

Community District Education Council District 26

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MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Monday, May 3, 2010

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

Location: MS 67- 51-60 Marathon Pkwy, Little Neck, NY 11004-Room-B44A

The meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order by Robert Caloras, President at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call: Rob Caloras, Ismael Fuentes, Dina Quondamatteo, Ricky Chan, Jeannette Segal, Irene Fennell, Esther Jung, Irene Cheung, Marie Pollicino, Susan Shiroma & Pia Alexander
Also in attendance was Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent & Lori Butera, District Family Advocate

Rob started off by stating that the meeting was changed to accommodate the budget department and DOE
Rob also welcomed Ricky Chan to his first official CDEC meeting as a council member.

Business Meeting

1. **Minutes** – March 24 & April 13th – Dina Quondamatteo made motion to approve the minutes, Ismael Fuentes second and council voted unanimously to accept as is with corrections to: March 24th, page 3: PS 198 to PS 98 and add Pia Alexander on to the school visit of PS 213.
2. **President's Report** –
 - a. **NYT April 27th** – article “We have met the enemy and he is PowerPoint” – Gen. James Mattis stated that “the PowerPoint makes us stupid”. “It’s dangerous because it can create the illusion of understanding and the illusion of control” per Gen. Mc Master also “some problems in the world are not bullet-izable”. Gen. Petraeus stated that some PowerPoint briefings are “just agony”. Commanders say that the slides impart less information than a five-page paper can hold, and that they relieve the briefer of the need to polish writing to convey an analytic, persuasive point.
 - b. **Gotham Gazette** – “testing scores” board of regents has forced the NYS to subject it’s testing to an actual audit. It will be an outside auditor of the reading & math test. Professor Daniel Caress (testing expert) will have access to the data to see whether NY test scores have been inflated. They think the study will show that the test scores have been inflated because information is out already as to where they draw the lines. The study shows when you rely too much on the test for various things such as teacher competence, principal bonuses and incentives that there will be cheating.
 - c. **Merrill Tish article** very forcible – questioning accountability of Mayor’s Accountability.
3. **Queens has put out several Nobel Prize winners** – PS 186 (Physics)
Richard Fineman figured out the directions electrons go. He is also a professor at Cal Tech and re-creators of the California curriculum in Science & Math.

Budget – Pia Alexander (Treasurer)
As of February 11, 2010

**COMMUNITY ED
COUNCIL BUDGET**

CEC #26

**Budget FY 10
20,000**

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	QUICK CODE	OBJECT CODE	ACTIVITY CODE	LOC Code	AMOUNT SCHEDULED	EXPENDED TO DATE	BALANCE
General Supplies	062641	198	0514	QS26	\$8,305	\$8,305	\$0
Procurement Card	062641	198	0518	QS26	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Stipend Reimbursements	062641	496	0519	QS26	\$1,300	\$337	\$963
Local Travel and Food Expenses	062641	451	0515	QS26	\$5,700	\$3,601	\$2,099
Copier Maintenance	062641	612	0516	QS26	\$1,495	\$1,185	\$310
Educational Consultant	062641	686	0520	QS26	\$1,200	\$900	\$300
Scheduled Sub-total							
TOTAL					\$20,000	\$16,328	\$3,672

NOTE : General Supplies includes: photocopying (198), printing (101), postage (117) , subscriptions and publications (198)

Pia spoke about PS 178 doing a workshop (Cyber bullying Workshop) and opening it up to the entire district with the CDEC co-sponsoring. Rob made a motion to co-sponsor PS 178's district-wide Cyber Bulling workshop and spend up to \$150. Members agreed unanimously to sponsor workshop scheduled for May 26.

New Business

School Visits/PTA

Ismael – attended a PTA meeting at PS 186 – drainage problem still on going (Ismael please complete-thanks)

Pia – School Visit to PS 178 – traffic problem – crosswalk to be installed on Avon road with two stop signs on each side – study by DOT almost concluded.

Ricky Chan stated that he and Esther are planning on setting up a school visit at PS 188 – awaiting dates.

Irene Fennel – School visit to PS 41 – in need of an electrical upgrade – water issue with a storage closet in the gym – ELL teacher teaching out of a closet – reading teacher teaching in the cold lunchroom – large waiting list for kindergarten classes since people are moving into the neighborhood. At a PTA the principal attended a DOE meeting on Cyber bullying and Cyberspace that the kids are looking at things they should not and sharing. Will be setting up a visit with PS 266 with Susan Shiroma.

