

Community District Education Council District 26

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MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, October 22, 2009

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, Erik DePaula, Jeannette Segal & Susan Shiroma

Excused: Marie Pollicino - Esther Jung

Late – Irene Fennell

Also in attendance were Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent & Lori Butera, and District Family Advocate

Business Meeting

Rob acknowledged the visitors: Gene McSweeney representing Assemblywoman Carrozza'; Mary Vaccaro, UFT Representative; PTA presidents; Ali Najmi representing Assemblyman Mark Weprin & Jaime Cobham, Queens ISC.

1. Minutes – September 24th minutes – Rob made motion to approve the minutes, council voted unanimously to accept.
2. President's Report
 - a. Apologized for losing his temper at the September 24th meeting.
 - b. Informed the attendees that Chancellor Klein confirmed that he will be coming to the December 16th meeting from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Notices will be made up, reviewed and presented to the president's council meeting also. Back pack notices will be made up for each school and distributed by council members, parent coordinators and others. Rob spoke about getting the notices translated (Korean, Chinese, and Spanish & Urdu) for posting only and council agreed.
3. UFT Dinner – good turnout – more parents than teachers.
4. Called SCA (Monica Gutierrez) regarding property on Northern Blvd which is available and asked them to take a look at it for a school site. Rob informed that they were still reviewing as to what they can do with it. E-mail sent to Mr. Kendrick Ou for an update.
5. Community Board 11 meeting which took place the earlier part of October. They have a budget which list in which they submit proposals to the Mayor and City Council who then in turn forwards it on to the Borough President where they prioritize the items in which they want to see done first. The co-chair of the budget committee is looking at a new high school since the others are overcrowded. Rob was asked to get numbers from the high schools (size, sessions, class sizes & capacity) to submit. Mary Vaccaro, UFT representative will get her portion and Rob will compile.

HIGH SCHOOLS	CURRENT REGISTRATION	ORIGINAL CAPACITY	SCHOOL SESSIONS	AVERAGE CLASS SIZE
BAYSIDE HS	3604	2100	8:00 – 2:30 pm 8:50 – 3:32 pm Extended days – 7:14 – 8:00; 2:43-4:22; 3:36-5:07 & Saturdays 8:30-1 p.m.	
BENJAMIN CARDOZO	4051	2500	7:30 – 2:10 pm 8:15 – 3:05 pm 9:13 – 3:52 pm	
FRANCIS LEWIS HS	4537	2500	Session 1 7:15 – 1:52 Session 2 8:03 – 2:42 Session 3 8:57 – 3:35 Session 4 9:47 – 4:23 Session 5 10:37 – 5:11 Session 6 12:17 – 6:48	
MARTIN VAN BUREN	2950	1500	7:05 – 1:42 pm 10:25 – 5:01 pm	
QUEENS HS OF TEACHING	1200	1182	7:30 – 2:30 p.m. 8:30 – 3:30 pm 9:30 – 4:30 pm	

Melvyn Meer spoke about the overcrowding of high schools.

Rob stated that he received an e-mail from one of the principals who thanked us for our concern and asked the CDEC to take into consideration and balance the importance of giving all parents and students the school of their choice with making sure the difficulties and problems associated with overcrowding schools are done. D26 do not have CAPS where as other schools have CAPS. (Ex: Jamaica HS)

6. Rob prepared the suggested outline for presentation to the PTA's. Council members can use or revise it to their liking.

Suggested points for PTA presentations

- Thank you for your work
- Imperative to keep tradition of strong PTA/President Council in D26
- Strong Associations and Councils have been a major cause of our success in D26-----
This is not appreciated by non-D26 people and the DOE
- Last few years – there has been an unprecedented destruction of bond between parents/students/schools.
- Chancellor/Mayor-have no respect for parents-they don't see a role for parents in the school system. Mayor has admitted this on his radio show.
- Recently, Chancellor's regulations seek to end traditional fundraising method of the bake sale. While cafeterias in school serve non-healthy foods, parents are prohibited from serving non-packaged goods, even if they are baked at home and use nothing but organic ingredients and are low in fat and calories.
Blatant attempt to cut fundraising abilities of PTAs and reduce their influence.
- The Mayor has even told middle class parents that if they have problems with the schools they should send their children to a private school
- He has gone so far as to race bait by insinuating to predominantly African American people that before his rule, schools in middle class areas, that are predominantly white, have received more money due to our political influence
- Only a few schools outside D26 have predominantly middle class parents and students, so he is directing these comments at us.
- Truth is, our schools get less money than most other schools.
- Your work is necessary to combat misinformation about our schools.

