

Community District Education Council District 26

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MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, October 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-Rm 128

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 pm in the Conference Room 128.

Roll Call: Rob Caloras, Melissa Dorfman, Dr. Lana Zinger, Jodi Nath, Jackie Montgomery

Excused: Yen Shia Chou, Susan Shiroma, Bona Sun & Debra Strassberg

Late: Carol Gomez

Also in attendance was Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent & Lori Stein Butera, Parent Support Coordinator.

Guest Speakers: Judith Chin-Region 3 Superintendent, Marlene Siegel-Regional Operations Center Director, Erwin Silverstein-Regional Operations Center Deputy Director, Larry Johnson, Deputy Facility Supervisor & Dawn Chasin, ROC Operations Supervisor

Business Meeting

Secretary's Report

Carol Gomez, Recording Secretary

- a. Reviewing of minutes –September 28th minutes were reviewed for corrections, changes or additions. Rob made a motion to accept the September 28th minutes and Lana seconded. Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes. Reviewed Grants Committee minutes of August 14th for corrections, additions & deletions. Carol made a motion to accept the August 14th minutes and Rob seconded. Council voted unanimously to accept the Grants committee minutes.
- b. Council was informed that the October activity reports are due.

President's Report – Robert Caloras

1. E-mails – research – referred to as the CEC but it should be CDEC
2. Correspondence regarding the math curriculum
 - a. E-mails on the Empowerment Zone (Little Neck Ledger & Queens Chronicle)
 - b. ELA & math scores – problem in middle grades.
 - c. Letter from Bonnie Song after the Empowerment Zone Forum that expressed her being upset that Mr. Nadelstern did not attend. Thanked the CDEC.
3. President's Council meeting was the same night as the forum and it was changed to accommodate. Their next meeting will be November 21st. at 9 a.m.
4. Joint project with President's Council – agreed upon the Hall of Science. Will be brought to the members and voted on. Rob and Cathy Cahn have been speaking with the reps at the Hall of Science regarding general ticket prices (\$5.50) and other prices for special packages

that include lunch and parking. They have spoken with Jack Friedman of Councilman Weprin's office; Council is limited in donating money.

5. Informed attendees that the Chancellor had cancelled the February 8, 2007 meeting and is awaiting a new date.
6. Empowerment Forum – e-mails received – disappointed that Mr. Nadelstern did not attend. Forum very informative. Went to Borough President's meeting, October 24th and Eric Nadelstern was the speaker along with Nigel Pugh, Principal at Glen Oaks H.S. of Teaching & Science. It was clear from those in attendance that many questions exist regarding the Zone. Setting up another forum on the Empowerment Zones is being discussed- it might be done with the President's Council.
7. E-mail from Shakira complaining about the PA system at her child's school. It seems that the child is having a hearing problem because while in the cafeteria & sitting next to the PA system, the system was too loud in their ear. The complaint was reviewed and the system was toned down. . Anita Saunders was asked to monitor the District's use of loud systems to control children. She stated there are different methods at various schools. Some schools have music, holding up of the hands or other methods. Anita suggested that the concerns will be brought up with the principals regarding other methods that can be used in the cafeteria other than a whistle. Most schools don't use bull-horns.
8. Rob spoke with Pete Maddaloni, Chair of Local 891 (Custodians Union), MS 67 – discussed the 10% cut throughout the school system to pay for empowerment zone. Informed the attendees that this is the 3rd cut in the last three years, which means less money, supplies & less the ability to clean the schools. Pete would love to attend one of our meetings and discuss subject.

Treasurer's Report – none

Rob introduced the public speakers:

Judith Chin, Regional Superintendent; Marlene Siegel, Regional Operations Center Director; Irwin Silverstein, Regional Operations Center Deputy Director; Larry Johnson, Deputy Facility Supervisor & Dawn Chasin, ROC Operations Supervisor and informed the attendees that they were invited to give us an update.

Judith Chin – stated that 58 schools entered the Empowerment Zone. Ms. Chin spoke about the new accountability system which will deal with the principals. This system will take effect 2007.

- a. The system will be in an experimental stage and will need to be defined and modified.
- b. School quality review – principals will be interviewed to see how well they are doing & if they know their data.
- c. There will be periodic reviews/reports (mini assessments); progress reports of children. Ratings will be posted on the web pertaining to school grades.
- d. Progress Reports – this will look at school environment. This will capture data on attendance, safety & customer satisfaction (parents, teachers & students).
- e. Performance Arts Students – pertaining to the NCLB
- f. Value Added Measurement – looking at the child's progress from one year to the next. This will result in a grade for each school (A-F).
- g. Time Data Management System – consists of progress report & periodic report – the data will be rolled out this year with principals under the guidance of the regional office. There will be professional help & workshops for principals where they will receive feedback to critique on their strength & weaknesses.

