

Community District Education Council District 26

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MINUTES OF A BUSINESS MEETING **&** **PUBLIC FORUM FOR THE TESTING & ASSESSING IN NYC PUBLIC** **SCHOOLS**

Date: Thursday, October 25, 2007

Time: – 6:45 P.M.

Location: MS 74, 61-15 Oceania Street, Bayside, NY 11364-Auditorium

The meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order and chaired by Rob Caloras, President at 6:50 p.m. to vote an applicant into the council.

Attendees: Rob Caloras, Dr. Lana Zinger, Minkyung Lee, Patrick McShane, Jeannette Segal, Marie Pollicino & Irene Cheung

Present – Anita Saunders, Community Saunders

Rob started off by informing the attendees that their vote is needed on the candidates who were interviewed for the CDEC Council on October 3, 2007.

Discussion - Rob stated that Irene seems to have a little more understanding & experience of how things operate, and President's Council chose Irene Fennel also. Roll call vote:

Irene Fennel – 7 – 0 (7 YES – 0 NO) Unanimous vote of all

Nyla Moshlak - 1 – 6 (1 YES – 6 NO)

Marian informed the council members that the Bylaws, CEC Reimbursement Policy and the School Liaisons were in their packet. They were also informed that the PTA dates are being requested from each school. Council members given business cards and Administrative Asst informed to delete Region 3 on all cards.

Rob informed the attendees that he will introduce each council member to the audience in which he will an introduction of the panel and then there will be a question & answer period. Rob informed the members that if they have questions, to sign in on the Question Sheet.

Marian informed the council members that their activity sheet is due.

Business meeting ended at 7 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM MEETING

Forum called to order at 7:15 by Rob Caloras, President, CDEC.

Rob Caloras welcomed everyone to the CDEC 26 forum on Testing & Assessment in the NYC Public Schools. Rob introduced the CDEC members, Patrick McShane, Jeannette Segal, Lana Zinger, Minkyung Lee, Irene Cheung, Marie Pollicino and the newest member voted in tonight, Irene Fennel. Rob stated that the CDEC are representatives to the DOE and bring information on issues affecting the children's education.

Rob announced that the council still has 3 vacancies and that applications were available. Anyone having questions, please feel free to call the CDEC or Marian Mason, Administrative Asst.

Rob reiterated some of the issues: testing & assessing, increase in testing within the last 5 years, results showing promotion & demotion, cash prizes, stress, time factor & the monitoring cost.

Rob introduced the panelist: Randi Weingarten- UFT President, Jane Hirschman-Co-Chair & Founder of "time Out for Testing" & Bob Tobias, Director of the NYU Steinhardt Center for Research on Teaching & Learning. Tried to have the DOE representative but was unavailable.

Speaker – Bob Tobias

- 13 years with the DOE dealing with testing
- Knows how test are used and test are not bad – test are positive if used appropriately
- Problems arise when test are used inappropriately –over used – not validated for that purpose or have been used for a long time
- No one test can meet all purposes
- Uses of test – promotion or to determine who will be held back
- Test are used diagnostically
- Population – who is being tested – there are waivers for bilingual, ESL & etc
- Preparation – drilled – not being exposed to curriculum – scaling & scoring causing children to go to summer school
- Test scores are compared from year to year – ELL with less than 1 year were exempt from testing - test scores being used to make policy decisions

Bob stated that a single test score cannot used to make a high stake decision.

Speaker – Jane Hirschmann

- Against high stakes (when a score from a test defines whether a child is promoted or whether a child graduates).
NCLB says nothing about high stakes testing
NYC has the most draconian policy
NYC grades, 3, 5, 7, ELA/Math high stakes not required by NCLB or NYS
 - Against excessive use & misuse of testing
 - Chancellor will start testing grades 8-12 in the interim every 6-8 weeks to prepare them for tests.
 - Chancellor & Mayor informed that NYC is scoring below in math & English.
 - Private high schools not doing the five required regents
 - McGraw Hill responsible for 4000 students going to summer school due to a testing error.
 - Tests previously were supposed to be a curriculum now it is a reform. The curriculum now is narrow. There is an elimination of the arts & sciences and dance. Children are now numbers and materials are now being geared toward testing.
 - NYC public schools are leaving and going into the private schools.
- Jane informed everyone to “fight like hell because the children are being short changed”.

Speaker – Randi Weingarten

- Ms. Weingarten informed the audience that her mom was undergoing chemo tonight and she would have to leave soon.
- Agreed with Bob Tobias & Jane Hirschmann -UFT is not against tests but they are against excessive testing
- Against the high stakes testing
- Global economy demands literacy & numerate skills – how were businesses going to fill job openings? Economy changed & education is needed to get a job.
- Every state created their own accountability system
- Single test scores linked to teacher compensation
- Principal evaluations aligned to progress reports also for teachers

Rob thanked everybody for coming.

Meeting adjourned 9:05

Respectfully submitted by Marian Mason, Administrative Assistant, CDEC