



Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

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Alan Ong <i>President of the Council</i>	John Gavros <i>First Vice- President</i>	Roy Menendez <i>Second Vice President</i>	Adriana Aviles <i>Recording Secretary</i>	David Wong <i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Council Members:</i>				
Sheng Chao Yu Dilip Nath Karen Rose Scutt	Michelle Liu Shajid Ali Muhamad Tanweer Ansari		Danielle Giunta Community Superintendent District 26	

Website: www.CDEC26.org

October 17, 2017 Calendar Meeting

Calendar Meeting and Town Hall with Chancellor- 6:15 PM

Meeting called to Order and Roll Call at 6:25PM by Alan Ong.

Present: Alan Ong, John Gavros, Roy Menendez, David Wong, Adriana Aviles, Shengchao Yu, Karen Rose Scott, Tanweer Ansari, Michelle Liu, Dilip Nath, Shajid Ali Muhamad

Also Present: Danielle Giunta, Superintendent District 26, and NYC School Chancellor Carmen Farina

- I. **Introductions:** Alan Ong introduced District 26 CEC members and Superintendent Danielle Giunta. He also outlined procedures regarding Town Hall public comments. Alan Ong reminded those in attendance to fill out comment cards and provide them to Farjana. Members of the CDEC will read the questions. Alan explained that questions were being collected just to be sure that there was no repetition. He further explained that answers to unasked questions will be given to Family and Community Engagement for answers.
- II. **Town Hall with Chancellor:** Alan Ong introduced NYC School Chancellor Farina.
 1. First question presented about DOE budget and why our D26 schools have not been funded at 100%.
 - Response was the city has tried to raise the budget and it is their goal but the reality is that it's not feasible and promises cannot be made.
 2. Second question were about the choices for meals within our schools such as for the Muslim population.
 - Many choices are being made available but vegetarian is the DOE first step to making these choices available.
 3. When is air-conditioning going to be made available to all schools?
 - Prioritizing schools that are used for summer programs is a first. Anticipation is that every school will receive air conditioning. The plans and the budget are already in place.
 4. Bias/Racial hatred are in our schools. What is in place in our schools to teach tolerance?
 - Lots of programs are in effect such as the Sandford Harmony. Also funding for all teacher and principals to be trained as social-emotionally learning mentor is a priority. Families need more support at home.
 5. Over enrollment/Capping and Large Class Sizes in District 26. What is the DOE doing to address these concerns in District 26?
 - There are new schools and some are going to be built but as soon as they are open, they are full. Capping is at the discretion of the principal. Building a new school and new pre-k programs bring other issues to the neighborhood.
 6. 3 Part Question: What is the DOE doing to promote awareness and education about bullying? Does DOE have anything to help teachers identify and address bullying? What is the protocol within the school for a threat of suicide by children?
 - Defining what is age appropriate behavior. Also, identifying the different kinds of bullying such as exclusion and cyberbullying. There is an app in the works. The Reporting system has to improve between city and state. They are both very different. We need to see which schools have more reports and to act accordingly. This is a National Issue. Guidance counselors are to immediately report any threat of suicide. Mental Health is something they are working on for all ages.
 7. Why is there no 3K program in D26?
 - Budget/Money/Funds are in ACS. The DOE is looking for Districts where funding is already in place or self- funded. Also the districts have to have the space for the 3k program. Open seats

are made available to anyone in the city. Good results will bring in the funding. Also universities need to educate more students to be teachers for the programs in early childhood development. We will be looking to the high schools to get students excited in careers in early childhood development.

8. What is the DOE position on the November Election and the Constitutional Convention and its implications for NYC Public Schools and working families...Additionally the national debate in regards to diverting funds from public schools to Charter schools, what can be expected from NYC's leadership as far as the quality of education for ALL?
 - This is a political question. Follow the lead of those who you respect as far as politics. As far as Charter schools, it all depends on the individual charter schools. We have a wonderful partnership with some. The school you pick should be based on the family needs.
9. In District 26 the number of Gifted and Talented Programs are high while the number of Dual Language programs are low. Our schools are having difficulties supporting both. How can we support the growth of the Dual Language Programs in District 26?
 - I support learning 2 languages. It is up to the principals of the school to move forward with the program, support and participate. There is a criteria that needs to be met. More than half of the students need to speak this language, and there has to be a continuum that needs to be met onto middle school. Teachers need to be certified in these languages as well. We have forged relationships with many organizations to assist us in our dual language programs with materials needed to educate. Teachers, money, and space are the obstacles we need to overcome.
10. In view of the current events on violence in schools, when can we expect scanning to be implemented on all the schools?
 - Scanning does not prevent what is going on in schools, but that being said, we look at the statistics for each school. Also the principal makes that determination and will explore it with the superintendent. Funding for scanning is expensive and requires at least 5 safety officers to man and can be better diverted for other purposes.
11. What is the DOE's policy on Social Media and its staff?
 - We have put out alerts to ALL DOE employees, not just teachers to be careful/respectful what is posted on social media. It is all sent out to the Legal Dept. to evaluate. Breaching the student/teacher confidentiality is something that is all together evaluated as well.
12. What point are teachers/counselors held accountable in reporting incidents?
 - We have been looking to update the Chancellor's Regulations and to what extent these regulations apply, not just conduct, or do they have to be updated and further explained and what are the consequences.
13. What kind of programs are in place to assist teachers in character education?
 - A large number of students do not have this to help them adjust accordingly. I believe the schools should be helping them with a mandated full curriculum. This is not just the school's responsibility. It should start at home. We do have programs in place, such as the Sanford Harmony Program which helps to teach children what to say and when to say it. But this takes more of us to work together towards this goal. We have to learn how to deal with all the differences within our schools working along a partnership with the families.
 - School Chancellor Farina spoke about homework within the District and topic of cursive writing, which is now a mandate within our schools after it was brought up at last year's townhall.
14. A question asked from the CEC as to what is the process in acquiring an aide in the classroom.
 - The aide has to be paid from the principals' budget which is very low in this district. Paraprofessionals are hired by mandates for ICT classes.
15. Another question posed by the CEC was about the Big Apple Awards and how it can be extended for Nest Teams and not just individual teachers.

