

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

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

**Date:** Thursday, April 27, 2006

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

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

The meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order and chaired by Rob Caloras, President at 7:15 p.m. in the Conference Room 128.

Roll Call: Rob Caloras, Edward Fallacaro, Richard Olson, Adam Amit, Jackie Montgomery, & Susan Shiroma

Excused: Yen Shia Chou & Carol Gomez

Late: Bona Sun & Melissa Dorfman

Also in attendance was Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent, Walter O'Brien, Local Instructional Superintendent & Lori Stein Butera, Parent Coordinator.

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

##### ***Secretary's Report***

Marian read a letter from PS 216 Lauren Wong, Corresponding Secretary:

The PTA at Ryan Middle School 216 understands that safety is of the utmost importance in our schools. Many children need to travel a fair distance on their own to and from school and safety and communication are why many children have cell phones. A solution needs to be found for allowing our children to keep their cell phones when they are discovered by the roving metal detectors.

Rob stated that this was discussed at the President's Council meeting and he will be responding with the Council on this issue.

Quorum needed to accept the minutes - pending

Reviewing of minutes –March 7<sup>th</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup> & March 23<sup>rd</sup> were reviewed for corrections, changes or additions. Rich made a motion to accept all minutes and Ed seconded. Council voted unanimously to accept all minutes.

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

1. E-mail to Chancellor Klein regarding the availability of the American Marters school building. Mr. Goldstein, SCA asked the CDEC to look out for any sites that become available for purchasing.
2. E-mail to Carmen Farina regarding report cards – discussed that report cards might be revamped or re-evaluated and a committee was going to be created. Carmen responded and said “yes” but at the present time any changes are going to be conducted at the school level with the principals.
3. Articles sent to the CDEC:
  - a. grading of the schools by the Chancellor
  - b. fixing up of schools

- c. percentage to lure math teachers into the system by offering them a housing allowance & more money. DOE & UFT agreed to this program.
  - d. DOE statistics - urge the Chancellor when evaluating of the program to contact those individuals who are in the trenches, such as, the teachers, principals, community superintendents, and local superintendents and work it out with them instead of bringing in the experts who are not familiar with the NYC system.
  - e. Received call from Ms. Barbeosch, Principal of PS 94 who thanked the CDEC when they had the electrical problem and meetings were set up with Councilman Avella that activity was being made to correct this problem.
  - f. Spoke with Ms. Toomey, Principal of PS 221 requesting the CDEC's help with their drainage problem. The company doing the retainer wall will do some of the drainage work. Rob spoke to Debra Perry, SCA and informed her about the problem and she in turn reached out to Mr. David Salmon.
  - g. PS 162 visited by Rob and Susan.
  - h. Rob spoke with Pete Maddaloni, Queens Representative of Local 891, Operating Engineers (Custodian's) in which he mentioned a few issues of concern that he would like for the CDEC to bring up at the Legislative Breakfast on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Maddaloni mentioned that any extra money that the school system gets for Capital improvements hopefully some could be used for maintenance. Mr. Maddaloni would like for a Wish List (previously used) to be set up where money would go to individual schools so they don't have to go the centralized system.
  - i. Legislative Breakfast reminder – May 5<sup>th</sup> at PS 266 at 9:30 – CDEC & President's Council. Confirmations received from Councilman Avella, Assemblywoman Carrozza, Senator Padavan, Councilman Mark Weprin, Assemblyman David Weprin, Judith Chin-Regional Superintendent, Anita Saunders- Superintendent & Walter O'Brien, Local Superintendent. Helen Marshall was not able to attend due to other commitments. No responses from Congressman Weiner, Deputy Mayor Walcott & Robert Jackson, Chairperson of the City Council Education Committee.
  - j. Wish List – most schools have received their supplies. Five schools have not received their supplies due to money shortage in the General supply account so money had to be transferred in from another account.
  - k. President Council meeting April 26<sup>th</sup> – Rob attended and announced the retiring of Carmen Farina who will be replaced by Andres Alonso. Several topics discussed at meeting were:
    - random scanner searches – security concern because students are getting mugged for the fancy phones– children are taking pictures of people in compromising situations and its being put on the internet - parents having contact with their children. Concerns with school officials who confiscate the phones and then having to return them in the same condition received. Phones need to be secured once taken then responsibility falls on the school.
    - Rovering scanners are being done at middle & high schools as a pilot program.
- 37 ½ minutes – next year there will be a uniform usage of the minutes. Will be discussed at the Legislative meeting May 5<sup>th</sup> and parents would like to know before the school year ends. Rob made mention that parents should send e-mails to the Chancellor regarding this issue.
- PS 133 & PS 18 are losing kindergarten students to PS 266.

CPAC – concern that Charter Schools are taking space & money from public schools.

1. Rob stated that file cabinets from the conference room were delivered to various schools.

***New Business-***

Borough President Vacancy

Rob stated that Helen Marshall, Borough President chose Dr. Lana Zinger to replace Mona Fabricant who resigned 12-8-05.

Roll call vote: Rich voted yes, Ed voted yes, Susan voted yes, Jackie voted yes, Melissa voted yes, Bona voted yes & Rob voted yes.

**APPROVED** by roll call vote: (  7   Yes;   0   No)

*Not present for vote:* Carol Gomez & Yen Shia Chou

Rob presented and welcomed Dr. Lana Zinger to the CDEC.

Rob announced the next vacancy is the CDEC (parent) vacancy.

