

## Community Education Council District 26

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### MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Date:** Thursday, August 18, 2005

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

**Location:** MS 158, 46-35 Oceania Street, Bayside, NY 11364-Teacher's Cafeteria

The meeting of the Community Education Council of District 26 (CEC26) was called to order and chaired by Rob Caloras, President at 7:13 PM EST.

Roll Call: Rob Caloras, Edward Fallacaro, Carol Gomez, Susan Shiroma  
Excused – Yen Shia Chou, Melissa Dorfman, Mona Fabricant & Richard Olson  
Late – Jackie Montgomery & Bona Sun

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

*Reviewing of previous month's minutes* (July 28, 2005) – Rob asked if there were any corrections, changes, or additions. Some changes had been e-mailed in earlier, and were reflected.

Anita suggested a change on Page 4, H.2 – “middle schools will get a bigger portion” – will make correction to read “Elementary & middle schools will be funded per capita”.

Rob made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes. Council members voted unanimously to accept.

#### ***Business Session - Topics Discussed:***

##### A. Bylaws.

Reviewed the Bylaws with present council members and advised them that the Bylaws were presented to the public also.

*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*

Rob made a motion to accept the Bylaws with the necessary changes. Bylaws amended and adopted by council unanimously.

- B. E-mails  
Rob suggested that all members check their e-mails everyday because there will be lots of vital information. He also informed the council that the letter for the Principals introducing the CDEC was sent out and will also be sent to the PTA's. A response letter was done on behalf of the CDEC which involved input from all members regarding the constant testing of students.
- C. CEC Vacancy Flyer  
Multiple copies of the vacancy flyers were distributed to public libraries within the boundaries of District 26 (Hillcrest, Windsor Park, Bayside, North Hills, Douglaston, Bellerose, Fresh Meadows & Glen Oaks), and were also mailed to politicians serving District 26 schools. The flyer was e-mailed to the media, parent coordinators and principals. A guest from the ROC in Linden Place took copies of the vacancy flyer and placed them in a public area of the ROC where parents and staff could pick-up.
- D. Meeting with Superintendent  
Rob Caloras & Susan Shiroma met with Superintendent Anita Saunders before the business meeting and discussed test preparation issues in District 26. Test preparation today is very different from five years ago. The test is testing the curriculum. The state builds a test based on the standards they (the state) disseminate. Tests test how the children have mastered the standards.

Test preparation today involves analyzing the questions and building student stamina through independent daily reading. Many schools will do a test preparation unit six weeks before the test focusing on how to read each section of the test. PS188 and PS191 do a unit called, "Testing Strategies."

The new tests for the state emphasize writing, not multiple choices, and emphasize response to the literature.

### ***Treasurer's Report***

Ed outlined the budget spreadsheet. Approved Budget spreadsheet given out to all council members for their record.

### ***President's Report***

- a. e-mails sent to establish the procedure for communication (check e-mails everyday)
- b. Circulated letter that was sent to the Principals in Dist. 26 telling them about the CDEC and asking them for helping us help the children. Letter sent to the Principals.
- c. Will draft a letter for the PTA and PAs.
- d. Letter sent out in regard to the standardized testing to be finalized.
- e. Spoke about the vacancy – flyers sent out and applications available. Informed the council that Susan, Carol, Jackie & himself distributed flyers to the libraries. The flyer was also distributed via the YMCA on Hillside Avenue.
- f. Rob & Susan met with Anita Saunders and spoke about different issues that will be discussed.

**Old Business**

There was a question asked about the percentage of Math teachers certified/hired.

Answer - Anita responded that 100% of all teachers are certified.

**Magnet Program**

Question regarding the response letters not clear.

Answer – Anita’s response below

**No Child Left Behind program discussed**

Question - How many children applied & accepted

Answer – Anita’s response below

Changes in administration of Specialized Science High Schools Test Prep Institute (formerly known as the 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade.)

Answer - Anita’s response below

Susan sent e-mails to all council members of the map from the old District 26 website showing the locations of all District 26 schools with the exception of the Glen Oaks campus.

