

Community District Education Council District 26

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MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, September 29, 2005

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

Location: MS 74, 61-15 Oceania Street, Bayside, NY 11364-Room 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 p.m.

Roll Call: Rob Caloras, Carol Gomez, Susan Shiroma, Mona Fabricant, Richard Olson & Jackie Montgomery

Excused – Bona Sun

Late -Yen Shia Chou, Melissa Dorfman & Edward Fallacaro

Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent; Lori Stein-Butera, Parent Support Officer & Walter O'Brien also attended.

Recording Secretary's Report – Carol Gomez

Reviewing of previous month's minutes (August 18, 2005) – Carol asked if there were any corrections, changes, or additions. Rich Olson made a motion to accept the minutes, council members voted unanimously to accept.

Carol Gomez stated signing of the Bylaws was needed. Rob Caloras & Susan Shiroma both signed the Bylaws which will be distributed at the next meeting to the council members and a copy will be given to TWEED.

President's Report

Rob started out by stating that the meeting will be run a little different. No one is to speak out unless they are recognized by the President. Rob went on to state that the meeting will follow the agenda. First we will conduct the Business meeting and then the Public meeting. All speakers who have signed the Speaker's list will be allowed to speak for at least 3 minutes on any topic hopefully education. Rob stated that derogatory statements & profanity are not allowed.

- a. Correspondence received from Mark Weprin regarding Financial Disclosure forms. Mr. Weprin stated "that he would advocate that this be removed from the State Education law".
- b. Letter drafted by CDEC regarding duplicate testing & published in the Times Ledger. There will now be a change in the policy that the students will only be taking state standardized test in that subject and it will only be for purpose of promotion.
- c. E-mail request from PTA President of MS 74 requesting space.

- d. Letter sent to all PTA Presidents introducing the CDEC and advising them that the CDEC would like to form a relationship with them and hoping to attend their meetings.
- e. Letters were also sent to the Principals in District 26 and a response was received from Ms. Caraisco of PS 188 inviting the council to visit their school.
- f. Update on renovation/construction projects – A request was made for a list of construction/repairs in schools and was advised that the list has been prepared but needs approval. Requesting a monthly update.

Council members were asked to submit issues of concern & forward to Ms. Saunders for her review and to provide answers. Received input and created a list that was forwarded to Anita. On September 22nd, Rob & Susan Shiroma met with Anita and she addressed those concerns:

1. PS 178 – will be discussed during old business.
2. PS 130 – will be discussed during old business.
3. Class Sizes – asked what are the class sizes from K-3 and have we been able to comply with State and Federal small class size requirements for the early grade?
K-3 the average is 22 students per class; 4-5 grades, the average is 28 students per class; grades 6-8, the average is 32 students per class and 9 grade, the average is 30 students per class.
4. Regarding No Child Left Behind and Variances (NCLB) – wanted to know number of transfers and variances given.
Informed that Dist. 26 has received 30 No Child Left Behind transfers and 10 variances. Specific numbers will be provided when they are made available to the district. In January – the DOE is expecting to have more transfers.
5. MSI – where is the Math/Science institute prep program for Region 3 located? What are its requirements for attendance?
Advised that it's located at Townsend Harris High School. Requirements were not discussed.
6. Certification – what percentage of our district's teachers are certified to teach and certified to teach the subject they teach?
All district teachers are certified to teach the classes they teach.
7. Speakers – what are the names and titles of the people whom you have kindly arranged to speak at our next two meetings?
Rita Magier & Ron Benevento to discuss the new State Standardize tests –Sept.
Jill Simpson & Marianita Damari to talk on the subject of Science - October
8. Budget –
 1. When a teacher is being investigated for criminal or inappropriate behavior and relieved of teaching duties, is his/her salary still paid out of the school's budget? Is there a way for the effected school to get a replacement teacher that does not require usage of a large portion of the money allocated for substitute teachers?
Informed that the current policy is that the teacher is being paid out of the schools budget up until 30 days of leave & thereafter they can get a per diem allocation to get another teacher. There is a policy change taking effect that will change from 30 to 60 days.

