

CDEC District 26

Minutes

September 21, 2015

Calendar Meeting

Present: Alan Ong (President), Wendy Pelle Beer (First Vice President), Roy Menendez (Second Vice President), Leslie Rubenstein (Recording Secretary), Michelle Liu (Treasurer) Evelyn Schechter, Bobby Thind, Shajid Ali Mohammed, David Wong, Shengchao Yu

Absent: Dilip Nath (excused)

Also Present: Danielle Giunta, Superintendent District 26, Lori Butera, District Family Advocate

Called to order at: 7:07

In her report, Superintendent Giunta

- Introduced new principals: Mr. Joseph Ferrara, PS 41; Ms. Lena Kim, PS 98; Ms. Pamela Lee, PS 162; Ms. Deborah Florio, PS203 and Ms. Megan McCauley, PS213.

Bryan McGinn, SCA Representative explained the Reso "A" process

- Reso "A" is part of city budget process
- Individual grants to individual schools come from members of the City Council
- They are used for capital improvements (educational enhancements like science labs; recreational improvements, athletic fields, bathroom upgrades, etc.); must provide an enhancement to the facility;
 - Grants must be at least \$35,000
 - Equipment must have a lifespan of 5 years
 - Technology grants must be used to purchase specific equipment
- The following are not eligible for "Reso A Funds": window air conditioning units; library books, loose furniture, photocopiers, software, toner cartridges and other technology based supplies; staffing and after school programs.
- Reso A projects are managed by: SCA (large projects); DOE, DILT (technology); Division of School Facilities (smaller projects); Trust for Public Land (playgrounds)
- Timeframe:
 - Jan-March - elected officials contact schools to identify potential projects
 - May-June - city budget negotiations and approvals
 - July 1st - City budget year starts
 - July - September - New fiscal year program created after review
 - October - SCA reviews final budget authorization from OMB
 - November/December - SCA begins project scope and design process and schools are contacted by their project team
- Project timeline: scope, design, bid and award, phasing schedule, construction can take anywhere from 6 months to 2 years.

- If Reso A funds fall short of the project budget, it could take several years to amass the funds necessary. SCA will facilitate discussion between Council members and the schools to resolve funding issues -reduce the scope or get more money from the elected officials
- Co-Located schools: shared space projects in these schools require approval from all principals involved.
- 5 year capital plan submitted each year by SCA is funded by SCAs own budget and prioritized according to the following:
 - Capacity
 - Capital Improvements to Facilities: Building condition assessment survey (architects and engineers visit every building every year to assess and rate the major systems of each building); SCA uses this assessment to prioritize projects;
 - DSF Referral: Division of School Facilities can also refer projects to SCA on behalf of maintenance crews in a particular school.
 - CEC refers 5 projects and City council members can submit 5 projects. Mr. McGinn recommends that the CEC and council members submit the same list. Out of the five, SCA may complete one of them.
- In answer to several questions, Mr. McGinn explained that window air conditioners are NOT factored into electrical capacity; that the 5 year capital plan is available on the SCA website and that amendments to the current plan have just been released.

Superintendent Giunta introduced Larry Pendergast, Director Queens North Field Support Center and his team. Mr. Pendergast, a prior Network Leader, presented the following:

- Queens North includes more than 163,000 students and 167 schools; over 30,000 ELLs and over 22,000 IEPs and that specific offices in Queens North address the needs of all the groups;
- Located at Queens Plaza North; 81 people
- Provide:
 - Professional Development
 - Attendance Management
 - Climate and Culture Management
 - Support to Principals and Assistant Principals (ex. Transportation, Payroll, etc.)

Michelle asked if parents can reach out directly to the Field Support Center and Mr. Pendergast and Ms. Giunta explained that parents should go through the school leadership and superintendent's office first. The Superintendent's office can then monitor for patterns and/or problems that need to be addressed.

