

Community District Education Council District 26

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MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS/PUBLIC MEETING

Date: Thursday, February 28, 2008

Time: – 7:00 P.M.

Location: MS 67- 51-60 Marathon Pkwy, Little Neck, NY, Room B44A

The meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order by Marian Mason, Administrative Assistant and Irene Cheung, Treasurer at 7:10 p.m.

Attendees: Robert Caloras, Marie Pollicino, Irene Cheung, , Erik DePaula, Dr. Lana Zinger, Patrick McShane & Jeannette Segal

Late - Irene Fennell & Vince Tabone

Excused - Minkyung Lee & Michael Kaleda

Present – Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent, Lori Butera – District Family Advocate

Secretary's Report –

1. Rob asked if everyone had a chance to read/review the January 31st minutes or make corrections. Rob made a motion to adopt the minutes as is and Patrick seconded. Members voted unanimously to accept the minutes.
2. Marian informed council members that their activity sheets for February is needed and any expenses should be put through for signature.

Treasurers Report – Irene Cheung – read the balance of each account

Date	Vendor Name	General Supplies	Local Travel/Food	Stipend Reimbursements	Telephone Svcs	Maintenance Equip.	
		Code – 198	Code - 451	Code - 496	Code - 402	Code - 612	Code 315
09/07		11,000	1,900	2,000	100	4,000	
AS OF	2-13-08 approx.	9424	1003	1383	100	1600	80

3. Rob informed the members that in the last couple of years the CDEC has supplied the schools in the district with paper to help them send out CDEC notices. E-Mail received from Mr. Sandy Brawer that the CDEC was using the funds inappropriately. Mr. Caloras will send another e-mail and clarify the reason for doing this.

President's Report – Rob Caloras

- E-mails during the month – asking members to read and respond back as quickly as possible.
- Newspaper coverage on the lawsuit/complaint filed by Marie Pollicino on the SLT issue (Queens Chronicle).
- Informed the members to feel free and send the reporters their comments on issues and let them know that this is their point of view.
- UFT Rally at City Hall March 19th “Keep The Promises” – 4 p.m.
- Spoke at the UFT speak out (Feb. 28th) to develop a set of recommendations in regard to the Mayoral Control issues. Elected Officials were present also. Public advocate is facilitating at the request of Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan (www.pubadvocate.nyc.gov). Senator Weprin distributed a pamphlet (5 Point Blueprint for NYC School Governance). Rob stated that most of the attendees do not want current structure/law to be continued. Rob stated that the committee will meet and discuss.
- Budget Cuts – asking members to send letters to the Chancellor and the Mayor.
- Reiterated to members again to contact the PTA Coordinators/President and ask to be invited to an upcoming PTA meeting.

New Business

School Visits

Irene & Vincent – PS 162 – spoke about electrical problems, kids being tested – overcapacity in the 3rd grade – PS 31 is under utilized. Rob stated that the CDEC can propose zone changes. Strong PTA where parents, teachers & students get involved. Anita also stated that the DOE will be leasing American Martyr which will be ready in two years.

Voting issues – voting machines were put on the main floor causing congestion in the halls since due to limited spacing. Anita stated that come next year the DOE will be looking at another site.

Rob informed the attendees that he will be going to PS 162's PTA meeting on March 26, 7 p.m. and all members are welcomed to attend.

Erik & Irene Fennell – PS 188 – principals spoke about air conditioning problems, windows needed & electrical problems,

Discussions regarding busing & safety issues.

Spoke about space not being utilized such as the girl's showers that have not been used in years.

Erik & Patrick – MS 216 – principal spoke about electrical & asbestos problems – overcrowding

Anita stated that the school is well maintained but the school is old.

Rob stated that he spoke with Mary Leas regarding our priority listing and was informed to make the number one priority for all, electrical upgrading and list the schools. Mary Leas made a visit to PS 162 and spoke with Ms. Poulos and stated that this school needed to be re-evaluated and was given to her boss requesting a project to add this to the Capital Plan to go forward. All schools will be reassessed in a couple of months. There will also be requests to cut the Capital Plan. Rob also spoke about the portables at PS 173 to Mary

to see if they can be removed or if they will be used at another location. There is no plan to put a suspension plan back at PS 173.

