

Community District Education Council District 26

Address: 61-15 Oceania St, Bayside, New York 11364

Tel: 718.631.6927 **FAX:** 718.631.6996 **Email:** central/cec26@nycboe.net

MINUTES FROM BUSINESS /CALENDER/ PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, June 14, 2012

Time: Business Meeting - 7:00 P.M.; Calendar 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.

BUSINESS MEETING

Roll Call -

Present: Vijayalaxmi Hegde, Jeannette Segal, Daniel O’Gallagher, Lucy Vieco, Michelle Fields, Ricky Chan & Pankaj Kapur

Excused- Susan Shiroma

Unexcused – Hong Keng Tan, Meghan Dinegar

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

1. Minutes – (January 26th, February 15th & March 22, 2012 were reviewed. Lucy made a motion to accept these minutes and Michelle seconded. Council voted unanimously to accept.

Minutes - April 15th & May 2, 2012 were reviewed. Pankaj made a motion to accept and Michelle seconded. Council voted unanimously to accept.

2. President’s Report – Jeannette Segal

a. Recap of the Town Hall meeting of Feb. 15 which went very well. The Chancellor stayed an extra 35 minutes with us and he was able to get some of the parents questions answered. Very successful and positive feedback received.

b. Attended the UFT Scholarship Dinner on May 27th – very well attended

c. Spoke about the Teacher Evaluation letter that never went out. Council supports the teachers in the district. Council would like to have it put in the UFT newsletter, and Mary Vaccaro (UFT Rep) responded by saying “that she would see to it being put in”.

DRAFT

Teacher Evaluation Report

As we approach the upcoming NY State ELA & Math test, the council would like to address the district on the research and information we received regarding the Teacher Evaluations that were recently publicized.

The Department of Education under a court order released the 2007-08 through 2009-10 Teacher Data Reports for English and Math teachers in grades 4 through 8. The news media had file a Freedom of Information Law requesting

for the documents and the courts ruled in the Medias favor. The reports and data compiled evaluated teachers on how much progress individual teachers helped students make in those two subjects and years. Teachers had been previously informed of their scores, parents and concerned New Yorkers flocked to newsstands to see the scores. This caused an array of questions from parents and educators.

It is important for a person to receive feedback on their performance; every job has some form of evaluation of a person work performance. The children should also be evaluated as a means to evaluate the progress the child has made, how else is a parent to receive feedback at the parent teacher conferences on how their child is progressing. Evaluation is not what is in question; the data is what has to be questioned. The score is based on 20% of the children's State ELA & Math scores the other areas of assessment carry a lower weight, that even if a teacher has high marks in those areas and children do not receive high score in the state test the teacher will be deemed inadequate (ineffective). This methodology enhances what we as parent have been fighting against high stakes testing and for schools not to teach to the test.

The accuracy of the report is being questioned as well since a few listings had the incorrect teachers and classes naming error were made, but how about when a teacher that has a gifted class with students scoring high 4's and her score is listed as inadequate. Or the valued teacher in a school who receives a single digit score when parents are attesting to the wonderful result the teacher has made in their child's progress. A formula or a single state test cannot fairly evaluate a teacher's performance.

The good thing about this evaluation is that it has been abandoned by the DOE; they have established this evaluation system as a failure. The new evaluation system is under study and being dubbed the "Teacher Effectiveness Project". We need an evaluation that is both fair to our students, teacher and community. Let's hope this does not cause the damage the previous evaluation system caused and hopefully we do not lose valuable teachers and families along the way.

d. Attended the March 7th emergency meeting regarding the budget.

e. Attended the President's Council Legislative Breakfast on March 23rd and said a few words. Jesse Mojica was also in attendance.

f. Meeting at Queensboro Hall – Isaac Carmignani of D30 got all the CEC presidents together and talked about what is important for each district. Lack of parents was one of the issues brought up. Spoke about the workshops being held in D26, safety of the streets and traffic.

Discussions regarding the Chancellor's regulations.

D-140-eliminating the Advisory vote - spoke about the Process for the Nomination & Selection of members of the Community Education Councils

Jeannette spoke about some of the other regulations (D-150 Special Ed Services), D170, D-160, D140 & D125.

f. Spoke about newsletter from the UFT of Cincinnati – Cincinnati community schools: a model for New York published May 24, 2012. Cincinnati (Oyler) has issued an invitation to schools to try out the Cincinnati model with a start-up grant from the UFT and the city Council. Cincinnati public schools graduation rate has climbed from 51% to 8%. The achievement gap between African-American and white students has been eliminated. Mary Vaccaro stated that two schools were invited but they declined.

g. Jeannette spoke about the superintendent's evaluation and informed the council members that their input is needed and should be sent in to be finalized by June 29th.

h. Marian informed the council members that their Financial Disclosure forms are needed for the DOE and must be submitted by June 19th.