- Your work necessary to keep our schools strong, vibrant, and places where children get a valuable education.
 - The Community District Education Council of District 26 is here to help you do this in any capacity we can.
 - We can add our voice to your concerns regarding DOE regulations and policies.
 - We can help you bring your concerns to the attention of our District Superintendent.
 - In the past we have conducted public forums for all members of our community to express concerns over school re-organizations, standard testing, budget policy, physical education needs and other issues. At these times our collective voices are expressed and, while we do not necessarily get our way, we have shown that we are a viable Community, a District that insists upon the best education for our children.
 - We have sponsored a legal action that ensured that the parent component of SLTs would remain intact and viable.
 - We send meeting notices to all of our schools to help you schedule attending a meeting.
 - We have Liaisons at all of our schools who are there to support your efforts.
 - Our members attend DOE citywide meetings to learn about matters affecting our schools - For example: DOE policy changes. We share information with other District Council members. We represent District 26 interests at these meetings and often express our District's problems with new and current policies and offer suggestions to ensure D26 is best protected.
- Please take advantage of us. We are easily reached by contacting, Marian Mason, at 718-631-6927.

7. Attended the President's Council meeting on October 20th in which elections took place.
 - Co-President** - Kitty Azhar; **Co-President** - Linda Courtney ; **Vice President** - Ingrid Guapisaca ; **Treasurer** - Donna Hovi Ostuni; **Recording Secretary** - Kim D'Angelo - **Corresponding Secretary** - Jodi Nath.
 - a. Susan Shiroma spoke about the H1N1 confusion where there was a general consensus where parents were used to call other parents to talk about the flu campaign. Susan spoke about Title 1 where schools in D26 (19- including the high schools) that are receiving the Title 1 funds which is part of the stimulus money. Question – what happens when the stimulus money runs out? What are the proper procedures, rules and regulations under Title 1 that principals and PTA would need to follow? Anita stated that there will be a meeting regarding Title 1 funds with the principals to review. Rob also stated that the only reason D26 has Title 1 schools is because of the criteria was lessened. It use to be 60% of the schools was free lunch now due to the federal stimulus money designated for education has been reduced to 40%. Funds will be available for two years.
 - b. Food sponsored for workshop at President's Council meeting. Next President's Council meeting is November 17th at 9 a.m., MS 67. Rob made a motion that the council should extend the offer to President's council that if workshops are done with Lori during the same time that the CDEC would provide the food. Council voted unanimously to accept.
8. Article – NYT – “Students held back do better” in response to the Rand study. Rob informed attendees that on November 19th, Ms. Jennifer Bell-Ellwanger, Executive Director-Research & Policy Support will be at the CDEC meeting discussing social promotion.
9. Response from regarding Superintendent's duties from Dennis Walcott – letter from Chancellor which was sent to Assemblywoman Nolan. Transition going on and Superintendent's have been given much more duties in the district. They will predominantly stay in the district. Superintendents will be transitioning some of their duties to network leaders.

Anita stated that she has 24 schools in D24 in which there is overcrowding. Anita made visits to all the schools to become familiar with what's going on. It's the most overcrowded district in the city in which there is much diversity.

School Assignments

PS 162 – will assign Irene Cheung once she is cleared through the DOE if she accepts.

School Visits/PTA Meetings

1. Irene Fennell – PTA meeting at PS 41; School visit at PS 158 on October 22nd – budget concerns
2. Ismael Fuentes – PS 191, School visit on Oct. 20th – concerns regarding space issues with D75 – there is no Assistant Principal & feels children should have their own for special needs children – mainstreaming of special needs children.
3. Rob Caloras – PTA meeting at MS 67 – leak under entrance to the building going into some classrooms in the sub basement– contacted SCA-custodian will handle- budget concerns; PTA meeting at PS 221, they have budget concerns
4. Jeannette Segal - presented at PS 98 PTA meeting
Rob iterated again that the council members try to contact the PTA presidents.
Mary Vaccaro spoke about the H1N1 – nurses will not be doing injections
Susan asked Mary whether they received training for the IVP students. Are any instructions being given to the teachers for children with special needs? The UFT is providing an overview to the teachers in what to look for when children are given the H1N1 injection.
Susan Shiroma brought up the question about high school applications being given to middle schools.
Rob spoke about having a meeting in October 2010 & bringing in the high school principals to talk to the middle schools.
5. Susan went to a Ryan PTA meeting – they have three academies – they publish a newsletter – transportation issues – school at capacity, sending children to other schools.