Rob stated he sent an e-mail out after attending the President's Council with the Chancellor stating the Chancellor was going to provide a list of all the itemized budget cuts that were made from Central. Thus far no response to date.

Vince stated that he will be doing a school visit February 29th at PS 31- 9:30 a.m. with Patrick, all are welcomed to attend

Old Business

Rob will prepare the priority list. (Sent list to Rob)

Superintendent's Report – Anita Saunders

1. **Channel 13 Multimedia Chase Awards (a tri-state competition)
PS 221 – winner With: Climate Change – How It Effects People in Third World Nations.”
Students will be part of Channel 13 documentary on “Learning Excellence” students
Teacher - Eileen Venezia
Students
Class 5-201
Michael Barsoun, Yarin Lee, Briana Lui and Ryan Walsh
Class 5-202
Brian Guo, Caroline Kim, Jiho Kim and Alex Levin
Class 5-204
Ridwan Choudhury, William Harrison, Shirley Lu and Elise Stumph
Class 5-207
Rebecca Duras, Bogdan Kamingar, Jacob Remz, Marcus Smith and Htate Soe**
2. **District 26 Specialized High Schools Acceptances
MS 67 – 120; MS 74 – 112; MS 158 – 124; MS 172 – 63; MS 216 – 125;
PS/IS 266 – 21-----Total: 571 (Bronx H.S., Stuyvesant,
Townsend) Parents able to navigate through this system with the help
of parent coordinators & guidance counselors.**
3. **Principal Performance Review (PPR) Goals & Objectives –
Submitted by all Principals to the Superintendent**
4. **Newly appointed Assisted Principal, MS 67 – Ms. Barbara Choit**

Rob made a motion to adjourn the Business meeting and Patrick seconded. Council unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING

Public meeting called to order at 8:20 p.m. by Rob Caloras, President, CDEC.
Rob Caloras welcomed everyone to the CDEC 26 Public meeting.

Speakers

Mary Vaccaro, UFT Representative

- a. Mary spoke about the Rally, March 19th outside City Hall, 100 parents & 400 teachers signed up to attend. There are 10 buses from D26 and the parent's bus will be leaving from PS 266.
- b. 400 applications for the Scholarship Dinner Dance to be reviewed.

Guest Speaker – Helaine Doran, Deputy Director of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity presented an update on the:

2007-08 Education Budget and Reform Legislation and the Contracts for Excellence

Ms. Doran started off by saying that she was a former school board member of District 2 in Manhattan for six years.

Ms. Doran stated that the Budget, Education & Reform Act passed on April 2, 2007 (four year commitment to roll out \$7 billion).

3 MAJOR RESULTS OF LEGISLATION

1. Multi-Year Massive Infusion of Funding
2. Fair and Simple Funding Formula Based on Need NOT Politics
3. Clear Cut System of Accountability that Focuses on Key Educational Strategies

FUNDING

- Ø 4 Year Commitment
 - § \$7 Billion Statewide
 - § \$3.2 Billion for NYC (City Contribution \$2.2 Billion)
- Ø 2007-08 School Year
 - § \$1.76 Billion Statewide
 - § \$712 Million for NYC

FOUNDATION AID FORMULA

- Ø Combined over 30 Previous Formulas into a Single Fair Formula
- Ø Eliminates Political Manipulation
- Ø Prioritizes and Drives the Money to the Neediest Students
- Ø Over Time Will Drive the Bulk of State Operating Aid through Formula

ACCOUNTABILITY – CONTRACTS FOR EXCELLENCE

- Ø 55 Districts Required to Do Contract including NYC
- Ø \$\$ Must Predominately Benefit the Neediest and Must Direct Money to 5 Specific

Areas:

- § Reducing Class Size
- § Increasing Student Time on Task
- § Improving Teacher and Principal Quality
- § Restructuring Middle and High Schools
- § Establishing Full Day Pre-K

NYC Must Create a Class Size Reduction Plan

- § Create 5 Year Plan for Pre-K through 12th Grade
- § This Year – Must Show Progress towards Average Class Size
- § NYS Commissioner Must Convene Panel of Experts to Determine Class Size
- § City Must Develop Plan to Reach Targets over 4 Years
- § Prioritize Low Performing and Overcrowded Schools
- Ø Public Participation
 - § Required Districts to Submit Contract for Public Comment
 - § In 2008-09
 - ü Stakeholders Participating in Development of Plan
 - ü Hearings in 5 Boroughs
 - ü CECs Review
 - ü District Must Submit Transcript with Plan to Commissioner
 - § Creating Grievance Process
- Ø Board of Regents Creates Regulations for Implementation (final regulations will be completed by April or May of this year)

