

Community District Education Council District 26

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MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, May 25, 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 7:10 p.m. in the Conference Room 128.

Roll Call: Rob Caloras, Richard Olson, Carol Gomez, Melissa Dorfman, Adam Amit, Jackie Montgomery, Dr. Lana Zinger & Susan Shiroma

Excused: Jodi Nath & Edward Fallacaro

Late: Bona Sun & Yen Shia Chou

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

Business Meeting

Secretary's Report

Marian read a letter from PS 172 in regard ELA & Math exams. PTA President Susan Downey stated that there's a problem with getting the scores back. DOE is saying that the results won't get back till August which is ridiculous. Rob reiterated that this was brought up at the Legislative Breakfast.

Rob arranged for a school visit at PS 205 on June 1st at 8:30 and anyone interested in joining him kindly let Marian know.

Reviewing of minutes –April 27th minutes were reviewed for corrections, changes or additions.

Rob made a motion to accept the April 27th minutes and Jackie seconded. Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes. Ed to draft up Outreach April 4th minutes for review.

Marian reminded the members that April activity reports were due.

President's Report – Robert Caloras

1. Correspondence
 - a. sent an e-mail to Chancellor Klein regarding the 37 1/2 minutes
 - b. the appointment of Brian Ellner
2. Cell phone Ban – spoke about Times Ledger article that mentioned the CDEC meeting. Assemblywoman Nolan has issued legislation that bans the use of cell phones not the possession.
3. Daily News Article – four Queens's instructors were awarded in Math & Science education at the NY Hall of Science in Flushing. District 26 had 2: Albert Ng of George Ryan JHS 216 & John Walsh of Irwin Altman Middle School 172 and they received trophies from Siemens Science Teacher Initiative for promoting science literacy in the classroom. It was stated that "the teachers have a passion for what they're doing".
4. Update on 37 ½ minutes – same qualifications will be used for next year.

5. PS 221 – Principal Toomey asked the CDEC for help regarding drainage work done while the retainer wall was being done. Rob sent a letter to Debra Perry & David Solomon of the CSA's. Rob received a call back advising the attendees that Ms. Perry spoke to the contractor in regard to the problem and it will be taken care of.
6. Legislative Breakfast – well organized – collaboration with President's Council - shows that the parents are involved, well informed & articulate. Pamphlet issued at breakfast was utilized by Lana & Yen at the Borough President's meeting.
7. PS 177 – Rob received a call from a Community Board 11 member regarding the noise at night and neighbors were complaining. Rob spoke to Ms. Perry, CSA & the principal & was informed there is nothing that can be done since the school was in bad shape and the work has to get done.
8. PS 115 – International Night – invitations sent out & Rob attended. School has 550 kids & they are eligible for an Asst. Principal but Mr. Ambrose would rather use the money for programs for the kids & to get a music teacher. Received a VH1 grant to get electric guitars & professional musicians come in 1-2 nights a week to help teach. Per Susan Shiroma, when Mr. Ambrose was Asst. Principal at PS 216 he was very beloved by the parents and teachers. Mr. Ambrose was truly an A/P who got out at night to meet the parents at PTA meeting & other events that weren't held during the day. When he left PS 216, teachers & parents were devastated that they lost him to PS 115.
9. Teacher Appreciation by NYKPA (New York Korean Parents Association). Mr. Ambrose recognized. PS213, Principal Bruce Baronoff honored (received the Republic of Korea's Outstanding Educator Award).
10. May issues discussed with Anita:
 1. A clarification of the kindergarten enrollment eligibility. Some parents have been told that they can register their child for any school.
A child is only allowed to register at their zoned school. Child must prove residency with documentation. Each school has a list of acceptable documents for proving residency.
 2. What is happening with the DOE plan to implement gifted programs in each Elementary school?
DOE hopes to have enrichment models at each school. These models develop talents in school through various programs. For example, there may be a Friday afternoon program in Chess, or how to write a newspaper article. Programs are created based upon the talents of teachers. These models follow the Joseph Rensuli (sic) model which has 3 tiers of effective learning through real life investigations that lead to students producing a finished product. Tiers differ based upon size of the involved students, from small group within a class to school wide participation.
 3. Update on how the MS CTT (Middle School Collaborative Teaching) class has worked this school year and are there any plans to bring this program to other MS's in the district?
MS 172 will be adding another CTT class. These have a ratio of 60:40, General Ed to special ed. Special Ed children are placed in this program after an evaluation and these children are without emotional problems. These classes have a general Ed and a special Ed teacher and they share responsibilities. Class creation is dependent upon space and having enough special ed. children who meet the requirements for performing in a regular competitive classroom. Finally, there is also a need for really good teachers who can work in this type of class.

