



Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

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President of the Council First Vice President Second Vice President Recording Secretary Treasurer

Council Members:

Ricky Chan
Alan Ong
Jaya Patil
Anastasio Politidis
Leslie Rubenstein
Jeannette Segal
Susan Shiroma
Lucy Vieco

Anita Saunders
Community Superintendent
District 26

Website: www.cdec26.org

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 26 ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, July 17, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

@MS 74 – 61-15 Oceania Street, Bayside, NY-Room 128

1. Meeting Called To Order – by our ex- President, Jeannette Segal

2. Roll Call –

Present: Council Members – Alan Ong (Borough Appointee), Ricky Chan, Anastasio Politidis, Jeannette Segal, Lucy Vieco, Susan Shiroma (Borough Appointee) & Leslie Rubenstein

Excused – Jaya Patil – Roy Menendez

Also in attendance: Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent & Lori Butera Stein, District Family Advocate

3. Election of President Pro Tempore – Susan Shiroma

Nomination presented by Jeannette Segal - seconded by Anastasio Politidis.

No other nominations - Unanimous vote of all members present.

4. Election of officers –

President Jeannette Segal

Nomination presented by Leslie Rubenstein & seconded by Alan Ong

7 – 0 (7 YES – 0 NO Unanimous vote of all members present)

No other nominations

1st Vice President Ricky Chan

Nomination presented by Jeannette Segal & seconded by Ricky Chan

7 – 0 (7 YES - 0 NO: Unanimous vote of all members present)

No other nominations

2nd Vice President Anastasio Politidis

Nomination presented by Leslie Rubenstein & seconded by Jeannette Segal

7 – 0 (7 YES - 0 NO: Unanimous vote of all members present) - No other nominations

Recording Secretary Lucy Vieco

Nomination presented by Jeannette Segal & seconded by Alan Ong.

7 – 0 (7 YES- 0 NO: Unanimous vote of all members present)

No other nominations

July 17, 2014 mins

Treasurer**Alan Ong***Nomination presented by Leslie Rubenstein & second by Lucy Vieco*

7 - 0 (7YES – 0 NO: Unanimous vote of all members present)

No other nominations

There being no further business for the Annual Meeting, *President pro tem* turned the chair over to the new President, Jeannette Segal.

Annual meeting adjourned and business meeting followed

BUSINESS MEETING

1. Meeting called to order by Jeannette Segal

Roll Call – Jeannette Segal, President – Ricky Chan, 1st Vice President – Anastasio Politidis, 2nd Vice President – Alan Ong, Treasurer – Lucy Vieco, Recording Secretary – Leslie Rubenstein, Member

Excused – Jaya Patil – Roy Menendez (military leave)

Also present was the Community Superintendent, Anita Saunders & the District Family Advocate, Lori Butera

2. President's Report

- a. Jeannette informed the attendees that this is her last year.
Jeannette informed the council that this is the 1st excusal absence for Jaya Patil under the new term. Jeannette has emailed Jaya asking her if she still wants to commit to the council's responsibilities.
- b. Jeannette brought up the absence information (must be 4 hours prior to meeting) and quorum information being provided to FACE at the end. Randy Lafargue (CEC Liaison) is no longer with DOE and FACE. The name of the acting CEC Liaison is Jonathan Sheehan.
- c. Jeannette wants to focus on the safety pledge this year. She wants MS 67 to do one. She will contact president's council to assist. Jeannette did get permission from the original source of the safety pledge.
- d. Marian Mason, Administrative Asst. informed the council that an e-mail was sent to the Chancellor's office to set up a Town Hall Meeting for the fall.
- e. Bylaws – No change

3. Minutes

June 19, 2014 minutes reviewed. Motion to accept the June 19th minutes was made by Alan Ong and seconded by Anastasio Politidis. Council voted unanimously to approve the June 19, 2014 minutes.