NYC’S CONTRACT FOR EXCELLENCE 2007-08

Funding

- Ø \$469 Million in Foundation Aid Subject to Contract
- Ø After Allowances for Inflation and Charter School Reimbursement Tuition – NYC Contract Totaled \$258 Million

Process

- Ø City Issued Plan July 5th and Held Hearings in 5 Boroughs
- Ø Submitted to Commissioner July 18th

CFE Analysis

- Ø Review Distribution of Money on a School Level by Poverty, ELA Test Results, 4 Year Graduation Rates, and How Money Breaks Down Per Pupil
- Ø About 40% of the Funds Distributed to High Performing Schools
- Ø About 158 Low Performing Schools Didn’t Receive Any Allocation

Commissioner’s Approval of Contracts

- Ø Was Convinced on 8/14 by Staff that He Could NOT Approve Contracts
- Ø After 4 Months of Negotiations – Finally Approved Contract on 11/19
- Ø City Distributed Money to more than 1,000 Schools
- Ø CFE Conducting Analysis of Approved Contract

2008-09 CONTRACTS FOR EXCELLENCE

Funding

- Ø 2nd Year of Phase-In = \$528 Million in Foundation Aid for NYC
- Ø Executive Budget proposes only \$335 Million which = \$193 Million Cut
- Ø If fully funded – approximately \$311 Million subject to C4E

Process

- Ø Approval of Regs by Regents Expected in April
- Ø Stakeholders Part of the Development of the Contract
- Ø Public Reviews – Citywide and CEC Levels
- Ø Can File Grievances

A Seat of One's Own Report

Legislation Requires NYC to Create CSR Plan

- Ø Prioritize Overcrowded and Low Performing Schools (408)

Question Asked by Study – How Many Additional Classrooms (and Teachers Will NYC Need to Meet BRICKS Standard?)

- Ø More than 2,500
- Ø 62 Already at RCS
- Ø 152 SINI-SRAP schools have the space to RCS
- Ø Looked at rezoning and 5 Year Capital Plan – will still need 866 additional classrooms

Rob asked Ms. Doran to send an electronic copy of the resolution (see below) which will be voted on at the next meeting.

COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 'S RESOLUTION DEMANDING THAT THE MAYOR, THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE KEEP THEIR PROMISES TO OUR CHILDREN COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL OF DISTRICT 26

WHEREAS, the Governor and the State Legislature promised a \$528 million increase to New York State's basic operating aid to New York City (also called "foundation aid") for 2008-09, but the proposed Executive Budget cuts this amount to \$335 million; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor committed to raise New York City's investment in our children's education by \$2.2 billion over four years, but is taking back \$180 million this year with \$100 million coming right out of the classrooms and cutting an additional \$324million next year, for a two year total of more than one-half billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, New York State committed to increase building funds for New York City by \$11.2 billion to allow the City to complete its \$13.1 billion capital plan to construct and repair schools, but now this promise is threatened by proposed reforms that would delay the state reimbursement to the City for school construction costs; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature, the Governor, the City Council and the Mayor must Keep the Promises to our school children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, we demand that the Governor and State Legislature KEEP THE PROMISE and restore the missing \$193 million in foundation aid. These funds are supposed to be tied to the Contract for Excellence which is the only real accountability mechanism we have to ensure that funds go to reduce class size, reform middle schools and high schools, provide for the needs of English Language Learners and achieve other fundamental school reforms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, we demand that the Mayor and the City Council KEEP THE PROMISE by restoring the half billion dollars in cuts for this year and next; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, we demand that the Governor and State Legislature KEEP THE PROMISE to increase building funds by \$11.2 billion to allow the City to construct and repair school buildings at a pace that will matter for our students in the immediate future.

Adopted by the CDEC of DISTRICT 26 this _____ day of _____ 2008.

Patrick made a motion to adjourn and Irene Fennell seconded. Members voted unanimously to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marian Mason, Administrative Assistant, CDEC