

Community Education Council District 26

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MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, July 28, 2005

Time: Business Meeting, 7:35 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 Rob Caloras, President at 7:35 PM EST.

Roll Call: Rob Caloras, Yen Shia Chou, Melissa Dorfman, Edward Fallacaro, Mona Fabricant, Carol Gomez, Jacqueline Montgomery, Rich Olson, Susan Shiroma & Bona Sun

Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent; Lori Stein-Butera, Parent Support Officer & Walter O'Brien Local, Superintendent also attended but were not present for the main discussion of the Business meeting.

Business Session - Topics Discussed:

- 1. Council discussed ways to get more detailed information from the Superintendent's Report. Council spoke about a need for more interaction with Anita on a regular basis. Issues will be sent to Anita & Walter 8 days before the meeting & a response would be needed 3 days prior to the meeting. A time limit on Superintendent's report was suggested with an emphasis on using the Calendar session time to announce good news.*
- 2. Rob Caloras – will set up meeting with Anita Saunders to discuss ways to make the Business session more productive.*
- 3. A suggestion was made to allow Walter O'Brien 10-15 minutes to make a presentation also.*
- 4. Council reviewed the decision making regarding PS 130's situation last year and not being involved in the discussions regarding the final agreement between the community board, Region 3 headquarters and the District office.*
- 5. Council spoke about the need to find ways to make the parents & community more informed in what's happening in District 26.*
- 6. Several members agreed that in creating committees (Standing, Zoning, Outreach & others) would be useful.*
- 7. Council discussed each member adopting a school(s), making school visits, attending SLT & PTA meetings, and communicating with PTA Presidents, UFT representatives & Principals on a regular basis to obtain information regarding the needs of the children in the schools. One member suggested that it was a conflict of interest to assign members to their child's school. Another member, pointing out last year's CDEC inability to make school assignments, suggested the CDEC should divide the district into geographic areas and assign teams of 3 or 4 to cover each subdivision. The need to establish a strong relationship with the President Council was discussed.*

8. Council agreed to monitor the PS 178 situation and the DOE's interest in turning it into a K-8 school.
9. Marian was asked to try to get a District 26 map showing all the schools and the schools feeder patterns.
10. Council members from last year suggested that we should work with Superintendent to get the DCEP completed early.

Rob apologized to Anita Saunders, Walter O'Brien & Lori Butera for the long wait but they had to discuss some issues & familiarize the new members of how the meetings would be conducted.

Calendar Meeting

Rob Caloras started off by announcing all the newly elected officers: Robert Caloras, President; Susan Shiroma, 1st Vice President; Yen Shia Chou, 2nd Vice President; Edward Fallacaro, Treasurer & Carol Gomez, Recording Secretary

Reviewing of previous month's minutes (June 2 & June 16, 2005) -any comments or correction/additions? Motion to accept minutes by Rob Caloras and seconded by Edward Fallacaro. The motion passed unanimously.

Bylaws reviewed:

Article I – amended to read CEC 26

Article II – officer's names

Article II, Section 4 – remains at 5

Article II, Section 6 – remains at 4 and change Secretary to Administrative Assistant

Article III, Section 2 – change third Thursday to the first Thursday for the Annual Meeting.

Article III, Section 3 – changed from the third Thursday to the last Thursday of the month.

Article IV, Section 1, 1.1 – remains at 8 business days

Article IV, Section 3a – remains at 10 minutes

Motion to accept changes passed unanimously.

Budget

1. *Mona suggested setting up a committee to oversee the budget & see how money is being spent. Mona asked about stipends and what is reimbursable. (Copy of expenditures put in folders)*
2. *Suggested that Treasurer give a report every month.*
3. *Rob motion to allocate funds in the budget the same as last year for now money can be redistributed at a later date. Mona seconded. Council voted unanimously. Ed will allocate budget spreadsheet and e-mail to me so that I can forward it on to the ROC.*
4. *Susan promised to e-mail members a map from old District 26 website showing location of all District 26 schools with the exception of the Glen Oaks campus. She suggested that the CDEC should have a district map made into a presentation sized poster for use at public meetings. The cost of production of a new map would be a matter that the CDEC might have to approve. Rob suggested putting it on the October agenda.*

Superintendent's Report – Anita Saunders (See Attachment)

1. Summer Schools (P.S. 46 & PS 158)
2. Middle Schools – no change
3. MS 67 curriculum – 6 periods of ELA & Math
4. C-30 – PS 162, MS 158 & PA 18 – appointing of Principals
5. Budget is in line – staff to hired
6. Community District Superintendents:
 - Dist. 25 – Diane Foley
 - Dist. 26 – Anita Saunders
 - Dist. 28 – Dan Purus
 - Dist. 29 – JoAnn Joyner-Wells
7. Anita announced the City had a new arts curriculum.

Discussions

- A. Question asked – Anita what do you see as your responsibilities or role this year and are you given any additional authority?
1. Anita responded that she would still be working with Walter O'Brien.
 2. Assigning duties in the schools
 3. Role not changing
- B. Melissa asked about the Visual Arts Program – per Anita, there will be a push to keep the program going. Some schools receive special grants for arts education programs. The Superintendent reminded the CDEC that our local political leaders have been influential in getting money for talent and gifted programs, but in recent years, money from the government for talent and gifted programs has decreased. In many schools, the PTA's provide money to keep the program going. Not all schools in the district have the same instructional programs in the arts.
- C. Mona asked about the percentage of Math teachers certified/hired. Anita will look into this a respond at the next CEC meeting.

D. Magnet Program

1. Response letters not clear. Anita will look into this and respond at the next meeting.

E. No Child Left Behind program discussed

1. How many children applied & accepted –Anita will advise council next month.
2. Unlike last year, this year the City will not provide busing for children placed in schools under NCLB.
3. Each child comes with an allocation
4. Offered to Level I parents first
5. Based on how many openings a school has.

F. Busing issues

G. Schools that need improvement such as Ryan. It was emphasized that the standards are going up.

H. Gifted & Talented Program committee with Carmen Farina

1. Anita stated that Padavan, Weprin are getting funds for Dist. 26 which is to be divided.
2. Elementary & middle schools will be funded per capita.
3. No mandated changes

I. Changes in administration of MSI Program (a citywide program designed to provide year-round science and math enrichment out-of-school time to a select number of middle school children to help them score high on the Specialized Science High Schools examination in 8th grade.) Anita will research and advise CEC at the next meeting.

J. Report Cards – Carmen Farina putting together new report cards

New Business

Susan distributed a draft with goals and objectives for the CDEC members to review and think about in terms of a future discussion on what we would like to accomplish in 2005-2006. One suggestion on the list was to have the CDEC work with the Parent Support Officer to create a PowerPoint Presentation about the District and the CDEC to bring to schools or meetings attended to show how the CDEC works.

Rob motion to adjourn and Melissa seconded. Council voted unanimously.
Calendar meeting ended at 9:55 p.m.

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