4. Please explain the empowerment zone program.
Schools in this program can theoretically do their own thing regarding curriculum. However, there is still DOE oversight to the extent that prior to implementing any non-standard curriculum, Principal must get approval to go outside of the core curriculum and sign a contract regarding the curriculum's goals and objectives. There are no LIS. However, there is a Chief Executive Officer & a network Team Leader doing basically what Superintendents do. The schools are also given money (about \$150,000 above current school budget allotments) to make their own purchases for professional development, supplies, etc. There are currently 49 schools in this "zone" and the Chancellor would like to see a total of 200. School may do own thing, but, of course, there are still City, State, and Federal requirements that must be met. There will also be a Principal Performance review. Also, if school is in empowerment zone, it might not be a part of a CDEC.
5. Have any D-26 schools applied for this program. If so, which?
Applications for program are not known. Only when school is approved does it become known. At present, no D-26 schools have been approved to be in this zone.

Treasurer's Report – none

Committee Reports (Zoning & Outreach) - Ed Fallacaro (none)

Superintendent's Report – Anita Saunders

ü State Wide Testing – Grades 3 – 8 Results

ELA – Grades 3, 5, 7 – Cut Scores – June 6th (first half day)

Math – Grades 3 & 5 – Cut Scores – June 12th (second half day)

No other scores available until August or September

ü Students/School Accomplishments:

1. PS 94, MS 158, Francis Lewis & Cardozo High Schools were invited to perform at the second annual Region 3 Dance Festival
2. PS 115, PS 221 – NYSED Certificate of Achievement for “High Performing/Gap Closing School”
3. PS 188 – Matt Bruno – Teacher of the Year - New York
Korean American Parents Association - based on essay written by student David Meyers; David Meyers was invited to read his essay at the 16th Annual Teachers Celebration. Teacher will receive \$500 check for his classroom.

PS 188 – highest attendance in Region 3 and awarded 25 tickets to students in grades 4 & 5 to “Taste of Broadway” at Town Hall from the D.O.E. Student Placement Youth Development and Family Support Services.

PS 188 – NYC Think Quest – Semi-finalist Team, Carolyn Kettig & Mindy Zou, class 5- 302. World-wide Program that supports development of educational websites created by teams of students.

4. Little Neck/Douglaston Memorial Day Awards Art Contest
1st Place : K – Michelle Sung, PS 221; 1 – Jhenna El-Sawaf, PS 98; 2 – Audrey Lee, PS 94 & 8 – Amy Robin, MS 67
2nd Place: K – Florence Ming, PS 98; 3 – Zaiga Kezys, PS 98; 6 – Katerina Kalyoncu, MS 67
3rd Place: 1 – Joseph Weinstein, PS 94; 2 – Ajrije Fejzulovski, PS 221; 3 – Jae Eun Kim, PS 221 & 4 – Emine Fejzulovski, PS 221

Essay Poetry Contest:

- 1st Place: 8 – Deana Ko, MS 67; 2nd Place, 5 – Danielle Segal, PS 98 & 8 – Elizabeth Ng, MS 67
3rd Place: 5 – Danielle Fisher, PS 98 & 8 – Navpreet Kaur, PS/IS 266

5. PS 178 – One of two Region 3 Elementary Bands selected to perform at Regional Arts Festival.
 PS 178 - Math Team – Grades 4 & 5 entered Grade 6 Math League Competition – achieved 3rd place for Queens and the Bronx.
 PS 178 – Leader of Philanthropy Award of Common Cents (5 years in a row) donated 52” television to Holliswood Nursing Home.
6. PS 221 – NYC Department of Environmental Protection 20th Annual Water Conservation Art and Poetry Contest: Sherry Chen, Anne Harrison, Lyla Khan, Veronika Rodriquez & Stephanie Aronson.
7. MS 216 – Specialized High School Institute at Townsend Harris – highest number of students accepted.
 MS 216 – School Yard Grant Re-opening – June 13th.
8. PS 213 – Bruce Baronoff, Principal, Outstanding Educator Award – NYKAPA 16th Annual Teachers’ Day Celebration Banquet.
9. PS 46 – Marsha Goldberg, Principal, Educator Scholarship Award – NYKAPA 16th Annual Teachers’ Day Celebration Banquet.
10. Siemens Science Teacher Initiative Trophy – Promoting Science Literacy in the Classroom – (among 10 New York City educators)
 MS 172 – John Walsh, Science Teacher
 MS 216 – Albert Ng, Science Teacher

