

Community District Education Council District 26
Address: 61-15 Oceania St, Bayside, New York 11364
Tel: 718.631.6927 **FAX:** 718.631.6996 **Email:** central/cec26@nycboe.net

MINUTES FROM BUSINESS /CALENDER/ PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, December 19, 2013

Time: Business Meeting – 7 p.m. - Public Meeting - 8:00 P.M. -

Location: MS 67 – 51-60 Marathon Pkwy, Little Neck, NY – Room B44A

The meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order by Ricky Chan, 1st Vice President at 7: 05 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

1. Roll Call -, Susan Shiroma (Borough Appointee), Lucy Vieco, Leslie Rubenstein, Alan Ong (Borough Appointee), Ricky Chan, Jaya Patil, Jaime Alvarez-Isasi & Anastasio Politidis
 Excused – Jeannette Segal - Lori Stein-Butera, District Family Advocate (vac)
 Also present: Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent

2. **Minutes**

Council asked had they reviewed the November 21, 2013 minutes for changes. Council member Lucy made a motion to approve seconded by Leslie and voted unanimously to accept the minutes as is.

3. **President's Report** – tabled

4. **Budget Review**

January budget should reflect the Administrative Assistant's increase of \$3000 to be deducted from the Operating Expenses.

5. **Old Business:**

- a. Prioritize Capital Plan Recommendations:

Marion received information from the principals and sent to CSA to categorize either Reso or Capital.

Principal Jeff Slivko (PS 172) – stated it's deemed Reso vs. Capital based on the scope and need of work.

Question - Anastasio asked how to make an educated decision regarding the capital plans submitted?

Capital Plan Priority Listing:

1. IS 172
2. MS 74 -without electrical they can't do fire alarm at PS 74;
3. PS 98;
4. PS 26;
5. PS 41;
6. 6. PS 133.

Alan asked how we get a list of Reso vs. Capital Plan. Jeff will call and get us a plan.

6. New Business

Lucy raised the issue that the PS18 G&T parents are concerned about the middle school options. Leslie asked if resources can be allocated. Ms. Saunders stated that G&T gets no additional funding. The G&T has been here over 30 years. Very few have G&T such as D30. The districts have SP not G&T.

Originally the G&T was at PS 221 and then moved to PS18 and PS188. Altman kept the same middle school G&T.

DOE will do it by scores. D26 is not a choice district. The only way to choose is to put the 5 G&T middle schools. If the parent feels that their child will qualify then the parent should list the G&T schools.

Susan Shiroma said that Gail Cohen is the Admin assistant in D30 who may be able to clarify how it was done in D30.

School visits:

- a. Anastasio visited PS 46 on Nov 27th at 8:30 am. They need an alarm door and a security system. The principal is concerned with the special needs children leaving the school because the doors can't be locked. He feels there is a greater need to focus on the special needs children. Teachers and principals get along great.
Sept. 26th - PS 159 school visit- have a speaker system that is obsolete and lighting out in the hallways very poor.
Oct. 29th - PS 213 school visit.

Ricky and Leslie to coordinate their schedules for school visits.

Alan & Jaya school visit – PS 173 on Dec 11th at 7:30am.

Motion to adjourn business Meeting made by Anastasio and seconded by Alan. Council voted unanimously to adjourn.

PUBLIC MEETING

Public Meeting Called to order at 8:13 pm

Roll Call -, Susan Shiroma (Borough Appointee), Lucy Vieco, Leslie Rubenstein, Alan Ong (Borough Appointee), Ricky Chan, Jaya Patil, Jaime Alvarez-Isasi & Anastasio Politidis

Excused – Jeannette Segal - Lori Stein-Butera, District Family Advocate (vac)

Also present: Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent

Dec. 19, 2013 mins.

Ricky Chan, 1st Vice President introduced our guest speaker:
Daniel Hildreth - Office of Student Enrollment (DOE) who did a presentation on Kindergarten Admissions processing.

