

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

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

**Date:** Thursday, January 28, 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 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call: Rob Caloras, Pia Alexander, Ismael Fuentes, Dina Quondamatteo, Jeannette Segal, Irene Fennell, Maria Pollicino & Susan Shiroma

Excused: Esther Jung

Late – Irene Cheung

Also in attendance was Lori Butera, District Family Advocate.

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

1. Minutes – November 19<sup>th</sup> & December 16<sup>th</sup> – Ismael Fuentes made motion to approve the minutes, Irene Fennell second and council voted unanimously to accept as is.
2. **President's Report**
  - a. Article – NY Times article by Susan Demenis pertaining to “money for schools” talking about giving children money for good grades and there are others with the same thought.
  - b. Article on “Recess & Lunch” Anita will give data from principals as to their recess and punishment policies which were discussed at the October meeting.  
Article by recess by Ms. Parker Pope in the NY Times - findings are that all schools have a problem with getting the children out and getting them to eat. They found that if you switch the order around and send them out first and bring them in, they eat more food, they calm down and get to class in a better mood to perform.
  - c. Article in the Atlantic Monthly “what makes a great teacher” discusses research that the people who run Teach for America Program have compiled. Research on teachers and what they found in what type of teaching methods work in bringing up low performance students. Teach for America work about 18 hours a day.
  - d. NY Law Journal Essay contest winner – Aaron Shapiro, Senior at Bayside High School.
  - e. Article – interview with Mr. Frank Wilson, Nobel Prize Physics, Professor at MIT – went to Martin Van Buren. This is another high school that has the potential to produce bright students.
  - f. Jamaica HS closing – article pertaining to Hong Kong on how they go to meetings and do everything they're suppose to do and it's for nothing.  
New rule is a faust – there was not one DOE in favor of closing the schools.  
Public hearing well attended.  
Sheldon Silver quote said something where he was in favor regarding the new law.

Ismael spoke about seeing the Chancellor on FOX 5 – regarding Bushwick community holding parades for its high schools. Nothing was said about Jamaica HS.

Rob stated that the new schools will not be able to handle old schools quota.

- g. Sent chancellor a thank you for the presentation
  - h. Attended a 7:30 a.m. Principal's Legislative Breakfast at PS 221 (Ms. Twomey) – Senator Padavan, Councilman Mark Weprin & CSA representative. Discussed budget cuts & principals showed that the cuts are more than 1%. Chancellor Klein has stated that you cannot excess any teachers, parent coordinators or guide counselors but you can get rid of school aides and secretaries which is no saver. D75 schools will not be touched.  
Gifted students in third grades still being tested for Gifted & Talented program.
- Weprin & Padavan spoke – not exactly up beat that anything could be done. Mark pointed out that it is a product of School Governance.
- i. Attended a PTA meeting at PS 205.
  - j. Petition from David Salerno – schools having to send teachers to grade tests, if not, schools will have to pay \$3,000. Question asked – why not use teachers in the rubber room? Suggested to Chancellor to use excess teachers or those in the reassignment centers.
  - k. Attended President's council meeting – discussed Jamaica HS closing – UFT Scholarship Dinner – suggested having a Legislative breakfast - next meeting is Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Parent spoke about a problem at PS 162 – would like for the council to attend their PTA meetings or do a school visit. Irene Cheung is the liaison for PS 162 and will try to attend a PTA meeting.

Susan stated that there is a grievance procedure that parents and PTA's follow when there is disruption. Susan introduced Lori Stein Butera, District Family Advocate who would be able to explain the procedure it to the parent and the PTA.

Rob acknowledged Dan Halloran (Councilman D19) who spoke about the Mayor's new budget.

- Stated that there are three separate budgets
- Proposal to cut UFT salary capped at \$70,000 not eligible for raises. Teachers making more than \$70,000 will not be eligible for a raise. Raise reduced to 2% from 4%.
- Property taxes will not be raised
- 26% will be spent on infrastructure (11.8 billion in resources and construction)
- Cutting 1000 police officers and 20 fire companies (5 in each borough)
- ATR teachers – proposing that teachers be given 3 opportunities to go to another school and if they choose not to, they will be terminated.

