

Community District Education Council District 26

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MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, February 10, 2011

Time: Business Meeting-7:00 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 Rob Caloras, President at 7:10 pm.

Roll Call: Jeannette Segal, Rob Caloras, Irene Fennell, Ricky Chan, Susan Shiroma, Xiao Mei Ge & Ismael Fuentes

Excused– Pia Alexander - Dina Quondamatteo

Also in attendance were Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent & Lori Butera, and District Family Advocate

Business/Public Meeting

1. Minutes – Rob asked the council had they had an opportunity to read the January 19, 2011 minutes. Ismael Fuentes made a motion to accept the January 19th minutes and Rob Caloras seconded. Council agreed unanimously to accept the minutes.

2. President's Report – Robert Caloras

- a. Met with Councilman Mark Weprin to discuss education budget crisis. DOE would like to force schools to collect lunch money from parents who have not paid their bills. Principals informed that if they didn't get the unpaid money, it may be deducted from their school budgets.
- b. NYT Article – Councilman Weprin wrote to the Chancellor in regard to this issue.
- c. DOE paying unpaid balances since 2004.
- d. Council looking to pass a resolution in opposition to the DOE forcing principals to collect. Jeannette made a motion to draft a letter for council's review and Irene Fennell seconded. Council agreed unanimously. Letter will be sent out to.

3. New Business

Discussion - Traffic issues.

- a. Principal Caraisco spoke on behalf of PS 188 – parents not obeying the “drop & stop” rules.
- b. Jeannette asked if Mary Vaccaro would contact the DOT regarding this issue. Jeannette stated that “principals were going out to the cars and speaking to the drivers.”
- c. Rob asked that representatives from the 111 Pct, DOT, Community Board come to the March meeting to discuss this problem.

Old Business

1. Discussion – Gifted & Talented

a. Rob spoke with Amanda Cahn (Director of Planning for Queens) who will not be available to speak at the March meeting due to other commitments. Rob feels public opinion/input is needed in making the final decision to put the G&T program in at PS 188 and its criteria. There is one citywide program in the city (District 30) which is in Astoria. They would like to establish one in District 26 at PS 188. The program would begin with kindergarten. The current gifted program would remain and graduate out. Attendees informed of schools having G&T programs (PS 18, PS 115, PS 203 & PS 188).

Principal (Ms. Peknic-PS 18) and parents feels that the school would be underutilized if G&T is taken out and would like to get more answers to their questions in regard to this issue.

Mary Vaccaro, UFT Rep. will have District 26 parents and others call 311 regarding the Gifted & Talented program.

Rob Caloras will write a letter to Amanda Cahn along with President's Council Linda Courtney.

Budget – Ricky Chan

No changes in budget – Lori spoke about her workshops and asked the CDEC if they would co-sponsor the grant workshop & the president council meeting. The council agreed to co-sponsor the grant workshop at \$100 per day for food & the President's Council election process meetings at \$100 totaling about \$1000. Irene Fennell made a motion to sponsor both the grant workshops and the president council meetings (election process), Susan Shiroma seconded. Council voted unanimously to agree.

Marian & Lori also brought up the subject of buying a new colored printer and cartridges that could be shared with the CDEC & the Superintendent's office. Irene Fennel made a motion, Ricky seconded. Council agreed unanimously to purchase a printer and cartridges totaling \$1200.

Superintendent's Report **CDEC Meeting** **Thursday, February 10, 2011** **MS 67**

- Welcome
- Chief Academic Officer – Shael Suransky
Division of Academics, Performance & Support
(Division of School Support & Instruction & Division of Performance & Accountability)
 - Academics – Deputy Chief Academic Officer for Instruction – Josh Thomases
 - Performance – Deputy Chief Academic Officer for Performance – Adina Lopatin
 - School Support – Deputy Chief Executive Officer – Saskia Thompson
 - Leadership – Deputy Chief Academic Officer for Leadership – Anthony Conelli

- Superintendents – Senior Supervisory Superintendent – Dorita Gibson
- Citywide Gifted Program – DLT – District 26 – submission of recommendation to Amanda Cahn, Division of Portfolio
- High School Fair – Saturday, February 12th, Sunday, February 13th – Martin Luther King Junior Educational Campus, 122 Amsterdam Avenue, Manhattan, 10:00 – 1:00 P.M.
New High School Directory available online:
<https://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/>
(See hand-out for new high schools represented at the fair)
- Quality Review
 - March 7-8, 2011 – PS 94
 - March 28-29, 2011 – MS 67
- ELL – NYSELAT (New York State English as a Second Language Achievement)
 - April 13 – May 24 – speaking portion – individual oral test per student
 - May 16-27 – reading, writing, listening – group-test
- Uncollected Lunch Fees – deadline extended for budget adjustment
- Respect of All Week – February 14 – 18
- Distribution of Specialized Round High School Admission Letters – February 11th

Quote

“Life is under no obligation to give us what we expect.”

Margaret Mitchell, American Author

Happy Valentine's Day to All

Jeannette made a motion to adjourn, Irene Fennel second. Council agreed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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