Award Announcements

PS 159 Q

<u>Name of student</u>	<u>Awards</u>	<u>Class</u>
Jennifer Aviles	First Place City Wide Department of Environmental Protection Poetry Contest	6-323
Halima Khan	Second Place New York City Recycling Conservation Contest (cash prize & free cartridge)	6-323
Shannon Spence	First Place for Regional Reading Poster Contest	6-323
Daniela Dosman	First Place for Regional Spanish Spelling Bee	4-305

Sixth Grade

Gold Medal Winners of Ballroom Dancing Dance Team

PS 266 Q

Alley Pond Environmental Center Art Award:

First Place - Barbara Font - Grade 6; Second Place - Elaina Perez - Grade 2; Honorable Mention - Andrew Larsen - Grade 6 & Gabrielle Rey - Grade 6

NYC DOE Region 3 Learning Support Center

Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Visual Arts - Mandeep Singh - Grade 6

Little Neck - Douglaston Memorial Day Parade Essay/Poetry Contest

Grand Prize - Heather Cohen - Grade 8

One Region / A Paletter of Diversity

Ana Miranda - Grade 2; Mandeep Singh - Grade 6; Jessical Lasak - Grade 7

PS 67 Q

Math Counts - First Place; Gold Key Award (Art) Hyayoung Kim; Palette of Diversity (Art) Hyanyoung Kim

Citywide Korean Essay Contest - Rana Kim; Thurgodd Marshall Trial Mock Club First Prize--Affirmative side; Science Olympiad- First Place Citywide; P.S.Art--First Place Hy Young Kim; Alyssa Perez and David Arroyave; Hispanic Achievement Award & Mrs. Carole Altman - Outstanding Educator --Congressional Youth Leadership Council

MS 172 Q

The Game 24 Competition was held on Monday, May 22, 2006 at the NY Hall of Science. Two students (brothers) Aqib Hussain, 826 and Adil Hussain, 624 were victorious, Aqib won a silver medal and Adil won a bronze medal. Fern Blumenthal, MS 172 Math teacher was the coach.

John Walsh, MS 172 Grade 6 Science teacher, was one of 10 NYC teachers to be honored last night at the NY Hall of Science by Siemens as an outstanding innovative science teacher.

PS 221 Q

Little Neck-Douglaston Memorial Day Parade Art Contest:

Michelle Sung-1st place; Ajrije Fejzulovski-3rd place; Jae Eun Kim-3rd place; Emine Fejzulovski-3rd Place

New York City Department of Environmental Protection's 20th annual Water Conservation Art and Poetry Contest:

Sherry Chen, Anne Harrison, Lyla Khan, Veronika Rodriquez & Stephanie Aronson

PS 221 - Recognized as a New York State "High Performing/Gap Closing School" by the University of the State of New York Education Department

MS 74 Q

Famous sixth grader, Kevin Peng, finished in 2nd place in the "Metro Math Competition" (NYC + Westchester & L.I.). We have students that won the Bronx Zoo essay contest & the Holocaust

Memorial Essay contest. Students had poems published in a parenting newspaper on Long Island. There are a few more and if you'd like we'll get you the full information.

Question brought up regarding the empowerment program by Carol. Do we know which schools chose to accept the empowerment program? If so, will we be provided with a list of the participating schools?

Anita – stated that they are still updating the state and city standards and still don't know which schools have applied. Program is brand new and questions are still being asked. Chancellor is looking at all schools becoming empowerment schools within the next 3 years. Chancellor looking for 200 schools (elementary, middle & high schools) this year combined. Next year it will increase to 400. Schools will report to the CEO & have more independence especially with money. They must purchase their own special development. They would still have to adhere to all state, city & federal requirements. There is a 4 year contract that they must sign. No school is exempt from applying for this program.

Old Business - none

New Business – Rob announced the new Borough President appointee, Dr. Lana Zinger and the new CDEC appointee, Jodi Nath who was not present.

Rob made a motion to adjourn and Jackie seconded, council agreed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING

Public Meeting- started at 8:15

Rob started off with the Pledge of Allegiance then announced that the public forum is to express concerns. He also stated that parents come to the meetings to express their concerns/opinions to the CDEC, Anita Saunders & Walter O'Brien. The issues that are brought forth are addressed, discussed and settled rapidly. Rob went on to say that the CDEC are not given the respect by the Chancellor to have input in regard to curriculums and other matters in the schools through public forums, hearings & meetings but feels that the CDEC's are not being used to serve the community. Spoke about the 37 ½ minute issue, HIV Curriculum and school zoning issues as examples.

