

COMMUNITY BOARD 11 QUEENS

Minutes of the CB 11 Education Committee Meeting January 20, 2010

A meeting of the Education Committee was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at the CB 11 office. In attendance were: Laura James, Chair, Roy Giusetti, Henry Euler, Ed Braunstein, Dennis Novick, 2nd Vice Chair and District Manager, Susan Seinfeld.

The Committee discussed the following:

Teachers/funds to grade state exams

Schools will be required to provide teachers to grade state exams in the spring. Each school (mostly lower schools) will be assessed a certain number of teachers, and can either free those teachers to grade tests or pay \$3,000 per teacher not released for these duties. Even if the teacher grades tests, the school will still have to fill in behind them, so costs are incurred either way. Dave Solano wrote to the Committee about a petition he wants to circulate to the schools against this. Action items:

- Susan Seinfeld to speak with Mark Weprin
- Laura James to follow up with Dave Solano about progress on the petition and the potential for involvement of the PTA Council
- Laura James to speak with Rob Caloras about CEDC involvement
- Send a letter to elected officials

MTA Student Pass

This issue is currently in flux and there is the possibility that all or part of the funding will be reinstated. The Committee decided to monitor the situation and take action at a future date if necessary.

Charter Schools

The State Senate, on January 19th, did not raise the cap on charter school funding and this will impact on the amount of federal money that the State will receive.

Closing of Jamaica High School

The Committee discussed the proposed closing of Jamaica High School and the impact on students. The Panel for Education Policy has since voted to close the school and develop four separate schools.

Parental Involvement in the Education Committee

As no parents have come forward following an appeal for members at November's Board meeting, the Committee discussed ways to cultivate parent involvement. It was suggested that we (1) involve the PTA Council by putting the PTA presidents on our mailing list and (2) ask the Council to send a member to Education Committee meetings. Action items:

- Susan Seinfeld to obtain the name of the head of the Parents Council from District 26 liaison, Lori Butera.

Testing / “Teaching for the Test”

The committee discussed the possibility of working with the Teachers Union on this issue.

School Zoning – PS 130

Auburndale Civic is currently heavily involved in rezoning. We will revisit this item after their public hearing in May.

Gifted and Talented Programs

Further discussion on this item postponed to a later date.

In addition to the above specific items, the Committee also discussed how and in which areas the group could be most effective. As Mark Weprin has been vocal about education matters, it was decided that Susan Seinfeld and Laura James would meet with him with the aim of narrowing our area of immediate focus to a few items.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura James
Chair