Dina & Esther attended – PTA meeting at PS 46 – Jets donated smart boards – Title 1 presentation.

Jeannette – asked to attend a meeting at MS 67 with the SCA to give her professional opinion (doing walls & concrete – issue with water coming into the classrooms which will be looked at).

PTA meeting at PS 94 – elections for next year (Linda Courtney running for President – will be returning). Spoke about fundraising (plant sales for Mother's Day).

PS 98 – issue with water (leak destroyed some computers & their library) the leaders were corroded.

Repainting to take place – no mole issue.

Attended the April 23rd President's Council Legislative Breakfast co-sponsored with the CDEC and spoke on CDEC President's behalf. Politician's, Anita Saunders and council members attended. Spoke on issues going forward. Susan Shiroma stated "Jeannette did a nice speech". Susan stated that the President's Council and the CDEC have a nice relationship.

Irene Cheung – School visit to PS 173 –

School visit to PS 162 – feels there was miscommunication with the parent coordinator causing problems with the teachers and principal. States that the school is Korean populated and need more staff to speak Chinese or Korean and feels that the staff needs to be able to speak more than one language.

Rob – attended PTA meeting at PS 67 & PS 221 – budget concerns.

Susan Shiroma attended two borough wide meetings:

- April 15th – Borough President Parent Advisory Council meeting (Irene Fennel & Dina Quondamatteo) community members attended –discussed DOE policies and a presentation from the Executive Director of the Integrated Service Center who spoke about the new Children's First Network. Questions were raised about the Office of Portfolio Development and how the DOE creates new high schools in the borough. High creation differs from district to district.
- April 27 – Queens boro wide meeting of all CDEC in Queens which took place at John Adams HS in Queens – Ewel gave a presentation on the Roles and Responsibilities of the CDEC. Talked about the new State Education Law that took effect last summer. Did a presentation also on how to administer yourself. Open Meetings Law should be careful e-mailing on issues because it is a violation of the Open Meeting Law. All commentary should be done in public. OFEA has sign language interpreters at their meetings.
Pia stated that the Calendar and Public meetings are counted as two meetings so if you miss them both that is counted as two absences.

Rob stated that if the DOE knows in advance that someone needs translation, it is provided.

Dina – attended a PTA meeting at PS 115 – presentation regarding transition from 5th grade to middle school presented. Also attend a SLT meeting at PS 46.

New Business

1. Rob spoke about the Bake Sale Resolution in packets. (Attached) Want to appeal 6 p.m. time and etc. Ismael made a motion to pass resolution and Irene Fennel seconded. Council voted unanimously to accept. Resolution will be sent to Ewel Napier, Martine Guerrier and Chancellor Klein.
2. Ismael asking if we could clarification or discussion regarding roles & responsibilities or code of conduct of council members attending non CDEC sponsored events with regards to interacting with school members, administrators, discussion among the attendees. Ex: A council member attends a PTA meeting then a discussion takes place that is border line inappropriate to the school, attendees and administrators. In what capacity is the CDEC member and is it inappropriate to have any business discussion with the attendees.
Rob states the council member can go and represent the CDEC but should not cross the line and speak on an issue that has not been discussed by the council and voted on. Any problems should be brought back to the council and discussed.
Pia reiterated at school visits the council member should listen to what's happening in the school and bring all concerns and issues back to the council for discussion.
Susan states that the CDEC's are advocates and need to be neutral and maybe training on behavior is needed.

Irene Cheung stated that the MS 74 after school might be cut.

Old Business - None

Adjourned – Rob motion to close Business meeting, Ismael seconded, voted unanimously at 8:10 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING

Public meeting called to order 8:20 by Robert Caloras.

Esther Jung absent from public meeting – not feeling well – council voted 9 YES – 1 NO to excuse.

Speakers List (Visitors)

1. Vincent Tabone of the Northeast Queens Community Action Network Inc. - spoke on the importance of CDEC's and its roles. Stated that that it is fundamental important what the CDEC does with respect to the budget. Mr. Tabone feels that D26 & D25 gets short changed because there are concerned parents and great teachers. Mr. Tabone stated that Anita Saunders also does a great job and feels that all concerned parents should be vocal.
2. President of Glen Oaks – Bob Friedrich said he and teachers have spoken about possibly holding a bake sale with homemade goods as an act of protest.

Superintendent's Report
CDEC Meeting
Monday, May 3, 2010
7:00 P.M.

