

**Community District Education Council - District 26**

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**MINUTES FROM ANNUAL/BUSINESS/CALENDAR/PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**Date:** Wednesday, August 8, 2012

**Time:** Annual Meeting – 7 p.m.; Business & Calendar to follow

**Location:** MS 74 – 61-15 Oceania Street, Bayside, NY, Room - 121

The Annual, Business & Calendar meetings were called to order by Jeannette Segal (prior President).

**ANNUAL/BUSINESS/CALENDAR MEETING**

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Susan Shiroma, Ricky Chan, Daniel O’Gallagher, Jeannette Segal & Lucy Vieco

Lori Butera, District Family Advocate & Anita Saunders, Community Superintendent were also present. Pankaj Kapur (excused), Michelle Fields (excused)

Discussions:

**2012 Tentative Meeting dates:**

September 27

October 25- Sweet and Greet Meeting conflicts with HS PT Conf.

November 29

December 20

January 24

February TBA

March 21

April 25

May TBA because of dance

June 13

July TBA

August TBA

These are the discussion notes. Since we did not have a quorum and we could not hold an official meeting, I did not turn on the tape recorder. I hope that was correct.

Comments from the board concerned the CDEC26 website which needs to be updated removing Tan’s name, the Citywide council info and posting new meeting dates and locations.

Quorum not met therefore September meeting will have the vote for officers. October 25 Sweet and Greet Meeting date has a potential conflict with the high school parent teacher conferences held the same day. We will reevaluate at the September meeting. We will wait for Mary to let board know if the restaurant was contacted. Additionally, Mary can help with the meeting but cannot chair it.

**Superintendent's Report**  
**CDEC Meeting**  
**MS 74**  
**August 8, 2012**  
**7:00 P.M.**

- Welcome
- Summer School
  - ELA & Math Tests; completed scores to arrive tomorrow
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Borough wide Graduation Ceremony – September 4, 2012, Hillcrest High School, 4:00 PM (A special ceremony for those students who were given a failure score in June, but actually passed when final scores released in July; and summer school students who passed and met graduation requirements)
- New Promotion Regulation (Handout)  
Revised A501 – Overage and previously retained provision that was utilized for grade 8 students now also applies to students in grade 3-7 and for August 2012 promotion decisions.
- Parent Teacher Conference Dates – (Handout)
- Citywide Instructional Expectations -2012-2013 (Handout) See P.5
  - Deepen and broaden work in Math & ELA, Social Studies, and Science
  - Pre-K – 5, 2 units in Math, 2 units in ELA, 2 units in Social Studies, 2 units in Science
  - 6 – 12, 8 Common Core aligned units: 2 in Math, 2 in ELA, 2 in Social Studies, 2 in Science
  - Changes in NYS tests
  - Quality Review process aligned to Instructional Expectations
- Meet & Greet PTA Presidents Council  
Tuesday, August 7, 2012 – Lori Butera, DFA – Presenter
- Hawthorne Summer Program – Ending  
August 9, 2012

Quote:

*“I am a great believer in luck and the harder I work, the more I have of it.”*

Thomas Jefferson, 3<sup>rd</sup> President USA

Anita stated that on Aug. 1 the Chancellor visited PS46, Mrs. Goldberg's building. Every teacher had a master schedule with every child's reading needs outlined. Teachers had groups setup so students would get specific, differentiated instruction in ELA and Math. Teachers were well organized and well planned. The teachers providing instruction were experienced teachers. Chancellor was shown charts of how teachers setup their groups with specific skills targeting specific students. Because there are small groups, students make great progress.

Jeanette asked how teachers are chosen for the summer school assignment?

Ms. Saunders replied: Summer school teachers apply for a 16 summer school day assignment and are approved based on seniority. Cindy Kaplan was new last year yet this year in her summer school program students were in their seats working 6 minutes after the commencement of the day.

Jeannette asked how students do in summer school?

Ms. Saunders replied: By the end of today the scores are received of the city ELA and Math test they take. Tomorrow retention decisions are made. Elementary test were hard, middle school fair and high school also fair. 8<sup>th</sup> graders who didn't do work were not allowed to graduate if their schoolwork was

missing. This accounted for 11 students completing work during the summer program. Mrs. Saunders felt that the increase focus, skill grouping and small groups differentiated instruction contributed to the students' success.

Chancellor also visited Title 3 and Special Ed students in the building. He said he would like to return. Jeanette would want the teachers who have success to share their methods.

