

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

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### **MINUTES OF CALENDAR MEETING**

**Date:** Thursday, June 18, 2009

**Time:** Calendar Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

**Location:** MS 67, 51-60 Marathon Pkwy, Bayside, NY 11364 – Room B44A

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 pm.

**Roll Call:** Jeannette Segal, Erik DePaula, Irene Cheung, Marie Pollicino, Patrick McShane, Irene Fennell, Dina Quondamatteo

Excused – Vincent Tabone & Dave Kerpen

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

Newly Elected Members: Susan Shiroma and Ismael Fuentes were also in attendance.

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

- A. Minutes** - Motion to accept the minutes from the April 30<sup>th</sup> & May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting as written. Rob Caloras made a motion to accept and Patrick seconded. Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes.
- B. President's Report – Rob Caloras**
1. Correspondence
  2. Assembly passed a bill to renew Mayoral Control of Schools-Parent component has been left as is, ignoring parent input & any other input voiced throughout the city and various hearings.
- C. Treasurer's Report – Erik DePaula-** read balances in each account. Council has a remaining balance of \$3,930 without stipends. Council made a motion to take the remaining money and purchase a lap top and a smart board. Patrick seconded the motion and council voted unanimously to approve.

#### ***New Business***

1. Honoring students- Principals will nominate up to 10 students a month, criteria will be set. Motion made, Patrick seconded and council voted unanimously.
2. Intent to change day of the meeting from Thursday to the third Monday of the month. Vote will be made to change the bylaws at the July meeting.

#### ***Old Business***

1. A-655- Erik raised his concern that CDEC 26's position on the proposed revised Chancellor's Regulation A-655 had been inaccurately represented by the District Leadership Team ("DLT"). Erik was concerned because CDEC 26 had previously passed a resolution recommending that the DLT reject the proposed revised regulation and the DLT's report to the Department of Education ("DOE") merely recommended a few minor changes and asserted that CDEC 26 agreed with this recommendation which was contrary to what CDEC 26 had recommended. In response, Superintendent Saunders agreed that a new, amended DLT recommendation, with CDEC 26 removed from the list of entities that agreed with the DLT recommendation, would be sent to the DOE in order to correct to previous inaccurate representation of CDEC 26's position with regard to the proposed regulation.

***Superintendents Report – Anita Saunders***

- Welcome
  - NYS District ELA & Math Scores
    - ELA – 91%
    - Math – 97%
  - NYS District Report Card
  - ARIS Parent Link - Parents received literature with passwords to log on the ARIS system. The test scores for the District are as follows; 90% of children received a 3 or 4 on the ELA and 97% in Math.
  - Budget
  - District Summer School Sites - PS 46 – Elementary  
MS 74 – Middle School
- Summer school begins on July 1<sup>st</sup> at PS 41 and MS 74.  
MS 74 will also holding summer enrichment courses.

Motion to adjourn the business meeting. Council voted unanimously to adjourn.

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***Public Meeting***

***Speaker – Mr. Sandy Brawer, Deputy Executive Director of Business Services at the Queens Integrated Service Center (DOE) presented a powerpoint presentation relating to budget cuts in D26:***

***Over the past 7 years, we increased investments in schools and student achievement has steadily improved***

- § Increased investments
  - § Brought \$8 billion new dollars into system over 7 years; 17% increase
  - § Moved over \$350 million out of the bureaucracy into schools
  - § Increased per pupil spending by over 20% to \$16,195 in FY07
  - § Increasing teacher quality as we are now at 100% certified teachers
  - § Increased funding for students with the greatest academic challenges at a relatively higher rate over the last 3 years
- § Growing Student Achievement since 2002
  - § Graduation rates have risen by 11 points
  - § 22.4% increase in 4th grade and 27.5% increase in 8th grade students meeting or exceeding State ELA standards
  - § 27.7% increase in 4th grade and 29.8% increase in 8th grade students meeting or exceeding State math standards

- § 8000 more New York City public school graduates entering CUNY as first-time freshman, a 49% increase

These sizeable investments have provided our schools with the instructional and operational resources and structures needed to support improving student achievement now and in the future

