

Community Education Council District 26

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MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, June 16, 2005

Time: Business Meeting, 7:00 P.M.; Calendar Meeting, 8:00 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 6:35 PM EST.

Roll Call: Susan Downey, Jacqueline Montgomery, Melissa Dorfman, Rob Caloras, John Padden Bona Sun, Mona Fabricant, Yen Shia Chou, Rich Olson & Sandra Gonzales

Excused: Xiang Lan Cho

Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent, Lori Stein-Butera, Parent Support Officer also attended.

Reviewing of previous month's minutes (May 19, 2005) -any comments or correction/additions?
Motion to accept minutes by Rob Caloras and seconded by Rich Olson. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report – Susan Downey

1. Thanked Jenny and John for the work that they have done this past year.
2. Welcomed Susan Shiroma and Edward Fallacaro to the CEC Council.
3. Stated that Sandra attended the meeting of Gifford Miller regarding class sizes (attachment) – Sandra will outline under New Business.
4. Sent in questions/comments to Kathleen Grimm regarding 2006 Budget and asked whether we had a response “I (Marian) stated NO”. Susan will follow up with an E-mail to Ms. Grimm.
5. Informed Council that the Wish List was completed. E-mails were sent to the schools to respond to their purchases.

Superintendent's Report – Anita Saunders (See Attachment)

1. Started off by thanking the Council members for their work done and for voicing their opinion. Thanked Susan for her position and John for taking the minutes.
Welcomed the two new CEC members and look forward to working with them.
2. Anita distributed packets of all schools:
 1. General and Special Education including the Resource Room
 2. ELA
 3. Math Scores
 4. Stated that District 26 was the #1 in the area.

3. Announced that Joy Hammer of PS 18 would be leaving and Kathy Peknic will be acting as the Interim effective August 1st.
Georgina Durando of PS 162 will be retiring – no Interim selected as of yet.
Charles DeMeo of MS 158 will be leaving effective 6-30-05 and Marie Nappi will acting as the Interim effective 7-1-05.
4. Summer School – all summer school teachers have been hired and notified. All Guidance Counselors, secretaries & High School teachers have been hired. Elementary school teachers will be notified next week. Mr. Peebles will be handling the paperwork.
5. Summer School starts July 5th through August 12th. There will be 13 classes in PS 46.
6. Title 3 Grant for ELL given
7. No Special Ed summer school
8. No variances can be given by the Superintendent only by Ms. Ginay Marks (Director - Students Placement Youth Family Support Services) and only for 2 reasons: (1) Safety (police record) & (2) Health conditions (serious health problem).
 - a. Judy Chin & Carmen Farina have been discussing with the Chancellor that the schools need to have input and use their own judgment. Carmen Farina is working on trying to get the policy changed.
9. No Child Left Behind – parents received notification that there is NO Title I money.
10. Anita stated that she will be on vacation and will be returning July 25th.

Mona Fabricant asked about the criteria for High School Teachers.

1. High School teachers had to actually complete mathematics education & major in college.
2. Middle schools teachers had to accumulate 30 credits in math, any 30 credits. To be a Certified Teacher – what is the criteria and what is needed? The paperwork goes to the Region (Personnel) and then it is distributed.
3. ELL & ELSA – shortage of teachers – they are able to hire teachers without the needed credentials. Anita stated “she would look into the above subjects and get back to the Council”.

Rob Caloras asked about the rating of schools.

Anita stated that it depends on the number of students (Special Ed & ELL). The Chancellor will now be doing a longitude study and compare grades 4 & 5. Will look at each student’s performance for each grade and compare
Melissa Dorfman was concerned about the longitude study and if the scores change, will they look at each child? Anita stated that they will look at child separately. They will analyze their strength and weaknesses. Teaching has become analytical and demanding.

Lori Butera

1. Region offered PTA/Parents galleria at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at LaGuardia Airport and also celebrated Gail and Dave stepping down. (Dancing, food & a D.J.)
2. Hawthorne Program –recreational arts program – PS 26 – registration is now taking place.
3. Camps – PS 203, 213, 46 – registration is very slow
4. Attended a training at Columbia University for Parent Coordinators – Carmen Farina offered this program to literacy (reading & writing). Chancellor attended. Spoke

- about getting the Parent Coordinators more involved in the academic area. Spoke about the parents helping their children
5. Parent Coordinators last meeting will be next month and Carolyn Kennedy will be attending.

Susan asked if everyone wouldn't mind getting their picture taken because there was a reporter from the Korean Journal present.

Unfinished Business

Sandra Gonzales updated the Council on the meeting she attended for Gifford Miller. He basically is campaigning for reduced class sizes. (See attachment)

1. Mr. Miller is running for Mayor & informed the people that \$400 million is needed for funding & proposed in order to get this money you would need to raise personal income & surcharges for those making \$500,000 plus.
2. Another solution other than building schools would be to add another teacher to each class room to bring down the student/teacher ratio. Sandra questioned Mr. Miller on how effective that would be due to site locations.

Anita stated that they must be compatible and their personalities have to agree. They must be able to get along and come together. (Ex: new teachers)

Melissa feels that the Council should not be supporting political agenda because "it's a very fine line".

New Business -

1. Rob recommends that the Council should not let Anita Saunders go through her Agenda again if the same people are in the meeting.
2. Anita stated that the Chancellor and Carmen Farina visited MS 216 (Mr. Landeau Jr., Principal) and did a press conference announcing a partnership with PS 216 and St. John's University. This is collaboration that the DOE hopes will create a template for other such partnerships throughout the city. This will be a sharing of expertise with professors hoping that more student teachers from St. John's will help reduce the student/teacher ratios in the school and that the children will become more interested in attending college after the exposure.
3. Susan asked if everyone received the e-mail regarding handbooks for 7th graders (Directory of High Schools 2005-2006) and asked that I (Marian) get copies to have in the office. Next year they will have it for the 6th graders.
4. Susan made a suggestion that workshops should be done in all boroughs.
5. Susan asked if Mona & Yen were re-appointed. Advisory Board will be meeting next week to finalize.
6. Melissa made a motion to change the Bylaws at the next meeting and Mona seconded. Motion was passed unanimously that the Bylaws will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Mona suggested that everyone write up what they did and how much time was spent and E-mail it to Marian for the next meeting.

Susan introduced Edward Fallacaro & Susan Shiroma as the new CEC members and welcomed them.

Susan thanked everyone and stated she enjoyed working with them and will miss them.

Sandra thanked Susan by presenting her with flowers from the Council.
The Business meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING

No Public meeting was held.

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