- Teachers or any kind of celebration of educators do not need the chancellor's approval. Any group such as the CEC can give an award to anyone in celebration of their hard work. Request the local politicians to acknowledge these educators as well.
16. Question from the audience was "What are the plans for the DOE to bring more STEM curriculum or even partnerships to prepare students for college and their future careers?"
 - The Districts have prepared more curriculums along the lines of STEM. This starts in 1st Grade along to the older grades. This needs to be extended to middle school. There are excellent models in every district that can be 'stolen' and used in all the schools.
 17. Question from the CEC was posed about the special education students. Workshops in the district have been great, but how can students with special needs incorporated into these workshops since they already have difficulties understanding?
 - IEP does not mean these students are limited. They can also participate in all these programs. I do not differentiate among these groups. I do not believe in segregation of these groups. They have learned better in general education groups with adaptations. All kids should have access to all these programs.
 18. A general statement was made from the CEC about how a visit to a high school, there was no way to differentiate the students with an IEP from the others. The Chancellor then commented students with IEP's have been taking AP courses.

The Chancellor made a closing statements about our dedicated community and the members of the CEC and the questions/comments that were posed for the night.

Alan Ong concluded with thanking the chancellor for her presence. The Chancellor then made a last statement about schools needing funding for washing machines because the students do not have a means to wash their clothes.

Superintendent Giunta presented the Chancellor with the reading and the book titled 'Most People' as well as thanking her for her role in our student's education in District 26.

Last remarks made by Alan Ong thanking our host, MS 67 and Principal Anello and all who participated in the public meeting.

Alan Ong made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Seconded by Adriana Aviles. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

October 17, 2017

Business Meeting

Meeting called to Order and Roll Call at 8:00 PM by Alan Ong.

Present: Alan Ong, John Gavros, Roy Menendez, David Wong, Adriana Aviles, Shengchao Yu, Karen Rose Scott, Tanweer Ansari, Michelle Liu, Shajid Ali Muhamad

Also Present: Danielle Giunta, Superintendent District 26, and Lori Butera District Family Coordinator

Absent: Dilip Nath(unexcused)

- I. Alan Ong congratulated all to a great meeting. Also mentioned that Dilip Nath mentioned he overstepped him during the Townhall but Alan Ong apologized for the record.
- II. **Minutes** was reviewed for September 27, 2017 meeting. Motion was made by Adriana Aviles to approve the minutes and seconded by David Wong. Motion passed unanimously for approval of minutes.
- III. **Budget Review**- Budget for October 17 was commented on by David Wong on purchases made. Alan Ong commented on the banner purchased by Farjana. Motion by Alan Ong to approve the budget. Adriana Aviles seconded. Motion passed unanimously for approval of the budget.
- IV. **President's Report- Alan Ong**
 1. President Alan Ong welcomed Roy and Shajid as returning council members. Introductions were made among new members. The CEC is still in need of the High School student representative. Also

the PC/CEC meeting is approved for Mon, November 27 at 7pm. Just waiting for word from the Presidents Council for confirmation. Also waiting to hear from Office of District Planning and SCA for that date. Will invite Office of District Planning for December's meeting.

2. President Ong discussed Joint President Council and CEC meeting. He also spoke to council regarding the two potential speakers we might have- Office of District Planning and School Construction Authority.
 3. Alan Ong Motioned to move our November 28th meeting to November 27th. Motion passed unanimously.
 4. Website- Shajid will be our webmaster. Open to comments, suggestions and input from everyone.
- V. **Parent Engagement Report** was presented by Lori Stein Butera. All invited to the parent conference on 'Emotions Matter' Saturday, Oct 21 as CEC members to engage the community.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Danielle Giunta congratulating all in a great meeting. Spoke about the schools in the spotlight visits and the Equity and Excellence for all and the access for all students. John Gavros spoke about his school visit to PS 46 as the CEC member. Spoke highly about the 'Just say hi' initiative in this school and the Horizon class as well. Superintendent reiterated what John had said. Farjana also spoke about PS 41 and their integrated classes as well. Her visit to District 75 also and the 'Just say hi' program impressed her.
- VII. *Ribbon Cutting Ceremony* at 162 for Dual Language was attended Shengchao Yu. Process of the Dual Language Program was also described by Alan Ong and Superintendent Giunta.
- VIII. *Gifted and Talented Program* was brought up by Alan Ong as a program that may hinder the Dual Language Program because of lack of students transferring over as a result of being in the Gifted and Talented Program. Spreading the word at different venues about Dual Language and Gifted and Talented was emphasized by the Superintendent. Michelle Liu also expressed her experience in dual language schools and its process which she feels falls primarily on the principal but the community has to continuously push for the program.
- IX. Alan Ong reminded CEC members about their activity reports and to please hand them in to Farjana in a timely manner.
- X. John Gavros reported on the CPAC meeting.
- XI. Adjournment: Adriana Aviles made a motion to adjourn. Shengchao seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:57PM.

Respectfully submitted by Adriana Aviles.