

Community District Education Council District 26

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MINUTES OF BUSINESS & CALENDAR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Thursday, March 23, 2006

Time: Calender Meeting, 7:00 P.M.; Business Meeting, 8:00 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 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Roll Call: Rob Caloras, Edward Fallacaro, Richard Olson, Carol Gomez , Bona Sun, Adam Amit, Melissa Dorfman & Jackie Montgomery

Excused: Yen Shia Chou & Susan Shiroma

Also in attendance was Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent, Walter O'Brien, Local Instructional Superintendent & Lori Stein Butera, Parent Coordinator.

Business Meeting

Secretary's Report – Minutes presented by Carol Gomez

Reviewing of minutes –February 16, 2006 & January 10, 2006 were reviewed for corrections, changes or additions. Rich Olson made a motion to accept both minutes and Rob Caloras seconded. Council voted unanimously to accept both minutes.

President's Report – Robert Caloras

1. Interviews conducted this night prior to the CDEC meeting.
2. E-mail correspondence to all members –
 - a. grading of standardize tests
 - b. State Comptroller being audited (\$80 million dollars was not spent to reduce class sizes).
3. Newspapers articles (Little Neck Ledger)
 - a. HIV Forum held at MS 74
 - b. PS 203- presentation by the Bayside Historical Society
 - c. Contract talk with the DOE & SCA & resolution passed by the CDEC in favor of this contract.
4. E-mail received from Mr. Meir – Chairman of Community Board 11 Education Committee – concerned about report cards “In his Opinion do not adequately evaluate the children and ask that the CDEC look into this and make report cards more responsive.
5. Susan Shiroma working on helping the schools in “Grant Writing” procedures. Susan has a list of grants that schools receive.
6. Meeting with Mary Vaccaro, UFT Representative on March 1st.
 - a. Spoke about the 37 ½ minutes – it was contractual. – Article given to Rob stating that there have been 240 schools in the city that requested modification of the timing. The UFT approved 239 of those schools. The biggest modification was moving the time to the morning.

7. March 14th attended the President's Council meeting along with Susan Shiroma. CDEC was on the agenda and they spoke about the CDEC Vacancy and having a joint Legislative Breakfast meeting on May 5th. Elected Officials along with Dennis Walcott will be sent invitations. Draft flyer prepared and sent to members to review for changes. President's Council (Suzanne Windland) agreed to this meeting. Will move forward with paperwork.
8. Monthly meeting held on March 20th with Anita Saunders & Susan Shiroma. Solicited questions from the council and sent them to Anita:

Question 1 - Update on the extra 37 1/2 minutes. Including, What percentage of District 26 students mandated for the 37.5 minute "tutoring" sessions are attending the sessions. What is the percentage of invited students in the sessions? What are the average numbers of the classes? Can programs be expanded to include more children in enrichment type classes? What are the plans for next year's use of this time?

Answer - Sheet distributed by Anita showing schools. Children in the program are getting the necessary attention for them to improve their weaknesses. Scheduling & busing problems have been ironed out.

Question 2 - How does the District address the overcrowding in our high schools? This impacts many people we serve as they make decisions on the middle schools based on what the future of HS is. Are there plans for any relief in schools like Cardozo, Bayside and Francis Lewis?

Answer - Creation of smaller high schools will alleviate the overcrowding.

Question 3- Has our district been informed of any financial impact regarding the lack of CFE money coming from the state? For example, other districts were informed of postponed school construction, etc.

Answer - The Mayor stated that building plans were put on hold - none of those plans affected District 26.

Question 4 - What is number of acceptances to each Specialized Science HS, including LaGuardia HS of Perform Arts, for each middle school program in the district? Also what is the number of acceptances into Townsend Harris HS and number of acceptances to Frank Sinatra HS of Performing Arts? Last year we received a chart with these numbers, is one available this year.

Is it possible to get the number of students from each District 26 middle school that took the test to a specialized science high school or who auditioned for LGA and Frank Sinatra?

Answer - Anita distributed the list of Specialized High Schools.

Question 5 - List of which schools in the district share building space with District 75 schools?

Answer - 41, 205, 191, 26, 266, 115, 186, 213 & Cardozo High School.

Question 6 - Moving of the Special Education Program from PS 178 through the K-8 transition. Was there any impact regarding other schools in the district & the children who are in need of services and where they will be going to get services?

Answer - Ms. Saunders stated that the children in Special Ed in PS 178 will remain providing their IEP (**Informal Education Plan**) states that. There will be no additional classes added at this point.

Walter O'Brien stated that the K-8 plan is in progress in terms of the number of classes & the Regional Operation Center in projecting the number of classes for next year.

Per Anita, the plan is not to eliminate any of the special education classes in any school.

Question 7 - No Child Left Behind - sheet distributed by Anita - 25 students transferred into MS 74; MS 205 received 5 students; PS 46 received 4 and etc. Some schools received none.

The Council has discussed this issue and plan on discussing the fact that when children are transferred into District 26 there is no additional funding for the services.

9. Wish List - list received from all schools and has been processed. Will receive by the end of April.
10. Marian has emptied out the (archived) the files in the cabinets. File cabinets are being given to the schools.

