

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

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

**Date:** Thursday, January 26, 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 7:10 p.m. in the auditorium.

The Pledge of Allegiance was started off by Walter O'Brien.

Roll Call: Rob Caloras, Susan Shiroma, Jackie Montgomery, Melissa Dorfman, Edward Fallacaro, Richard Olson, Carol Gomez & Adam Amit.

Unexcused: Yen Shia Chou & Bona Sun

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

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

##### ***Secretary's Report – none***

##### ***Minutes presented by Rob Caloras***

*Reviewing of previous month's minutes* - December 20, 2005 minutes reviewed for corrections, changes or additions. Carol made a motion to accept the minutes as is and Jackie seconded. The Council voted unanimously to accept the December 20<sup>th</sup> minutes.

The December 6, 2005 Outreach Committee minutes were reviewed for corrections, additions, deletions. Motion made by Rob to accept and Rich seconded. The Council voted unanimously to accept the December 6<sup>th</sup> minutes.

##### ***President's Report***

1. Continuing to send & check E-mails between council members.
2. Gave website information & informed attendees that Ed Fallacaro set up the site and will be handling it.
3. Paper delivered to all schools in District 26.
4. Letter received from Ms. Zucker, Principal of PS 159 regarding changes at PS 159.
5. Spoke about Public Hearing regarding PS 159 & its structure and speakers such as: Padavan, McSweeney, Bonnie Song & Ms. Fallacaro. Rob stated that no one spoke favorably about the change and the Council passed a resolution which was approved.

Rob proceeded to read the resolution:

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 - Resolution pertaining to PS 159

Whereas, Administrators of Region 3 of the New York City Department of Education are proposing to implement a change in the grades attending Intermediate School 25, District 25 ("IS25").

Whereas, this change entails IS25, currently a grade 7 through grade 9, becoming a grade 6 through grade 8 school.

Whereas, many 6th grade students at PS 159, District 26, are currently designated to attend 7th, 8th, and 9th grade at IS 25.

Whereas, the proposed change to Intermediate School 25's grades will require those students at PS 159, currently designated to attend Intermediate School 25, to attend IS 25 for the 6th grade instead of attending PS 159 for 6th grade.

Whereas, a public hearing was conducted by the Community District Education Council 26 regarding this proposal and, many members of the PS 159 community attended and spoke out against the proposal.

Whereas, no member of the PS 159 community spoke in favor of the proposal.

Whereas, issues regarding the proposal were discussed at the Public Hearing, including the resolution passed by District 26 Presidents' Council to endorse a proposal allowing P.S.159 students currently zoned for I.S. 25 in District 25 to attend District 26 middle schools.

Resolution seconded by Rich Olson and passed unanimously by the council.

6. Letter from the SCA regarding construction at PS 221. A copy of the letter was not sent to the CDEC but Community Board 11 (Susan **Steinfeld**, District Manager) gave Rob a copy. Rob stated that he has requested from SCA a list of all construction jobs taking place in District 26. Marian will e-mail Debra Perry for an up-to-date listing.

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

1. Went over the current budget spread sheet and informed council how much was spent for the district paper.

#### ***Committee Reports***

Ed spoke out about the following:

1. January 10<sup>th</sup> Outreach Committee meeting where they spoke about:
  - a. Public hearing format and procedures
  - b. Changes to website – e-mail address and if anyone wants to be sent a copy of the mailings they should give their website address.
  - c. Spoke about the continued liaison work with the schools & PTA'

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

1. The ELA practice exam went very smoothly.
2. PS 41, PS 98 & PS 159 – Gold Ribbon Winners in the American Ballroom Theatre Company's Semi-final dance competition for Queens. Finals will be Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at Cipriani in Manhattan and it will be broadcasted on Primetime ABC, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 p.m.
3. MS 216 has joined the Partnership with St. John's University & has received a \$94,000 grant from the Pinkerton Foundation to create the St. John's/MS 216 College Experience Program. 100 students will be attending from February-May on Saturdays.
4. Schools received the "Parents as Arts Partners Grant (PS 31, 203, 213 & 221).
5. MS 158 – article in Newsday featuring Future Corps which created Spanish children's books puzzles and they read the books to elementary students at PS 46.  
Reading Rocks NYC Grant was awarded to Ms. Frederick and Ms. Scott from Scholastic Books to motivate reading for middle school.  
Two teachers nominated for the "Disney Teacher Awards" (Ms. Parker & Mr. Fabian).