Ms. Saunders shared that everyone in the city summer school programs must take the same city test in reading, writing and math or a portfolio test. If the student does not do well, the principal will make a case to promote the student based on the portfolio and student work instead, even if they don't pass the city test. In the summer, a low level 2 passes the student but during the school year that same student must achieve a high 2.

If 8<sup>th</sup> graders failed or didn't complete projects they were not allowed to go to graduation. In June, we get the preliminary results of the short answers and parents are advised if the student passed or failed. When the essays are marked, the students are given their final scores. In the middle of July, the students are notified of their final scores and parents are advised of any promotion concerns.

Each borough will have a graduation ceremony for those who didn't go to graduation but now have been deemed as passing. For Queens it will be Sept 4 at Hillcrest High School. Someone from the school will be there to give them their diploma.

The Panel for Ed met in mid July and passed a new reg. The current regulation allowed previous 8<sup>th</sup> graders who were over age and failed 2x must be passed and may not be retained.

New overage previous retention provision only used in grade 8 now used in grades 3-7 and in August promotion.

If students were previously retained in current or prior 2 grades or 2 or more years, principals may evaluate students based on multiple methods of evaluation for grades 3-7.

Citywide instructional expectations for 2012-2013 will be getting more difficult in ELA and Math. This will also carry over to include Social Studies and Science. There will be greater concentration on nonfiction. Students must write opinion and argumentative pieces. Everything must be backed up with references to text.

In Pre-k to grade 5, student will have be 2 Common Core Standard aligned units in math, ELA, social studies and science. In grades 6-8 it will be the same number of units.

This year's quality review will be aligned to instructional expectations.

In Math, students will require fluency, application and conceptual understanding. Fluency means students must know addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts automatically. Ms. Saunders has gone into a 6<sup>th</sup> grade class and asked multiplication and division questions asking students to respond automatically. Questions on the test will be much more life oriented. For example shopping for clothes and applying discounts. Every problem is a minimal of 2 steps. Parents must understand that students must be able to explain and show the work.

In ELA students are required to ground there reading and writing with evidence from the text. 50% must be nonfiction and 50% narrative.

The span from high school to college level reading currently is a 4-year reading difference.

Students must learn how to orate and speak publically. In Math they have eliminated certain topics in certain grades. In other countries, they have fewer topics to learn but learn them more deeply. Students will need to model and show math problems and critique others' work.

Students and teachers must learn how to be more interactive and take personal initiative. Ms. Saunders visited a classroom where students had been trained to critique others work. It's a learning experience for teachers that they must train their students to do. Smart boards are a great resource for teachers.

Ms. Saunders shared the top elementary schools website listing of state test with PS 188 as #4 and other Queens schools listed. In Math and ELA, our district is very well represented. The middle school state test results as compared to all NYC schools were also shared. The report from School digger, gives grades 3 and 4 highest performing schools. Our district schools were again well represented.

Anita also shared the parent teacher conference dates. Lori's meet and greet had 40 different parents there. It was an opportunity for PTA presidents to meet each other.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the schools were represented. Presidents' council prepared a resource calendar for everyone. They were invited to the CDEC meetings. Lori's workshops were well attended. Race to Nowhere and Building resilience in children in teens were 2 topics presented and were all very well attended. Lori also purchased the book and will redo the workshop for dads. Lori is targeting dad specifically so that they will attend and build camaraderie and share with other dads. Lori is looking at other ideas for next year. The Hawthorne summer program has 550 children each day. Many children are provided academic and cultural arts. Ms. Saunders shared that one group had children playing guitar, another had a dance show, another a drama show and Lori has helped and is extremely dedicated to the community. There were High School interns who helped as well. They were carefully chosen and were extremely conscientious. Ms. Saunders explained how to be very careful with the students regarding touching, dismissal and bathroom breaks. HS students are taken from all the high schools. They are chosen after providing 2 letters of recommendations. The certificate of community service is then given to them. We cannot pay them but small rewards are given to them such as a jump drive.

We would like to write up an article for the Bayside Times to promote the successful use of volunteers by our district. Volunteers are a no cost option, which promotes community and should be valued and shared with the public.

Lucy will request pictures and notes from Lori and contact Bayside Times to put an article in the paper.

Lucy asked if Ms. Saunders had any knowledge of the restoration of the funding for PS 188's OST afterschool program since it was the only school whose funding was not restored in our district. Ms. Saunders stated that she was not aware.

Susan asked if the new full day mandated kindergarten policy taking effect this September would have issues being filled. Ms. Saunders disagreed and commented that 99% of families send their children to kindergarten in this district.

Lucy Vieco took minutes.