Superintendent Giunta closed with the following:

- thanking school leaders and the community for a great start to the 2015/16 school year;
- highlighting an article in the Bayside Times that featured a very positive report on District 26 data;

- All schools in the district are outfitted with door alarms; school leaders have worked with safety teams to develop protocols to inform the school community about the doors and to develop responses to any of the door alarms going off; the custodial staff has been charged with the upkeep of the alarms (replacement of batteries, etc.)
- Class size caps are contractual; when those caps are reached, the school will admit a child but then inform the Office of Enrollment to find a school as close as possible with an available seat. The process is based purely on numbers. Should a seat become available, parents have a right to come back to the school or stay in the new school. Parent coordinators would inform parents of any change in status. Grades 1-6 are capped at 32; grades 7 and 8 are capped at 33; pre-K is capped at 18.
- District Leadership Team reviewed school data and is writing the District CEP to reconcile what happened with school data and NYSED requirement for New York City schools.

Lori Butera announced an upcoming SLT training session as well as upcoming workshops on special education, parent support and Ping Pong instruction and games for parents and their kids.

Public Comments:

- Mary Vaccaro announced a UFT “celebration bus” to highlight the successes of District 26 and all of Queens;
- Jim Gallagher announced an Anti-Bullying seminar at St. John’s University on Thursday, October 22nd; he also explained that a resolution before CB#8 to expand the responsibilities for school safety officers was rejected.

David motioned to adjourn the meeting. Leslie seconded the motion.

Adjourned at: 8:44

Business Meeting

Present: Alan Ong (President), Wendy Pelle Beer (First Vice President), Roy Menendez (Second Vice President), Leslie Rubenstein (Recording Secretary), Michelle Liu (Treasurer) Evelyn Schechter, Bobby Thind, Shajid Ali Mohammed, David Wong, Shengchao Yu

Absent: Dilip Nath (excused)

Also Present: Danielle Giunta, Superintendent District 26, Lori Butera, District Family Advocate

Called to order at 8:45

Shajid made a motion to approve the August minutes. David seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Alan provided the following president’s report:

- New captain at 107th Precinct has blocked one side of a two-way street to provide safer access to students at P.S. 173; police will continue to spot-check the safety situation.
- May date for CEC meeting will need to be rescheduled.
- Review of material provided to committee members in the folder:
 - Business cards
 - School list
 - Expense Report
 - Council member names
 - By-Laws
 - Roles and Responsibilities of a council member
 - Robert's Rule of Order
 - Resolution Guide
 - Absence policy - Alan reviewed the absence policy in the By-Laws by reading it aloud.

By Law Committee:

David - nothing to report from the By-Laws Committee;

Rezoning Committee

Superintendent Giunta will reach out to DOE to find out about meeting with the Rezoning Committee.

School Liaison Committee

Letter to all principals was sent out to introduce the CDEC; the committee asked to review the form to guide school visits again; Michelle made a motion to approve the final version of the form by e-mail. Wendy seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Hiring Committee

Roy reported that fifteen resumes were reviewed according to scoring criteria developed by the committee; 5 candidates were selected and those candidates will be scheduled for interviews with the committee but dates have not yet been selected.

Old Business:

- Alan provided an article regarding Slow-Zone and asked the committee whether or not it wants to advocate for slow-zones at individual schools. The committee decided to table the issue until hearing more details from Alan. Mary Vaccaro suggested that precinct leaders can be invited to address the CDEC regarding the need in various parts of the district.
- Website: Shajid reported that after a review of the website, he can take up the responsibility of maintaining the website. Michelle made a motion for Shajid to maintain the website. Evelyn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business

- Michelle requested that the CDEC pursue scheduling meetings with the Presidents' Council four times a year. Alan agreed to send the CDEC meeting dates to the President of the Presidents' Council and begin the process of selecting dates.
- Alan asked if any committee members had suggestions regarding guest speakers to present at future meetings, Michelle suggested ELL and IEP related topics as well as EQ vs. IQ; Leslie suggested speakers on professional development programs for teachers in the district; David and Shajid also asked for a presentation on technology.
- David mentioned that his child's school is trying to be eliminated as a polling place. Danielle explained that the Board of Elections trumps the BOE. Wendy explained that the Board of Elections has regulations regarding safety and security of schools when they are used as polling places.
- Shajid made a motion to approve \$250 for a parent program. Michelle seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Michelle made a motion to adjourn. Bobby seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50.