

MINUTES FROM BUSINESS /CALENDER/ PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, April 24, 2014
Time: Business Meeting – 7 p.m. - Public Meeting - 8:00 P.M. -
Location: MS 67 – 51-60 Marathon Pkwy, Little Neck, NY – Room B44A

The meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order by Jeannette Segal, President at 7: 10 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

Roll Call - Jeannette Segal, Susan Shiroma (Borough Appointee), Alan Ong (Borough Appointee), Ricky Chan, Leslie Rubenstein, Anastasio Politidis & Jaime Alvarez-Isasi

Late - Roy Menendez

Excused - Lucy Vieco; Unexcused - Jaya Patil

Also present: Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent & Lori Stein-Butera, District Family Advocate

1. **Minutes** – March 20, 2014 minutes reviewed. Motion to accept the March 20th minutes was made by Leslie Rubenstein and seconded by Alan Ong. Council voted unanimously to approve the March 20, 2014 minutes.

2. **President's Report** –Jeannette Segal

- a. Attended April 2nd meeting with Chancellor Farina & Council Presidents at Tweed

The meeting was well attended. The agenda was what her goals were and she presented the four pillars and what she was going to focus on such as child development, academics socially and emotionally and she changed the structure of the DOE when she went in and supervise FACE and her priority was to connect with students and families. She has started attending different CEC meetings and town hall meetings.

Jeannette asked “when will she come to D26”. Her staff will schedule her in the fall and D26 will have a town hall meeting. Chancellor Farina was coming to MS 67 to the performing arts show in which a tape was made of Peter Pan for her personally.

Chancellor Farina went over how the CEC’s worked together on a citywide basis. She also spoke about the network structure, charter schools and co-locations. She also spoke on space utilization & planning and that the blue book was being evaluated. A team has been set up of CEC members, parents & the presidents’ council. There was a discussion on Chancellor Regulation #A501 (Promotion) on how it’s being affected; Common Core testing to be at the May 29 PEP meeting to be passed.

- b. ELA testing – would like to see how everyone did – some parents opted out – a few in D26. Anita informed the parents who opted out that students would have to do a Portfolio in June. Anita stated that there is no Opting Out in the State and City.

On May 29 there will be a new protocol if approved will go into effect immediately. Tests were shorter and some questions were taken out.

Math test will be next week (Wed-Fri).

- c. Jeannette informed attendees of the 50th Anniversary of The World’s Fair.
- d. E-mail on the Education Election

- e. Informed attendees of the UFT Scholarship dance on May 22nd and that Lori Butera, District Family Advocate is being honored and checks are needed if attending.

Leslie questioning co-location regarding adding 1000 to Bayside high school making it over crowded.

Jeanette stated that District HS should have priority but the DOE stated it would be citywide.

Jeannette read the letter from Edward Tan, PTA Co-President (Bayside HS).

DOE not responding to parent demands that it not further overcrowd Bayside HS, a school that already has 1000 more students than it was built to house. The DOE is planning to overcrowd the already packed popular Queens HS that services students from all parts of Queens, Bronx & Brooklyn to clear space for new schools co-locating at the down-sizing Flushing & Martin Van Buren HS – schools that do accommodate far fewer students. Bayside HS, rated “A” by the DOE for three years in a row, is bracing for over 1000 new students this fall, expecting to bring its enrollment to over 3,600-170 percent of the building’s capacity. Bayside is a victim of its own success and of the DOE’s unresponsiveness to this community per Alex Lee, a Bayside parent and member of the Citywide Council on High Schools. The school received 14,000 applications due to the great results it produces for families and now the DOE wants to bury it to accommodate Bloomberg’s leftover plans to downsize Van Buren and Flushing. The school already has students from all parts of Queens as well as the Bronx & Brooklyn. If this goes through, Bayside would be second only to forest Hills HS in percent overcrowding while more than half of Queens high schools operate below 100 percent capacity per Judy Rossman, (Bayside parent). Overcrowding is not good for students or administrators. It forces a school to reduce support services, increase class size and reduce safety measures. They have reached out to the chancellor and our local elected officials demanding that no more than 750 new students be admitted. It will still be overcrowded but not as bad as the DOE is planning. No response from the DOE to the parents has been forthcoming. Our position is logical. We will not stand idly by if the chancellor turns a blind eye to our situation and undermines the very success that we have worked so hard to achieve. Increasing Bayside’s enrollment to over 170 percent capacity is not logical and would not be a good decision for quality education or for our children’s futures.

