

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

**Date:** Thursday, March 20, 2014  
**Time:** Business Meeting – 7 p.m. - Public Meeting - 8:00 P.M. -  
**Location:** MS 67 – 51-60 Marathon Pkwy, Little Neck, NY – Room B44A

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The meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order by Ricky Chan, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President at 7: 15 p.m.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Roll Call - Susan Shiroma (Borough Appointee), Alan Ong (Borough Appointee), Ricky Chan, Leslie Rubenstein & Anastasio Politidis  
Late - Roy Menendez - Lucy Vieco  
Excused - Jeannette Segal  
Absent - Jaime Alvarez-Isasi & Jaya Patil  
Also present: Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent  
Lori Stein-Butera, District Family Advocate – on vacation

1. Minutes – February 28, 2014 minutes reviewed. Motion to accept the February 28<sup>th</sup> minutes was made by Alan Ong and seconded by Roy Menendez. Council voted unanimously to approve February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 minutes.

Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent informed the members and attendees of the passing of Nikki Scott and that Ms. Jory Xanthe will be replacing her and that she will be introducing the new principle (Ms. Hoa Tu) of the Business Technology Early College High School at Martin Van Buren at the April 24<sup>th</sup> CDEC meeting. Anita stated that the Chancellor is still reviewing the co-locations. Council stated that they wanted to send a letter pointing out issues to the Chancellor regarding the co-location before the next PEP meeting. Anita stated that Chancellor Fariña will be meeting with all the superintendents' one on one and Anita is to meet on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

2. President's Report – tabled  
 Ricky (1<sup>ST</sup> VP) asked about the specialized HS acceptance listing report.  
 Anita proceeded to outline the listing:

**COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 26  
 SPECIALIZED HIGH SCHOOL ACCEPTANCE LIST  
 SPRING 2014**

SCHOOL	Stuyvesant	Bronx HS Science	Brooklyn Tech	Townsend Harris	Queens HS for Sciences	LaGuardia	HS of American Studies Lehman College	HS Math, Science, English CCNY	Brooklyn Latin School	H.S. of Science at York	DaVinci	Total
MS 67	27	30	13	19	9	17	7	9	4	5	68	<b>208</b>
MS 74	21	39	13	15	5	10	3		6			<b>112</b>
MS 158	32	52	17	20	9	17	2	3	11			<b>163</b>
MS 172	9	12	9	11		3			4	3		<b>51</b>
PS/IS 178	1	2		4	3							<b>10</b>
MS 216	21	31	20	23		4	1	1	7	14		<b>122</b>
PS/IS 266	2	4	2						2	2		<b>12</b>

Anita stated that schools are working very hard. Questions asked “what are you doing for the top notch students”? Anita answered they keep students accelerating and that the numbers are higher this year than last year.

Alan Ong stated that he went to a PTA meeting at MS 216 on March 19<sup>th</sup> and gave a short synopsis of the CDEC regarding the G&T & high schools. Parents were not sure of whom to contact regarding high schools. Anita answered that they should be contacting their principals.

Ricky introduced our newest CDEC member, Roy Menendez. He also brought up the subject of the UFT Scholarship Dance and the issue of the UFT not having a contract.

3. **Budget**

**INITIAL BUDGET SCHEDULE – AS OF MARCH 2014**

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	QUICK CODE	OBJECT CODE	ACTIVITY CODE	LOCATION CODE	BUDGET:	\$20,000	
					AMOUNT SCHEDULED	AMOUNT EXPENDED	REMAINING BALANCE
General Supplies	062641	198	SKF3	QS26	\$3,000	\$590.00	0
Procurement Card	062641	179	SKF5	QS26	\$5,753		
Lease of Copier	062641	433	SKF6	QS26	\$1,872	\$1,872.00	0
Rental of Water Cooler	062641	412	SKF8	QS26	\$175.00	\$174.48	0
Member Reimbursements & Parent workshops	062641	496	SKFB	QS26	\$3,000	\$28.70	\$ 800
CONSULTANT	062641	686	SKFC	QS26	\$1,200	600.00	\$ 600.00
Meeting Expenses (Travel & Food)	062641	451	SKFE	QS26	\$5,000	\$3,445.76	\$ 1,241.57
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>\$20,000</b>		

4. **Minutes**

February 28, 2014 minutes reviewed. Council voted unanimously to approve the February 28<sup>th</sup> minutes.

March 20, 2014 mins.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

Susan Shiroma informed the attendees of a March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting that took place at the Flushing Library-subject “NYC Dept. of Education’s SHAT: Perspectives from the Asian American Community”. Discussion about the NAACP Legal Defense fund’s Federal Civil Rights complaint challenging the admissions process at Specialized High Schools and how it impacts the Asian community. Sponsored by Coalition for Asian American Children & Families along with the Asian American Bar Association of NY.