2. What is the current rule regarding Title 1 money following No Child Left Behind Transfers student to the receiving school? Is the State receiving Federal Title 1 money for No Child Left Behind Transfer students, if so, where is the money being allocated?

The flow of Title 1 money is complicated and additional research is needed to determine if the Federal money still comes to the State after the student transfers away from Title 1 schools under the No Child Left Behind policy, or is money coming to the State not under the existing Title 1 expenditure but rather a separate funding that is set up for No Child Left Behind transfers. Rob mentioned a lawsuit pending in Conn. against the Federal government for not following the No Child Left Behind.

Rob mentioned that the City Tax Levy money follows the students at mid year.

Rob stated that a rabid raccoon was captured in Little Neck. There is an alert in Nassau County. Advised everyone to take precautions & if they spot a raccoon to call 212-788-4735.

Committee Reports

Rob stated that committees were set up such as the Outreach & Zoning Committee. Their assignment was to figure out the geographic areas that members lived in & each group would have 2 in their group and members would not be assigned to their child's school.

Ed & Yen were assigned to PS 203, 31, 41, 159 & MS 158

Susan & Mona, PS 178, 26, 173, 162 and JHS 216

Melissa & Bona – PS 18, 188, 213, 205 & MS 74

Carol & Rich – PS 115, 191, 133, 186 & IS 266

Jackie & Rob – PS 46, 221, 98, 94 & MS 172 & MS 67

Groups advised to contact the PTA President's of those schools and let them know that they will be the liaison of the CDEC and get their meeting dates.

Rob stated that the Curriculum committee would be doing something at another time.

Treasurer's Report

Budget - These following changes to the FY06 budget were approved by a consensus vote of CDEC 26 members at the September 29th meeting as costs from the prior FY increased for both Telephone Services and Maintenance of Equipment.

- Increase Telephone Services from \$216 to \$500
- Increase Maintenance of Equipment from \$270 to \$1,000
- Decrease General Supplies from \$12,700 to \$11,686

Rob asked that a motion be made to make the changes and council voted unanimously.

Website

In order to improve communications and help spread the word regarding CDEC26 and our efforts, Ed discussed the possibility of setting up a website for CDEC26. Ed proposed that we create a website that could describe our mission, identify our members, provide links to public information including our meeting minutes, news articles, etc. as well as publicize our next meeting and full meeting schedule. Ed proposed that we seek to secure the domain name www.cdec26.org as well as the services of a internet service provider to host the site as this

would be minimal cost of no more than \$200 a year. Ed agreed to develop the website and volunteered as webmaster should the Council agree on pursuing. Ed made a motion to pursue these ventures and it was seconded by Rich and by unanimous vote of the CDEC26 members the motion was approved. Ed agreed to look into the hosting and domain name acquisition and will begin working on the website development as well.

Superintendent's Report – Anita Saunders

Anita stated that she and Walter O'Brien visited every school to make sure that everything was running smoothly.

- A. Math State Scores for grades 4 & 8
Grade 4 – six schools 100% of students met standards.
Science Test scores – do not have the entire composite for the district, will be getting shortly. Most students scoring level thru 4 achieved the standard scores.
- B. No Child Left Behind – exact numbers per school. 18,400 students given the option to transfer to other schools out of that 11,000 families applied, 3614 granted transfer options, 5300 could not be accommodated. Also H.S. & M.S. not able to accommodate as many NCLB as Elementary schools. Children will be coming from all over (Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens). There will be busing. Options will be given again in January, 2006 to parents.
- C. Principals – 3 newly appointed principals; PS 18, Kathy Peknic; PS 162, Dena Poulos & MS 158, Marie Nappi.
- D. PS 18 & PS 94 – Collaborative Community of Practice schools as designed by DOE will receive visitors such as Laura Kotch, Executive Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, DOE. & others from all over the city to observe “best practices”.

Lori Butera – spoke about up and coming workshops. (See attachment)

- a. Region 3 is offering PTA trainings on Clerical, Fiscal, and Increasing Parent Involvement.
- b. The Queens Borough President is offering a Parent Conference on October 15th at Queens College from 9-2 p.m. Chancellor Joel Klein will be there.
- c. Region 3 is offering a variety of workshops during the week and on weekends.
- d. Carmen Farina will be addressing PTA Presidents & Parent Coordinators at the Excellent Schools Excellent Leaders event next month on Oct. 21st at Queens College from 9-12 noon. Invitations were sent to all.

