

Community District Education Council District 26

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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC & BUSINESS MEETINGS

Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Time: Public Meeting-7:00 P.M.; Business Meeting-9:00 P.M.

Location: MS 67 – 51-60 Marathon Pkwy, Little Neck, NY -Room B44A

The meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order by Rob Caloras, President at 7:15 pm.

P u b l i c M e e t i n g

Rob Caloras started off by informing the audience that the public meeting was taking place before the business meeting to accommodate the speaker in regard to the discussion of the Capital Plan as well as the council's amendments to the Five Year Capital Plan which will be amended. Input from the principals are received and put through. Introduced Mary Leas, Sr. Manager of External Affairs & Monica Gutierrez, Project Support Manager for Queens both from the School Construction Authority in which they will present a PowerPoint presentation.

Mary Leas stated that the SCA was going around the city (32 districts) having public hearings showing what is the current capital plan allocations for their district and citywide.

_ **Capacity Projects** - (new schools & new seats)

_ **Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)**

_ **Resolution A (Reso A)** – grants outdated to schools by the borough president & city council members –used to enhance the quality of the school (technology)

Proposed Amendment vs. FY2010 – 2014 February 2010 Adopted Plan

- Requests \$972 million additional funding for FY2012
- Proposes increasing new capacity by approximately 20,000 to 50,074 seats for the entire five year plan
- Recommends increasing technology program to ensure necessary hardware and infrastructure is available to all students.
- Proposes increasing five year total plan amount by \$4.4 billion to \$16.2 billion based on currently identified needs
- Department will monitor spending and needs on an ongoing basis throughout the current and subsequent years of the Plan.
- Additional funding toward the \$4.4 billion will be requested in future Amendments as needs are verified.

**2010-2014 FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN
CAPACITY PROGRAM
District 26 Seat Need: 416**

Project/Building Name	Number of seats	Neighborhood
	Not sited	
Project #1	416	Bayside and Auburndale
TOTAL 416		

NYC DOE is having a hard time trying to find property that is available in D26 to build schools. Neighborhoods come out in opposition of new schools being built. There are possibilities being looked at on Northern Blvd. The DOE has been given the go ahead where they can now build a new high school in Queens (814 seats). New high schools have opened this year (Metropolitan Campus at Gateway). Trying to find a site somewhere in Queens that is least an acre. Ms. Leas urged attendees to send in suggestions to the city.

Anita Saunders stated that Amanda Cahn, Queens Planning Specialist & herself went to survey several sites.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2010-2012

20 Capital Improvement Projects totaling \$29.3 million were awarded for construction from 7/1/2009 through 10/29/2010*

Total number of projects and obligations include High Schools and Special Education.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Project Category	Number of Projects	Approximate Project Costs (in millions)
Electrical	5	\$3.76
Playgrounds	2	\$2.66

**2010 - 2014 Five Year Capital Plan
Capital Investment Projects
2010 - 2013**

Program Category	Projects	Total \$ (in Millions)
Accessibility	1	\$4.88
Electrical Systems	5	\$3.88
Elevators and Escalators	1	\$1.38
Exterior Masonry	2	\$4.85
Flood Elimination	4	\$5.09
Interior Spaces	1	\$0.64
Low-Voltage Electrical Systems	2	\$1.81
Parapets (flash around the roof)	2	\$1.00
Paved Area-Concrete	1	\$1.21
Playground Redevelopment	1	\$2.55
Reinforcing Support Elements	1	\$1.83
Total	21	\$29.1

Capital Projects at: PS 173 – new playground in construction; PS 221 electrical upgrade, clocks and PA system; PS 41 got new windows and exterior masonry; PS 18 receiving an electrical upgrade; Francis Lewis High School will get paved areas and flood elimination; PS 186 in process of getting a new elevator which will be built on the outside but accessible from the inside.

RESOLUTION A (RESO A) PROJECTS

41 RESO A projects totaling \$5.60 million were allocated for FY 2009, 2010, and 2011

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Project Category	Number of Projects	Approximate Project Costs (in millions)
Auditorium	4	\$.431
Electrical	1	\$.128
Library	1	\$.160
Playgrounds	3	\$.561
Technology (laptops-wifi)	32	\$4.32

PS 203 will be receiving an electrical upgrade under the Reso “A” plan.

Questions & Answers

1. Rob Caloras questioned the population projections that were given, citing that due to changes in construction and more multi-family homes being constructed on lots formerly used for single family units, there are more people and children in school in District 26 than what seems to be represented in the report.

