

## **Community District Education Council District 26**

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### **MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**Date:** Wednesday, January 19, 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 7:25 pm.

Roll Call: Jeannette Segal, Rob Caloras, Irene Fennell, Dina Quondamatteo, Ricky Chan, Susan Shiroma, Pia Alexander & Ismael Fuentes

Excused– Irene Cheung - Marie Pollicino resigned

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

#### ***Business Meeting***

**1. Minutes** – Rob asked the council if they had an opportunity to read the November & December minutes. Irene Fennell made a motion to accept the November 17<sup>th</sup> & December 15<sup>th</sup> minutes and Rob Caloras seconded. Council agreed unanimously to accept the minutes.

Marian Mason, Administrative Asst. reiterated that picture ID letters are in the file; council members will have to attach documentation to their expense form as to what meeting they attended; financial disclosure forms in package which is due by January 31<sup>st</sup> and a copy of the final Capital amendment that was sent in to the SCA.

#### **2. President's Report – Robert Caloras**

a. Received a note from Ms. Nussbaum, Principal PS 203 having concerns with the pick up and drop off of students which are causing a problem. School houses about 800 students in which 300 are being dropped off right in front of the school. Asking for suggestions from the council members. Meeting held before where the DOT came in and spoke on this subject.

Dina suggested having the children make posters writing down in their words the safety hazards and about abiding by the rules and regulations hanging them from the trees in all languages.

Irene Fennell stated that they bought large cones which were put out designating the drop off area and seems to be working very well at PS 41.

Ricky stated he spoke to Susan Steinfield of Community Board 11 and was informed that this had been going on for a couple of years and the thought of converting side streets into one-way streets. Will go to a community board meeting and speak on the issue. Ricky said he would attend meeting as a CDEC member, PTA member and as a resident of the proposed one way street.

Jeannette asked about the DOT performing a traffic report. Rob stated that the community board will solicit a traffic study. Individual schools will have to seek traffic reports from the community board.

Susan asked if Principal Nussbaum have any suggestions.

- b. Rob attended a community board meeting in which a complaint was made regarding PS 159 where snow removal was being done at 5 a.m. in the morning causing too much noise. Anita informed the attendees that the custodian would do the Clearview Expwy side not the Avenue side to disturb anyone. This issue has been going on for about six years now.
- c. Article in the news paper regarding Florida in which they passed a law pertaining to Class Size limits. They have created a computer lab in which 35-40 students are housed. Students not very happy.

### **3. Budget – Ricky Chan**

No changes in budget – Lori spoke about her February & March workshops. Next workshop will be a parenting course, "How To Talk So Your Kids Will Listen, and Listen So Kids Will Talk," starting March 1st at PS 162. Rob made a motion to provide up to \$250 for food for this parent series. Council voted unanimously to accept.

### **Old Business**

1. MS 67 – regarding mold and leak. Mold removed over the Christmas break but there is still work to be completed regarding the leak. Mary Vaccaro, UFT Representative stated that they will do a follow up inspection with Principal McGrath and that the crack in the sidewalk will get fixed. Anita Saunders stated that ceiling tiles were being replaced. A subsequent UFT air quality inspection was done. Mary Vaccaro stated that no asbestos or PCB were found in the work.
2. Meeting Dates  
March 24<sup>th</sup> & April 28<sup>th</sup> for the Ballroom Dancing, location TBA.  
Cathie Black not available to do a town hall meeting for us as of now.
3. Rob spoke on the SCA report to separate the requests on priority.

### **New Business**

1. **Council Vacancy** – candidate interviewed – Xiao Mei Ge (Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>-6:30 p.m.)-Rob asked if discussion was needed before voting. Rob made a motion to vote tonight and Irene Fennell seconded. Council voted unanimously. Rob feels the candidate exhibits all qualities needed to fill the position.

**Roll Call vote** – Rob - Irene F. – Susan – Jeannette – Ismael – Dina – Pia (7 YES – 0 NO).  
Rob welcomed Ms. Ge onto the council.

Rob informed the attendees of Maria Pollicino's formal resignation from the council. Jeannette asked that Marian start sending out the flyer to fill the vacancy.

2. **School Visits/PTA** – Marian asked the council members to start setting up school visits. Pia stated that a school visit was set up for PS 213, Friday, Jan 21st at 9:30 a.m. & January 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 for PS 133.  
Dina set up a school visit for PS 46, January 28<sup>th</sup>- 9 a.m.  
Rob will be attending a PTA meeting, January 20<sup>th</sup> at MS 172.

Ricky Chan asked Mary Vaccaro, UFT Representative whether they received a “stay” about the teacher's data being released? Mary stated that the appeal has been accepted and the information will not be released.

Rob made a motion to adjourn, Pia seconded. Council voted unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.

## P U B L I C M E E T I N G

Public meeting called to order 8:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Jeannette Segal, Rob Caloras, Irene Fennell, Dina Quondamatteo, Ricky Chan, Susan Shiroma, Pia Alexander & Ismael Fuentes

Excused– Irene Cheung - Marie Pollicino resigned

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

**There were no speakers signed up to speak on issues regarding education.**

Rob commented on the prior SCA request for the council to help identify locations to build new high schools in District 26. Rob referenced the property on Northern Blvd. between 217 & 218<sup>th</sup> Street, the old BMW building in which this location was referred to Mary Leas of the SCA and they will look into it.

### Superintendent's Report CDEC Meeting Wednesday, January 19, 2011 MS 67

- Welcome
- Kindergarten Registration – January 10 – March 4, 2011
- PS/IS 266 Lottery Applications – available now  
Completed applications due to PS/IS 266 by 2:20 P.M. – March 18, 2011
- Respect For All Week – February 14-18, 2011 – opportunities to highlight and build upon ongoing diversity programs and curriculum-based instruction, including a focus on preventing bias-based harassment, intimidation and/or bullying.
- Quality Review
  - PS 18 – January 10-11
  - PS 26 – February 8-9

#### Quote

“In the final analysis, it is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings.”

Ann Landers, Columnist

Mary Vaccaro, UFT Representative stated that only 41 applications were received for the scholarship. They will be honoring students and teachers. Also the dinner dance will be held May 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Discussion regarding the Gifted & Talented**

Rob stated that there is a proposal to bring a citywide G&T program to PS 188. The citywide programs differ from the district program in that it is eligible for anyone in the city if they receive a 97 or higher. The District program requires a 90-96 on the test being used to date.

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. Rob received this information from Amanda Cahn, Portfolio Director of Planning for Queens.

Rob informed attendees of the schools having G&T programs (PS 18, PS 115, PS 203 & PS 188). PS 18 have not had new students for a couple of years due to the fact that they were mistakenly taken off the list. Anita stated that all teachers will be certified in the G&T.

Rob stated that most of the kids going to PS 188 will be District 26 since most of the students score 97 and above.

Several parents spoke in regard to this program and wanted more answers. Attendees felt that Ms. Cahn should have attended the meeting so that their questions could be answered.

CDEC will be inviting Amanda Cahn to the next meeting if she is available.

Mary Vaccaro announced that Chancellor Cathie Black will be the guest speaker at the February 7<sup>th</sup> CEC 25 meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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