

**\*\*STATEMENT FROM EVA MOSKOWITZ ON DE BLASIO'S FAILURE TO EXERCISE MAYORAL CONTROL \*\***

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**STATEMENT FROM SUCCESS ACADEMY CEO EVA MOSKOWITZ ON MAYOR DE BLASIO'S FAILURE TO EXERCISE MAYORAL CONTROL**

**New York, NY** — Eva Moskowitz, Success Academy CEO, released the following statement in response to the Panel for Educational Policy's rejection of the co-location proposal for Success Academy Midwood last night:

The statement:

Mayor de Blasio is asking to renew mayoral control at a time when he is either unable or unwilling to exercise it.

In December, Success Academy entered into a reasonable compromise with Mayor de Blasio by agreeing to delay opening up any new elementary schools in 2015, to allow the city more time to provide co-location space in 2016. Last month, Mayor de Blasio delayed the PEP vote on his proposal to provide Success Academy Midwood with space, and now the PEP has rejected it. Either Mayor de Blasio never intended to honor his commitment or alternatively, he has lost his ability to influence and lead the PEP.

Since Mayor de Blasio has taken office, the PEP has failed to approve a single co-location for a new charter school, even though there is ample space in city school buildings for such co-locations. The failure to approve such co-locations is having an adverse impact on the city's finances because the city must then pay for charter schools to rent private space.

If Mayor de Blasio wants mayoral control, he should show he's willing to use it. If he won't use it, then someone else needs to take control of the city's schools. Our schools require dramatic change. A mayor who can't or won't push through a PEP vote to fit a single school hasn't faced up to the dramatic leadership called for by our educational crisis.

The facts about the DOE's proposed co-location:

- There is ample space in the building where the Department of Education proposed co-locating Success Academy Midwood. According to the city's own evaluation, the Andries Hudde Middle School has 653 empty seats and is operating at 57% of capacity.
- At full enrollment, Success Academy would have an estimated 375-495 students, and the DOE estimates the building utilization would then be between 76% and 86%.
- Hudde enrollment has declined 25% in the last five years. There are 286 fewer students today than in 2009-2010.
- More than 1,000 families who live in Community School District 22 applied to Success Academy this year. Success Academy Bergen Beach, which is also located in District 22, received 19 applications for every available seat. Citywide there are 50,000 families on charter school wait lists. Parents are voting with their feet.
- There were approximately 85 speakers at the PEP last night; 72 of them spoke about the Success Academy proposals, and of those, only about 15 were in opposition.
- Similarly, at the May PEP meeting, when the proposal was supposed to be voted on, 33 speakers spoke in favor and 17 spoke against. Despite the more than 150 supporters and positive comments, the PEP tabled the proposal under the pretense that more community input was needed.
- At last night's meeting, two other Success Academy schools were narrowly approved to expand in their existing buildings, despite overwhelming community support. The principals of the schools co-located with Success Academy Cobble Hill were on the record in support of the expansion, and numerous speakers described cooperative, positive co-location experiences at Success Academy Williamsburg, Success Academy Bergen Beach, Success Academy Cobble Hill, and Success Academy Bensonhurst.