Jeannette spoke about the new teacher evaluation that she read in the newspaper where the parent has to make a formal request to the principal to see the teacher's evaluation and part of the stipulation is that the parent cannot have any recording device upon seeing the evaluation.

Mary – could you fill in what you said - thanks

3. **Budget** - Vijayalaxmi Hegde - budget will be closed out June 22nd.
Balances – Travel and food - \$979.58; Stipend - \$402.70

Vijay Hegde also informed the council members that she will be leaving the council and relocating.

4. **Old Business - none**

5. **New Business**

Meeting dates for the new term: July 17th & August 8th at MS 74 at 7 p.m. – Council voted unanimously to these meeting dates.

Council voted unanimously to vacate Hong Teng Tan's position due to unexcused absences. Requested several times for member to send me a letter of resignation and to date nothing has been received. The council now has two (2) vacate positions (Tan & Hegde) plus 1 ELL vacancy totaling three (3).

School Visits

1. Jeannette informed the council that she was doing a school visit at PS 98, June 15th at 10 a.m. Jeannette informed council of Susan Shiroma's visits – did a school visit at PS 173 on May 21st; June 4th attended meeting where discussions were on library cuts and youth program cuts & discussions regarding mandatory kindergarten (Sept. 2012) and how is it going to be handled. Anita stated that schools were polled regarding space for kindergarten by the DOE. Some schools have very little space for kindergarten.
2. Pankaj went to PS 115 Garden party. School given \$35,000 for repairs, fencing & plants and in attendance was Councilman & Assemblyman Weprin.
3. Lucy Vieco attended the UFT Queens Parent Literary Workshop Series (Common Core - parent resources); attended the Science Festival (hands on project for learning purposes using robots); spoke about the after school at PS 188 being cancelled looking to use a free base program; spoke about testing being too much (children sitting for 2 hours)-excessive testing. Feels there needs to be a stop to this.

Anita stated that the ELA testing letters will be given out in July and feel they should be given back as soon as possible. 5th grade social studies test has been eliminated due to the fact that the State told the schools which schools were going to be tested. Michelle Fields will work on a Resolution regarding testing.

4. Ricky

1. PS203 received a preliminary letter for consideration of the National Blue Ribbon Award. Formal notification of Award will be made in September pending acceptable Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results.
2. PS203Q has received a total of 477 Pre-K applications for the upcoming school year. This is highest number of applications received by any NYC Public School. PS203Q will offer 54 Pre-K seats.

Lori stated that pre-k can go anywhere.

3. Michelle – PS 266 – after school lottery for after school program. School visit pending. Spoke about Youth core program. **Michelle please give me a brief description.**

CALENDAR/PUBLIC MEETING

Public meeting followed.

Roll Call –

Present: Vijayalaxmi Hegde, Jeannette Segal, Daniel O’Gallagher, Lucy Vieco, Michelle Fields, Ricky Chan & Pankaj Kapur

Excused– Susan Shiroma

Unexcused – Hong Keng Tan, Meghan Dinegar

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

Superintendent’s Report

CDEC Meeting

MS 67

June 14, 2012

7:00 P.M.

- Welcome
- Chancellor’s Announcement
 - High School Graduation Rate – handout
- School Awards/Recognitions:
 - PS 188 – Mathematics Olympiad –
Class 5-304 scored in the top 10% over 4,000 teams that participated worldwide with 102,000 students. Five students of the 32 students in the class finished in the top 2% and twelve students finished in top 8%.
 - PS 188 – NYC Department of Environmental Protection 26th Annual Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest – Winner
 - Elizabeth Duchan – Art Class – 4-303
 - Spencer Elliot – Artwork Class – 4-303Both Students honored at CitiField, June 6th

- MS 158 – Chancellor Walcott Luncheon
Concert Series at Tweed – Band Chosen & Performance June 1st
 - Metropolitan Museum of Art – NYC Students Exhibit
Curtis Yi, Grade 8 – Self Portrait

- Graduation Speeches – Anita
 - MS 74 – June 20th
 - MS 67 – June 21st
 - PS 173 – June 25th

- June Promotion Retention Cut Scores
 - Received on June 11th at schools
 - Decision due by June 13th
 - Superintendent final decision – June 15th

- Chancellor’s Principal Conference – June 9, 2012
 - Brooklyn Technical High School
 - Keynote Speaker – Robert Evans – “Change Is What It Means” - handout

Quote:

“Too many people overvalue what they are not and undervalue what they are.”

Malcolm Forbes

Daniel made a motion to adjourn and Pankaj seconded, the members unanimously agreed to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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