Susan – asked about Grant money – Councilman Halloran outlined the funds:

1. Capital Improvements – comes out of the Mayor's office - large scale projects – building new schools – renovating old schools (can only make recommendations)
2. Borough pot – split into two groups - Helen Marshall controls – receives an allotment – council members as to what is needed in their district and decides who gets what.
3. Borough pot – council members – gets a fixed amount of money – members submit their requests and the borough meets to decide who gets what (ex: Catholic Charities – Legal Aid society) and this is something that would help the entire borough.
4. Council member allotment – done by party affiliation. The Speaker controls the money and chooses how much each member gets. Upon distribution of the money the councilman will decide which organization or group who gets the money (each group or organization must complete paperwork as what the money is needed for – education is priority).

Principals need to get the 4 page form in by mid –February. Computer labs are needed in D26.

**Budget** – Pia Alexander (Treasurer)  
 As of December 31, 2009

**COMMUNITY ED  
 COUNCIL BUDGET**

**CEC #26**

**Budget FY 10  
 20,000**

<b>EXPENDITURE CATEGORY</b>	<b>QUICK CODE</b>	<b>OBJECT CODE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY CODE</b>	<b>LOC Code</b>	<b>AMOUNT SCHEDULED</b>	<b>EXPENDED TO DATE</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
General Supplies	062641	198	0514	QS26	8,950	786	8,164
Procurement Card	062641	198	0518	QS26	2,000	2,000	0
Stipend Reimbursements	062641	496	0519	QS26	1,300	182	1,118
Local Travel and Food Expenses	062641	451	0515	QS26	5,700	1,011	4,689
Copier Maintenance	062641	612	0516	QS26	850	835	15
Educational Consultant	062641	686	0520	QS26	1,200	300	900
Scheduled Sub-total							
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>20,000</b>	<b>5,114</b>	<b>14,886</b>

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

Rob made a motion to purchase more paper, Jeannette seconded, council voted unanimously.

**New Business**

**1. School Visits/PTA**

Pia – school visit on Wednesday – PS 173; PTA meeting at PS 133; PTA meeting at PS 178, issue regarding traffic. Tickets were being given out for U-turns and double parking. Pia suggested opening up another entrance to school.

Dina – attended PS 115 PTA meeting

Irene Fennell – attended PTA meeting at PS 41 – workshop for parent appreciation

**Old Business**

1. Rob iterated that council members should contact their liaison school and try to attend a PTA meeting and set up a school visit.

**Superintendent's Report**

Anita attending a ceremony for Janet Won in which she will be doing a presentation.

Linda Courtney thanked Rob for attending their PTA meeting and distributing recognition certificates to the officers.

## PUBLIC MEETING

Rob introduced the guest speaker – Ms. Mary Leas – School Construction Authority External Affairs, Monica Gutierrez, Community Relations Manager & Ken Faustmann, Project Officer.

Mary Leas stated that every year they attend CDEC meetings to inform the community in what they are getting and to get feed back on what's there or should be there. Suggestions are taken back and reviewed. The CDEC has been asked to submit a list of the five top priority schools in their district. Spoke about electrical upgrade is requested. Air conditioners are capital eligible. Most schools are old buildings and are not equipped for the new technology.

Last request listed electrical upgrades (3 schools received – PS 115, 188 & 18).

Mary started the PowerPoint presentation

> FY2005 – 2009 Capital Plan Accomplishments

– Capacity Projects

District 26 Seat Need: 441

Project/Building Name	Number of Seats	Occupancy Date
Completed		
PS 94 Annex	88	Sept. 07
PS 188 Annex	211	Sept. 09
Total District 26 Seats	299	

142 remaining seats are included in the FY2010-2014 Capital Plan.

\_ Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

118 projects totaling \$153,329,458\* in contracts were awarded for all categories in this district.

Project Category	Number of Projects
Building Envelope (exterior) **	45
Electrical	3
Gymnasium	3
Playgrounds	2
Science Labs	3

\*\*Water damage - fire damage – masonry - window

This total includes all projects in the geographical district including high schools and special education.

