

Community District Education Council District 26
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MINUTES FROM BUSINESS /CALENDER/ PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, June 13, 2013
Time: Business Meeting - 7:00 P.M.; Public Meeting - 8:00 P.M.;
Location: MS 67- 51-60 Marathon Pkwy, Little Neck, NY 11004-Room-B44A

The meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order by Jeannette Segal, President at 7:15 p.m.

Roll Call - Ricky Chan, Jeannette Segal, Daniel O'Gallagher, Michelle Field & Lucy Vieco
Late - Pankaj Kapur
Excused – Susan Shiroma
Also in attendance- Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent & Lori Stein-Butera, District Family Advocate

Marian, Administrative Asst. started off by requesting that the Superintendent's Evaluation be sent in by Friday June 21st.

Jeannette stated that Community Board 11 voted against the new location of an elementary School. The newly elected council members were informed of the next meeting dates (July 25th & August 29th at PS 173.

Anita asked Michelle if she would be interested in the borough appointee position. Anita stated that she would call Helen Marshalls office and make a recommendation for Michelle to be borough appointee. Jeannette spoke about the InBloom opt out option now available. Anita said that InBloom is not a private vendor and that Aris will be phased out and another system from the state will be phased in. Anita also informed the attendees that InBloom will not have the student's social security number or the details of the IEP.

Minutes - Motion to approve May 28th & June 3rd minutes by Daniel and seconded by Michelle. Council voted unanimously to approve.

Jeannette requested that all members send their superintendent's evaluation responses to her to compile.

Anita commented that Ms. Janet Caraisco of PS 188 will be getting all the materials she needs for her classrooms.

Motion to adjourn business meeting by Ricky and seconded by Dan. Council voted unanimously to adjourn business meeting.

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PUBLIC MEETING

Superintendent's Report AGENDA

- Welcome

Promotion – Cut scores received & entered

(If students scored a high 2 and the principal feels they shouldn't go to summer school they don't)

- Summer School – PS 46; MS 172
July 8 – August 1 – 16 days
Testing August 5 & 6 – Make-up August 7

(PS 172 summer school will have about 100 students & a small program will be held at PS 46. Summer school is only about 16 days and a lot is covered in that time. In grade 8, the students can come for one (1) subject.)

- Spelling Bee Winner – Arvind Mahankali
MS 74 – 8th Grade

(Arvind has gone to California to do TV shows (Jimmy Kimmel Show). Mr. Kimmel went to Stuyvesant HS.)

- New Teacher Evaluation – Teacher Meeting
June 18 – Francis Lewis High School – 4:00 – 6:00 PM
Anita Saunders, Juan Mendez
- PS Art 2013 – Honored at Metropolitan Museum of Art – June 11, 2013
MS 74 – Sara Ng – Teacher, Irene Papamichael
PS/IS 178 – Gabriel Cavounios – Teacher, Maria Guglietta
MS 67 – Charlotte Calmer – Teacher – Georgia Dastarolis
- PS 173 – Music & Art Show
- PS 31 – Seussical – Junior Broadway Show

Quote

“To become truly great, one has to stand with people, not above them.”

Charles Lorias de Montesquieu, French Political Leader

Lori Butera – District family Advocate

Will be doing the following parent programs over the summer, one book discussion, another viewing and discussing the documentary Bully and another workshop based on the Emily Bazelon book titled, Sticks & Stones. Jeff Slivko, Principal of MS172, is working with Lori in bringing the Bully discussion to all the schools in the Fall. Lori stated that “Upstanders” is the new name for students who see bullying happening and stand up for the child who is victimized.

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Lori attended a UFT sponsored conference on Bullying. Emily Bazelon, the author of “Sticks and Stones”, presented at the conference. Lori is looking into working with some presenters to be part of the Bully presentation. Lori inquired if the CDEC would be interested in paying for presenters to be part of this workshop.

Lucy suggested to Lori to get in touch with Mr. Starkey who wrote a book on bullying. Perhaps, his books may be helpful for the seminar. Lori requested a proposal for the CDEC to purchase copies of the book Sticks and Stones for the District 26 PTAs.

Jeannette made a motion for the CDEC to purchase books and Ms. Kapur seconded. Council voted unanimously to approve.

Guest Speaker:

Mr. Mike Schade, NYC Environmental Health Associate at the Center for Health, Environmental & Justice (CHEJ). This is a nonprofit environmental organization founded 30 years ago. Founder was founded by experience from Love Canal.

They have been working to protect children. NYC schools have initiative for PCB to be removed from lighting in schools. Now they are focusing phasing out vinyl & plastic which is found in computers laptop, 3 ring binders, and gloves, building materials like carpeting, roofing, windows and doors. From production use to disposal, it releases chemicals. Many of these factories are located in Louisiana. A new vinyl shower curtain smell can release 100s of chemicals some of which have been linked to health problems (phthalates are added to vinyl to make it pliable). Now phthalates are banned in toys. 75% of children's school supplies contain levels of phthalates so high that these products would be illegal if they were toys. But it's ok to use because it's not a toy. When phthalates are used on building materials, students can be exposed negatively. There is no safe way to dispose of vinyl.

CHEJ has started a campaign to get the DOE to stop buying them and using them and recently they have published a PVC-Free school supply list.

Mr. Schade is asking the CDEC's to consider a resolution to Phase out Toxic PVC Plastic and Phthalates in NYC Building Materials and Office supplies.

Jeannette asked “how have they have approached the SCA”? Mr. Schade stated “that they met with DOE purchasing, school facilities and SCA architects and they have provided information regarding the hazards. Particular hazards are in the flooring and that Linoleum is a safer alternative. Case studies were provided as well to show practicality, feasibility and efficacy”.

Linoleum is made from Lin Seed oil, lasts longer and is cost effective to maintain. To maintain linoleum you only need to wet mop it.

The SCA has agreed to do a pilot program in a school in the Bronx and Linoleum was installed and it looks great. They will be publishing a report in Sept for the DOE.

Ricky asked if they have spoken to the parks department to investigate play areas.

Mr. Schade stated “there is less concern because the off gasses are not a big concern because the equipment is outside”.

Ricky asked about the lead based paint used on play equipment and Mr. Schade said “it is a concern. Another issue is arsenic in the treated lumber used in play area”.

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There are laws that provide a framework for DOE to buy greener products. Other city agencies have been brought in and have started buying greener products.

Jeannette informed Mr. Schade that resolutions need a 30 day review period. In July the resolution will be presented to the newly selected council members. The resolution has been passed by other organizations, such as the NYSUT & UFT.

Dan made a motion to adjourn public meeting and Lucy seconded. Council voted unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned 9 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Lucy Vieco