



Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

Date: March 22, 2010

Topic: Chancellor's Regulation A-655

Date of PEP Vote: March 23, 2010

Summary of Proposed Regulation

Regulation A-655, governing the composition and responsibilities of School Leadership Teams (SLTs) and District Leadership Teams (DLTs), has been amended to conform to the 2009 amendments to the Education Law by establishing a process for aligning the Comprehensive Educational Plan (CEP) with the school-based budget and for resolving roadblocks to consensus. The regulation has also been amended to allow parent members of the CEC (and, in an election year, candidates for the CEC) to serve as parent members of an SLT in the school their child attends. The revised regulation also creates a citywide high school committee to review relevant data and identify issues impacting student performance at the high school level and to report on a monthly basis to the DLTs.

Summary of Issues Raised and Significant Alternatives Proposed

Comments received are summarized as follows: 1. The provision allowing the principal to make the final determination concerning the CEP in cases where the SLT is unable to reach consensus even after it seeks assistance from the DLT, OFEA, and the superintendent should be changed, as it gives the principal too much power and undermines the consensus-based decision-making required by the law; it was suggested that the superintendent and/or the DLT should serve this function rather than the principal; 2. Additional training should be provided to SLT members on a variety of topics by different vendors; 3. When the superintendent consults with the SLT regarding any school restructuring plans, if he/she sends a designee to the meeting, the designee should not be the principal since the principal is a member of the SLT; 4. The justification the principal is required to submit to the superintendent (explaining that the school-based budget is aligned with the CEP) must be in written form; 5. The regulation should provide that, if the SLT submits a response to the principal's justification, that response should be due within ten (10) (rather than five (5)) days; 6. The CEP and the school-based budget should be made readily available for public inspection, including being posted on the Department of Education's internet web site; 7. The SLT's right to dispute the principal's decision on the budget to the community or high school superintendent where members of the SLT (other than the principal) believe that the decision is inconsistent with the goals and policies of the CEP should be included

in the regulation; 8. The SLT's right to dispute the principal's decision on any issue that conflicts with the goals and policies set forth in the CEP should be included in the regulation; 9. Any member of the SLT should be allowed to obtain from the principal the Galaxy Table of Organization (not the SLT version) in order to see the evolution of the budget, as well as the Galaxy Budget Allocations and Galaxy reports relating to city, state and federal categorical funding and related school expenditures; 10. The principal should not be allowed to be the chairperson of the SLT; 11. The first draft of the school-based budget should be reviewed by a budget subcommittee of the SLT to give advice and input to the principal; 12. The president of the Community Education Council should be a mandated part of the District Leadership Team. 13. The CEP should be prepared before the school-based budget is prepared; 14. There should be a separate SLT and DLT for District 79.

Analysis of Issues Raised, Significant Alternatives Proposed and Changes Made to Regulation

The DOE accepted comments 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9 and incorporated them into the regulation. Regarding comment 1, the regulation now provides that, if the SLT is unable to reach consensus on the CEP, even after seeking assistance from the DLT, the superintendent and OFEA, then the superintendent shall try to facilitate consensus and, if that fails, shall make the final determination on the CEP. Regarding comment 3, the regulation now provides that when the superintendent consults with the SLT regarding any school restructuring plans, the superintendent may not send a designee, but rather, must attend personally. Regarding comment 4, the regulation now provides that the justification that the principal is required to submit to the superintendent must be in written form. Regarding comment 5, the regulation now provides that, if the SLT submits a response to the principal's justification, that response is due within ten (10) school days. Regarding comment 6, the regulation now provides that the CEP and the school-based budget should be made readily available for public inspection, including being posted on the Department of Education's internet web site. Regarding comment 8, the regulation now provides that the SLT has the right to dispute the principal's decision on any issue that conflicts with the goals and policies set forth in the CEP, and provides a mechanism for the SLT to do so. Regarding comment 9, the regulation now provides that any member of the SLT may request (on behalf of the SLT) the Galaxy Table of Organization Report, and the principal shall provide this report within 5 school days; in addition, any SLT member may obtain the Galaxy Budget Allocations and the Galaxy Table of Organization Summary Report from the DOE website. The other comments received are already effectuated in or beyond the scope of the regulation or the law. Comment 2 concerns additional trainings for the SLT. Such trainings are not precluded by the current regulation, which describes only the one mandatory two-hour training to be provided, but does not discuss possible additional trainings that may be provided. Comment 7 concerns the SLT members' (other than the principal) right to dispute the principal's decision on the alignment of the budget with the CEP to the community superintendent. This provision is already included in the regulation in Section II.A. Regarding Comment 10, the regulation does not prescribe who should be elected Chairperson of the SLT, but rather allows the SLT to make that determination. Comment 11 goes beyond the requirements of the law by requiring subcommittee review of the principal's budget, which, according to law, is within the principal's powers. Comment 12 goes beyond the requirements in the law concerning which members are

mandatory members of the District Leadership Team. Comment 13 is contrary to the law, which provides that the CEP and the school-based budget be devised concurrently and that there be consultation during the development process so that the two are aligned. Comment 14 cannot be adopted because District 79 is comprised, to a large extent, of programs that do not have their own schools or parent associations, but rather, are programs within schools.

The revised Regulation is now posted on the DOE's website for review at:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/Regulations>.