and continuing education requirements mandated by this subdivision shall
46 constitute cause for removal from office pursuant to section twenty-five
47 hundred ninety-1 of this article.

48 19. Liaison with school leadership teams as may be necessary ~~[and]~~,
49 provide assistance to the school leadership teams where possible, and
50 serve on the district leadership team by designating a representative.

51 20. Consult on the selection of a community superintendent pursuant to
52 subdivision thirty of section twenty-five hundred ninety-h of this arti-
53 cle. Such consultation shall include an opportunity for the community
54 council to ~~[meet with the final candidate or]~~ interview a minimum of
55 three final candidates the chancellor is considering appointing and to

1 provide feedback to the chancellor, which may include a ranked list of
2 such candidates, prior to the appointment being made.

3 § 5. Paragraph (h) of subdivision 1 and subdivision 10 of section
4 2590-g of the education law, paragraph (h) of subdivision 1 as amended
5 by section 43-f of part YY of chapter 59 of the laws of 2019, subdivi-
6 sion 10 as added by chapter 345 of the laws of 2009, are amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (h) approve proposals for all school closures or significant changes
9 in school utilization including the phase-out, grade reconfiguration,
10 re-siting, or co-location of schools, following any hearing pursuant to
11 subdivision two-a of section twenty-five hundred ninety-h of this arti-
12 cle. If the city board approves such a proposal that the relevant commu-
13 nity council affirmatively voted against pursuant to subdivision twen-
14 ty-one of section twenty-five hundred ninety-e of this article, the
15 board shall provide such council an explanation for its determination
16 within thirty days of such determination.

17 10. Respond, at a regular public meeting, to the recommendations
18 raised in the annual reports issued by the city-wide council on special
19 education, the city-wide council on English language learners [~~and~~], the
20 city-wide council on high schools and the city-wide council on district
21 seventy-five.

22 § 6. Subparagraph (v) of paragraph (c) of subdivision 15 of section
23 2590-h of the education law, as amended by chapter 345 of the laws of
24 2009, is amended and a new paragraph (d) is added to read as follows:

25 (v) access to information regarding programs that allow students to
26 apply for admission where appropriate to schools outside a student's own
27 attendance zone[~~+~~]; and

28 (d) require each public school under the chancellor's jurisdiction to
29 have a parent coordinator who shall be responsible for engaging with and
30 involving parents in the school community by working with the school
31 principal, school personnel, school based management team, parent asso-
32 ciations, and community groups to identify parent and related school and
33 community issues. The community district education council of each
34 school shall be consulted prior to the selection of the parent coordina-
35 tor. Such consultation shall include an opportunity for the community
36 district education council to meet with the final candidate or candi-
37 dates the school principal is considering selecting and to provide feed-
38 back to the principal prior to the selection being made.

39 § 7. Section 2590-h of the education law is amended by adding a new
40 subdivision 56 to read as follows:

41 56. Render written responses to resolutions passed by the city-wide
42 education councils and community district education councils within
43 thirty days of receipt.

44 § 8. 1. The commissioner of education shall conduct a comprehensive
45 review and assessment of the overall effectiveness of the city of New
46 York's school governance system. Such review and assessment shall
47 include a study of school governance models and best practices utilized
48 by other school districts. The commissioner of education shall contract
49 with an institute of higher education to assist in conducting such
50 review and assessment.

51 2. The commissioner of education shall hold at least one public hear-
52 ing in each borough of the city of New York and engage and solicit input
53 from a broad and diverse range of stakeholders and other interested
54 parties, including but not limited to students, parents, teachers,
55 administrators, staff and individuals with experience and expertise in
56 education policy and school governance.

1 3. The commissioner of education shall issue a report to the governor,
2 the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly
3 of its findings and recommendations on or before December 1, 2023.

4 § 9. Subdivision 12 of section 17 of chapter 345 of the laws of 2009
5 amending the education law and other laws relating to the New York city
6 board of education, chancellor, community councils, and community super-
7 intendants, as amended by section 43 of part YY of chapter 59 of the
8 laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

9 12. any provision in sections one, two, three, four, five, six, seven,
10 eight, nine, ten and eleven of this act not otherwise set to expire
11 pursuant to section 34 of chapter 91 of the laws of 2002, as amended, or
12 section 17 of chapter 123 of the laws of 2003, as amended, shall expire
13 and be deemed repealed June 30, [~~2022~~] 2024.

14 § 10. Section 34 of chapter 91 of the laws of 2002 amending the educa-
15 tion law and other laws relating to reorganization of the New York city
16 school construction authority, board of education, and community boards,
17 as amended by section 42 of part YY of chapter 59 of the laws of 2019,
18 is amended to read as follows:

19 § 34. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002; provided, that sections
20 one through twenty, twenty-four, and twenty-six through thirty of this
21 act shall expire and be deemed repealed June 30, [~~2022~~] 2024 provided,
22 further, that notwithstanding any provision of article 5 of the general
23 construction law, on June 30, [~~2022~~] 2024 the provisions of subdivisions
24 3, 5, and 8, paragraph b of subdivision 13, subdivision 14, paragraphs
25 b, d, and e of subdivision 15, and subdivisions 17 and 21 of section
26 2554 of the education law as repealed by section three of this act,
27 subdivision 1 of section 2590-b of the education law as repealed by
28 section six of this act, paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section
29 2590-b of the education law as repealed by section seven of this act,
30 section 2590-c of the education law as repealed by section eight of this
31 act, paragraph c of subdivision 2 of section 2590-d of the education law
32 as repealed by section twenty-six of this act, subdivision 1 of section
33 2590-e of the education law as repealed by section twenty-seven of this
34 act, subdivision 28 of section 2590-h of the education law as repealed
35 by section twenty-eight of this act, subdivision 30 of section 2590-h of
36 the education law as repealed by section twenty-nine of this act, subdi-
37 vision 30-a of section 2590-h of the education law as repealed by
38 section thirty of this act shall be revived and be read as such
39 provisions existed in law on the date immediately preceding the effec-
40 tive date of this act; provided, however, that sections seven and eight
41 of this act shall take effect on November 30, 2003; provided further
42 that the amendments to subdivision 25 of section 2554 of the education
43 law made by section two of this act shall be subject to the expiration
44 and reversion of such subdivision pursuant to section 12 of chapter 147
45 of the laws of 2001, as amended, when upon such date the provisions of
46 section four of this act shall take effect.

47 § 11. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that the amend-
48 ments to sections 2590-b, 2590-c, 2590-e, 2590-g and 2590-h of the
49 education law made by sections one, two, three, four, five, six and
50 seven of this act shall not affect the expiration or repeal of such
51 provisions and shall expire and be deemed repealed therewith.