

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

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

**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2006

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

**Location:** MS 74, 61-15 Oceania Street, Bayside, NY 11364-Auditorium

The meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order and chaired by Rob Caloras, President at 7:15 p.m. in the auditorium.

Roll Call: Rob Caloras, Susan Shiroma, Edward Fallacaro, Richard Olson, Carol Gomez, Yen Shia Chou, Bona Sun & Adam Amit.

Excused: Melissa Dorfman & Jackie Montgomery

Also in attendance was Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent, Walter O'Brien, Local Instructional Superintendent & Lori Stein Butera, Parent Coordinator.

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

##### ***Secretary's Report – Minutes presented by Carol Gomez***

*Reviewing of previous month's minutes* – January 19, 2006 & January 26, 2006 minutes reviewed for corrections, changes or additions.

Rich made a motion to accept the minutes as is and Rob seconded. The Council voted unanimously to accept the January 19<sup>th</sup> & January 26<sup>th</sup> minutes.

Recording Secretary read a letter from the PTA members of MS 172 thanking all the CDEC members for attending their General PTA meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Letter from the Partnership for After School Education (PASE) announcing publication of the Arts Career Guide which is designed to provide young people & their families & those who work with a place to go for information about diversity of career options in the arts, how to get started and where to go for free or low-cost programs in NYC was also read.

##### ***President's Report***

1. Continued e-mail communication, newspaper articles. An article regarding the boycotting of Lobby Day by the Parent Council. Mayor's control that was given in 2002 over the DOE is up for re-authorization in 2009 which also affects the CDEC. The CDEC is also up for re-authorization in 2009. Coverage of activity in the Times Ledger, Newsday & Queens Chronicle after the last meeting. Can be seen on the website.
2. Council sent out a thank you note for attending the last meeting. The Chancellor responded stating that it was informative & productive. After listening to the PTA President and all the parents, the Chancellor changed his plans regarding PS 159. Rob stated that this shows that the Chancellor does respond to e-mails.
3. Letter of appreciation from Suzanne Collins, PTA Co-President of PS 26 plus we received copies of her e-mail letters to the Chancellor regarding the speed deterrent bumps & stops signs. The Chancellor responded to her e-mails and informed her that

Community Board 8 would have to be contacted. Ms. Collins also asked that CDEC help with this matter.

4. Rob suggested having a Safety Forum meeting to discuss these issues and suggested having this in March. He also suggested that precinct captains and civic leaders attend.
5. Rob met with Anita Saunders on February 7<sup>th</sup> and certain issues were discussed. Spoke about 37 ½ minutes.
6. Attended the Year of the Dragon celebration at PS 203 and very much impressed. Every level of staff was involved. The Parent Coordinator wrote a grant and it was received.
7. Specialized HS Institute Prep Program – Dist. 26 students attending but designed for poor and minority students for extra help.
8. PS 130 – referring to Anita.
9. MS 67 – e-mailed questions to Anita Saunders today & the answer will be made available at the next meeting. Question – will MS 67 be losing its 9<sup>th</sup> grade class this year or in the near future and will those seats be filled with the overflow & if so, where would the students come from?
10. Questioning the NCLB – the January transfer season is over & the count is that Dist. 26 did not receive as many.
11. PS 203 – spoke about an accordion band at this school. Spoke about having a showcase night showing all the talent in District 26. Ms. Saunders suggested inviting the Ballroom dancers from PS 98, 41 & 151 to the April meeting.
12. A reminder from President's Council in regard to the Wish List for supplies donated by the CDEC last year asked whether it will be done this year. All members in attendance agreed that it was of great assistance for the PTA's. Rich Olson made a motion to do the Wish List and Ed Fallacaro seconded. Council voted unanimously to do the Wish List for the President's Council.

#### ***Treasurer's Report – Ed Fallacaro***

1. Spoke about the budget and the deadlines for changes.
2. Will meet with the Finance officer of the Region.

#### ***Committee Reports (Zoning & Outreach) - Ed Fallacaro***

Suggested March 7<sup>th</sup> for the next meeting and the members agreed to March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

Rob asked Council members if anyone visited any schools.

1. Carol & Rich visited PS 186 & met with Ms. Troy-Quinn, Principal along with Michelle Rowe, Parent Coordinator who took a tour of the school. PS 186 is shared with PS 224. Carol spoke about the flooding at PS 186 which makes it impossible to get the children to their buses. Letters written to various departments to rectify this problem.
2. Rich spoke about a limited amount of children on the bus.
3. Rich stated that PS 172 is being wired for computers, but they don't have any.
4. Rob visited MS 67. Ms McGrath instituted programs regarding professional developments. MS 67 taking advantage of all programs given by the Board of Education. Transfer students who are below average are given help to bring them up to standards. Anita Saunders stated that the bell that rings between periods was taken away and light music was instituted in January.

