

## Community Education Council District 26

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### MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Date:** Thursday, January 20, 2005

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

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

1. The meeting of the Community Education Council of District 26 (CEC 26) was called to order and chaired by Susan Downey, President of CEC 26 at 7:18 PM EDT.

#### 2. Roll Call

**Present:** Melissa Dorfman, Sandra Gonzales, Rich Olson, John Padden, Rob Caloras, Xiang Lan Cho, Susan Downey & Bona Sun

**Excused:** Mona Fabricant, Jacqueline Montgomery and Yen Shia Chou

Walter O'Brien, Local Instructional Superintendent & Lori Stein-Butera, Parent Support also attended.

3. **Minutes** – Changes made to minutes by John Padden, Recording Secretary. Marian to amend the minutes with the necessary changes and re-distribute to Council.

Motion to accept minutes when amended by Robert Caloras and seconded by Sandra Gonzales. The motion was unanimously passed.

#### 4. **President's Report** – Susan Downey

Susan & Sandra attended the monthly CEC President meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup> at TWEED & the following topics were discussed:

- *Impact on Schools* – These are schools needing safety and intervention. Putting plans into effect to improve safety. District 26 did not have any schools that were impacted except for John Bowne HS in the near future.
- *Identification & Removal of School Under Registration Review (SURR)*-
- *Keeping Current* – Chancellor Klein & Deputy Chancellor Farina will be visiting schools. We need to get 3 dates to give to them for this visit. Susan also spoke about combining this visit with District 25 (Judy Berkstrom); Also on February 12<sup>th</sup> there will be a Parents day of training in which there will be a variety of topics; Reminder that the Capital Plan comments are due by January 25<sup>th</sup>; On January 11<sup>th</sup>, Susan attended the Queens Parent Advisory Council meeting at Queens Borough Hall and the Chancellor was in attendance.



All meetings are held at wheelchair accessible sites.

Susan stated that some Community Education members have formed an association to act as a stronger voice for the CEC. A meeting was held in December under the premise of it being a CEC President's meeting in which this association wanted to discuss issues that they could not speak about at the regular TWEED meetings. Discussed were issues such as; budget allocation, offices, how we can help each other and etc. A motion was made to establish the association, but Susan stated that she abstained from any voting since she was not comfortable with the agenda. The January meeting was not attended but the next meeting is scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Queens Borough President's office in which they will discuss the zoning issue and all are welcomed to attend.

**Zoning** – information in packet on the Chancellor's Regulation A-185 proposal. A resolution will have to be submitted in regard to this topic either in the February or March meeting.

**Activity Reports** – committee informed to submit their sheets in a timely manner.

### **2005 Campaign for the Community Education Councils**

- January – application distribution – not yet available
- March – application deadline
- April – President's Council sponsored candidate forum submission of forms
- May – Selector voting
- May 23 – June 10<sup>th</sup> – Spring 2005 PA/PTA elections
- June – Initial training for Council members
- July 1st – 2004-2005 Council Term begins

## **5. Superintendent's Report – Walter O'Brien**

1. Proceeding with C-30 Assistant Principal
2. PS 203 is finished - pending approval from Chancellor
3. IS 74 working on Level 2 – finished with Level 1 this week?
4. PS 173 – committee in place - will be proceeding with Level 1 interview
5. District 26 is moving quickly
6. Thanked parents & students regarding Tsunami relief
7. Kindergarten Registration & Pre-K will be in March 7<sup>th</sup>. Grade 1 registration is March 14<sup>th</sup>. Lori informed committee that applications are being accepted for Pre-K.
8. Zoning Censor – met with Ms. Chin regarding its geographic lines
9. Testing of 8<sup>th</sup> graders ELE is done
10. 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be tested February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>.
11. Carol Nussbaum of PS 203 celebrated the Chinese New Year last Friday. Special thanks given. Sandra Gonzales amazed at the relation that Carol has with the students.
12. Feedback needed on school visits.
13. NCLB (No Child Left Behind) – these are Title 1 schools & they must be in compliance with the law. Walter not concurring in moving 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Rob stated that Title 1 money, which is federally funded, is being sent to the school not to the child under this title. Title 1 is based on the child getting free lunch. Susan stated that there are no Title 1 schools in this district. A



question was asked, “If the child moves, why doesn’t the money move with the child?” Walter informed the council that they are looking into it.

14. Categories of school needing action – no schools.

15. AMO – every school met the target.

### ***Unfinished Business – Susan***

Susan stated that they are still looking for a High School student and will touch basis with Anita when she returns from vacation.

Susan informed the Council that she drafted a letter for a teacher who has tenured (David Schwartz). Stated she discussed with Anita that they might want to invite teachers who have tenured into the school at year-end but can discuss at the next meeting.

Rob Caloras made a motioned to discuss recognition of principals, teachers & assistants who reach tenure. Sandra seconded the motion.

Melissa – outlined previous recognitions – where the PTA, parents and other officers are brought in to give recognition. A suggestion was made to do it in June? Rob felt June is a busy month and suggests doing a month for teachers, a month for principals and etc.

Sandra asked – do we know the number who tenure monthly?

Melissa stated that we should continue to send the letter and Susan agreed.

Susan suggested forming a committee to spearhead the end of year celebration. Melissa, Sandra, Rich, Rob & Bona volunteered to be on the committee. Committee formed to decide what type of celebration and they will come back next month with the information of what is suggested as to when to have it and what type.