6. Parent Involvement Grants – PS 31, 41, 94/98, 115, 178, 186, 203, 205 & 213 received either the “Single Parent Initiative, Gender Initiative, Supporting Grandparents or the Other Caregivers” grant.
7. Parent Workshop – 50 parents attended the “Aim High in Middle School workshop.
8. District 26 has started a Parent to Parent Support Group for Special Education students- next meeting will be held February 15<sup>th</sup> at PS 115 from 9-11 a.m. Very profitable meeting for the parents.
9. PS 115- received the EM Winston Gill Reporter Program Grant for exemplary music program.
10. Reminded attendees that the extended day (37 ½ minutes Mon-Thurs) begins February 6 for students and teachers except MS 67 which will be 50 minutes, Tuesday-Thursday.

Walter O’Brien, Local Community Superintendent

Stated the reason for success in District 26 is because of the teachers, parents and students working together.

Lori Butera – Parent Coordinator

Stated that a new workshop will be starting called “Time Management for Kids”

***New Business***

1. Ed outlined what topics were spoke about at the President’s Council meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup> at MS 74:
  - a. CPAC discussion; CDEC’s power; Lobby Day; HIV/AIDS Curriculum; Foreign Language at MS 216; PS 159 resolution; New Yorker’s for Smaller Classes & No Child Left Behind
  - b. Gave a brief outline of the CDEC

Rob informed the council of the next meeting which is February 23<sup>rd</sup> but that is Winter Recess and the school is closed so the date would have to be changed.

***Old Business - none***

Rob made a motion to adjourn and the council agreed unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



### ***Public Meeting- started at 8:10 p.m.***

Rob welcomed everyone to the CDEC meeting and presented the Council members. Special thanks to Judith Chin, Region 3 Superintendent; Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent & Walter O'Brien, Local Instructional Superintendent; Senator Frank Padavan, Gene McSweeney of Assemblywoman Ann Carrozza's office; Bonnie Song & Suzanne Windland, Co-President's of the President's Council; Mary Vaccaro, UFT Representative; Ms. Dapolito, Principal of MS 74 for the use of the auditorium and John Sullivan, custodian.

Other attendees – Councilman Mark Avella, Assemblyman Mark Weprin, Councilman David Weprin & Dennis Walcott, Deputy Mayor of Education.

Rob expressed that the Chancellor would be answering questions to those who have signed the Speaker's List. Expressed to everyone that they are not to get personal and to be nice.

Rob stated that he did research on the Chancellor and read some of his attributes:

Went to NYC public school system – Harvard Law School – became a lawyer then a teacher – Clinton Administration, Dept. of Justice – landmark case against Microsoft –Chancellor of Education.

Chancellor thanked the CDEC for the invite and stated that there is a lot of work to do but there is progress being made throughout the city. Schools are safer and the children are performing better when looking at the national test scores.

Speakers called:

1. Ms. Elsa Wiener – parent of PS 159 – re: Francis Lewis HS.
2. Suzanne Collins & Beth Falick– parents of PS 26 l– issues regarding safety, flooding & traffic (speed bumps).
3. Suzanne Windland & Bonnie Song – Co-President's of President Council spoke about performance in Dist. 26; losing 10 mins/day they feel that September. would be a better month to make the changes & District 26 should be made a prototype district for other schools.
4. Damari Fallacaro – PTA President of PS 159 – spoke about the issues regarding PS 159.
5. Darylle Barent – UFT member - regarding busing funds & why isn't it used for more teachers & smaller classes.
6. Kevin Revella – UFT member – regarding March 30 & 31<sup>st</sup> days off.
7. Cheryl Thomas – parent of PS 115 – grades overcrowded – losing 50 mins/week.
8. Spencer Rivera – student – regarding changes at PS 159
9. Barbara Kopp – parent of PS 159 – regarding rezoning (Chancellor stated that CDECs' can approve rezoning.
10. Janice Fulgieri – PTA President of MS 74 – regarding failing schools & class sizes.
11. Mary Ellen Muller – teacher at PS 159 – who will be filling the vacant seats must changes are made? Judith Chin stated that they will bring Pre-K to PS 159 to fill the empty seats.
12. Susan McClellan – parent of PS 186 – regarding bus transportation.
13. Patrick Patton – parent of PS 178, Special Education – changing K-5 to K-8, will Special Education be included in this change?
14. Cynthia Herendeen – parent of PS 18 – spoke on the Gifted Program

15. Mike Vukbratovich – civic leader – not in favor of changes being done at PS 159 and questioning why overcrowding of elementary kids in the district.
16. Paula Gibly – parent of PS 221 – questioning 37 ½ minutes – disrupting schedules & routines of children already set up and it would be a burden on the parents.

Rob thanked the Chancellor for his participation in this meeting.

***Public meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.***

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