3. BUDGET – Alan Ong

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL 26
FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014
INITIAL BUDGET SCHEDULE – AS OF MARCH 2014**

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	QUICK CODE	OBJECT CODE	ACTIVITY CODE	LOCATION CODE	BUDGET:		Less AA increase (\$3000)	Balance	
					AMOUNT SCHEDULED	\$20,000 AMOUNT EXPENDED			
General Supplies	062641	198	SKF3	QS26	\$3,000	\$590.00	\$ 2,410.00	\$1000	0
Procurement Card	062641	179	SKF5	QS26	\$5,753	\$2,683.75	3,165.71	\$1000	3,165.71
Lease of Copier	062641	433	SKF6	QS26	\$1,872	\$1,872.00	0	-----	-----
Rental of Water Cooler	062641	412	SKF8	QS26	\$175.00	\$174.48	.52		0
Member Reimbursements & Parent workshops	062641	496	SKFB	QS26	\$3,000	\$28.70	\$ 2,971.30	\$1000	800
CONSULTANT	062641	686	SKFC	QS26	\$1,200	600.00	600.00		600.00
Meeting Expenses (Travel & Food)	062641	451	SKFE	QS26	\$5,000	\$3,758.43	\$ 1,241.57		1241.57
TOTALS					\$20,000			3,000	

Excess funds transferred to the P-Card which can be used up until June 20th. Money left in code 496 for members attending UFT scholarship dinner.

Funds put aside for council members going to the UFT dinner (code 496)
Ballroom dancers' gifts purchased for the May 13th meeting.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. District Issues – safety – trying to get pledge for all the schools. Must contact PS 173 to get permission. Would like for it to be a district wide initiative.
Anita stated that PS 188 did a one-way street
Jeannette stated that the CDEC have come to several meetings in regard to the safety issue at schools and tickets were given out. Jeannette feels that parents need to be educated and that the child has more of an influence on their parents.
Mark Weprin's representative stated that schools would have to apply individually to get a petition (slow zone) going (Leslie would spearhead a universal petition & advise council at the next meeting).
Alan stated that PS 162 now has a "slow zone" and anyone going more than 20 mph will be ticketed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

1. Scheduling of July & August meeting dates
Council agreed on July 17th & August 28th. Meetings will be held at MS 74.
2. School Visits
 - a. Leslie & Ricky – school visit at PS 158 on March 27th – great staff – principal spoke about electrical upgrade that is put in under the Capital Plan as a Reso A (criteria is the upgrade for A/C) for several years and it has not made the priority list:
 - Electrical Upgrade for the school to accommodate all the new technology
 - Technology Upgrade [Retro Fit Smart Boards -replace and upgrade outdated Smartboard projectors]
 - Air conditioning and sound system for the auditorium
 - New PA system for the office
 - Refurbished Band room

School doing well with limited resources – new programs
School visit at PS 203 on April 10th – not happy with tests – attended Odyssey of the Mind Contest - great teacher portfolio

- b. Susan & Alan attended the Parent Advisory Board meeting on April 10th in the Borough President's Conference room under the administration of Borough President Melinda Katz. Also in attendance was Monica Gutierrez. Discussions on bringing the CEC's together on a regular basis - co-location – transportation – food & nutrition – high schools (not enough seats). Also met Deb Dillingham, PEP Representative.
Alan stated that the DOE is looking for space for high schools.

Motion to adjourn the Business Meeting by Anastasio and seconded by Ricky. Council voted unanimously to adjourn.

Public Meeting

Roll Call - Jeannette Segal, Susan Shiroma (Borough Appointee), Alan Ong (Borough Appointee), Ricky Chan, Leslie Rubenstein, Anastasio Politidis, Roy Menendez & Jaime Alvarez-Isasi

Excused - Lucy Vieco; Unexcused - Jaya Patil

Also present: Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent & Lori Stein-Butera, District Family Advocate

Jeannette introduced the guest speaker – **Ms. Hoa Tu, Proposed Leader for the Business Technology Early College High School at Martin Van Buren**

Started out by asking attendees what was their destiny in life.