CDEC Vacancy Vote – Council informed that **Shakira Gafar-Kirshnitz resigned 1-24-06** and Rob outlined the regulations. Informed the council that flyers were put out by e-mail to PTA Presidents, Principals, newspapers, Community Boards, and Parent Coordinators & hard copies were put in libraries. **Four** applications were received and reviewed by CDEC council members and PTA Presidents' (Bonnie Song & Suzanne Windland). Interviews were set up with **three** of the applicants on **March 23<sup>rd</sup>**. A recommendation was received from the PTA Presidents and taken into the consideration. Rob informed every one of the applicants' names: Stephanie Capozzoli, Dr. Lana Zinger, Jodi Nath. Basanti Chakraborty was not available to be interviewed (out of town).

Roll call vote: Rich nominated Jodi Nath; Ed nominated Jodi Nath; Susan nominated Jodi Nath; Jackie nominated Jodi Nath; Melissa nominated Jodi Nath; Bona nominated Jodi Nath & Rob nominated Jodi Nath.

**Resolution** - To fill a vacancy on CDEC 26 this occurred on 4-27-06

**WHEREAS**, Community District Education Council members are representatives of the parents and community-at-large; and

**WHEREAS**, a vacancy has occurred on Community District Education Council 26 (CDEC 26) effective **1-24-06**; and,

**WHEREAS**, Department of Education rules and Chancellor's Regulation A-140 state that when a vacancy occurs on a CDEC, the CDEC shall fill the vacancy at a public meeting, after consultation with Presidents' Council and other education groups; and

**WHEREAS**, CDEC 26 has followed the regulations regarding filling of the vacancy; and **WHEREAS**, CDEC 26 has selected a the best qualified person to fill that vacancy; now therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that in accordance with Department of Education procedures, Community District Education Council 26 hereby appoints **Jodi Nath** to fill that vacancy as Council Member of CDEC 26, effective immediately.

**APPROVED** by roll call vote:   7   –   0   (  7   Yes;   0   No)

*Not present for vote:* Carol Gomez & Yen Shia Chou

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this **27 Day of April 2006**.

Rob announced that Jodi Nath is now a member of the CDEC and welcomed her.

***Treasurer's Report – Ed Fallacaro***

1. Disbursement of funds – charges did not hit budget before making changes so approval was made to transfer funds from one account to the other and the P-Card will be used.

***Committee Reports (Zoning & Outreach) - Ed Fallacaro***

Committee met on April 4 and discussed the following:

Legislative Breakfast

Report Cards

UFT Dinner – members invited to a June 12<sup>th</sup> Dinner

School Visits – members asked to submit a list of schools not visited this year by 5-5 so that those schools can be accommodated.

No May meeting set up.

***School Visits***

Rob stated he visited PS 159

Rob & Susan went to PS 162 PTA's meeting – presentation by Mr. Wine, Gym teacher on the HIV curriculum.

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

Will be made at the Public meeting

Rob made a motion to adjourn and the Melissa seconded, council agreed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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***PUBLIC MEETING***

***Public Meeting- started at 8:05***

***Walter O'Brien started off with the Pledge of Allegiance***

***Guests - Ballroom Dancers***

***Rob announced the CDEC member, Anita Saunders, Walter O'Brien & Lori Butera.***

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

Welcomed the Ballroom Dancers and the parents for taking the time to bring them to our meeting.

Congratulations to Robert Caloras – 2006 Community Service Award

Eleanor Roosevelt Regular Democratic Club Awards Dinner – April 22, 2006

School Awards

Region 3 Spring Music Festival – May 23, 2006 at Bayside High School  
PS 115, PS 178, MS 158, MS 216 will represent.

PS 188 – Mindy Zou “Assembly Person for a Day” – essay contest winner on  
Helen Keller – sponsored by Assemblyman Mark Weprin

PS 188 – Emily Frisch (Grade 5), Margot Yale (Grade 5) – 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Conservation Art and Poetry Contest

MS 74 – Kevin Peng won a \$1000 scholarship from Math Moves U Middle School/High School Grant Program. MS 74 also received \$1000 as a participating school

- Kevin Peng – 1<sup>st</sup> place Regional Math competition
- Lisa (Y.Y.) Zhang – Winner Ezra Jack Keats Book Making Contest – “Blue Cocoon, Golden Butterfly”

MS 216 participated in the State Championship Competition (Math Counts) Math Team – 1<sup>st</sup> place in District, Region & Queens – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in New York City (behind Hunter College)

St. John’s Saturday Academy – 86 MS 216 students

- PS 46 – Queens Courier, April 6, 2006 – Journalism Class, “Its News To Me” – part of School wide Enrichment Program of eighteen classes including Parent Like Masters, The Extreme Hall Makeover, Can you hear Me Now (Sign Language)

PS 41 – Opening of School Garden – National Garden Club Representative done by parents, teachers & students.

PS 18 Collaborative Community of Practice School, Visitors from Riverhead, Long Island, California

PS 188 Exemplary School – Visitors, New York City

PS 205 – Newspaper article “Green Queens” – urban science program contributing to international science project, GLOBE, and participating in Cornell University Extension Program, NY Kids Growing Food. Science Teacher - Fran Bosi

Summer School sites – PS 46 & MS 74 – July 5 - August 10<sup>th</sup>

High School Admissions – Supplementary Round Letters – April 28<sup>th</sup> distribution

Unannounced Scanning Initiative, MS/HS (cell phones, Ipods, MP3 players returned just before dismissal)

Retirements:

Carmen Farina, Deputy Chancellor for Teaching & Learning  
Laura Kotch, Executive Director for Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development

Mr. Adam proceeded to bring on the Ballroom Dancers starting with the Meringue dancers first, then on to the Foxtrot, Tango, Rumba and last but not least, the Swing. The students performed graciously.

The students were presented with certificates and flowers from the CDEC individually.

*Public meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.*

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