2014 KINDERGARTEN ADMISSIONS OFFICE OF STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Agenda

- Last year's kindergarten application process
- Streamlined admissions process pilot
- What changes—and what doesn't—for families this year
- Timeline
- What you need to know
- Making decisions
- Resources

In the past

Families were required to apply in person and submit paperwork at each school of interest. Some students received multiple offers, while others received no offers until June.

Reflecting Back to Move Forward

Last year, we piloted a streamlined admissions process in our elementary school choice districts--1, 7, and 23:

- Families submitted one application, ranked choices and received one offer
- Families had the option to apply:
 - Online
 - Over the phone
 - In person at an Enrollment Office
- The process worked well; we saw
- The majority of families applied online
- A greater percentage of families participated in kindergarten admissions in all pilot districts, allowing schools and families to plan better for the fall

2014 Kindergarten Admissions

There is a new way to submit applications. Beginning in January, all families can apply for kindergarten in one of three ways:

- Online using Kindergarten Connect at www.nyc.gov/schools/kindergarten
 - Over the phone by calling 718-935-2400 (8am – 6pm, Mon – Fri)
 - In person at an Enrollment Office (8am – 3pm, Mon – Fri)
- Interpretation services will be provided in approximately 150 languages for the phone and in person options.

Dec. 19, 2013 mins.

The new application process does not change schools' zones or admissions priorities.

2014 Kindergarten Admissions

Changes for Schools

Current Kindergarten Admissions Process

Each school follows a set of admissions priorities (zoned schools as defined in CR A-101 while choice schools' priorities may vary)
Schools host tours and open houses during the application period

Schools collect applications during designated timeframe and perform data entry

Schools verify sibling and dual language status

Schools generate offer letters

Schools pre-register students

Some zoned schools will continue to have waitlists

Schools of choice (non-zoned) registers do not stabilize until October 31

2014 Kindergarten Admissions Process

No change

Schools can host tours and open houses before and throughout the application period – schedule information will be collected and posted online

Schools can assist families with online or over the phone applications, but do not need to perform data entry

No change

Offer letters are generated centrally, mailed to parents and are available to schools through SEMS

No change

No change

Schools of choice better understand the dynamics of the applicant pool and offers before the end of the school year

Changes for Families

2013 Kindergarten Admissions Process

Families apply at schools of interest and submit paperwork at each school

Some families receive multiple offers

Many families receive no offer and wait until June for an alternate offer

Families can accept an offer and stay on waitlists until October
Gifted & Talented placement offers will be made after Kindergarten Admissions offers

Families participating in the Turning Five process apply and receive a placement alongside their general education peers.

Families have to investigate and apply to charter schools separately

2014 Kindergarten Admissions Process

Families submit one application and rank all schools of interest

Families receive a single offer to the highest ranked preference to which we can match them according to each school's priority structure

Families who cannot be offered a seat at their zoned school will be provided with an alternate offer in April; whenever possible, to a school the family ranked on the application

No change

No change

No change

Families will be able to review charter school options in the Elementary School Directory, and online application will link to the common application and other resources for applying to NYC charters

2014 Kindergarten Admissions Timeline

Through December

Before the application period, families should:

- Learn about their zoned school
- Go to school tours and open houses
- Review information about other options

January through February

During the application period:

- Go to school tours and open houses
- Apply online, over the phone, or in person at an Enrollment Office

April through June

After offers go out:

- Pre-register at the school, providing documentation
- If a school is able to offer your child a seat from the waitlist, they will contact you directly

What you need to know

Who should apply?

- Children who were born in 2009 and live in New York City are eligible
- All families, including those of students with disabilities and those currently in pre-k, must submit an application to receive a placement in April

What do I need to apply?