11. CDEC Vacancy – interviews were scheduled this night and voting will take place at the next meeting. Four applications received and three interviews set up. In talking with the applicants, there were highly qualified individuals.

Treasurer's Report – Ed Fallacaro

1. Budget Modification– vote to shift funds around. Modification of funds due by March 24th.
 - a. Telephone services & Maintenance will be transferred to General Supplies.
 - b. Stipends (\$4387) transfer most of it, leaving \$700 in the account.
 - c. Travel & food – will add \$1000 bringing it up to about \$1400.
 - d. The Wish List is \$250 x 26 schools = \$6500.

Rob made a motion to pass the budget with the changes and Rich Olson seconded. The council voted unanimously to approve.

- e. Ed will do an e-mail to Ina Werbelow regarding the changes and the Council will be copied.
- f. Ed informed the members that any reimbursements need to be put through.
- g. Ed also informed the Council that Marian Mason and himself met with Ina Werbelow, ROC. Thanks Ina for coming out to explain the budget.

Committee Reports (Zoning & Outreach) - Ed Fallacaro

a. Topics discussed

1. Met on March 7 with members.
2. Talked about new ways for the audience to participate & present.
3. Website – now in Google
4. Newsletter – need to pursue
5. Spoke about interviews and budget.
6. Ms. Fong (parent) spoke about concerns at PS 159 regarding Rezoning.
7. Next meeting April 4th at 6:30 p.m.

b. School/PTA Visits

1. Rich stated that Carol & himself visited PS 133 on Monday, March 20th – met with Principal (Ms. Shelly Steppel) and Assistant Principal (Ms. Marianne Sheridan) – did a walk through – saw works of arts and writing projects. Will be visiting PS 266 soon.

2. Rob stated that he visited PS 98 & 94. PS 98 curriculum is a great & challenging. PS 94 is overcrowded. Science program is utilized in a small portion of the cafeteria. Rob feels that maybe the CDEC could help them with their electric problem. They don't have enough electricity coming into the school so that when too many appliances are used at one time it will blow. A heating upgrade was done last year and new boxes were installed but not enough juice coming into the school. Rob stated that maybe calls can be made to Con Edison & will go to meetings to help out with this situation.

3. Ed stated that he was invited to MS 158 PTA's meeting and spoke about the CDEC. He also met with the principal and felt that they are committed.

Superintendent's Report – Anita Saunders

1. School Visits-Exhibits & Fairs
 - a. PS 178 – Arts Fair – pirate ship built; paintings; musical performance taking place.
 - b. PS 162 – 200 parents came out to their show (3-23-06) and then all participated in an International Festival.
 - c. PS 203 – School wide enrichment show – children involved in individual investigation methods.
2. PTA Conferences – every school worked very hard – writing excellent.

3. Citywide Public School Art Award – 1st Place, Ha Young Kim of MS 67
4. Citywide Middle School Art – Gold Key Award - Ha Young Kim of MS 67
5. Chinese Lunar Painting Essay Contest – 3rd Place, Ha Young Kim of MS 67
6. Citywide Science Olympiad – one 1st Place – MS 67
7. Reading Rocks NYC Grant (75 books worth \$1,000) PS/IS 266, MS 67, MS 74, MS 158, MS 172 & MS 216.
8. Studio in a School Grant – PS 18, 46, 186 & 188.
9. PS 98 – Ballroom Dance Team invited to perform at Bergdorf Goodman’s 35th Anniversary at Oscar de la Renta Celebration The music teacher, Mr. Adams & one parent per teacher will be invited to attend. Also invited to perform at the CDEC meeting on April 27th at 8 p.m.
10. PS 98 – Midori Invitation – one of the five schools chosen to perform in the First Annual Midori & Friends Music Festival.
11. Specialized High Schools – March 31st is the deadline for applications.
12. March 30th & 31st is non attendance for students – teachers will be in marking the State Education Mathematics Assessment tests Grades 3-8 citywide. MS 74, 67, 158 & 172 are District schools being used as part of Regional scoring sites.

Walter O’Brien reiterated what Ms. Saunders had said and wanted to thank Ms. Singer who is a kindergarten teacher at PS 162. Thanked all the teachers and parents for working together.

Ms. Saunders – scores go back to the State and they are reviewed and they go through a strenuous/elaborate process of being checked and rechecked. Scores are given back at the end of the year. No date given just yet.

Lori Butera-Stein – Parent Coordinator

- a. Time Management Work Shop for children will be at PS 173 at 9:30 a.m.
- b. Workshops – Creative Crafting Through Bookmaking * Those Daring Dinosaurs
- c. Nutrition & Fitness for Children Workshop on May 3rd at 9 a.m., PS 186 & May 4th at PS 188, 7-9 a.m. Parent Coordinators put this workshop together due to the obesity/exercising problem of today.

New Business-

Rob stated the CDEC vacancy will be done next month. Will consult with President’s Council.

Old Business – none

Rob made a motion to adjourn and the council agreed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM MEETING

Public Meeting- started at 8:25 P.M.

