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Contracts for Excellence Resolution

Whereas, in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case Judge Leland deGrasse concluded that NYC students were deprived of their constitutional right to an adequate education as a result of large class sizes;

Whereas, the Contracts for Excellence law passed in 2007 required NYC to reduce class size in all grades in return for receiving billions of dollars in additional state aid;

Whereas, smaller classes has been the top priority of parents on the DOE Learning Environment survey every year it has been given, and 86% of NYC principals say they are unable to provide a quality education because of excessive class size;

Whereas, in 2007, the DOE submitted a class size reduction plan calling for average class sizes of no more 20 in grades K-3; 23 in 4-8th and 25 in HS;

Whereas, DOE has received more than a billion dollars in total C4E funds since 2007; but class sizes have risen sharply in all grades since then:

Whereas, this year, the final year of the city's 5-yr mandated reduction plan, class sizes are expected to be the largest in eleven years in the early grades;

Whereas, the state and the city scheduled C4E presentations this year after the funds had already been allocated, contrary to the intent of the law;

Whereas, there was a pre-approval process, in which DOE submitted its plan to the state education department before any public input had occurred, also contrary to the intent of the law;

Whereas, the city has refused to hold borough hearings, as required by law, instead providing only brief and inadequate power point presentations before CECs, with insufficient public notice;

Whereas, the city and the state have a moral and legal obligation to provide the smaller classes that the state's highest court said was necessary for NYC children to receive their right to a sound basic education;

Be it resolved, that Community Education Council District 20 raises its voice in objection to the failure of the NYC DOE to comply with the Contracts for Excellence law, either in terms of the required public process or the results in class size; and

Be it resolved, that the City Council should hold annual hearings to review the NYC DOE's compliance with the Contracts for Excellence law and

Be it resolved, that the NY State Education Department should immediately require that DOE use all available funds to hire more teachers and reduce class sizes from now on, including the \$504 million in C4E funds provided this year.

Submitted on this date, the 9th day of November 2011 by:

Community Education Council District 20 Resolution passed unanimously.