

Community District Education Council District 26

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MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, August 30, 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 by Marian Mason, Administrative Assistant, CDEC at 7:15 pm in the Conference Room -128. Members informed that since no quorum has been met there will be no election of officers or voting of other matters and that this would be a discussion meeting only.

Roll Call: Rob Caloras, Jeannette Segal, Minkyung Lee, Irene Cheung & Patrick McShane

Excused: Dr. Lana Zinger

Also in attendance was Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent

Business Meeting

Marian Mason informed the members that a Special meeting will be held once a date has been received from Lana to do the voting of officers, minutes, bylaws, fill CDEC vacancy and budget. Marian also informed the new members that they are allowed a stipend of \$125mo for CDEC expenditures (meetings, parking, babysitting, tolls & etc. with receipts) which must be completed at the end of any meeting. Members asked to review old minutes for approval at the Special meeting.

Meeting turned over to the previously elected President, Robert Caloras. Rob informed the members of the CDEC interview vacancy process that took place on August 28th at 6:30 (all in attendance except Lana) along with Mary Vaccaro of the UFT.

Rob stated that at the next meeting a quorum will be present to complete the election of officers (President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Recording Secretary & Treasurer. Rob informed the members that if attending an event that they can represent the CDEC and share the responsibility.

Rob asked the new members to introduce themselves and talk a little about themselves in order for the others to get to know them. Each new member gave a brief history of themselves.

Minkyung Lee – Patrick McShane - Jeannette Segal

Irene Cheung stated that it is an honor to serve the CDEC 26 as a Borough President appointee for a two-year term from July 2007 to June 2009. She lives in Little Neck with her husband and three children. With two sons attending Cardozo High School and one in NYU, she would like to dedicate her experiences with the families of District 26. She has been actively involves with public school educational system for fifteen years through her role as PTA Board Member, Citywide Parent Representative, Queens UFT Parent Collaborative Member and Member of Parent Advisory Council of Queens Borough Office. She strongly believes that “it has a whole village to raise a kid”. We make a difference in our kid’s future.

Rob informed the council that he was active with the PTA and he was previously elected president of the CDEC for two years. Rob informed the new members that the council has been involved with issues that affected the district. Rob stated that the council gets involved with issues that affect the entire district or the city and with the changes coming from TWEED referring to the budget issues, organization & zoning which is never going to happen. There have been no zoning requests in the last five (5) years since Mayor Bloomberg has been in office. The council had a zoning committee last year, but will no longer have come this year. Rob stated that he is an Attorney not a practicing attorney who works for the NYS Court System & advises the judge.

Anita stated that she's been in education 30 years starting off as a teacher of the 6th grade. Worked in the district office as Coordinator of the arts, social studies, foreign language and moved onto the Director of the Reimbursable programs in charge of the budget, a Grant Writer, District Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development, Deputy Superintendent and then Superintendent. Anita stated that the district is moving ahead and that there is a good relationship with the principals and parents. There are great teachers and everyone is working hard.

Visitors – Mary Vaccaro, UFT Representative for Dist. 26

Marva Bhalla, representative of Senator Mark Weprin's office

Cathy Cahn – Co-president of President's Council

Rob informed the attendees of the UFT Scholarship Dinner that was given last year and the UFT would be having another on October 10, 2007.

Rob informed the attendees that he attended a meeting with two representatives from Time Out for Testing (Don Friedman & Jane Hirschman). This organization is involved with analyzing the testing & assessing of our children in the NYC public schools system. Rob also informed the attendees that Don Friedman presented at one of our meetings last year. This organization feels that the children are being tested a little too much and believe that what they are being tested on do not accurately reflect what they lead to be tested. The council resolved to have a forum on this entire issue of testing & assessing and this organization would like to be a part of this open forum. Discussed with the attending council members to have this forum in October 2007. DOE representatives, union representatives, politicians & etc would be present to speak on this topic also. Once meeting is concluded the council if deemed appropriate can issue a resolution regarding this topic.

Rob requested that a special meeting will be called to do the voting of officers, bylaws & etc.

Rob asked Mary Vaccaro to see if Randi Weingarten would be available for our September public meeting.