Walter O’Brien started off with the Pledge of Allegiance
Guests – Susan Seinfeld, CB 11; Officer Gary Poggiali, 111 Pct. Community Affairs; Officer Faith Carter, 111 Pct Crime Prevention; C. Parmer, DOT; Maura McCarthy, Commissioner DOT; Connie Moran, DOT; Marc Haken, CB 8; Al Samuels, UFT & Ruth Wimpfheimer of Assemblyman Mark Weprin’s office.

1. Officer Gary Poggiali, 111 Pct.
 - a. Spoke on MP3 IPODS being stolen & students should change the earpiece for safety. Can have IPODS & Walkman's etched for identification.
 - b. Registration of bikes at precincts & the use of helmets being worn for safety.
 - c. Spoke about parents' double parking in front of schools when dropping/picking up of students & the hazardous condition this causes. Tickets will be issued.
 - d. Spoke about a crossing guard at Horace Harding.
2. Officer Faith Carter, 111 Pct.-Crime Prevention
 - a. Operation Identification-cell phones, IPODS, MP 3, laptops also & other portable items can have invisible serial numbers etched on & cars can have the VIN etched on as well.
 - b. Parent supervision when children are on the computer.
 - c. Burglary safety tips.
 - d. Security surveys of your home by the 111 Pct.
 - e. CAT program
3. Ms. Moran, DOT
 - a. Safety City Program – if any problems are around the schools, specialist will be brought in to survey the problem & show safety procedures.
 - b. Spoke about PS 205 –requested a one-way sign & it was approved by DOT but the community did not agree.
 - c. Survey done on PS 135 schools by the DOT in the city & it was recommended that crossing guards were needed. The Traffic Division and the Mayor will be assessing this problem.
 - d. MS 172 – double parking issue – parents volunteered-cars were not getting through the streets due to double/tripled parked cars dropping/picking up of students.
 - e. DOT did a study of 135 schools in the city – DOT has recommended to the police department that additional crossing guards are needed. Police Commissioner (Captain Kelly) in favor and will work with the traffic department to do an analysis/assessment of the entire city.
 - f. PS 266 Campus – Suzanne Windland, Co President of President's Council spoke about the problem at PS 266. Stated that there is no speed bumps or traffic signal on Commonwealth Blvd between Grand Central & Union Tpke because this street is being used as a speed way. Suzanne requesting, crossing guard, light & bumps. Ms. Wimpfheimer, representative of Assemblyman Mark Weprin's office stated that the community rejected speed bumps because at night it becomes very noisy when cars, vans & trucks go over this obstacle. DOT will look into the problem.
4. Susan Seinfeld, District Manager – Community Board 11
 - a. Invited attendees to their monthly Monday meetings held on the first of every month at MS 158.
 - b. Community can come with any concerns or questions & CB 11 would contact that agency with your concerns or complaints.
 - c. Will do surveys when requests are put in such as:
 - i. MS 74 – crossing guard - completed
 - ii. MS 158 – 4-way Stop Sign - completed
 - iii. MS 158 – Requesting an All Way Stop Sign - pending
 - iv. PS 159 - School buses are parking at this location & tying up traffic. Will pass on to the Police Dept. & DOT to look into this problem.
 - v. In the near future would like to do a Child Safety Registration Day where fingerprinting would be done of children.

- vi. Have meetings on gang activities and what to look for. A PowerPoint presentation is available to present to schools, etc.
 - vii. Program set up with the police dept. to have your car etched with the VIN #.
5. Marc Haken – Community Board 8
- a. Informed the audience that there are four schools under CB 8 (26, 173, 178 & 216).
 - b. System set up to give out tickets at different schools for double parking.
 - c. PS 178 – problem with children crossing over Grand Central. A light was installed.
 - d. PS 26 – With help from Assemblyman Mark Weprin a divider was put in the middle of the street due to speeding. Speed bumps rejected by the community.
 - e. PS 216 – requested crossing guards on Utopia Pkwy but stated that middle school children do not listen to crossing guards.
- Mr. Haken stated that CB 8 is very conscious for the safety of the children and the community must work closely with the Civic Association. Community Board meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30.
6. Al Samuels – UFT Representative
- a. Handle counseling safety and school security issues for the borough of Queens.
 - b. Will go into a school if requested and do a walk through of the entire building starting at the front door. Will make sure the SSA or school aide sitting in the front follow procedures such as photo ID, signing in and direct them to the main office.
 - c. Will check exits to the street, check doors for safety. Check bathrooms, closets, storage areas & electrical room. If doors with locks are not locked it will be written up and brought to the custodian's attention for repairs and a follow up is done within a week or so.
 - d. If concerns about air quality, school facilities are contacted, SCA and if needed, air testing will be done.
 - e. Disruptive students – will reach out to Walter Acham at the DOE.
- Mr. Samuels stated that they get involved with the concerns of the children and staff. Believe in working together with parents, school officials and the community in resolving problems. Responsible for school safety issues for all schools in the city in terms of making sure that all schools have a safety plan. Making sure that the school's safety plan is implemented and followed properly.

Rob made a motion to adjourn and council voted unanimously.

Public meeting ended at 9:30 p.m.

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