Susan also informed the attendees that African American and other students of color are denied a fair opportunity to gain access to the life-changing educational experiences provided by specialized schools for high achieving students and gifted/talented education programs and as a result, elite public schools and programs which provide key pathways to college and then to leadership locally, regionally and nationally are among the most segregated.

	Students who took the exam	Students who received an offer of admission to a Specialized High School	Percentage of test-takers who received an offer of admission to any of the Specialized High Schools
<b>African American</b>	6,382	319	5.0%
<b>Latinos</b>	6,143	414	6.7%
<b>Asian-American</b>	7,119	2,490	35%
<b>Caucasian</b>	4,101	1,253	30.6%

All young people should have an opportunity to succeed is in everyone’s interest. Unsound and discriminatory admissions policies can no longer be allowed to deprive students of meaningful opportunities as stated in the complaint.

Susan informed the attendees that a report is urging the Mayor to reform the Admissions Policy for New York City’s Specialized High Schools also stated in the complaint.

Question asked about the application process.

Leslie mentioned that big districts across the country all retest for G&T

Anita said the program testing has changed. In 1980 parents had to go to Hofstra University to get an individual IQ test and the entrance exam was based on that. Later the commercial tests were used and perhaps inequity occurred. At some point they may change the test as they have already changed the test twice.

Susan stated that some specialized High Schools are protected under an Albany law.

Leslie mentioned our CDEC should back up the NYSER case issue that all NYS students receive a properly funded sound, basic education

Marian (Admin. Asst) asked the council to remember to do their school visits.

March 20, 2014 mins.

Motion to adjourn the business meeting by Leslie and seconded by Anastasio. Council voted unanimously to adjourn and start the Quarterly meeting.

### Quarterly Meeting with PA/ PTA

Kim D'Angelo (President) thanked the council for their invitation. Each President introduced - PS 213, PS186, PS133Q, MS67, PS18, PS162, and PS186Q

Stacy from Councilman Rory Lancman's office - Irene Cheung from Councilman Mark Weprin's - Steven Masillo from Assemblyman Ed Braunstein's office were in attendance

#### Issues:

**Testing** - too much high stakes testing - too much pressure and anxiety on students and teachers

**Issue on safety**- people making U-turns on Marathon Pkwy -

Suggested there be flashing speed limit signs - request for countdown don't walk signs extended to school crossing - stronger signage - add speed bumps

Councilmember Anastasio feels that parents need to be educated.

PTA suggests violators should get ticketed (a couple of years ago a crossing guard was killed).

Anita said a speed limit was put in for 3 blocks at 20mph and suggested that they work with the community boards that are influential. Anita stated that she has gotten letters asking that principals go in the street and monitor situation.

Alan suggested that the PTA file an application with the DOT for a slow zone and that they should work with the council members to get it done.

Leslie said we can push for the slow zone for citywide schools since the mayor has a zero zone objective.

Susan suggested having a meeting which could be dedicated to this issue, Kim agreed. Susan said DOT rep could be invited and the security person from the community board to hear the PTA concerns.

Anita reiterated that schools give out bulletins to students at the beginning of the year and included in this packet is information on how to park and drive around the school.

Alan said at PS173 they will do a student/parent pledge because a sibling of a student was killed. They got a band for parents and children. (See pledges below)

#### Parent's Pledge

#### **P.S. 173Q THE FRESH MEADOW SCHOOL**

#### **2011 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**

174-10 67TH AVENUE

FRESH MEADOWS, NEW YORK 11365

(718) 358 - 2243 FAX: (718) 358 - 2989

MOLLY WANG, PRINCIPAL

DENISE GILRANE, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

#### **Pause. Ask. Is It Worth It?**

Our school and PTA are reaching out to the community to make you aware of the growing number of injuries and deaths related to reckless driving. Unfortunately, our school family has been touched by a tragedy due to reckless driving. Allison Liao, just 3 years old, was killed October 2013 while crossing the street with her grandmother when they had the right of way. Allison's brother attends our school. Mayor de Blasio recently unveiled his Vision Zero plan to make New York City streets safer for pedestrians. We at PS 173 would like to make it safer in front of our school during drop off and pick up times. We ask for your commitment in creating a safer environment for our children by signing this **Safe Driver's Pledge** in memory of Allison Liao. In NYC, 5 children are hit by vehicles daily. Every 30 seconds, a New Yorker suffers a vehicle related injury.