**Superintendent's Report** – Anita Saunders

1. Specialized High School Acceptances – 608 students admitted from middle schools.
2. Middle School 172 – won 1<sup>st</sup> place Tournament in the International Debate Education Association contest & the Individual Top Speaker Award presented to Pawandeep Singh.
3. **Math Count** Awards presented to: MS 67-1<sup>st</sup> prize; MS 74-2<sup>nd</sup> prize & M 216-3<sup>rd</sup> prize and will be going to the state contest in March. The Top Student award presented to a student at MS 74 and his picture was posted in the Bayside Times with Senator Padavan and the President of the Engineers Association who were the sponsors.
4. PS 46 – was in Newsday for their Intergenerational Choral Music Program.
5. PS 191 – received Parents as Partners Grant for \$3,000; featured on WLIW Educational Forum with the Chancellor and received the Best Buy Grant for \$2,500.
6. PS 186 – featured in Newsday - they made “Cards for Care” for the Hurricane Katrina victims and it was called, “The Art of Compassion”.
7. PS 98 – won the top gold prize in Ballroom dancing; PS 159 won the gold prize and PS 41 won the silver. Will be shown on Primetime tonight at 10 p.m.
8. 37 ½ minutes have been implemented. Teachers working with small groups of students and busing has been arranged by the DOE officers.
9. MS 67 – question asked previously “Will there be a 9<sup>th</sup> grade”? Not sure – will see how many students apply to H.S. There is a teacher available.
10. NCLB – MS 74 received several children in Special Education. Totals at a later date.
11. PS 130 – As of this year, a letter has been distributed to PS 162, PS 31 & PS 159 to incoming Pre-K parents for registration. Once the lottery is completed for District 25 and they have available seating, then the letters of interest from the Pre-K parents will be considered.

Walter O'Brien spoke about MS 172 and the writing performance. Mentioned they were working on teaching to the objective and student engagement. The facilitators for “Triple A” will be working on this project.

**New Business**- none

**Old Business** – Rob spoke on PS 159 and parental input in making the change. IS 25 will be having a new High School placed in it per Susan Shiroma and stated that she hopes the parents give input as to what they would like to have in the new school since it will be affecting the sixth graders.

Rob made a motion to adjourn and the council agreed unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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**Public Meeting- started at 8:30 p.m.**

Meeting called to order by Rob Caloras, President, CDEC.

**Guest Speaker** - Mr. Michael Buscemi-Comprehensive Health Education Coordinator discussed various aspects of the HIV/Aids Curriculum which included its prevention, treatment and testing procedures.

A copy of the HIV Curriculum was given to everyone present at the meeting. This document indicated what was being taught in schools to all grades pertaining to HIV/AIDS health related issues. Mr. Buscemi explained how the curriculum worked in the schools, how teachers are trained to handle certain questions and answers when teaching.

Questions were asked by members of the audience.

1. At first grade level what are the children being taught with this curriculum?

Mr. Buscemi explained that first graders are learning about germs, washing hands, if someone has a cut and it is bleeding, the blood should not get on the other person.

Simple everyday measures of health are being taught to the younger grades.

**Speaker #1** – Damari Fallacaro, PTA PS 159 –Mrs. Fallacaro thanked the CDEC for allowing her and all the parents of P.S. 159 to speak at the CDEC meeting when the Chancellor was guest of honor.

**Speaker #2** – Ms. Susan Sherer, Principal of PS 205 spoke about the CSA contract & not having a contract for 3 years. She asked that the CDEC adopt this resolution:

February 16, 2006 - Resolution pertaining to CSA

Resolution Proposals:

WHEREAS, the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators (CSA) represents more than 5,500 Principals, Assistant Principals, Supervisors and Education Administrators who work in New York City public schools and offices.

WHEREAS, CSA members are responsible for leading New York City schools and presided over recent student gains.

WHEREAS, the last CSA contract expired June 30, 2003

WHEREAS, CSA has attempted to bargain in good faith with the Department of Education and the City Office of Labor Relations, but has not made sufficient progress in working out a new contract.

BE IT RESOLVED that CDEC 26 supports CSA in its efforts to gain a new contract for its members.

BE IT RESOLVED that CDEC 26 encourages the Department of Education and the City Office of Labor Relations to actively engage in collective bargaining with CSA and come to an agreement on a new contract.

Rob asked for a motion to adopt the resolution and the Council voted unanimously to accept.

**Speaker #3** – Margaret Porter, parent of MS 158 – spoke about a crossing guard/stop sign - she indicated that they were assigned a Crossing guard but the four way stop sign is still being investigated by the Department of Transportation. She also stated that Senator Padavan has gotten involved. Rob informed her that the CDEC will do whatever we can to help with this matter.

***Public meeting ended at 10 p.m.***

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