

Community District Education Council District 26

Address: 61-15 Oceania St, Bayside, New York 11364

Tel: 718.631.6927 **FAX:** 718.631.6996 **Email:** central/cec26@nycboe.net

MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Tuesday, December 20, 2005

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

Location: MS 74, 61-15 Oceania Street, Bayside, NY 11364-Room 128

The meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order and chaired by Rob Caloras, President at 7:05 p.m.

Attendees: Rob Caloras, Susan Shiroma, Jackie Montgomery, Melissa Dorfman, Shakira Gafar-Kirshnitz, Edward Fallacaro, Bona Sun, Richard Olson & Adam Amit.

Excused: Melissa Dorfman, Carol Gomez, & Yen Shia Chou

Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent, Walter O'Brien, Local Instructional Superintendent & Lori Stein Butera also attended.

Business Meeting

President's Report

Rob stated that any voting of any documents would be held off due to the strike.

Rob mentioned that at PS 221 there was a death of a school custodian.

Rob stated that correspondence such as e-mails pertaining to education articles are available on the website. Also the letter pertaining to the Science curriculum was published in the Little Neck Ledger which is also available on the website.

Rob received an e-mail from the PTA President of PS 159 and a copy of a letter that will be sent to Padavan and other local elected officials on behalf of PS 159 PTA's, regarding the conversion of K-5 and the impact on the students zoned to go to IS 25. This topic will be discussed during the second half of the Business meeting under New Business.

Rob had a meeting with Councilman Weprin regarding the renovation of PS 46 in which they needed Con Edison to do electrical upgrade work. Councilman Weprin stated that he had spoken to the Principal, Ms. Goldberg and the Con Edison Representative and would see to them doing what they have to do.

Rob also had a meeting with Councilman Avella and stated that he does not have much contact with the Dept. of Ed. There seems to be a lack of communication between council & the Dept. of Education and has not been contacted regarding the changes at PS 159.

Rob updated the Council on the paper distribution to the Principals in District 26. BOE requested that another form be completed and signed off.

Rob informed the Council that issues of concern were sent to Ms. Saunders and unfortunately it has not been finalized in regard to all the responses.

1. Regarding the 37 ½ minutes of after-school tutoring: Can this time be used for enrichment programs? Are there any plans on how District 26 Elementary schools will be implementing this time? Have discussions been held with school Principals regarding implementing this time? Will there be discussions with school SLTs? Same questions for District 26 middle schools.
Ms. Anita Saunders will speak on this topic.
- 2a. Would you please provide an update on PS178 and the transition to K to 8 status; of particular interest is the November SLT meeting with Superintendent O'Brien. **Will be going K-8 in September.**
- b. Is there a deadline this year or in early 2006, when Region 3 and District 26 need to decide to phase in sixth grade at PS 178?
- c. When does the Principal hand in her budget request for September 2006?
- 3a. Why did the Principal of Ryan MS216 remove Spanish instruction from the sixth grade curriculum at Ryan for the academic year September 2005 to June 2006? **The curriculum is not changing, just personnel.**
- b. Is there a District or City policy on language instruction in the 6th grade?
- c. Does this removal of Spanish language instruction make Ryan MS216 the only middle school in District 26 to not provide our sixth graders with Spanish language instruction? **A Spanish certified teacher will be found.**
- 4a. Regarding PS/IS266 and FACES- newly established nonprofit organization at the school, which operates separately from the school's PTA to provide financial support the school.
- b. Is the creation of school foundations being promoted to our principals by the DOE?
- c. Would Region 3 be upset if other District 26 PTAs and Principals decided to set up their own nonprofit organizations to raise money for their own schools? **ROC has no option.**
5. Is the Blueprint for Arts Education being utilized to develop the Arts Education programs within District 26? **Yes**
6. How does Arts Education instructional time compare to the NY State guidelines?
7. Does every school in District 26 have adequate certified instructors in Arts Education?
8. Are there schools in the District that are short staffed? (ex. No Art teacher, shared amongst many schools, etc.) **Yes, budget issue/**
9. Is the Summer Arts Institute promoted within the District to eligible students in the 7th grade? Have students in District 26 participated in the program in the past?
10. Is empathy being taught to students? If so, how? If not, has this subject been discussed? Have you ever heard of the Roots of Empathy Program? It is designed to teach students how to deal with their emotions and interact with other students. This program has proven successful in reducing bullying.
11. PS 98 – overcrowding situation brought up by Jackie. **A solution has been made that any extra students trying to get into PS 98 will be sent to PS 94 or PS 221.**

Answers to the questions will be sent out and will also be put on the website.