Speaker 1 – Randi Weingarten – spoke about small classes & every child being different. Emphasized that all should work together. Ms. Weingarten said she was delighted to be present and to be given the opportunity to speak at the CDEC meeting which she has done in the past. Many concerns about this district and if we do not listen to the parents before implementing, how can we work together to make things work for everyone.

- a. Suggested that the CDEC create a professional committee to work with children with handicaps/disabilities. This committee should also include teachers.
- b. CFE – court battle still going on – focus on smaller classes. Union committed to getting smaller classes. Ask that CDEC pass resolution for smaller classes. (Rob reiterated that this was done already).
- c. Listen to parents, teachers, community and educators.

- d. Emphasis made regarding each child. “Every child is different & so is every teacher. Each child learns differently”. Anything that is worthwhile takes time and hard work. It’s crucial to invest for the long term. Until we have both smaller classes and qualified teacher, they will not fundamentally improve teaching and learning for all youngsters.
- e. To resolve this problem:
Parents, teachers, communities, religious organizations, students and educators must come together; learn that you must respect teachers; lower class sizes & you must have class order.

Speaker # 2 – Mario Asaro, Executive VP of the NYC Arts Teachers Association - spoke about the art curriculum and its importance. He stated that through arts, students are empowered. Art programs are needed and it is the 3rd largest curriculum in the state.

Speaker #3 – Margaret Porter (parent-MS 158) – spoke about the dance celebration and the arts as a major curriculum.

Speaker #4 – Karen Hubela (parent-PS 31) – spoke about the quality of life and its challenges. Spoke about giving teachers more time in the classrooms with their students and instituting art as a major curriculum. Ms. Hubela shared some of her experiences with her son and teachers.

Speaker # 5 – Anna Maria Lopez (Teacher-PS 133) – spoke on classical music and the learning theory. Stated that children need the arts & music and that science & math teachers are needed. Ms. Lopez quoted “teach a child to listen and they will learn”.

Speaker # 6 – Janice Fulgieri (PTA President-MS 74) – stated that you must support the teachers and you must work as a team. Informed the audience the MS has an art program but no dance. Spoke about the NCLB in which children are transferred over but the money does not follow forcing Principals to work with the budget they are given.

Rob Caloras reiterated that arts & science is needed.

Susan Shiroma spoke about unification and the need for the arts.

Guest Speaker – Eva Pataki – spoke about the Learning Standards for the Arts:

1. creating, performing and participating in the arts
2. Knowing and using arts materials and resources
3. Responding to and analyzing works of arts
4. Understanding the cultural dimensions and contributions of the arts

Outlined the blueprint for teaching and learning arts (dance, theater, music and visual arts) – the blueprint provides a standards-based rigorous teaching. It gives students the opportunity to apply for advanced study into these subjects or for jobs while giving their teachers the room to create programs that demonstrate learning overtime and in varied dimensions. This is collaboration between educators and representatives from the arts and cultural community. It encourages them to take advantage of resources available across the city in museums, concerts, galleries, performance spaces and theaters.

- a. Dance – become literate in dance, developing critical insights and the means to express them; make social, cultural and historical connections through dance; connect creatively to

other arts and disciplines, technology and health through dance & engage in dance learning with both school staff and other sectors.

- b. Music – gain skills and expressive abilities; develop literacy skills in musical concepts such as tempo, dynamics, meter and style; reading connections through reading poems and viewing artwork and through music they will develop musical skills, express themselves as thinking, feeling musicians, apply and utilize the elements of music.
- c. Theater – through theater activities they create expression, discipline, collaboration, self-awareness and personal transformation, students of diverse backgrounds and abilities channel their energies into inspiring artistic endeavors. Students engage in theater making in which literacy, oral and cultural traditions of societies come into play. They learn to express themselves and develop empathy for their own and other’s situations. They begin to understand universal themes and ways of looking at the world.
- d. Visual Arts – making art stimulates and sharpens the perception. Art making focuses the skills of imagination, observation and invention causing them to explore and express new ways of thinking and feeling. Through Visual Arts students develop an understanding of the principals of art and elements of design, deepening their expressive and critical faculties, honing their art skills and cultivating their imagination.

In closing, Ms. Pataki stated that certified teachers will be needed and that the budget allocation should be increased. A grant from the Wallace Foundation will be doing a survey in all states to see how money will be distributed and that all children should be exposed to the arts.

Susan Shiroma made a motion and Rich seconded to adjourn and the members unanimously agreed.

Public meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

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