- Child's name, date of birth
- Your name, address, phone number, email address (if applicable)
- Information on any siblings who will be in grades K-5 next year, including name, date of birth, current school, grade and OSIS
- Child's current pre-k (if applicable)
- Child's native language (if applying to a dual language program)
- The programs you are applying to, in order of your preference

Making Decisions

- We encourage all families to list their zoned school on the application. As in the past, most students will attend their zoned school for kindergarten.
- There is no disadvantage to ranking as many programs as you are interested in, but we do not encourage you to apply to programs unless you would consider enrolling your child.
- You should rank programs in order of your preference. Your child's priority is determined by each school's admissions priorities, not how you rank programs.
- Students will remain on the waitlist for any programs ranked higher than the kindergarten offer they receive. Schools will contact families directly if an offer can be made.
- You should pre-register your child when you receive a kindergarten offer. Accepting a placement does not impact your child's chances of being offered a seat from another school's waitlist, being offered Gifted & Talented placement, or being selected by a charter school lottery.

Resources

School Search (www.nyc.gov/schools/schoolsearch) Type in your address to find out your zoned school, and see other nearby schools on the map.

•**311** You can also call 311 to find out your zoned school.

•**Kindergarten Admissions Website** (www.nyc.gov/schools/kindergarten) Check our site for updates, and information on school tours and open houses.

•**Elementary School Directories** - Directories will be posted online at the kindergarten website in November and available at schools and Enrollment Offices in December.

•**Kindergarten Email List** Sign up to get updates by email at www.nyc.gov/schools/subscribe Contact the Office of Student Enrollment with questions at 718-935-2009 or ES_Enrollment@schools.nyc.gov.

New process piloted in D1, 7 and 23. Families mostly chose online option. Process does not change the school zones (top priority goes to zoned children and siblings) and the admission priorities do not change. Schools are hosting open house tours for parents that are applying. Schools are no longer charged with collecting the application. They will verify if a sibling is enrolled, dual language status, central will send letters of acceptance. Families still go to school and register at school. Schools with wait lists in past may not change it just changes how families apply. The G&T offers go out after kindergarten offers. Students with disabilities should enroll.

You may not apply to charter schools through this process.

Anita stated that there are no charter schools in District 26 and it doesn't make any difference what day you submit the application during the period because they are treated the same.

Question asked that "if parents come into school and wants to apply what should they do? They will support the families as much as possible.
Mr. Hildreth was thanked for his presentation.

Superintendent's Report

AGENDA

- Welcome
- U.S. Chess Federation Grade National Champion:
2nd Place Trophy - Joshua Wong, MS 158, Class 822 Handout
- New HS – Nelson Mandela School for Social Justice at Boys & Girls
High School Campus in Brooklyn – Opening September 2014 Handout
- HS Graduation Rates – highest in 2012-13
60%; increase of 42% since 2005 Handout
- Reebok Foundation – physical activity program K-5 called BOKS (Build Our Kids Success), awarded to PS/IS 178. BOKS is a before-school program to get young bodies moving in the morning and their brains ready for a day of learning. Handout
- District HS Accountability Cohort Assessment Results 2013-2014 Handout
- 2012-13 HS ELA & Math Accountability Rankings Handout
- Arts in the School Report – MS 74 Handout

Happy Holidays to Everyone!

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to District 26

Quote:

"The achievements of an organization are the results of this combined effort of each individual."

Vince Lombardi, Pro Football Hall of Fame Coach

Speakers

1. Michelle Cespedes- Parent of G&T at PS188, educator in the city- upset about lack of disclosure of Middle school process and has not seen the issue posted. Her daughter is in 4th grade and feels it is a district issue. Stated that parents are unhappy about it and are not willing to speak about it without retaliation. She would like current students to be grandfathered into feeder schools and feel that State testing does not determine giftedness. She recommends that a G&T parent sit on the CDEC because all other populations are represented and commended Ms. Saunders for working hard and having a good district.
2. Jackie Ling- He was unaware of the CDEC until a few weeks ago when the news of the G&T change happened. There was a lack of communication and feels the policy is unfair. They are asking for additional G&T seats and help from the superintendents.
3. S. Miller is the parent of a student in PS 203 G&T since 1st grade stated that her son took the ELA and Math last year and scored a 3 and 4 and feels he would not be in the G&T program. She feels it is unfair and shameful.
4. Karen Lin- parent of 2nd grader of PS 18 and also has another student in 4th grade that is not in G&T and is in opposition of the ruling. She has a 7th grader in MS67 G&T and feels parents had to make a difficult decision to send them to G&T. She feels her son would be emotionally affected and the kids should be grandfathered in and incoming parents to be informed.
5. Yee Chen- mother of 3 in pre-k to be tested, second child in 3rd grade, 5th grader in G&T. The way the middle school enrollment process was handled was distressful. They were told that the State tests were not that critical but instead they are being used to determine G&T middle school assignments and are very upset because they were not informed. 400 students scored over 4 and there are only 165 seats, there are not enough seats! Please open seats to 2 G&T classes.

