

## **Community District Education Council District 26**

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### **MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**Date:** Thursday, December 21, 2006

**Time:** Calender Meeting, 7:00 P.M.; Business Meeting, 8:00 P.M.

**Location:** MS 74, 61-15 Oceania Street, Bayside, NY 11364-Rm 128

The meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order and chaired by Rob Caloras, President at 7:10 pm in the Conference Room 128.

Roll Call: Rob Caloras, Dr. Lana Zinger, Jodi Nath, Susan Shiroma, Debra Strassberg, Carol Gomez & Marian Mason, Administrative Assistant

Excused: Melissa Dorfman, Jackie Montgomery, Yen Shia Chou & Bona Sun

Also in attendance was Lori Stein Butera, Parent Support Coordinator & Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent

Guest Speaker: Debra Perry, Project Support Manager-School Construction Authority

#### ***Business Meeting***

##### ***President's Report – Robert Caloras***

###### **Correspondence**

1. Correspondence from Tom Huser - Applications regarding the candidates to apply for the CDEC positions are due March 9<sup>th</sup>.
2. Children's First Year Capital Plan – asking for thoughts.
3. Discussed doing the flyer for the Empowerment Zone Forum – stated that it was a nice collaboration with four different sections of the education community (CDEC, President's Council, Anita Saunders & the printer). Anita Saunders enabled the CDEC to get permission to distribute the flyers by back pack (every child would be given a copy to take home in the district). Once the flyer was originated, Bonnie Song & Marian Mason solicited bids for the generation of 17,000 copies to be made. Received a proposal from Ink-It Printing in which they proposed to box, separate and label each box with the school name and guaranteed the printing date. Bonnie Song picked up the flyers once made and they were distributed at the UFT Dinner to the teachers, PTA & President Council members.
4. Spoke about the UFT Dinner in which Jodi Nath, Debbie Strassberg, Melissa Dorfman, Carol Gomez, Susan Shiroma and Rob Caloras attended. PTA & President Council members also attended. Different issues were discussed such as preparing for a Scholarship Dinner Dance in May. Rob would like for the CDEC to help make it a success to show further district solidarity support & collaboration.
5. PS 266 – spoke with an Eileen Ryan and spoke about overcrowding. Rob checked it out and her numbers were not accurate. Instead of 34 & 35 in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, it was 32 students per class
6. Spoke about the CDEC Holiday Dinner which took place on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Douglaston Manor which was hosted by Jacqueline Montgomery.

7. Informed the attendees that Leonie Haimson would be attending the January 25<sup>th</sup> CDEC meeting. Ms. Haimson runs the Class Size Matters organization which has been instrumental in keeping the reduction of class size & pushing for more money from the CFE.
8. Spoke about the Empowerment Zone Forum which took place on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The turnout was kind of decent. A preliminary meeting took place with Eric Nadelstern & the President's Council prior to the Empowerment Zone Forum. In attendance were Rob Caloras, Susan Shiroma & Carol Gomez. Rob commented that Mr. Nadelstern stated that "No Principal would be forced into an Empowerment Zone". Rob stated that there had been statements in the press & the DOE that all schools would be empowered within a year or two. Mr. Nadelstern stated "that was never the policy & there would be no forcing of schools into the Empowerment Zone". Mr. Nadelstern also stated "that all schools would be required to meet the accountability standards that are set forth in the Empowerment Zone".

Rob mentioned that there are have two hearings regarding the Empowerment Zone and maybe a resolution would like to be suggested. Jodi stated that the resolution would enable the principals to be able to work together as a network and keep the Local Superintendent (Anita Saunders) and allow the principals to keep their efforts and don't allow each school to act independently and work with the community.

Sunset Law – states that if nothing is done they would revert back to the old school board. A question was asked of Mr. Nadelstern, do schools get the same amount of money every year. No answer was given. Rob will send an e-mail to Mr. Nadelstern.

Assemblywoman Nolan is starting to have hearings. Senator Padavan would like to start having hearings prior to 2008.