New Business

- a. Given 2 resumes from Anita to fill the Student vacancy position.
- b. School Safety – Jackie spoke about issues at PS 98. The busing has stopped and it is a very dangerous situation with the children on Northern Blvd. Discussion about not having a safety officer. Mona made a motion to send a letter to DOT and get local PTA & SLT involved in the matter.
 - 1. Busing (eligibility-who determines?)
 - 2. accidents

Rob wants to hold off on writing a letter until the school PTA/Principal looks into the problem first. He also mentioned that the SLT at each school is supposed to address school safety issues. Once the school comes up with a solution then the CDEC can support the outcome.

Susan stated that its district wide issue. Informed the council that the civics, neighborhood associations with individual school concerns about transportation and traffic and community boards and local politicians have gotten involved with safety issues in the past. PTA presidents at a meeting suggested to the CDEC that they take a look at these issues. They suggested having the public get involved and the parents get involved. Informed the council that there is a chain of command to go through. Susan suggested that the CDEC do a general letter when approached.

Anita stated that a child who lives over a half a mile has the option to take a bus.

Mona made a motion that the CDEC liaison to the school will contact the PTA president to formulate a solution to the safety problem and submit to the CDEC in which they will write a letter in their support and Jackie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Web site – Ed spoke about forming a District 26 website to have resources to the parents. Cost would be no more than \$200. Informed council that the minutes from the meetings & articles relevant to our community can be posted. Ed volunteered to be the web master. Rob suggested doing hard copies and would it be advisable to get a scanner? Motion to secure a CDEC website for 2 years with a web page and get a scanner. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Legislative meeting – Rob spoke about coming up with a date in November since there are many holidays in October. Jackie volunteered to coordinate this meeting.
- e. CDEC Vacancy Vote – Council informed that Sandra Gonzales resigned 7-28-05 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. Five applications received and reviewed by CDEC council members and PTA presidents to Bonnie Song & Suzanne Windland. Interview set up with all applicants on September 22nd. A recommendation was received from the PTA Presidents and taken into the consideration. Rob informed every one of the applicants' names: Nitza Mercado, Shakira Gafar-Kirshnitz, Howard Globus, Jodi Nath & Basanti Chakraborty.

Roll call vote: Rich nominated Shakira, Susan nominated Howard Globus, Carol nominated Shakira, Ed nominated Shakira, Yen nominated Shakira, Mona nominated Shakira, Jackie nominated Shakira, Melissa nominated Shakira & Rob nominated Shakira.

Resolution - To fill a vacancy on CEC 26 this occurred on 7-25-05

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

WHEREAS, a vacancy has occurred on Community Education Council 26 (CEC 26) effective **7-25-05**; and,

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

WHEREAS, CEC 26 has followed the regulations regarding filling of the vacancy; and

WHEREAS, CEC 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 Education Council 26 hereby appoints **Shakira Gafar-Kirshnitz** to fill that vacancy as Council Member of CEC 26, effective immediately.

APPROVED by roll call vote: 8 – 1 (8 Yes; 1 No)

Not present for vote: Bona Sun

PASSED and ADOPTED this 29 Day of September, 2005.

Rob informed the council that she would be informed of the vote.

Old Business

- a. PS 130 – discussed at a meeting with Anita Saunders & Judith Chin. Rob asked Anita to outline. Anita stated that the school is a lottery school, located on Francis Lewis Blvd & is open to all children in Dist. 25. Previously it was a Dist. 26 school, then a Queens Law School and after that it was given back to a city agency not the DOE. Later the city agency gave it to the Board of Education. The Board of Education gave the school to District 25 which was overcrowded and designated it as a K-3 Lottery School.
- b. PS 178 –parents given the opportunity to make speeches about how they felt about PS 178 being a K-8 school.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Public Meeting

Public Meeting began shortly after the calendar meeting in the auditorium.

Speakers – Rita Magier & Ron Benevento, Regional Sr. Assessment Coordinators to discuss the new State Standardized tests. (See attachment)

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

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