#### **SAFE DRIVER'S PLEDGE:**

**"I value the preservation of life above all else."**

- \* I pledge to drop off my child at school in a safe manner by following traffic laws and not double parking, not letting our children out of the car in the middle of the street, not passing the bus with the stop sign out, and not leaving our cars unattended in a NO STANDING zone.
- \* I take this pledge because I never want to take someone’s life or injure a person because I am driving recklessly, thoughtlessly, selfishly, or angrily.
- \* I pledge always to give a pedestrian the right of way.
- \* I pledge to look extra carefully for pedestrians, and to slow down when I make turns.
- \* I pledge never to drive into the crosswalk while stopping for a red light and to obey the stop lines where they exist.
- \* I pledge to pull over every time I need to press buttons on a cellular device.
- \* I pledge never to drive if I am impaired, even slightly, by drugs or alcohol.
- \* I pledge to remind myself that no matter who is right or wrong on the road, my car can take someone’s life if I drive recklessly.
- \* I pledge to remain on the scene if I ever hit a pedestrian or cyclist, and to call 911.
- \* I will tell everyone who rides in my vehicle about this Pledge and ask them to hold me to it if I seem to be lapsing in my commitment.

**Please tear off and send back to school**

**I take this pledge because I never want to take someone’s life or injure a person because I am driving recklessly, thoughtlessly, selfishly, or angrily.** I will remember each time I turn on my engine that I can take someone’s life if my car hits a person. I pledge to think about the people I love and that I do not want them to die because of a rushed, angry, or distracted driver. I never want another family to lose a loved one because I am rushed, angry, or distracted behind the wheel.

Parent’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Child’s Name \_\_\_\_\_ Child’s Class \_\_\_\_\_

*You will receive a bracelet in memory of Allison Liao in honor of your pledge.*

**STUDENT’S SAFETY PLEDGE:**

**“I value the preservation of life above all else.”**

When I am in a car, I pledge to:

buckle up every time I ride in a vehicle

ride quietly in my seat

offer to hold or turn off the driver’s cell phone, or take

a message, if the driver says that’s okay

remind drivers to keep their eyes on the road and to keep the promise they made to **always put safety first while driving.**

When I am walking, I pledge to:

only cross when the “Walk” sign is lit

look both ways before I cross the street

make eye contact with the drivers to make sure they see me

hold hands when I am walking with an adult.

Please tear off and return to PTA.

**I take this pledge because I want to be safe when I am in a car or when I am crossing the street. I will support my parents in their pledge to be safe drivers.**

**Name (printed)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class & Teacher** \_\_\_\_\_

You will receive a bracelet in memory of Allison Liao in honor of your safety pledge.

Leslie addressed high stakes testing and said a moratorium was put on k-2 testing. Also they can't spend more than 1% of teacher time related to teacher evaluation.

Anita said there is no opt out policy in NYC nor is there in the State. Students need to pass for promotion and if the test is not taken then the student needs to do a portfolio. Anita has emailed Chancellor and person in charge of testing for Queens to verify the Opt Out Policy.

Anita stated that she was persecuted by a parent because a child did not pass the test and that some children are promoted based on superintendent approval. Anita stated that if a child does well all year but does poorly on test then the student is given a portfolio assessment.

Anita said that's why it's so important to read the questions carefully.

Kim (PTA President) said because the testing is tied to other promotion, like G&T and high school, that is why D26 is not buying into the opt out movement.

PS18 president stated that the principal gave a workshop about test anxiety. Miriam asked about summer school, when will parents be notified.

Summer school dates requested. Anita informed the attendees that she does not have that information available as of yet and that parents will be notified. Anita said PS46 will do the summer school and that Middle School might be at PS158 but not decided yet.

Question asked: What are effects of students who don't pass on the overcrowding school register?  
Anita said PS18 is 170% utilized. If the student's don't pass they will not be promoted.

### **Surveillance**

Audience asked – does any elementary school have video surveillance? MS67.

Anastasio said the funds are not allocated for schools that have a special needs population. The installation of the wiring is a big job.

Anita said sometimes we get money for air conditioners yet the wiring does not support it. This is because the schools are old.

Anita informed the council that this is the 2nd year of doing a Participatory Budgeting.

Melinda Katz (Queens Borough President's Office) asked Anita for D26 concerns/issues and she listed wiring as one of the problems.

Irene Chung (representative of Councilman Weprin's office) needs a better mechanism to give him so she is looking for a list of things D26 schools' are looking for.

Anastasio asked political audience members why isn't security a bigger safety issue? Attendees informed that the cost of one camera is about \$150,000 & suggestion of a Panic Bar Door.

A parent in the audience informed the attendees that she was a student in D26 and feels fortunate to be in this district and wants to thank the CDEC.

Ricky told the audience we meet monthly and will hear concerns.

