

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 OF BUSINESS & PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Time: Business Meeting, 7:00 P.M.; Public 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 Robert Caloras, President at 7:15 p.m.

Roll Call: Rob Caloras, Dina Quondamatteo, Irene Fennell, Esther Jung, Marie Pollicino, Susan Shiroma & Irene Cheung

Excused – Pia Alexander, Jeannette Segal & Ismael Fuentes

Guest – Ricky Chan & David Kistner (Prospective Applicants)

Also in attendance was Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent

Business Meeting

1. Minutes – February 23rd – Dina Quondamatteo made a motion to approve the minutes, Irene second and council voted unanimously to accept as is.
2. **President's Report**
 - **MS 67 – Awards – Math Team ok – budget cuts**
 - High School choices delayed because of a pending lawsuit brought up against the DOE with the UFT & NAACP regarding the failure of the DOE to follow procedures in closing the 16 schools. 8500 students choice the closing schools.
 - Comptroller website (John Liu) will be doing a management audit of the NYC Dept. of Ed annual school progress report. Will provide an independent analysis of the integrity and reliability of the data reflected in the progress reports. The audit will determine if the DOE made adequate control to ensure the data requested in the DOE's annual report are reliable, comparable and fairly reported. The audit will examine data collection, calculation and reported process report.
 - Rob sent a letter congratulating the Comptroller John Liu:

It has been a while since I have seen you at an event, so please accept my belated congratulations on your election victory. With great pleasure I recently read a news report that your office will be auditing the Department of Education's School Report Cards and their use in determining whether a school should be closed. As you know, such an audit is needed to ensure that our schools are closed for appropriate and verifiable reasons. Sadly, I believe this has not been the case during the past few years in the closing of several of our schools. It gives me great confidence to know that you are aware of the problems involved and are willing to take an active role in resolving this issue. Who knows, your audit might also reveal that the criteria utilized is not appropriate to determine if a school is properly performing. My best wishes for your success on this and all of your endeavors.

- Government bonds put out by the State for the School Construction Authority & the Federal government endorse the structure (Subsidy rate).

- Stated graduation rate is up – which is good
- NYT – in India they are more upset with test taking than the Chinese because they have fewer decent schools so these tests are very important. 40 million school age trying to get into decent schools. India is creating a curriculum that is geared to the tests.
- Bake Sale compromise – PTA allowed a bake sale with home goods once a month after 6 p.m.

Budget – Pia Alexander (Treasurer) Marian stated budget sheet attached for approval.

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY Bal. as of 3-18-10	QUICK CODE	OBJECT CODE	ACTIVITY CODE	LOC CODE	AMOUNT SCHEDULED	EXPENDED TO DATE	BALANCE
General Supplies	062641	198	0514	QS26	8,950	2,699	6,251 -645
P-Card	062641	198	0518	QS26	2,000	2,000	0 Balance from Gen. Supp (Code 198) Approx \$ 5606
Local Travel & Food Exp.	062641	451	0515	QS26	5,700	2,560	3,140
Stipend Reimbursements	062641	496	0519	QS26	1,300	257	1,043
Maintenance of Copier	062641	612	0516	QS26	850	835	15 +645
Other Admin. Consultants	062641	686	0520	QS26	1,200	300	900
TOTAL					20,000	8,651	11,349

	Balance as of 3-18-10	Transfer	To
General Supplies (198)		\$645	Copier Maintenance (612)
General Supplies (198)		Approx \$5606	P-Card (198)

Council member’s signatures needed for approval of budget.

Marian also presented the agenda flyer for the April meeting to the council members to see which one is acceptable for printing. They chose the flyer with the flowers.

Marian stated that four (4) schools will be participating in the ballroom dancing (PS 26, 41, 98 & 178) and two (2) newly elected assistant principals (PS 188 & 221) will be acknowledged.

The parent coordinators and assistant principals will get flowers & certificates and the students will get a backpack, certificate and a pen with the CDEC 26 logo.

Marian informed the members that letters from PTA 133 & PS 188 PTA thanking the CDEC for co-sponsoring with their workshop.

Rob informed the council members that the CDEC would like to co-sponsor the legislative breakfast and members agreed.

New Business

School Visits

Irene Fennell & Susan Shiroma -school visit – PS 162 on March 12th – moral boosting – presentation by Title 1 president. Susan stated that meetings are held in the cafeteria and the refrigerators are very loud. Teachers gave helpful hints and well attended.

Irene Cheung met with Ms. Poulos of PS 162 but will set up an actual school visit.

Marie Pollicino – PS 98 – informal meeting with principal– school’s concern is regarding nurses being terminated and how they can keep a nurse in the school. Must have a child in the school with a special “need” where a nurse is needed on the premises. Will look into this.

Rob asked Marian to get the name of the DOH who is in charge.

