

Community District Education Council District 26

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MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, June 21, 2007

Time: Calender Meeting, 7:00 P.M.; Business Meeting, 8:00 P.M.

Location: MS 74, 61-15 Oceania Street, Bayside, NY 11364-Rm 128

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 pm in the Conference Room 128.

Roll Call: Dr. Lana Zinger, Susan Shiroma, Carol Gomez, Jackie Montgomery, Rob Caloras & Jodi Nath

Excused: Debra Strassberg & Melissa Dorfman

Unexcused: Yen Shia Chou & Bona Sun

Also in attendance was Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent & Lori Butera, Parent Coordinator and our newly elected members, Patrick McShane, Aamer Wiqas, Jeannette Segal & Minkyung Lee

Business Meeting

President's Report

Rob started off by saying that the school year is almost over and this would be the last meeting of the 2006-2007 council wishing Carol Gomez, Jackie Montgomery, Jodi Nath & Susan Shiroma good luck in their new endeavors. Rob thanked everyone for all their help and stated that it was a good year and the CDEC has done some good for the community and hopefully they will continue.

1. E-mails and notices were sent out by himself and others. Rob informed the new members that most of the correspondence is sent by e-mail and to please get in the practice of checking e-mails daily.
2. NYC Math test scores have gone up.
3. Mayor's plan to pay low income students for their good performance. It's been discussed in the media and Rob is engaged in an e-mail correspondence with the Chancellor. They left off by saying "that Aristotle would be spinning in his grave if he knew what they were doing to education of their children's minds". The Chancellor responded "that they would not only be paying students there's a lot more involved". The program outlined in the NY Times is to create racial equality. The DOE has created a new title "Chief Equality Officer" and this individual will be handling this program.
4. Article on Chinese schools – structure – standardized testing – the people in China are looking to change their school system and follow the United States system.
5. Meeting in May on Fair Funding by Lindsey Matthews.
6. Assemblyman Lancman's town hall meeting held June 14th and attended by Rob, Susan & Mary Vaccaro regarding School Reorganization. Guest speaker was Chris Surf, Deputy

Chancellor. Under the new formula a lot of schools will be losing money, however, the Chancellor and the Mayor are holding schools “whole harmless” that lose money under this formula for two years.

7. Chancellor meeting with the CDEC Presidents and Rob sent out recommendations to the Chancellor. The Chancellor was told under no uncertain terms that he’s ignored the education councils and has no respect for the education councils and he doesn’t quite understand that the education councils are selected members legislatively chosen as representatives of the school districts which mean something and the Chancellor’s response was that right now there’s a situation where other organizations with parents & students (CPAC). The Chancellor wants to seek out which one should be the focal point of his concerns as representatives of the school community. In other words, since the state law gives a seat to the education councils and not CPAC he should then lean towards the education councils. There will be a revamping of the SLT’s per Rob who will be checking on the principals.

Asked council members for any comments - none

Secretary’s Report – Carol Gomez

1. No quorum to approve minutes.

Treasurer’s Report – Rob informed the attendees that money budgeted for schools was used to supply paper and other school materials.

Committee Reports

Zoning & Outreach – this committee sees to it that schools get a visit and to show parents that the CDEC does exist.

Grants Information- Susan stated that last month she distributed the UFT mini grant information. Susan informed the attendees that books are available to review regarding grant writing in Marian Mason’s office. Copies can be made. Susan informed the attendees that there are parent coordinators willing to come and do presentations regarding grant writing. Susan stated that there are templates on how to educate on writing proposals.

Curriculum – none

High School processing – principals do everything they can to make sure that their students know the process for applying to high schools. Lots of information is sent home with the students, the parents must read and act upon it immediately if it applies to them. Susan gives the DOE credit and state that the parent leaders need to get out to the fifth graders parents that they should be attending any workshop that the middle school guidance counselors give and get out into the fields & attend the DOE workshops. Parents need to sit through the presentations and hear the questions that other parents from other districts are asking in order to make a more educated decision regarding your child’s placement in high schools.

Superintendent's Report – Anita Saunders

- NYS Math Assessment – District average for Elementary and Middle School = 91.3%, and increase of 11.3%
- Summer School
PS 46 – Grades - 3, 4, 5
Grades - 2-5 ELL (Special Title III Funding)
MS 216 – Grades - 6, 7, 8
Begin Date – July 2nd (Closed July 4th)
End Date – August 8th
ELA Tests – Grades 3-8, August 6th
Math Tests – Grades 3-8, August 7th
ELA & Math Make-up Tests – Grades 3-8, August 8th
- Interim Acting Assistant Principal, PS/IS 266 – on hold
- Community Superintendent/Senior Achievement Facilitator - – Summer Meetings and Training the entire month of July
Added a new job to the Community Superintendent (Senior Achievement Facilitator) in which they must work with 20 schools outside of the district not evaluating them but giving them advise on global & instructions. As of June 30th, there is no region and Judith Chin is not the Regional Superintendent she is now going to be a **CEO** of an organization that will be a school support organization. They will be supporting the schools on instructions. They do not evaluate.
Rob Caloras asked whether any official document was received outlining her duties? Ms. Saunders stated that she would be going for interviews.
- Ms. Saunders informed the Council that it was a pleasure working with them & D26 was very fortunate in having people who really care for what happens in their schools. Certificates were given out by Ms. Saunders to the council members.

Lori Buteri – Parent Coordinator

1. Spoke about Brooklyn-Queens Day where President Council had put together a trip to the Queens Zoo for all District 26 students. It was a nice turnout & the children enjoyed themselves. The UFT gave out free hats. Discussion to make this an annual event.
2. Marsha Tom has been chosen as the Borough-Wide Director of Family Engagement & Advocacy for Queens.
3. Lori informed the attendees that her title would be changed to District Family Advocate.
4. June 16th was “Ask Martine Guerrier Day” at Brooklyn Tech were she was there to answer questions regarding reorganization and to educate parents, etc.
5. Spoke about summer camps at MS 74, PS 46, 173, 213 & 203. Low registration at PS 221 so the program was cancelled since they only had about 30 children. Teachers were very disappointed since this program had been operating for such a long time. Lori feels that other camps offered longer days since these were only 9-1 p.m.

New Business

1. Jackie spoke about school visits and how it was handled the first year. Suggested going back to the original way where council members were assigned certain schools so that the council members would have more personal contact with the Principals and parent coordinators.
2. Rob spoke about using the Parent Coordinator and PTA Representatives to get involved in giving CDEC Vacancy notices in the teachers mailboxes for distribution to the students.
3. Jackie spoke about doing cocktail party for past, present and new council members at the Douglaston Manor.
4. President's Council e-mail distribution discussed. Susan stated that she would like to serve as a mentor to the new members.
5. Rob stated that there will be no meeting in July and stated that the next meeting will be in August. Rob would like for the vacancy notices to be in the teacher's boxes by the second week in September. The Chancellor can fill the vacancies after 60 days.

Susan handed out flowers to: Anita Saunders, Rob Caloras, Lori Butera, Carol Gomez, Jackie Montgomery, Dr. Lana Zinger & Jodi Nath.

Rob informed the new members that this is the last meeting for the school year & sometimes we have a guest speaker. He informed the new members that they should come to the meetings and participate. In public meetings kindly feel free to speak out and state who you are.

Old Business - none

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. and proceeded into the Public Meeting.

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