Rob informed everyone that this is their last year on the Council and thanked everyone, its been a learning experience and seeing everyone's willingness on the Council and general public to pitch in and try to keep District 26 as good as it has been and to make sure it remains that way. The Council has gone through Phase I which consists of getting the CDEC's name out there and let people know that the CDEC exists through letters, principals, PTA's, parent coordinators, and visiting schools. The CDEC has reached out and will to reach out. The CDEC has built relationships with Administrators, Politicians and others who have a vested interest in the school system. A website has been established also. Rob informed the attendees that in Phase 2, the CDEC will become more proactive and will look into issues where they can have an effect.

Reviewing of previous month's minutes (November 17, 2005 & November 10, 2005) – Rob asked if there were any corrections, changes, or additions. Ed made a motion to accept the minutes Rich seconded and council members voted unanimously to accept.

Treasurer's Report – Ed Fallacaro

1. Budget spreadsheet reviewed.
2. Scanner on order

Committee Reports

Ed spoke out the following:

1. December 6th Outreach Committee meeting. Striving to find a way to get the word out to the community about the CDEC.
2. Website still not finalized.
3. Spoke about preparing a Powerpoint Presentation.
4. Next committee meeting will be held January 10th at 6:30 p.m.

Jackie informed the Council that she scheduled a visit for PS 94 and was welcomed to a January PTA meeting at PS 221. Jackie also proceeded to say that there will be a Basketball game with parents & children of schools 98, 94, 221 & 67 will be January 22nd at MS 67, 11 a.m.

Ed summarized the meeting that took place at TWEED:

- a. UFT contract
- b. Capital Plan
- c. HIV education

Superintendent's Report – Anita Saunders

1. Transit Strike issue – Principals & staff in early – students in by 10 a.m. – TWEED given a report of attendance and it was well over 91% for the district. After school programs were still in effect during the strike. Contingency plans were also put in effect at other schools.
2. 37 ½ minutes – effective February 1st through June 28th. Part of the new UFT contract. Teachers will start the 37 ½ minutes February 1st, but the children will not the 37 ½ minutes till February 6th.

In September there will be a slight change to equal 150 minutes and all schools throughout the city will have the same hours. The 37 ½ minutes is mandated for Level I, who must attend; Level II & Level III will be mandated if not functioning. ELL students will be mandated and parents will be advised.

Bus Service – if the child normally gets bus service and if mandated, there will be a second bus for those children.

Every teacher must work the extra 37 ½ minutes per day (4 days, Monday-Thursday or MS 67, 3 days-50 minutes, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday and no teacher can have more than 10 children per class. Schools are advised to assign no more than 7-8 students for mandated students due to teachers being absent and students are sent to other classes. Principals will be putting the names of children into an automated system for transportation use.

Other/Extra Programs such as: Chess-Spanish-Tutoring-Science-Math, etc. and other non-mandated children can attend for the 37 ½ minutes.

The school day will end 10 minutes earlier which is 2:40 for most elementary and 2:30 for most middle schools unless you are mandated.

3. The ELA practice exam will be given in January.
4. PS 98 – all registration stopped for kindergarten and grade 1. Any child for Kindergarten will be sent to PS 221 and anyone for grade 1 will be sent to PS 94.
5. HIV/AIDS Training in the Spring – curriculum K-12 (principals & teachers will be trained) will be part of the Health/Physical Ed training.

Workshops – Lori Buteri

1. Region – November workshop held at MS 172 (Discovery NYC). District 26 Parent Coordinators put it together. It consisted of slides and games and parents were given a folder of places to go in NYC.
2. Two (2) additional workshops will be given:
 - a. AIM High in Middle School which will be held on January 12th at MS 74.
 - b. Time Management for Kids will be held in March.
3. Parent to Parent Workshop (support group for Special Ed parents) – opportunity for parents to share and talk. The first meeting will be at PS 18 on January 22nd.

Walter O'Brien – spoke on the following:

1. PS 46 – needed new dedicated lines upgraded. Also had a problem with a gas leak which has been taken care of. Met with Principal regarding bridging.
2. PS 178 – met with Principal – have approval to go ahead with the K-8. Reconfiguration was submitted to TWEED.
3. PS 159 – Zoning meeting was December 6th & on December 8th they were notified that PS 159 would be affected by the decision in District 25. Parents were later notified. Walter stated that it is a zoning issue.
4. PS 31 – put on Capital budget for inspection– school is overcrowded.
5. Spoke about the CDEC website.