#### **Draft Resolution – Empowerment Zone Schools**

**Whereas we feel the creation of the Empowerment School is in violation of the law. Any attempt to pull any school out of their district structure is against the law. Opposed to the Empowerment Schools as currently offered, however we would not be opposed to the creation of a network that contains District 26 schools.**

**Whereas they feel this is illegal & not beneficial to District 26 but not opposed to the creation to a network of schools that contain K-12 in District 26.**

**Whereas if schools are forced to join the Empowerment Zone or become a Empowerment school or whether they are forced to become subject to the accountability standards.**

Anita stated that all schools will have the same accountability.

Susan wants it on record that she is not clear if it is beneficial to have the high schools and does this bring more money?

Another meeting will be set up where other questions and issues can be discussed before making the resolution. Debbie feels that there are other issues and questions that cannot be resolved and the resolution should be tabled till another meeting is set up. Jodi suggested having another meeting in January. Debbie made a motion to table the passing of the resolution and that a meeting be set up prior to the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting to iron out all issues, Jodi seconded. The council voted unanimously to table the resolution till a meeting is set up and questions are answered.

***Secretary's Report*** - Carol Gomez, Recording Secretary

- a. Reviewed November 30<sup>th</sup> minutes for corrections, changes or additions/deletions. Carol made a motion to accept the November 30th minutes and Rob seconded. Council voted unanimously to accept the November 30<sup>th</sup> minutes.
- b. Council was reminded that the December activity reports were due.

***Treasurer's Report*** – none

***Superintendent's Report*** – Anita Saunders

1. PS 98 – 2 students, Samir El-Sawaf and Philip Hood were chosen for the Youth Touring Group of the American Ballroom Dance Theatre Company. They have already participated in the summer and weekend programs and will continue performing around the country.
2. Gifted Magnet Testing postponed till January. Two schools (PS 18 and PS 41) will be doing the testing and parents will be notified of date, time and site.
3. Busing – new routes to begin January 29, 2007; December 22, 2006, last day to submit application for Yellow School Bus. To date 40,000 have not been returned.
4. New NYS Assessments – Science, grades 3-8, 2007-2008  
Social Studies, grades 3-8, 2008-2009
5. In Region 3 there were 7 Parent Coordinators chosen out of 15 for the Parent & Partners Grant. Two from District 26 (Debra Halpern, PS 203 & Beth Revello, PS 213).

***Committee Reports - Zoning & Outreach; Curriculum & Grants Information***

**Lori Butera**- Parent Coordinator

***New Business/Old Business***

Rob made a motion to adjourn the Business portion of the meeting and Debbie seconded, council agreed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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## ***PUBLIC MEETING***

The meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order and chaired by Rob Caloras, President at 8:20 in the Conference Room 128.

Rob introduced Debra Perry, Project Support Manager-School Construction Authority.

Ms. Perry started off by informing the attendees that Sharon Greenberger is the President of SCA.

Ms. Perry distributed the Children First 2005-2009 Five Year Capital Plan Proposed 2006 Amendment for Region 3.

Ms. Perry & Ms. Greenberger is asking all CDEC's to give five recommendations/problems/issues or concerns that they may have in regard to school construction.

1. Will develop sites for high schools or if anyone knows of a site/location to kindly inform the SCA. The DOE has partnership with private organizations in locating sites for high schools. High schools are not zoned schools & are considered borough-wide schools.
2. Under capacity for middle schools in District 26. Recommending by 2009 only one Early Childhood Center needed with a capacity of 441 seats.
3. Capital Plan – 18 million spent.
4. Housing preservation discussed – about 460 permits issued for new housing.
5. Projection predicted that District 26's elementary & middle schools will drop from about 17,000 to 16,000 by 2009.
6. Opposition to build an early childhood school on the site of the Jewish Center of Bayside Hills was derailed after opposition from the community.

***Meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted by Marian Mason, Administrative Assistant, CDEC 26.