### ***In the year ahead, we must confront tough fiscal times***

- § Prices are going up
  - § Mandated special education costs are growing (e.g. CTT)
  - § Teachers are staying in the classroom longer and thus contractual compensation is increasing
  - § Pension and debt service
  - § Food, transportation, energy bills
- § Incomes are going down
  - § Recession leads to less people working and paying taxes
  - § Smaller tax base means less funds for the City and State to invest in government services such as education
- § Budget is increasing, but costs increasing faster
  - § Executive DOE budget will increase to \$22 billion, but increase is not as big as the increased expenses described above
  - § Federal Stimulus Plan will fill some of the gap, but not completely; note that Stimulus funds have increased spending restrictions and reporting requirements
  - § Purchasing power of school dollars will decrease (e.g. same teacher will cost more in FY10)

Much like families are doing across the country, in the coming year, our schools will need to analyze budgets and develop a strategy **to do more with less**

### ***Fiscal situation will require budget cuts***

- § Central
  - § Continue to minimize cuts to schools; cut central budget by 13% and reduced staff by 8% when schools took only a 3% cut in FY09
  - § Central is only 3% of overall DOE budget, and thus can not absorb all of the necessary cut; Central will take another cut in FY10, comparable to schools
- § Schools
  - § Schools' total budgets will be reduced by the same percentage across nearly all schools excluding the surplus roll
  - § Less than 100 schools will experience a smaller percentage reduction to their total budgets before the roll due to their mix of funding streams
  - § After the surplus roll, total school budgets will be down 3.8%. Percentage will vary based on amount of dollars a school rolled
- § Smaller cuts than anticipated
  - § In January, Chancellor anticipated layoff of over 14,000 teachers and up to 13% budget cuts to schools, but can now guarantee no teacher lay-offs and dramatically smaller school budget cuts
  - § Federal Stimulus Plan dramatically increased programmatic allocations (Title I and IDEA) and added fiscal stabilization funds that function much like tax levy funds: \$952M FY10, \$961M FY11
  - § Directed as much of the "allocated" Stimulus Funds as possible to schools
  - § Poised to compete for additional funds when applications open this summer/fall

***As in the past, school characteristics will determine actual funding mix for each school***

- § Will continue to use Fair Student Funding formulas to allocate funds to schools based on student needs and register count
- § Many more schools and students will qualify for Title I funds
- § FSF funds will be cut by an across-the-board percentage; equity for all schools
- § No new C4E this year but schools maintain their C4E dollars from the previous two years

### ***Potential Impact of School Budget Reductions***

- § Process
  - § Principals consult with school staff and communities to determine best strategy for “doing more with less”
  - § Schools work with ISC/CFN teams to make preliminary allocations by June 18
  - § Superintendent reviews and signs off on school budgets
  - § In the fall, schools adjust allocations to match evolving needs of students
- § Schools may decide to:
  - § Make large cuts to their OTPS and per session funds
  - § Reduce after-school and supplemental programs
  - § Layoff non-teaching school personnel
  - § Eliminate teaching positions where necessitated by budget
- § The DOE will:
  - § Not lay off teachers
  - § Experience some elimination of teaching positions, but attrition will allow those teachers to be absorbed into other positions in the system
  - § Institute hiring restrictions to avoid layoffs and ensure continued principal discretion in hiring

### ***Our approach to budget cuts demonstrates a continued commitment to the principles of Children First***

- § Student Achievement – We will continue to set high standards and provide quality choices for all families
- § Accountability – Principals are accountable for their students’ achievement under all economic conditions
- § Empowerment – Principals maintain discretion to manage their budgets to best meet the needs of their students; this includes deciding which aspects of their budgets to cut
- § Teacher Quality – Teachers are an integral lever
  - § No forced placement of teachers (nor guidance counselors and APs)
  - § Principals can still decide whether to hire and whom to hire, so long as the teacher comes from within the system
  - § DOE will manage implementation to ensure no teacher layoffs and avoid potential disruption caused by bumping teachers across schools
- § Central Support to Schools – Continue to provide systemic supports: such as tools to monitor students’ progress, parent coordinators, environment surveys, and replacement of failing schools with new small schools

Meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

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