Old Business

1. Honoring of students
 - a. Received sample certificates from Senator Padavan, Councilman David Weprin & Assemblyman Mark Weprin's office.
 - b. Discussion on whom to honor – criteria needed (tabled).

New Business

1. Scheduling of Meetings
 - a. Rob received a request from the PTA President of PS 41 asking if the CDEC could change their meetings to accommodate their school liaison. Discussed at prior meetings and no matter what day the CDEC chooses, there will always be a conflict. Meeting changed from December 17th to December 16th.
 - b. Rob – discussion with Melvyn Meer regarding his children at PS 158 & PS 188
 - a. Discipline Code being misused at schools. (Ex. academic lapses).
 - b. Field trips being taken away because of missing homework.Rob brought up the fact that why do they leave it to a parent having to go to City Hall to address a problem that a District Superintendent should be able to deal with if a District Superintendent was a District Superintendent.
Rob stated that one of his children's schools that this issue has been going on for seven years. He also stated that every school collective punishment and it's a violation.

Rob asked Anita if she could send out a general letter stating that this is inappropriate. Anita will look into it and discuss at her next meeting.

Budget – Pia Alexander (Treasurer)
As of September 30, 2009

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	QUICK CODE	OBJECT CODE	ACTIVITY CODE	LOC Code	AMOUNT SCHEDULED	EXPENDED TO DATE	BALANCE
General Supplies	062641	198	0514	QS26	8,950	241	8,709
Procurement Card	062641	198	0518	QS26	2,000	2,000	0
Stipend Reimbursements	062641	496	0519	QS26	1,300	137	1,163
Local Travel and Food Expenses	062641	451	0515	QS26	5,700	703	4,997
Copier Maintenance	062641	612	0516	QS26	850	835	15
Educational Consultant	062641	686	0520	QS26	1,200	0	1,200
Scheduled Sub-total							
TOTAL					20,000	3,916	16,084

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

Rob informed the council that paper was ordered costing \$526.20 for 15 cartons of paper.

Lori informed the council that she would be having two (2) workshops (Family Literacy-Nov. 13th at PS 188 Annex & Dec. 4 at PS/IS 178-December 4th -Determine your child’s learning strengths).

Rob spoke the cost for the printing of flyers for the chancellor’s meeting costing about \$600.

Went directly into the public meeting.

PUBLIC MEETING

Rob acknowledged the speakers:

1. Melvyn Meer - spoke about NAP (State Test) which is given every 2 years.
2. Mr. McSweeney – spoke about collective punishment
3. Mr. Jaime, SCA representative – spoke on collective punishment-feels teachers are not trained.

Superintendent's Report – Anita Saunders

- Welcome
- Proposed Promotional Policy – Grades 4 & 6; Vote by Panel for Educational Excellence – November 12 (Attached)

Rob informed the attendees that the CDEC will be holding their November 19th meeting with Ms. Jennifer Bell-Ellwanger and whatever is learned from that meeting will be too late to submit for the Nov, 12th deadline. The CDEC will submit comments to the Borough Hall Representative (Dmytro Fedkowskyj) and to the website promotionpolicy@schools.nyc.gov. Rob asked the council members to review Anita's presentation and send in comments.

- Quality Review, PS 98 – Rescheduled to Dec. 3 & 4
- New Governance – Role of Superintendent
 - School Support
 - Parent Engagement
 - Instruction
 - Division of School Support (DSS) Operations
 - Field Service
 - * See Attached Letters
- H1N1 – Website - www.nyc.gov/flu
 - Vaccinations - All Elementary Schools
 - Middle School sites to be determined -
Saturday inoculations
 - Pre-K – District Programs Only
 - CBO Pre-K's – Not Available
- Borough High School Fair – Saturday, October 24, Sunday, October 25 – 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. – Francis Lewis High School

Rob stated he was glad to have Anita back in the district and the DOE was actually implementing one of their reforms.

Rob made a motion to adjourn, Pia second and council voted in unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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