Rob informed attendees that he attended a meeting at TWEED in which the Chancellor would be dealing with the Education Councils differently (referred to the August 16th letter from Martine Guerrier) in which six committees were created & that the DOE would like two representatives from each council on each committee:

- Ø Student Achievement
- Ø Special Education Services – Jeannette Segal
- Ø Outreach/Training
- Ø Facilities – Jeannette Segal & Patrick McShane
- Ø English Language Learner Services – Irene Cheung
- Ø Budget – Robert Caloras & Patrick McShane

Rob informed the members that Martine stated that these are works in progress and hoping that some of these committees will be involved in the policy end with the DOE. Rob feels that the Chancellor should listen to the CDEC's inputs.

Rob stated that if no representation on these committees from District 26 then none of the issues would be heard regarding demographics of D26. Members volunteered to be on the committees which will be once a month at TWEED and the meetings usually start at 6 p.m.

Jeannette Segal attended the Intergovernmental Breakfast at TWEED on Aug. 30th which was called a "Back to School Briefing". Jeannette stated there were about 50 attendees. There was the introduction & overview of the DOE organization, update of the new website which is still being modified. There was a brief speech by Ritchie Garfer who handles bus routes & he stated that there are 5 IEC's (one per borough) and these Account Managers handles the bus routes in their borough. Also discussed was the Special Ed busing. They have hired a new investigation officer and staffing to handle bus issues & incidents. Jeannette stated that Martine gave a brief presentation (PowerPoint requested).

Jeannette Segal informed the attendees that Jacqui Lipson had called to say that she would not be attending tonight's meeting.

Rob outlined the proposal that Chancellor made at the August 27th meeting. The changes give the CDEC's a little more respect from the DOE's point of view.

Superintendent's Report – Anita Saunders

1. Summer School

- PS 46

Grade 3 - 10	<u>Title III - ESL</u>
Grade 3 - 9	Grade 2 - 14
Grade 4 - 10	Grade 2 - 8
<u>Grade 5 - 5</u>	Grade 2/3 - 16
Total 34	Grade 4 - 12
	<u>Grade 5 - 11</u>
	Total 61

- MS 216

Grade 6 - 10
Grade 7 - 13
Grade 7 - 13
<u>Grade 8 - 74</u> (4 Classes - ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies)
Total 113

<u>Title III ESL</u>
Grade 6 - 21
<u>Grade 6 - 23</u>
Total 44

2. Contracts for Excellence

- \$700 million State and to New York for student achievement – high needs students in high needs schools
- 228 million/700 million must be spent on:
 - reduced class size
 - restructuring of Middle School and High School
 - improving teacher quality and increasing time on task

3. High School Fairs:

Citywide High School Fair – Saturday, September 29, 2007
Sunday, September 30, 2007

Borough High School Fair Saturday, October 20, 2007
Sunday, October 21, 2007

Anita emphasizes that parents should start going to these fairs starting in the 6th grade.

4. Specialized High School Admission Test

Saturday, October 27, 2007
Sunday, October 28, 2007
Saturday, November 3, 2007
Sunday, November 4, 2007

5. Auditions for Fiorello LaGuardia High School of Music & Art & Performing Arts

Saturday, November 17, 2007
Sunday, November 18, 2007
Saturday, December 1, 2007
Sunday, December 2, 2007
Saturday, December 15, 2007
Sunday, December 16, 2007

6. Community Superintendent and Senior Achievement Facilitator (SAF) – will be working with schools outside of the district.

7. Community Superintendent - all District 26 schools

- evaluate principals
- hire & fire

Anita stated that she will be working with 21 additional schools & will be assigned two (2) Network Leaders (EOI). The SAF's & EOI's work closely together in a partnership & the goals is to improve instruction in each child.

SAF – 12 schools District 29
7 schools District 28
1 school District 17
1 school District 06

- support schools in use of data to move instruction so that ALL students progress at least one or more years

Anita stated that Judith Chin will no longer be the overseer of the principals. Anita will be reporting to the Chancellor.

8. Inquiry Team – identify a target skill using information from formative & summative assessments and class work

- Each School
- Focus on 15-30 lowest performing students – one specific target skill
- Research
- Develop and implement instructional strategies
- Share work with school community
- Track effectiveness of strategies

Anita informed the attendees that Janet Won District 26 EOI will be the primary contact for principals with instructions.

Anita stated that they will try very hard to maintain the excellence but keep it going and the goal of “Children First Initiative” is that every child no matter where they are on the levels of proficiency must move one (1) year in progression.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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