Mary Leas' response was that enrollment numbers need to be provided to the DOE to support that theory. The schools need to be at 100% capacity to indicate this. The census numbers are functional but not showing this yet. If this is the case, then the school utilization numbers need to be submitted to the DOE from the Principals at the individual schools with this concern.

2. Council member Susan Shiroma asked for clarity on slide #4. This is being called Project #1, 416 seats needed which can also be an addition to an existing school. There have been pockets of overcrowding in the Bayside/Auburndale area and how would it affect D26 if a site for a new school is not found? Anita Saunders stated that she is aware that PS 162 is overcrowded & informed the attendees that Amanda Khan from Portfolio Planning & herself went to look at schools in the PS 31/41 area. Anita noted that the use of the word Auburndale by the New York City school Construction Authority is incorrect in relationship to District 26 because it is more west and much of it is actually District 25.

Susan Shiroma asked was there a timeline and Mary Leas responded that there is money allocated for this project so the timeline is ASAP to make the determination and have our CDEC provide a recommendation.

Mary Leas announced that money is set aside for a new D26 High School, and that the SCA is only in need of a site. The question was posed whether or not the money that has been allocated would be lost if a site is not found, and would the 814 seat need roll into the next Capital Plan. Mary Leas responded that this would be the case unless there are further budget cuts and the school funding is

lost which is why it is so important to find the site as quickly as possible. The site for a HS has to be an area that is accessible via public transportation, which is why they don't want something too close to the Queens/Nassau County border. The SCA is looking for a site that has at least one acre of land. (A question was posed by the council that there might be a potential site at Northern Blvd. and 195th Street). Mary Leas said that any and all proposed locations will be investigated.

3. The PTA president at MS 67 spoke to bring up the current loggia project at the school. The concern is that the project has been canceled. Mary Leas commented that the project was not cancelled. Council member Jeannette Segal commented that there has been no communication/feedback between the SCA and MS 67, and was also told that the project is cancelled and that the principal requested additional items be done. Mary Leas admitted that requesting additional items can slow the process; however, the project was never cancelled. Public speakers then began to explain what some of the "additional items" that were being requested were. And that these additional requests were in response to parent concern over increasing health conditions of students being exposed to the **puddling** and smell from the ACT tiles. Parents complained that their children are being exposed and are now under medical care. Mary Leas was under the impression that the emergency caulking and patching was done months ago but Principal McGrath and Jeannette Segal assured her at the meeting that it was not done. Principal McGrath stated that the smell is affecting five rooms at MS 67 and while she has received two sets of minutes from the scoping meetings, she has received no engineering reports on the progress of this project. Mary Leas commented that emergency money can be used for the types of projects like the one at MS 67 and assured the parents and the Principal that MS 67 should be hearing within a month about the project. Mary Vaccaro, UFT Rep was unaware of the scope of the problem in regard to the health issues but will be doing an investigation the following school day, Thursday 12/16/10.

4. A question was asked by a parent regarding the PS 173 Playground Project. The timeline says that the project will be completed in February 2011, however upon visual inspection it seems to parents that the project will not be completed by then. Mary Leas agreed that the project will not be completed by February due to weather conditions.

5. Council Member Ismael Fuentes questioned HS proposed sites. Sites would have to be closer to the Queens side for easy access by bus or train.

Council President Rob Caloras commented that the DOE is closing the High schools and replacing them with smaller schools that don't take advantage of utilizing the same amount of space.

6. Council Member Irene Fennell asked about PS 41, noting that there is still a problem with water on the floor in the gym. Mary Leas responded that she would look into it the following school day, Thursday, 12/16/10.

Council Member Ismael Fuentes asked that SCA investigate possible safety violation of debris and possibly construction debris being left outside of Capital Improvement Project at PS 186, New Elevator in Construction.

Jeannette Segal asked if eminent domain was a possibility as a route to open a new HS. Mary Leas responded that although it has happened in the past, it is rarely a consideration.

Council Recording Secretary Pia Alexander suggested that prior to our next Capital Plan Meeting we should begin gathering the enrollment numbers from our individual liaison schools, provided by the Principals in order to support the need for more seats throughout D26.

Mary Leas thanked the CDEC and public and again reiterated that 9 or the 21 suggestions that the Council made to the SCA last year were granted, including out number one suggestion.

Public meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

B u s i n e s s M e e t i n g

The business meeting of the Community District Education Council of District 26 (CDEC26) was called to order by Rob Caloras, President at 8:50 pm.