4. New Business

- a. Scheduling council meeting dates: Sept. 23rd; Oct. 30th; Nov. 25th; Dec. 18; Jan 29, 2015; Feb. 26th; March 24th; April 23rd; May TBA (UFT Dinner May 21st); June 18th. Council voted unanimously to approve the dates.
- b. Assigning of school liaisons:

PS 18-Lucy - PS26- Jaya and Alan - PS31- Leslie - PS 41- Anastasio - PS 46- Leslie - PS94- Jeannette
 PS 98- Jeannette - PS 115- Susan and Roy - PS 133- Jeannette - PS159- Anastasio - PS 162- Susan
 PS 173- Alan and Jaya - PS 188 and Annex- Lucy - PS 191- Anastasio - PS203- Leslie and Ricky -
 PS205- Ricky - PS 213- Leslie - PS 221- Jeannette - MS 67- Lucy and Jeannette - MS74- Alan and
 Ricky - MS 158- Anastasio and Ricky - MS 172- Susan - PS/IS 178- Susan - PS/IS 216- Jaya and Alan
 PS/IS 266- Anastasio

5. Budget- no activity

Jeannette thanked Marian for her excellent organizational skills.

6. Old Business

- a. Leslie apologized for missing the last meeting. She was confused on the date. Leslie was to put together a petition on the safety issue but the assembly passed a 25 MPH law so there is no need for our petition.

7. New Business

- a. Susan suggested a new agenda item for the fall meeting: "Should the specialized HS test be abolished". Senator Tony Avella proposed a bill to abolish the test. The Asian community had a meeting with him and he changed his mind. Susan feels it will be an issue for our parents and will come up this fall in Albany.
 Anita stated that the High School admission is governed under the 1971 bill under current NYS law. So any change would have to come through the State law change.
 Leslie feels that all groups of parents should be made aware as opposed to the previous issue with the G&T program.
 Susan says the Asian American and alumni association and PTA group are against the abolishment of test. Not in favor of changing the admission test issue. It does affect D25 and D26. D29 sent no child to the specialized HS and Susan feels we need to hear from them. It should affect the current 7th grader if it passes.
 Mary says there has been a lot of conversation about the issue and sharing with committees and NAACP.
 Susan says it affects our district because the press is highlighting Asian Americans and Whites. Queens sends many students to the specialized schools because we don't have the high school seats. D25 also sends many.
 Leslie requested that we have a meeting to learn more about it.
 Don't Abolish SHSAT
 Jeannette asks that it be put on the agenda for Oct. Susan will bring in suggestions for speakers.
- b. Anastasio requested another agenda item be added regarding "Quiet Skies". Anastasio to reach out to the contact person to have him revisit and give us an update.

Motion to adjourn the business meeting by Lucy Vieco and seconded by Anastasio Politidis. Council voted unanimously to adjourn.

July 17, 2014 mins

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call – Jeannette Segal, President – Ricky Chan, 1st Vice President – Anastasio Politidis, 2nd Vice President – Alan Ong, Treasurer – Lucy Vieco, Recording Secretary – Leslie Rubenstein, Member

Excused – Jaya Patil – Roy Menendez (military leave)

Also present was the Community Superintendent, Anita Saunders & the District Family Advocate, Lori Butera

1. Jeannette welcomed all the new officers and public to the 2014-15 year.
2. Superintendent's Report – Anita Saunders

Anita thanked the council members for a wonderful superintendent's evaluation.

- Principalships:
 - PS 18 – Level II Completed – July 16
 - PS 186 – Reopened July 15-30
 - PS 186 – Level I – August 6
 - Level II – August 12
 - PS 94 - Level I – July 30
 - Level II – August 7

Anita trying to fill all open positions by September and if principals are not in place, she will put in interims.

Leslie asked how many people applied for principalship positions. Anita stated that 26 applicants for each school. She said most are Assistant Principals but not all are.