Esther Jung, Ismael Fuentes & Pia Alexander did a school visit at PS 213 with– good work ethics – students can voice their opinions – Artists come to the school – Enrichment Cluster (15 free classes) Parent coordinators do parent to parent workshops - Guards very polite.

PTA Visits

Dina Quondamatteo – PTA meeting at PS 115 on March 9th in which she presented the officers of the PTA with certificates from the CDEC. Mr. Ambrose did a walk through the school and introduced Dina to his staff. Issue – a physical ED teacher is needed and feels that the DOE should fund this slot. It is the principal’s choice to hire a physical Ed teacher. They can hire a non-certified person per Mary Vaccaro, UFT Rep.

Rob stated that the money will not be coming from the DOE and it was told to the CDEC at one of the meetings from Lori Benson, Director of the Physical Ed Dept. to go to NIKE, REEBOK and check these sources for grants for funding. There were 10 schools in the district that applied and received grants.

Susan Shiroma stated that the Principal’s Weekly that he gets from the DOE has grant information in it. Maybe he should contact the CHAMP program they bring non traditional sports into the middle schools. Contact Sr. Grants Officer at Linden Place (Sylvia Jamison). Susan stated that there will be a presentation taking place May 25th at the foundation center and a formal announcement will be sent out.

Dina informed members that she will be speaking at PS 46 PTA’s meeting and giving out certificates.

Rob went to MS 67 PTA’s meeting – SLT election – spoke about testing issues and assessment testing. Mandated pre-math testing taking place May 12th or May 14th.

Old Business

A. Fill vacancy

Two applicants applied (Ricky Chan and David Kistner) in which they were interviewed on February 9th.

Susan Shiroma requested that someone layout the application process and what it’s like.

Rob went on to say that there was a vacancy when Erik DePaula resigned. Marian sent out notices to all schools, libraries, newspapers and etc. Two applications received and copies made for distribution to the CDEC council for review for interview purpose. Interview scheduled with CDEC members and President’s Council was invited. Kim D’Angelo, Rob, Pia, Jeannette and Esther were present for the interview.

Susan Shiroma is requesting that applications & flyers will be sent out in multiple languages (Spanish, Chinese, Urdu & Korean).

Susan Shiroma was questioning whether we were in compliance with having an IEP and ELL parent on the council.

Susan asked whether there was a discussion regarding the applicants. Applicants were asked questions by Rob. All attendees asked to leave while the CDEC discussed the applicants and then they were called back in.

Voting on prospective candidates – Ricky Chan & David Kistner

Votes taken for Ricky Chan – 6 YES – 0 NO - (Unanimous vote of all members present).

Votes taken for David Kistner – 6 NO – 0 YES

Rob welcomed Ricky Chan to the council.

Susan asked that he be told the term of office which will be till June 2011

VACANCY RESOLUTION – March 24, 2010

Resolution - To fill a vacancy on CDEC 26 which occurred on November 2009

WHEREAS, Community District Education Council members are representatives of the parents and community-at-large; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy has occurred on Community District Education Council 26 (CDEC 26) effective 11-27-09

WHEREAS, Department of Education rules and Chancellor’s Regulation A-140 state that when a vacancy occurs on a CDEC, the CDEC shall fill the vacancy at a public meeting, after consultation with Presidents’ Council and other education groups; and

WHEREAS, CDEC 26 has followed the regulations regarding filling of the vacancy; and

WHEREAS, CDEC 26 has selected a the best qualified person to fill that vacancy; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Department of Education procedures, Community District Education Council 26 hereby appoints Ricky Chan to fill the vacancy as Council Member of CDEC 26, effective immediately.

APPROVED unanimously by vote: 6 - 0 (6 YES; 0 NO)

PASSED and ADOPTED this 24th Day of March, 2010

Rob announced that Ricky Chan is now a member of the CDEC and welcomed him.

Esther Jung brought up the issue of translators/interpretation services. Esther stated “whenever parents need interpretation services the school/principal informs them that there are no interpretation services and that they have to bring their own interpreter.” Esther spoke to about 100 parents regarding interpretation services at schools and was told that they could not get the service from schools. Esther in turn made phone calls to all schools at SD 26 about the interpretation service and found that only three schools stated that they had the DOE interpretation service even though all the schools must provide the service with the parents with the budget given by DOE

Anita Saunders asked Esther “who did you speak with” and informed her that she should have spoken to the parent coordinator.

Esther Jung stated “that she was advised by the DOE that you can request any school staff for the interpretation service.”

Esther Jung also brought up the subject of security guards mistreating parents and being rude. Esther informed the attendees that when some parents visited some schools such as MS74 and some elementary schools, the school guards were absolutely rude to parents.”