- h. Empowerment – Ms. Chin informed the attendees that if Mr. Nadelstern (CEO for Empowerment Schools) is extended an invitation, that he will come.
Region 3 – 19 schools elected to go into the Empowerment Zone. Most of the schools were newly created and most of the principals came from the Leadership Academy.
Principals sign a performance agreement which states that if you do not reach or achieve your goals you could be terminated.
Ms. Chin stated that there will be 32 school districts and 32 superintendents for next year, which does not change.

Larry Johnson, Deputy Facility Supervisor for District 26

Spoke about the reduction of custodians which will have little impact on the schools as far as cleanliness, maintenance & repairs. He stated that the workers will make up for the reduced hours of others.

- a. Budget reductions were based on the size of the school.
- b. Adjusted work schedules
- c. MS 74 – cut one full-time hour from 8 to 6 hours.
- d. Watch Dog Group (School Stat) this group goes around unannounced, taking snap shots of the schools. This is a city-wide program and the information is given to the Deputy Facility Supervisor to review. This group has been around for 3 years.
- e. Benefits – part-timer (himself only); full-timer (himself and family).

Dawn Chasin gave stats – 17 schools in District 26 received funding for furniture such as teacher desks, cafeteria tables, science tables, chairs & student desks. Over \$167,000 in furniture for last year. For the year 2006 there are 11 schools that were priority and the cost was over \$33,000. Ex: PS 216 received 120 student chairs; PS 172 received 67 science tables & over 200 chairs/desks.

Marlene Siegel

Stated that she was invited to give an update on the budget. Ms. Siegel identified 5 topics. The presentation will be focused on demonstrating how the Regional Operations Center works with the schools to help them with the resources received.

1. Custodial Budgets
 - a. size of school; b. adjusted work school; utilize
2. FY 07 Budget Appeals for D26 Schools
3. ROC Purchases of Furniture for D26 Schools
4. 10-31-06 Register Review Outcomes & Surplus Rollover
 - a. surplus rollover
5. NCLB – how schools receive funding

School Budget – some schools do not have enough sufficient resources to fund their basic instructional services which are due to class size.

- a. 6 schools identified – appeals filed with the budget office (TWEED); 5 approved giving between \$28,000-\$69,000. One school not approved due to a need for additional support for English Language learners. TWEED in the process of reviewing this request.
- b. Furniture - chairs and desks

Erwin Silverstein – discussed the Register Review Process and spoke about the NCLB.

Rob thanked all the speakers.

Rob introduced Eric Lee who will be the new high school representative; he now attends Cardoza High and will be joining the council in November. Anita stated that he is highly recommended.

Superintendent's Report – Anita Saunders

1. Open School Week – November 13 -17
2. Parent Teacher Conferences
 - Elementary School: Afternoon – Monday November 13, 2006
Evening – Wednesday, November 15, 2006
 - Middle School: Afternoon – Tuesday, November 14, 2006
Evening – Thursday, November 16, 2006
 - High School: Afternoon – Friday, October 27, 2006
Evening – Thursday, October 26, 2006
 - District 75: Afternoon – Thursday, November 9, 2006
Evening – Wednesday, November 8, 2006
3. School Quality Review – Cambridge Consulting Group will be coming to do the review. Schools will not be graded (A-F). They will receive a check plus indicating “well-developed”, a check which means they are proficient or a zero with a slash through it which means they are undeveloped.
4. Gifted Magnet Applications – applications sent to the school and distributed for kindergarten students. There may be 2-3 openings in grade 2 or 3 and parents who feel their children are gifted can be tested for these slots if available. Testing will be done on weekends in December & January. The testing sites are PS 18 & PS 41. The applications asked “if you have another child in the Magnet program” because siblings will receive preference over another child with the same score. Parents can apply to 3 schools in Manhattan (Anderson School, TAG and NEST).
5. Halloween Safety – parents do not allow children to come to school with shaving creams.
6. ELA scores – some have arrived. Everyone will receive scores by next week. Not sure when the Math scores are coming.

New Business – none

Committee Reports - Zoning & Outreach; Curriculum & Grants Information

- 1. Curriculum** – Melissa met with Lana – wants to learn about what is being taught in the schools and how it is being implemented. Spoke about physical education – math curriculum and exams.
- 2. Grants** – Jodi working with a parent coordinator in writing a grant.

Lori Butera- Parent Coordinator

1. Workshop with President's Council

Melissa made a motion to adjourn and Jodi seconded, council agreed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 9:45 p.m.

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