- Selection of Community Superintendent –
 - New Chancellor's Regulation 37 to PEP for vote on August 21 meeting (All superintendents must re-apply for their position)
- PS 332Q - Superintendent will attend preliminary presentation July 25 at School Construction Authority (SCA)
 - Anita stated that next Friday she will attend the new school PS332 meeting by the SCA and that she had made recommendations such as adding greenery & dealing with school bus traffic.
- Summer School
 - Report Cards distributed - July 14; Parent/Teacher Conferences - July 15 (Summer school ends on July 30th)
- Hawthorne Summer Program –
 - Hawthorne summer program has 500 children and is well run and going strong. They have a national geographic newspaper they use.
- Arts Funding - \$23 million – from City Budget (all schools getting \$23 Million for the arts)
- \$7.6 million state grant for 5,000 low income students to receive at least an extra 300 hours of instruction next year to close achievement gap

Quote: ***“To love what you do and feel that it matters – how could anything be more fun?”***

Katherine Graham, American Publisher

3. Speakers

1. David Lee- Coalition Education supporting specialized High Schools - feels bill is not appropriate, no set parameters for new criteria and may not be subjective. If power taken away from the state they would have ability to change it anytime. They met with Sen. Avella and he lent his support to them in fighting the bill even though he was the original sponsor of the bill. D26 sends many students to the specialized HS. He said if we lose the seats at the High School level it would affect our already overcrowded school situations here in D26. He feels the bill will come up in November and January. He wants to lock in Avella's vote.

Jeannette asked what the other people's concern is:

David stated that diversity is the main issue. There are too few blacks and Hispanics at these schools. He feels the fault lies back at the general education arena. He feels there is a Dream program that is a real program. He understands that some districts don't even know there is a test to get into these schools.

Jeannette wants to know how many students have gone to test prep programs and were accepted into the specialized HS. That information is not available.

Anastasio clarified the points by leveling the playing field by adding mentoring but keeping the test.

Susan added that the Calendra law is opened then the process will be subjective to mayoral influence. We must consider how it will affect us.

David feels we need to reach the politicians. The Assembly is a democratic majority and it will probably pass there. IDC is going back to the democratic side.

There was an audit done on the criteria to get into the schools and they were not able to provide it.

2. Mr. Samuel Yang- coalitionedu.org - They have the research based on the blue book. They are here to request help because October may be too late.

Anita asked who is sponsoring the bill to change the law.

David Lee responded- The sponsors of the bill are Assemblyman Karim Camara of North Brooklyn and State Senator Simcha Felder of Borough Park Brooklyn. St Sen. Adrian Espaillat of Northern Manhattan is a co-sponsor. John Liu State Senate candidate for Bayside, Fresh Meadows, Whitestone, and Little Neck is in favor of the bill. D26 will be hit the hardest if this change occurs.

The specialized test is given in October.

Anita has been requesting for a Specialized High School for years but every time it's been rejected.

Susan recommended they go to D29 meeting.

Jeannette stated they can email us their information regarding setting up a public meeting on Specialized HS and we will ask DOE for approval before setting it up

3. Daisy- parent - Her son, Miguel is classified with speech impairment and has a borderline IQ. She wants her son to participate in any program that other children are in. He gets speech and counseling for the transitioning for 5th to 6th grade. She has sent letters, spoken at PT conferences and has tried to reach out to many people to get help for her son.

Jeannette clarified that she is here not as an SLT member but rather as a parent. Jeannette understands her issues because her son was in special education. She recommended that she get a DOE evaluation. It's done every 3 years but can be done yearly if requested. That is when she is given the program for her son.

Mary Vaccaro, UFT Rep. will give Emma Mendez's phone number to Daisy to work with school and the principal. She is NYC DOE but in the afternoon she is UFT.

She asked if Advocates for Children were contacted and Daisy said "they gave up on the issue". Mary recommended she reach out to her Assembly people. Mary Vaccaro is happy to work Daisy and the principals. Mary doesn't think Daisy is at the right forum but she will give her the right contact person.

July 17, 2014 mins

4. James Gallagher- Thanked Anita for attending PS173 graduation. He thanked Alan Ong and Nily Rozic's office. He thanked all CDEC members. He is on Community Board 8. He had Jennifer Manly from Queens Public Library who will be giving out tablets to borrow for 3 weeks. Cunningham Park has many activities including movies like Frozen. His wife is appointed to a director and treasurer of a Catholic School in Rego Park.

Motion to adjourn the public meeting made by Lucy Vieco and seconded by Anastasio Politidis. Council voted unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting ended 9:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lucy Vieco, Recording Secretary