Q - How was the decision made to communicate to parents?

Anita stated that on Nov 12, 2013 that 2 people came to present about middle schools. Many schools had meetings to inform the parents.

Anita stated that the process was started in March.

Q- Why the change?

Anita stated that they wanted to make it equitable. They added 2 schools at PS 115 and 203 above 18 and 188. About 3 years ago the DOE wanted to put in a citywide district but parents were opposed.

Jaya informed the attendees that MS 216 stated that they are ready to open another G&T class.

Q- Is the DOE the only one to make a decision to open another G&T.?

Anita - said it is up to the DOE.

6. Sandy Santo- son at 203 G&T feels that they were blindsided and not notified until Nov. There are over 710 students that qualify and only 165 seats. Last year D30 were opposed. Their case should have set precedent with deferral until 2019. We should have the same consideration as D30. The real issue is the lack of seats. Consider creating more seats.
7. Roshan Perera- has 2 daughters in G&T and asked "why was the test changed and why are state tests being considered for G&T? The issue is disclosure? Requesting board to reinstate the policy and grandfather in existing G&T students.
8. Jungsh Patterson- Has 5th grader at 203. Because of placement she moved her family to another house. Please reconsider.
9. Shajid Ali Mohammed- has a son in kindergarten and 2nd grade. He moved his family because of the school district. He got accepted into PS18. He has moved his family many times based on his child's education. He wants DOE to honor what has been communicated to the G&T parents.
10. Barry Leung- Agrees with all the parents who have spoken. For the citywide G&T, the PS188 parents did not want to lose the seats.

Anita mentioned that many schools are having afterschool programs that challenge students and some are self-sustaining.

Teachers need 12 credits in addition to be G&T certified and get a certificate. Those teachers are well versed in asking children to find evidence and well informed of CCSS and involved with higher order thinking.

Q- What is the difference between SP and G&T.?

Anita says there is no curriculum but the tasks are more challenging at a higher level and more difficult.

11. Susan Oh- D26 has the burden of abundance. There are only 165 G&T seats open. How do we challenge other students?
12. Justine Barile- Feels that none of the principals knew what was going on and were not aware of the intricacies of how the students will be selected. Informed that if she doesn't get her 1st choice she will get her 2nd choice. But what if there are 2 kids with the same scores?
13. Sara McPhee- Rep from Office of Student Enrollment in charge of Middle School admissions (DOE) said they wanted to create additional equitable processes. They wanted additional students to get in and the highest scoring kids would be in the program. Ms. McPhee will take the information and questions back to the DOE and see if more seats can be created.
Ms. McPhee explained that it is one list showing students with the highest score and they get the first choice and then they go down the list.
Typically there are more seats offered because kids do drop out.

Q - How did it change after Walcott said test scores will not be the determination any students programming.

Sara McPhee said scores are used all over the city.

Susan said there was no transparency, principals were confused, and many other issues. Sara apologized about the issues.

Susan asked Ms. McPhee to go back and relay the information about the petition, the issues and concerns and the community input.

Ms. McPhee will discuss with her colleagues in enrollment and the superintendent and continue the discussions and thinks they can have conversations about a solution.

Q-When are students notified?

Ms. McPhee stated "in May".

Susan asked that the G&T issue be put on the January agenda.

Motion to adjourn the public meeting by Anastasio and seconded by Lucy. Council voted unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting ended 9:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lucy Vieco