PTA president thanked Anita for coming to their PTA meeting and for informing them of the issue of Pre-K at PS18 and what are the possibilities of bringing back PS18 and the Pre-K teacher, Ms. Papas? Anita said that this is a union issue and doesn't have any insight on this issue.

Anita shared the demographics of neighborhoods due to changes that affect the school's population. It's not a definite thing that the pre -k comes back to a particular site.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Welcome
- Gifted & Talented Exit Policy (attachment)
- NYSED – ELA Exam, Grades 3-8 – April 1 – April 3  
Math Exam, Grades 3-8 – April 30 – May 2
- Quality Review:  
PS 94 – April 8-9  
PS 115 – May 6-7
- District 26 New School – PS 332 – Opening September 2016
  
- Martin Van Buren- Co-Location – Business Technology Early College High School – Grades 9-14 – In partnership with SAP and Queensboro Community College
- Specialized High Schools (attachment)
- Student Awards – MS 74, 158, 172
- Spelling Bee – Citywide Finalists:  
PS 46 – Derrick Tan  
PS/IS 178 – Farhan Rahman, Umana Rahman  
PS 186 – Mia Gazzillo  
PS 188 – Edison Chen  
PS 203 – Jonathan Chen, Srinath Mahankali  
MS 172 – Nalia Ali, Ashnel Das  
MS 67 – Robert Yang

### Quote

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

### District Family Advocate – Lori Butera

Lori said the majority of the workshops are complete.

A ping pong workshop & Developing of Parent & Child were well attended

Ricky asked the council members if all are in favor of JOINING OF NYSER COALITION LAWSUIT.

Resolution - #2 – 2014

## **Joining of NYSER Coalition Lawsuit**

Whereas, New Yorkers for Students Educational Rights (“NYSER”), together with a number of individual parent Plaintiffs from New York City and other parts of New York State, have filed a law suit against The State of New York, Governor Cuomo, The Education Commissioner, and the Regents to ensure that all students in New York State receive a properly funded, sound basic education as required by the NY State Constitution; and

Whereas, the Court of Appeals, New York’s highest court, decisively held in CFE v. State of New York in 2003 and again in 2006 that every child in the State of New York has a constitutional right to the opportunity for a sound basic education pursuant to Article XI, section 1 of the New York State Constitution; and

Whereas, the State of New York has failed to provide students in the New York City School District with adequate funding, as required by the Court of Appeals in CFE v. State of New York, and

Whereas, the State of New York has failed to identifying the essential resources, services, and supports that must be available in all school and to all students to meet the New York State Learning Standards and to prepare them to be “college and career ready” and to provide appropriate guidance to school districts regarding these requirements; and

Whereas, the State of New York has failed to assess the scope of current resource deficiencies and current violations of students’ rights to the opportunity for a sound basic education; and

Whereas, the State of New York has failed to maximize school and district cost effectiveness by reducing barriers to effective spending by eliminating or revamping unnecessary mandates and providing school districts clear guidance on how to improve cost effectiveness while safeguarding constitutional educational services; and

Whereas, the State of New York has failed to develop and implement a new methodology to determine the costs of efficiently providing all students with the essential resources for a sound basic education; and

Whereas, the State of New York has failed to revise the state funding formulas to ensure that all schools receive sufficient resources; and

Whereas, the State of New York has failed to create state and local accountability mechanisms to ensure that, on an on-going basis, schools have sufficient resources and are, in fact, providing all students the opportunity for a sound basic education; and

Whereas, Community District Education Council for school District 26 supports the NYSER litigation; and

Whereas, it is understood, that joining NYSER requires no financial obligation from the Community District Education Council for School District 26 (CDEC 26),

BE IT RESOLVED that the Community District Education Council for School District 26 (CDEC 26) hereby agrees to join NYSER and to support the lawsuit, NYSER v. State of New York.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 20th Day of March, 2014 by vote of the Council Members present at the public meeting (6 in favor - 1 abstention).

## **RESOLUTION APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY DISTRICT 26 CDEC**

### **Speakers**

1. **Principal Slivko** – spoke about Mayor DiBlasio’s initiative to provide afterschool programs for every middle school student. He stated he is not eligible for funding under the Mayor’s \$190 million program. The only middle school in District 26 that is eligible is MS 67. (Only schools that have no “comprehensive” afterschool programs are eligible.) Even though he has a Beacon program, which is considered a comprehensive afterschool program, it is not under his jurisdiction and serves only about 10% of his population. Mr. Slivko would like a program that will serve all of his students and is asking for a voice in this district for afterschool initiatives. He requests that legislative representatives research why money isn’t being shared more equitably.

Motion to adjourn Public meeting made by Lucy and seconded by Leslie. Council voted unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 p.m. -

Minutes submitted by Lucy Vieco

March 20, 2014 mins.