Question asked about the President’s meeting at the TWEED in regard to this association being formed. Susan outlined what/how it happened. Received an e-mail stating that the December President’s meeting was cancelled but the next day received an e-mail from Carmen Colona, Dist. 13 stating they had use of the Borough President’s office and if there were any issues you would like to discuss that you are not comfortable with bringing up at the Presidents meeting so get together. Spoke about the formation; spoke about lawyer who is not charging for his services. The association will have information that the Councils will not get. Councils cannot hire a lawyer to look at laws, but an association can hire on an individual basis. Zoning information sent to Councils. February 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. there will be detailed school training on zoning.

Susan feels that we should help each other. If another District is not sure about something, they should be able to call another District and get some assistance.

### ***New Business – Susan***

Informed the committee that Massimo Spaventa, Special Assistant at the ROC, needed the future CEC dates. Dates confirmed with the Council & will be sent to the ROC. (February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19 & June 16<sup>th</sup>.)

Distributed a proposed budget and will discuss with Bona Sun. Setting up a meeting to go over with Ina Werbelow (Finance Dept) at the ROC. Susan asks that the CEC review but it is not finalized & the monies will be reallocated. Will be brought up at the next meeting.



Discussion of dates for Chancellor to visit. Susan mentioned coordinating with District 25 but Sandra suggested that we have our own. Susan stated that we would keep it on a District level and come up with some dates and submit to DOE.

Rob suggested going to PTA meetings and being a liaison. Suggest having one of the Council members go to the PTA meetings. Marian to contact schools for PTA dates of all schools and get a schedule so that the Council can make visits.

***Lori outlined the following:***

1. Attended a PTA Leadership training
2. Parent & PTA training forthcoming -dates will be given to Marian
3. Workshops – (recreational and DOE)
4. CEC election discussed
5. Applications being sent out to the community & PTA to assist
6. 2 schools having College Workshops
7. Lion King Show – attended with MS 74 on January 19, 2005
8. Larry Johnson introduced.

***Melissa*** – suggested sending an invitation to Judith Chin to attend our March meeting. Advised Council that some schools did not respond to visits. Suggested working with the PTA to do a fundraiser for the Tsunami victims.

***Bona*** – spoke about the Gifted & Magnate Program. Will be discussed with Anita. Suggested getting someone who is involved to speak on this subject.

Motion to close by Susan – seconded by Sandra.

The business meeting ended at 8:15 PM EDT.

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**Susan Downey called the CEC 26 Calendar Public Meeting to order at 8:20 PM EDT on January 20, 2005 and led all present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Roll Call**

**Present:** Melissa Dorfman, Sandra Gonzales, Rich Olson, John Padden, Rob Caloras, Xiang Lan Cho, Susan Downey & Bona Sun

**Excused:** Mona Fabricant, Jacqueline Montgomery and Yen Shia Chou

Susan introduced the 5 Year Capital Plan and asked if the Council or guests had any input regarding issues that might not have been addressed in the plan:

1. High Schools in this District are overcrowded and there is no indication that a new HS is going to be built.
2. Why are they spending millions on laptops when they need teachers?
3. Charter Schools



Susan stated that all issues/comments would be sent to Kathleen Grimm.

Susan introduced Larry Johnson who is the Deputy Regional Facilities Manager. In inviting Mr. Johnson to this meeting, notices were sent to the Principals asking if there were any issues that they would like to address regarding the 5 Year Capital Plan, if so, they should attend this meeting.

**Speaker # 1**– Larry Johnson – Deputy Regional Facilities Manager

1. Mr. Johnson’s function is to make sure that schools are cleaned, well lighted and heated for the safety of the students so that may feel comfortable.
2. Mr. Johnson meets and works closely with the custodians, PTA & principals in dealing with the issues & operations of the school.
3. Projects in process in District 26:
  - a. PS 18 – replace windows in April – lightning – PA system – fire alarm system.
  - b. PS 115 – floors to be done – water penetration, so pumps will be put in basement to alleviate flooding
  - c. PS 162 – windows to be replaced – roof – fire alarm system
  - d. PS 191 – lightning – fire alarm upgrade – windows in auditorium to be replaced

In meeting with principals he is informed as to what priority is and what is needed.

Rich – asked about the Capital Improvement & if Mr. Johnson is consulted. Mr. Johnson stated that he is consulted regarding any improvement and its priority standing. Mr. Johnson stated that schools are graded from 1 to 5 and 5 being the worst.

Larry stated that every job has to budgeted and approved. He outlined the difference in Bridging & scaffolding. Scaffolding is to get to the area to do the work. Bridging is to make the area safe from bricks and falling objects.

Larry explained that the work at PS 115 has been scheduled for April. The engineers and architects have been notified. Mr. Johnson will meet with the Principals & any other community people to see if anything is needed before work begins.

It takes about 8 months thereafter to start any job because specs & designs are needed. Then it goes out for bidding.

Mr. Johnson stated that Glen Oaks is a new HS in District 26 – it is not at capacity. It starts with the 9<sup>th</sup> grade; next year it will be 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Walter O’Brien informed the group that students at PS 266 & 208 have priority for Glen Oaks HS. Mr. Johnson informed the group that they are looking for sites for high schools. Mr. Johnson stated that the DOE is trying to keep all schools small.

**Speaker # 2** – David Pinzon – Co-President of the President’s Council of District 26

1. Suggest coming to PTA meetings for the middle schools.



2. Association with zoning – exposed to other districts – CPAC – stated that all districts have issues. Feels the other districts do not want to hear from District 26. Other districts have different goals than District 26.

John made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. and Rich seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