Some of the money went for high schools.

PS 133 received a new roof, parapets and auditorium upgrades; IS 74 received a new roof , parapets and new yard, costing about \$10 million; PS 41 received exterior masonry; PS 178 received exterior masonry, new roof and boiler conversion; Cardozo HS received windows, masonry & auditorium upgrade; Francis Lewis received new science lab & windows; IS 172 received masonry, auditorium upgrade and handicap accessible ramp; PS 46 received electrical upgrade; MS 67 received windows; PS 162 received auditorium upgrade; PS 188 received new windows; PS 94 Annex received a playground; PS 98 received gym floor & lighting; PS 31 received exterior masonry project which is in progress as of now and PS 159 received windows and window guards on all windows due to its location.

\_ Resolution A (Reso A)

55 projects totaling \$8,245,230\* in contracts were awarded for all categories in this district.

A large amount of money goes into technology.

Program Category	Number of Projects
Auditorium	9
Electrical	1
Playground	2

Resolution A (Reso A) projects are school-specific capital improvement or enhancement projects that are funded by individual grants from the Borough Presidents or members of the New York City Council.

Elected officials are given money which could be distributed to schools to help with the upgrading of their auditorium with curtains, lighting, projectors or etc.

>FY2010 - 2014 Capital Plan  
 \_ Looking ahead - upcoming projects

**District 26 Seat Need: 416**

Project/building Name	Number of Seats	Neighborhood
Not Sited		
Project # 1	416	Bayside & Auburndale
TOTAL		416

Looking for a site to hold a K-8 school and is asking attendees to give the name of a site if one is found.

High Schools are sited borough wide they are not district specific. They look at the needs of the entire borough. They are opening 23 new schools citywide in September and opened 20 last year. In Queens the Gateway HS of Science in D28 (medical facility) which seats 900 students, the Metropolitan Avenue Campus & the Frank Sinatra school in LIC which seats 900 students. Shortage of high schools seats of about 416. DOE looking at Francis Lewis HS (trans-portable classrooms). They can get rid of the trans-portables and open an addition to this school. They do not want to make schools bigger because they are talking about reducing size. Francis Lewis is a high performing school; the size is not hurting it at all as far as academics. There is a high school CDEC group that would be recommendations.

**10 projects totaling \$17,920,000. Highlights include**

Project Category	Number of Projects	Approximate Project Costs (in millions)
Flood Elimination	3	\$4.64
Playground Redevelopment	1	\$2.78
Electric Systems	3	\$3.91

Deadline for the February amendment missed, due January 8th. Next amendment is in November, 2010.

The needs are great and the resources are limited.  
 Laptops are not eligible as a recommendation from schools.

Irene Fennel – asked about the consensus – will they take that into consideration and look at it.  
 Mary – not sure when that will be adjusted as to the housing trend & the utilization in the schools.

Rob asked about the three schools that made it on the plan, can the CDEC just move up the schools from the last recommendation list.  
 Mary stated that they could but the council should look at the other schools to see if there is another priority.

Mary informed the council that the way they decide which projects to have is that there is a group of engineers, architects that do a building assessment survey. This group goes around to every school with the Principals and their custodians doing a walk through and sometimes CDEC members go along. The letters are sent to the schools to inform them of the date and to advise the CDEC & UFT. The sites are walked and ranked from 1-5 (1=best condition & 5=worst condition). The 5's are addressed. The survey results are online (Dept of Ed website & SCA website). The architectural component is looked at, mechanical system & electrical system; all are ranked 1-5.

Irene Fennell – brought up the subject of additional work. Ex: doing masonry job, once walls are torn down, they find that the plumbing in the wall is rotten. What happens then?

Mary – stated that the allocation for that job becomes more than what they budgeted it for due to additional work being needed to do the job right. A change order would have to be presented.

Rob – asked about updates –can they be sent to the CDEC about when meetings are set with what schools?  
Can the CDEC be put on their mailing list?

Mary informed the council that the CDEC would be put on the distribution list (protocol meetings).

Rob – questioning the funds for PS 94 – should they be funded separately?

Mary will look into it and let us know.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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