Ms. Tu explained the program by saying students will learn how to help the world run better using technology to solve everyday world problems. Students will become expert readers, writers and critical thinkers with the technical skills to be successful in our modern information-based global economy.

Highlights – six year program where students will earn an associate degree and gain job training experience 10th graders will have taken English & math regents and will be asked to declare their major.

Associate Degree in either computer information systems or internet technology (students engage in work-based learning, i.e. internships and apprenticeships within their major area of study).

Dual enrollment in high school and college courses – college and career advisement – mentoring and peer tutoring programs – internships & apprenticeships – student-led conferences – student e-portfolios * collaborative group project-based learning

In the 11th & 12th grades they will be taking college courses

B-tech is in collaboration with SAP – Queensborough Community College & the City University of New York

Ms. Tu stated they offer different pathways and want to work closely with Principal Sochet.

Questions/Concerns – why wasn't the community notified or more involved in this process –why wasn't there outreach to the community - how come the community did not know about the registration period –why wasn't information, advertisement/flyers sent out regarding co-location – how does the community sign up and how do they go about it?

Response – Ms. Tu informed speaker that the DOE advised them not to advertise publicly. March 12th received call to publicly engage.

Speaker asked, there are families who want to sign up – how do they do it?

Q- How many applied and from what areas they are coming from?

Ms. Tu – projected 108 seats each year – requirement is that they are a Queens's resident and have attended one of the sessions. 400 applicants applied but only 149 attended the sessions (10 applicants from D26). Queens session held at Queensborough Community on March 20th.

Some parents/families in the community not happy with how this came about and the outcome. They want to know who is the person responsible for making this decision and have them come to a meeting and explain. Community & others contacted the Supt. Juan Mendez and received no response.

Q-Why was there only one (1) meeting in Queens and could there be another round in Queens? Attendees informed to contact the Office of Enrollment. Can they contact Randy Lafargue and get a response.

Question – what about the dress code - Response-NO; help students develop into respectful & responsible individuals. Students will have visible ID's. Ladies & gentleman wear pants above hips, cover body parts that are not supposed to be shown in public.

Question – will the students have interaction with the MVB students? Response-Mr. Sochet stated that they will have little or no interaction with MVB students.

Question of how classrooms are chosen – Response from Principal Sochet and he stated that DOE Facilities came and mapped it out for 2 years (entrance – bathrooms, etc.). Mr. Sochet stated that there will be limited interaction with the MVB student bodies.

B-Tech working with SAP to purchase laptops-carts & smartboards. There will be sharing of some things (cafeteria).

Question – will there be a language requirement? Response – YES-Chinese-German

The school focuses on certain technical skills with a pathway to tuition-free, two-year college education and a career with one of the Fortune 500 corporate partners of the program.

Superintendent's Report

- Welcome
- Metropolitan Museum of Art – PS Art Award
 - MS 67, Stephanie Hwang – “The Predator
Teacher – Georgia Daskarolis
 - PS 173, Austin Yeung – “Nothing’s What It Seems”
Teacher – Deborah Passik
 - PS 173, Rushabh Mehta – “Skyhigh”
Teacher – Harriet Sohn
 - MS 74, Steven Yang – “Misty Rhino”
Teacher – Irene Papamichael
- The Morgan Library Book Project Award
 - PS 173 - recipients – Justin Luu and Lily Zhang – 4th Grade
- Robotics
 - MS 216 – 1st Place – Champion’s Award - Research
 - PS 94 – 2nd Place – Champion’s Award – Research
 - MS 74 – 1st Place – Best Mechanical Design
- Big Apple Semi Finalist
 - MS 74 – Teacher – Jean Posada
- PS 18 – Councilman Mark Weprin - \$35,000 as part of 5 projects
Selected to be a recipient of the \$1 Million Dollars Participating Budget (35 new laptops, 1 computer cart and 1 iPad cart).
- Fair Student Funding Presentation **(see attachment)**

Quote:

“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.”
Langston Hughes, American Writer

Motion to adjourn Public meeting made by Alan Ong & seconded by Jaime Alvarez-Isasi. Council voted unanimously to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned 9:45 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Marian Mason