Anita Saunders gave a summary of how PS 159 feed into District 25.

New Business

- a. PS 159 – will table and discuss at public hearing.

Old Business

- a. Website – if you want your picture on the website, you must submit.
- b. Legislative meeting – tabled.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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

Pledge of Alliance presented by Walter O'Brien.

Meeting revolved around the issues at PS 159. Parents voiced their opinions:

1. Ms. Fallacaro, PTA President of PS 159 – spoke about the enrichment program, lack of communication between CDEC's & she was looking into send her children to a Catholic or private school.
2. Ms. Laube
3. Ms. Kopp
4. Master Spencer wants to attend same school in Dist. 26 as his sister
5. Linda Post – spoke about how she wants her children to attend schools in Dist. 26.
6. Dr. Ed Court of PS 98

Rob Caloras stated that he would set up a Public Meeting to have the public come in and discuss the issues at PS 159.

Speaker #1 - Rob introduced the first speaker – Ms. Wanda Wakal. Coordinator of the Gifted & Talented Programs, DOE. Ms. Wakal touched on the following:

New City-Wide Initiatives in Gifted Education

- § The Schoolwide Enrichment Model is a method developed by Dr. Joseph Renzulli. It is meant to bring high-end learning to all children in the school as well as train teachers in methodologies traditionally used in gifted and talented classes in order to differentiate instruction and utilize higher order thinking.
- § The District 26 schools that are now beginning to implement Schoolwide Enrichment this year are P.S 41, P.S 46, P.S 191, P.S 94 and P.S 186. In addition to these schools, many other schools in District 26 continue to expand on their already existing enrichment programs.
- § Components of Schoolwide Enrichment are enrichment clusters, interest centers, curriculum compacting and total talent portfolios.
- § Professional development workshops reflective of the twentieth century's major gifted and talented researchers will be made available to schools throughout Region 3, in order to expand the New York City initiatives in gifted and talented education.
- § District 26 will utilize a multi-criteria assessment that meets all of the criteria set forth by the city in order to assess kindergarten applicants for the District 26 Gifted Magnet Program.
- § Principals of all the schools in District 26 will host workshops for parents in January, introducing them to the District 26 Gifted Magnet Program. Parents may then obtain applications for their children at this meeting. If they cannot attend the meeting, applications will be made available at the main office of each school.
- § Applications will be completed and returned to Wanda Wakal, at the Region 3 office. Each application should include two self-addressed stamped envelopes. Each will be data-based and the region will then use one of the self-addressed stamped envelopes to notify each family of the date and location of the gifted magnet assessment.
- § The initial assessment component will take place the weekend of February 4 and 5 2006 in a yet to be decided elementary school.

- § Assessments will be secured and shipped to Harcourt Brace for scoring. A thirty day turn around period occurs and results are returned to the Region 3 office during the middle of March.
- § A Region 3 panel meets to assess the results of both the above mentioned intelligence indexing test as well as a standardized, norm referenced gifted rating scale. Results are rank ordered and class rosters are created for the following year.

Speaker #2 - Rob introduced the second speaker – Ms. Marlene Siegel, Director, Linden Place Regional Operations Center, DOE outlined the following:

Action Plan – What, Who, How & When; Support Resources (Staff & OTPS), Cost & Fund Source & Indicators of Success Accountability.

1. Mandated Services – Guidance, Librarians, Special Education, English Language Learners & Academic Intervention Services.
2. Supplemental Targeted Needs – Supp. School Day, Extended Day Instruction, Coaches, Parent Coordinators & Supp. Non-mandated paras.

Tracking Balances and Expenditures

1. Tax Levy Instructional Programs (State Magnet, NYS Textbooks, Library Books, Computer Hardware/Software, Middle School ELA & Federal Title 1 Poverty).
2. Tax Levy Self-Contained and CTT (special education)-related services, speech & counseling, Adaptive Physical Education & IEP mandated paras.
3. SN/AIS (SN-Tax Levy; AIS-ERSSA; AIS-State (Intervention Initiatives, PK/Superstart, Parent Coordinator, Middle School Sports & Federal Title III LEP).
4. Galaxy – building the budget and aligning the budget.

DOE will be launching a new public view of the budget.

Public meeting ended at 10:10 p.m.

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