Susan Shiroma stated that the issue Esther is raising is that there might be a lack of understanding or clarification within the district of the part of PTA President’s, SLT members, CDEC as to what services are available to the immigrant community. Translation services and how are they paid for versus interpretation services. Would like to have Ewel or OFEA come to our May meeting and inform the attendees what is paid for and what’s free of charge. Marian will arrange to have someone come and speak on this subject.

The district should understand who pays for what, how to get it and at the principals level they should understand it.

Another issue is school safety and the lack of customer service on the part of some of the guards. Do we really understand the chain of command and how the school safety officers are being told by their supervisors to be a little more customer service oriented? Many parents have come across a bad apple.

Rob informed the attendees that most people in the system don't know what services are available to them and Anita will look into it and follow up. Rob feels that translation/interpretation services should be better publicized in as many languages as possible. Anita stated that "it is a requirement". Anita feels that maybe principals should call the office staff together and review the procedures regarding translation services and what is available.

Business Meeting Adjourned – 8:50 p.m. and Public meeting began

PUBLIC MEETING

Superintendent's Report

- Learning Environment Survey
- Teacher Data Reports
- Contest Winners
 - MS 158 – Go Green Expo 2010 – Art Contest Ceremony – March 20, 2010 – 10:00 A.M.
 - MS 67 – UFT District Scholarship Award essay “A Special Teacher” - \$1,000.00
 - Science Olympiad – 3rd Prize – moving to New York State Competition in New Paltz
 - Math Counts Team – 1st place in NYC – moving to State Competition in Albany
 - PS 31 Ballroom Dance Team – to compete at the semester - finals tomorrow March 25th in Manhattan
- Parent Workshop – “Raising Healthy Families”
- Census 2010 – Samuel Field Y has been selected as the Questionnaire Assistance Center/Be Counted Site in Queens
March 22nd to April 19th – Census Forms and assistance available in six languages, English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese
- Public Forum – Presentation of NYS District Report Card (See Below)
Anita informed the attendees that under the new Governance legislation there must be a mandated public meeting twice a year. There will be another in June.

District 26 Profile 2008-2009 NYS Report Card

Total Number of Students K-12
31,672
Average Class Size

Elementary	25
Grade 8	33
Grade 10	32

Demographic Factors

Free Lunch	30%
Reduced Lunch	13%
ELLs	9%

Racial/Ethnic Origins

American Indian	0%
Black or African American	16%
Hispanic or Latino	13%
Asian	49%
White	20%
Multiracial	0%

Student Suspensions 5%

Teacher Turnover Rate 10%

Teacher Turnover Rate with fewer than five years experience 11%

Teacher Qualifications

Number of Teachers	1923
Numbers with Master's Degree	55%
Percent Teachers out of Certification	6%
Percent fewer than three years experience	8%
Percent classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	6%

District Accountability

Overall Status 2008-2009

ELA	Good Standing
Math	Good Standing
Science	Good Standing
Graduation Rate	Good Standing

Adequate Yearly Progress

All Ethnic Groups	Yes
Students with Disabilities	
Secondary ELA	No
Secondary Math	No
ELL	
Secondary ELA	No

ELA Elem. /Middle Level AYP All Groups	Yes
Math Elem. /Middle Level AYP All Groups	Yes
Prospective Status 2010 -2011	Good Standing
Science Elem. /Middle Level AYP All Groups	Yes
Prospective Status 2010 – 2011	Good Standing
Secondary Level ELA AYP All Groups	No
Students with Disabilities	No
ELL	No
Secondary Level Math AYP All Groups	No
Students with Disabilities	No
Graduation Rate AYP All Groups	No
Students with Disabilities	No

Overview of District Performance

	ELA	Math
Gr. 3	92%	99%
Gr. 4	93%	98%
Gr. 5	94%	98%
Gr. 6	92%	95%
Gr. 7	93%	96%
Gr. 8	85%	95%
	Science	
Gr. 4	96%	
Gr. 8	74%	

Overview Secondary Level High School Performance

English 83%
Math 85%

ELA Grade 6 – Great Improvement in Level 4’s

Science Grade 8 – Slight Decline in Female Performance Level 4 (-7%)

Social Studies – Decline from Elementary (Gr. 5) 96% to Middle School (Gr. 8) 77% meeting standards (Level 3 & 4)

Progress Report 2008-2009

District 26 Elementary/Middle Schools

A - 25 Schools

B - 1 School

Anita asked the attendees to remind all parents to complete their surveys because that affects the school’s progress report. The teacher data has gone out and every teacher can access their own data which shows how well they did according to their students’ performance.

Rob asked that this report be put on the CDEC 26 website. Rob congratulated Ricky Chan again and stated that the next meeting is April 13th the Ballroom Dancers at MS 74.

Dina made a motion to adjourn and council voted unanimously,

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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