

Community 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 MEETING **WITH** **JUDITH CHIN, REGION 3**

Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Time: Business Meeting, 6:30 P.M.

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

The meeting of the Community Education Council of District 26 (CEC26) was called to order and chaired by Susan Downey, President of CEC26 at 6:40 PM EST.

Attendees: Susan Downey, Rob Caloras, Jacqueline Montgomery, Rich Olson, Sandra Gonzales & Yen Shia Chou

Excused: Melissa Dorfman, Xiang Lan Cho, Mona Fabricant & Bona Sun

Absent: John Padden

Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent and Judith Chin, Regional Superintendent Region 3 also attended.

Judith Chin informed the Council that she is aware of the issue with PS 130 and stated that there is an interest at Community Board 11 & Districts 26. In doing this Judith outlined the following:

1. Communicated to Community Board 11 that there is no intention to transfer PS 130 back to District 26 basically because there is no compelling reason for either district that has been presented.
2. In order to make this recommendation to the Chancellor they would have to show that one district needs this school over the other district. Given the student enrollment of both districts it is not possible to show that one is more overcrowded than the other.
3. Mentioned that JHS 216 is overcrowded
4. May provide variances
5. Met with Community Board 11 & parents to discuss certain issues and these are some of the arguments presented:
 - a. some children are in walking distance of the school
 - b. there will be no busing but yet cannot go to this school

District 25 has undergone a lottery for available seats. Will not know how many children will accept. Survey being done to see what percentage will actually attend with this in mind this will allow some District 26 children to attend. (See handouts) Parents will be informed that there is specifically no busing and are made aware of this and in doing this Judith informed the Council that the distance could not be any more than a ¼ of a mile from home. Judith drafted the application & letters which have not yet been approved or gone out.



Anita Saunders actually went out and surveyed the area to make sure of the distance. Anita informed the Council that PS 130 was not zoned for District 25 or 26. In 1987 given to the Board of Ed who in turn gave it to District 25 but prior to that it was the Queens College Law School and prior to that it was given to the Board of Estimates who had given it to Queens College. Informed the Council where the school is located.

1. North of 42nd Avenue goes to PS 159
2. South of Northern they would go to PS 31 and they are bused
Station Road (LIRR tracks) is the dividing streets because they are dead end blocks (see attachment)
3. Outlined all the adjacent streets and their distance.
4. Not taking all the students from PS 159 and taking some students from PS 31. This will insure that neither school suffers from losing too many students and becoming under-utilized.
5. Anita stated that this is only for kindergarten admission.
6. District 25 students can apply to PS 130.

Rob Caloras explained that at the Community Board meeting it was stated that PS 130 was zoned for District 25 only. In response to this Anita stated that she and Judith met on March 17th with Mr. Meer and nothing was definitive. Anita didn't feel that she was prepared to come back to the CEC that same evening to explain.

Judith stated that she has submitted this paperwork as a proposal because of the legality and that they must openly approve her recommendations. This is only a draft to survey the parents that may be interested to see what the numbers are. As of now, it's only an application process.

Rich outlined that we are a new council and would very much like to be supportive and would like to be involved in the decision making process also. Judith mentioned that the CEC did not join the citywide CEC Association and none of the other districts joined in. Judith advised the Council that she would get back to them with the results. She also outlined that PS 130 is considered an Early Childhood School (K-3rd grade) and 4th graders will be move on to another school. Anita informed the Council that the Bayside Jewish Center withdrew its application for the building of a 444 seat Early Childhood Center. They felt that the proposed school was improper for its location.

Anita stated that PS 58 & 67 middle schools move on to High School after the 9th grade in District 26.

Discussion about 216 began and Susan stated that the meeting was only to discuss PS 130 with Anita Saunders & Judith Chin. Susan stated that PS 216 information was sent to everyone and that she & Sandra met with Anita and it turned out that the children sent to PS 216 are zoned for that school.



Rob brought up the subject of PS 178 not being utilized to its capacity. Abigail Adams (131) students are not able to go to PS 178 yet it is located nearby and many students live near by. Variances or feeder patterns should be made with these two schools since it would help fill PS 178 and help lessen the overcrowding at PS 131. Only certain addresses would be zoned to PS 178 and the others would go to IS 216. Rob stated that they have not been able to get variances.

A Council member spoke about PS 98 being a small school and having 3-K3rd grade classes. Discussion regarding the reality is that these K-3 school students must go back to their overcrowded zoned elementary schools for grades 4 & 5. Also how grades 4-5 are the more overcrowded given the class size reduction, since money is being used for K-3. Judith informed the committee that parents do not want to send their children to schools outside their immediate neighborhoods.

Judith also informed the committee that the new principals are doing a fine job in their new positions.

Susan thanked Judith Chin and Anita Saunders for attending our meeting.
Meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marian Mason, Administrative Assistant, CEC26.