**Superintendent’s Report – Anita Saunders (See Attachment)**

A. Summer School

B. Summer Self-Sustaining Programs

Hawthorne Program – K-8 (600 students)

Summer Day Camp – PS 46 – K-4 (30 students)

PS 203 – K-5 (200 students)

PS 213 – K-6 (85 students)

PS 221 – K-6 (120 students)

Music and art included in this Summer Day Camp

Anita stated that summer school was a success thanks to Lori Butera (Hawthorne Program) who had committed herself to this program. PS 26 had 600 children attending different programs for the summer.

C. C-30 – PS 162- Principal needed - unable to get all members of the committee, will try for August 29<sup>th</sup>.

MS 158 – have an interim – will be concluding in September.

PS 18 – cannot do anything until it’s advertised which will be in September.

Anita gave a report on how children scored in the district and that some scores better than others. Grade 3, 5 & 7 are benchmarked for hold-over.

D. No Child Left Behind – Do not know how many children are slated to come into District 26 schools. Parents who have Level 1 children & who are in the lowest income and in lowest performing schools get first preference. Parents received a letter advising them of where their children can go (pick one of eight choices from the DOE) and they must select a school and respond to the DOE by Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, by 8/29 the DOE will receive a list telling the Principals who is which schools and grades.

E. MSI – stands for Middle School Initiative. The Chancellor put several million dollars into a middle school initiative.

F. Every math teacher as of September must be certified.

G. Gifted Magnet Program – will see that council member.

- H. Science & Math Programs – looked everywhere and found nothing relating to this program.
- I. Open School Week is November 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>.

***New Business***

- a. Rob spoke about the creation of committees (Zoning & Outreach) – have members visit schools, PTA and other meetings. Zoning was discussed. Motion to create 2 committees (Zoning and Outreach & Curriculum and Testing). Council members voted unanimously to accept the 2 newly created committees.
- b. Jackie asked for an explanation regarding focus on science/flow regarding other grades.
- c. Jodi Nath (former CDEC 26 candidate) thanked everyone for allowing her to sit in on the meeting.
- d. Council member stated that a man from a civic association gave her literature to hand out.

Procedures for receiving and distributing handouts from the public were reviewed. CEC members cannot hand out documents to specific members. Documents must go to all members. It was decided that no materials/documents from the public should be taken and distributed by individual CDEC members.

All speakers are allotted 3 minutes and literature can be placed on the cabinet for anyone to pick up. Speakers should be encouraged to contact Marian with questions about distributing handouts before they come to give their presentations.

Rob made a motion to clarify the procedures regarding the distribution of outside material – no material shall be distributed unless the speaker wants the material distributed and speaks at the Public hearing and copies must be available to everyone (CEC members, Superintendents & etc.). Council members voted unanimously to accept motion to accept this procedure.

- e. Rob stated that Susan Shiroma distributed a 3 page goal setting document in July, and asked if she wanted to reiterate. (See attachment) Susan reviewed some of the goals and objectives the CDEC might undertake this year.
- f. Rob informed all council members that is imperative that all discussions should be strictly related too functions as CDEC members, and should not bring up personal matters during meetings.
- g. Suggested setting up meetings such as: Legislative which need planning.

Next meeting is September 29<sup>th</sup> –

Council member brought up the vacancy position has to be filled in 60 days. Rob suggested that all the interviews will be done in one night.

Suggestion to have someone speak about the new testing. Anita Saunders will bring someone in to speak about the New State Testing. ELA and Math 3, 5, and 7. Speakers will discuss at 8 p.m.

Suggestion was made to meet with the President's Council. Rob will discuss with the President of President's Council, and ask them to invite us to the first meeting of the Presidents Council.

October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting – Topics: Follow up of the science curriculum.

Discussion to move November meeting to the 17<sup>th</sup> because of holiday – will be discussed at September meeting.

Rob introduced guest from Regional Network Support team of the DOE, Jeanette Grasso who informed the Council that she will be dropping in from time to time to sit in & give support to the schools for procurement issues (pays bills, allocates funds to schools, etc.). Ms Grasso's Director is Marlene Siegel. Rob thanked her for her support. Ms. Grasso's e-mail address is: [jgrasso@nycboe.net](mailto:jgrasso@nycboe.net)

The new PTA President of P.S. 94 was thanked for attending.

Rob made a motion to adjourn and members agreed unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

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