Roll Call: Jeannette Segal, Rob Caloras, Irene Fennell, Dina Quondamatteo, Ricky Chan, Irene Cheung, Susan Shiroma, Pia Alexander, Ismael Fuentes & Marie Pollicino
Also in attendance were Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent & Lori Butera, and District Family Advocate

1. Capital Plan Recommendations – Rob Caloras
 - a. Review Capital Plan priority listing submitted in January 2010 and remove any current projects.
 - b. Update priority listing and finalize for submission to the SCA. Request from PS 172 principal to have his request be moved up on the list:
 1. **MS 172** -Electrical upgrade to enable proper usage of equipment, appliances, and lights.
 2. **PS 41** needs an electrical upgrade to enable proper usage of equipment, appliances, and lights.
 3. **PS 46** – Auditorium upgrade -Replace 9x9 asbestos floor tiles
 4. **MS 74** - Electrical upgrade to enable proper usage of equipment, appliances, and lights.
 5. **MS 216**- Electrical upgrade to enable proper usage of equipment, appliances, and lights.
Complete floors by replacing asbestos tiles-Replace existing antiquated computer labs
Replace science labs- Hang School Banner on outside wall
 6. **PS 98** -Electricity upgrade to enable proper usage of equipment, appliances & lights-air conditioners in the - Auditorium- Upgrading of sound system in the auditorium-Painting of the auditorium - Soundproofing the gymnasium / cafeteria
 7. **PS 133** -Electrical upgrade to enable proper usage of equipment, appliances, and lights-Upgrade the internet connections
 8. **MS 158** -Electrical upgrade to enable proper usage of equipment, appliances, and lights - Upgrade lighting from T12 to high efficiency bulbs-Replace four zone valves for heating plant upgrade - Replace worn curtains in the auditorium
 9. **PS 159** - Electrical upgrade to enable proper usage of appliances- Sound proof student lunchroom- New public address system- Painting all ceilings especially the student cafeteria
 10. **PS 18** -Boiler upgrade – New Blacktop surface for primary playground -Replace roof over auditorium & gymnasium – Replace all incandescent lighting -New tile floors in building hallways
 11. **PS 191**- Auditorium and Gym windows
 12. **PS 213** -Electrical upgrade to enable proper usage of equipment, appliances, and lights - New roof, gym floor & gym lighting-Auditorium lighting-new fire and safety system-Replace student desks and chairs
 13. **PS 221**- Smart Boards for the classroom

14. **PS 173** -Needs an electrical upgrade to enable proper usage of equipment, air conditioning, appliances - Remote controlled theater projection screen
15. **PS 115** -Purchase more computers, printers, and Promethean Interactive Boards w/all components in every classroom
16. **MS 67** -Need of air conditioning in the auditorium
17. **PS 31** -Air conditioning units
18. **PS/IS 178** – Upgrade on alarm system -Surveillance cameras
19. **PS 205** - New stage curtain –new seats -Sound system upgrade
20. **PS 26** – Upgrade PA system -Replacement seats in the auditorium
21. **PS 203** -Electrical upgrade -Upgrade auditorium seating -Upgrade T1 line coming into school
22. **PS 188** –Upgrade sound system in auditorium -air-conditioning -window screens
23. **PS 186** –Update PA system
24. **PS 162** - Computer upgrade (computer lab & classroom computers)
25. **PS 94** - library/media room with computers.

Council liaisons can send a letter to Kathleen Grimm regarding recommendations at their schools and follow up.

President Report-none

Mary Vaccaro informed the attendees that the local press will be coming to PS 26 in response to the Food Drive and she distributed packets for all D26 Parent Coordinators/Schools/Parent distribution announcing this year's UFT Fifth Annual Parent Educator Alliance Scholarship Dinner Dance, with District 26 Scholarship Application Guideline/Rules and Deadlines and dinner invitations.

Superintendent's Report
CDEC Meeting
Wednesday, December 15, 2010
MS 67

- Welcome
- Blue Ribbon Nomination Recipients – MS 74, PS 159, 173
- Teacher Tenure – New Criteria as of December 13, 2010
 - Highly effective, Effective, Developing, Ineffective – rated in each of the following three categories:
 1. Impact on Student Learning
 2. Instructional Practice
 3. Professional Contributions
 - Tenure equals rating of highly effective or effective for at least two consecutive years in all three categories listed above. Teachers who earn “developing” ratings can have their probations extended, and those deemed “ineffective” will be denied tenure.
- GED Program Test – Pilot program to ensure recipients are prepared to succeed in college; 30,000 recipients.

District Family Advocate Lori Butera asked that the council co-sponsor an upcoming district wide event to be held at PS 115. Motion was made to co-sponsor food & refreshments during documentary screening and program of Including Samuel, a film about Inclusive Education, Curriculum and Training and Disability Rights. Council agreed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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