

Community Education Council District 28

Resolution: *Condemning Extremist Organizations and Affirming the Commitment to Inclusivity within District 28 and in the NYC Department of Education*

April 4th, 2024

Sponsor: Vijah Ramjattan (President)

Co-Sponsor: Kalyanaram Gurumurthy, Julie Suh, Nathifa Lewis, Quentin Mezetin,

WHEREAS New York City Public Schools (“NYCPS”) is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and equitable learning environment for all students, irrespective of their background, race, ethnicity, religion, or beliefs; and

WHEREAS NYCPS stands firm in its commitment to safeguarding the values of diversity, tolerance, and respect among its students, families, and staff; and

WHEREAS, it has come to our attention that there are National Organizations that promote divisive activities and ideologies including but are not limited to advocacy of segregation of LGBTQ and special needs learners, anti-gender promotion, indifference to excellence and merit; and

WHEREAS these activities and ideologies not only threaten the principles of inclusivity and equity that the NYPSC holds dear but also have the potential to undermine the sense of belonging and safety that all students and staff should experience in our educational system; and

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of NYCPS to protect its students and staff from any form of harm, whether physical or emotional, and to create an environment that fosters learning, empathy, and mutual understanding; and

WHEREAS it is essential for NYCPS to demonstrate strong leadership by denouncing extremist ideologies and organizations that seek to undermine these values.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. CEC 28 condemns in the strongest terms any ideology that promotes extremism, division, exclusion, inequity, and violence;
2. CEC 28 demands that NYCPS reaffirms its commitment to inclusivity, equity, and diversity among its students, families, and staff by condemning in the strongest terms the

ideologies promoted by extremist organizations;

3. CEC 28 asks that NYCPS provide the necessary resources and training to all NYCPS employees to identify, address, and actively combat extremist ideologies at any level of the educational system and the implicit biases that lead to extremism by providing professional development;

4. CEC 28 calls upon the NYCPS to actively work to promote acceptance, understanding, and dialogue among its students, families, and staff to counteract extremist narratives by creating safe spaces in schools;

5. CEC 28 urges the NYCPS to collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies to monitor and counteract the influence of extremist organizations and individuals within the central offices and among the 36 Citywide and Community Education Councils (CCEC) by establishing a task force consisting of representatives of local, state, and federal agencies;

6. CEC 28 asks NYCPS to continue to support initiatives that foster a culture of respect and inclusion, ensuring that all students are welcome, feel safe, and are valued in their educational environment by offering support as needed;

7. CEC 28 encourages NYCPS to engage in public awareness campaigns, working in tandem with all CCECs, community-based organizations, and other constituents to educate and inform students, families, and staff about the dangers of extremist ideologies by spreading awareness through their social media channels; and

8. CEC 28 calls upon NYCPS to provide regular updates to the public and all CCECs on its efforts to combat extremism and promote inclusivity via regular email communication.

We, the District 28 Community Education Council, hereby affirm our unyielding commitment to the values of inclusivity, equity, and respect within our own reach within the educational system and resolve to take strong, decisive action against extremist organizations and ideologies that seek to undermine these principles. Our students, families, and schools deserve nothing less than the safety, understanding, and support that we pledge to provide.

This resolution shall take immediate effect upon passage and shall be distributed widely to all constituents of NYCPS, as well as relevant authorities, to ensure its implementation.