- Presentation – FY11 School Budget
- PS 46 – Principal for a Day
NY Jets/ Matt Higgins
13 Smart Boards Donated by Jets
- PS 115 - Article in “Pencil” – Partnership Spotlight, April 2010
Long Island Architect provides PS 115 with Building Blocks to Enhance Curriculum
- PS 188 - Courtney Chiu – Winner – 5th Grade Bayside Historical Contest, “Women of Inspiration Contest” Art work on May Robson will be on display for the entire year.
- High School Admissions Information Sessions for Middle School Students and Families – see attachments
- New Deputy Chancellors:
 - Sharon Greenberger, Chief Operating Officer
 - Photo Anagnostopoulos, Finance & Technology
 - Mark Sternberg, Portfolio Planning
 - Eric Nadelstern, School Support & Instruction
 - Santiago Taveras, Community Engagement

Guest Speaker

1. **Mary Vaccaro** – UFT Representative spoke on behalf of the rubber rooms which will close at the end of the current school year.

- As of Sept. 1, UFT-represented pedagogues who are accused of misconduct or incompetence will be:

Assigned to their schools to do certain professional or administrative activities listed in the teachers' collective-bargaining agreement;

Assigned to a DOE administrative office to do administrative work consistent with law; or

Sent home with pay in very limited circumstances.

- After removing an educator from the classroom, DOE officials will have 10 days to bring incompetence charges and 60 days for charges of misconduct. Any educator not formally charged within that time will be sent back to his or her previous assignment.
- For those whose investigations result in charges, the hearing process must be completed within 60 days in most cases. An arbitrator would then have 30 days to make a decision. The number of arbitrators who hear such cases will increase from 23 to 39.
- Some members accused of less serious, non-termination offenses will have a mandated process consisting of three hearing days.
- For educators currently assigned to rubber rooms, arbitrators will work as mediators in an effort to settle many of the cases in the backlog. The rest will proceed to 3020-a hearings. The 3020-a hearing of anyone charged by Aug. 31, 2010, must be completed by the end of the calendar year. These educators will be given an administrative reassignment at their school or at a DOE office while their case is being heard.
- 8000 teachers to be laid off – pink slips will start going out on June 4th.
- There will be a rally in Washington, DC in September with approx. 200,000 laid off teachers from across the country.

UFT Dinner Dance May 13th – pictures needed.

Budget Presentation by Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent

Introduction: Rob Caloras – This public session is to air grievances or complaints to the city council. This is to get our voices on record. It's a rushed thing. Last time the CDEC got a 27 page document prior to the presentation on how the budget was determined. To make a coherent and intelligent analysis of the budget we should have been previously informed. Nothing was sent out before hand. Hopefully, our council will make some suggestions.

Questions Asked by the Attendees:

What percentage of city funding is increased for teacher salaries?

Is there a demographic trend or is it the economic situation that more children are being enrolled in public schools?

Is the 18% reduction part of the overall DOE budget or is it part of the Central and Field budget?

Has the \$350 million cut from bureaucracy ever been verified or audited?

Why are tax payers unsure of where their money goes & why don't they have the real numbers?

Has the DOE ever been audited by an outside agency?

Is there a slide show showing the budget impact of District 26?

Fair Share Funding, is that also known as tax levy?

Does the 22 billion include construction costs?

What part of the budget is flexible when it comes to schools?

Please explain "unscheduled balances" and "surplus Roll Offset."

What is meant by "Fringe"? What is meant by "debt" in the budget?

What percentage of the salary is fringe?

Regarding "pension" costs, have there been any talks regarding pension reform?

Being this is the citywide budget; will this budget be divided by the 1700 public schools?

Do principals and SLT's decide on the general education discretionary money at the schools?

Are there school based ways to assess a child?

Why is K-5 based on poverty? Why isn't academic achievement included for grades 3-5?

What is the correlation between academic and poverty? How do you use the poverty rate?

What happens to K-8 schools, how are they funded?

Will the Title 1 federal money be up after next year? Will the city find the money to continue it?

If there is an inability to do an across the board cut, is it possible that D.26 will get hit more than other districts?

Is the Fair Funding Formula going to be discussed by the DOE with city council? Does the city council get involved with Fair Share Funding?

Responses given by Sandy Brawer, Deputy Executive Director of Business Services, Dorette Postelnik, Operational Manager at Children's Network and Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent.

Meeting adjourned at 10.00 p.m.

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