

Minutes for 7/9/2009

Next CWG Education Meeting:

Wednesday, September 23rd

10-11:30am

PS 2 / 122 Henry Street

Principal Gustafson will be hosting

(Due to scheduling conflicts, there will be no August meeting)

Please pass on this information and invite representatives from Parents Associations and other organizations to the next meeting

For more information on the Chinatown Working Group, please see the website: <http://www.chinatownworkinggroup.org/>

Attendance

J Bailey / Site Director, YMCA

J Chang / Board Member, CYI

E Espiritu / Board Member, CYI

D Glass / Co-chair, M'Finda Kalunga garden, parent PS 130 and 126

B Gustafson / Principal, PS 2

A Hom / Principal, PS 124

A Hom / Principal, PS 1

R O'Day / Principal, PS 42

P Tam / Principal, MS 131

K Webster / Co-chair, M'Finda Kalunga garden

L Woo / Principal, PS 130

Introductions and Agenda Review

Guiding Principles

Are these goals to reach for or things we actually believe we want to accomplish?

- point made that some of the issue raised are out of our control / power because they are due to policy, etc.
- there are other external factors that influence
 - Ex. "reduce class size"
 - it was raised that we would also need to take into

consideration the projected population growth of the Chinatown population, know the city's plan around the projected population growth, etc., in order to determine what CWG's plan/approach to addressing this issue might be.

-K Webster raised the point of CWG participation was to allow more constituents to gain political power around these issues

Issue discussed concerning “for example” language

-again, many of the issues are beyond our ability / power to change (due to protocol, policy, etc.)

-recommendation to keep language broad

-point was raised that if we kept the list of issues it would inform people about the issues schools, education people, etc. are dealing with

-we are trying to help make public aware of what we believe is good for schools (what is working, not working, etc)

----- for draft of guiding principals after group editing, see below--

Discussion of Actionable Items

Examples of possible actionable items to address (discussion):

-Are Chinatown schools overcrowded?

-Chinatown schools are used to being “cozy”

-class size is around 28

-city officials looking at overall numbers of school population as opposed to classroom by classroom (type) size/population. Some program specific classrooms (gifted and talented, special ed, etc) are generally comfortably populated. General education classes tend to be over populated.

-much of overcrowded-ness is due to the fact that families stay in the Chinatown community, even under overcrowded conditions, because they want a good school for their kids.

-New School Construction (issue related to addressing

overcrowded classrooms)

-who are we building schools for?

-we need a true census of the Chinatown community to know how to best plan and advocate for the construction of new schools (i.e. many families lie about the # of family member per household. how do we account for this dynamic?)

-Proposal for advocating for widely publicized public meetings concerning new school construction decisions before they are made

----- examples of wishlists below, following draft of **Guiding Principles** -----

Closure

Thoughts expressed:

- Progress!
- Seeing one another continues to be positive and productive
- We are talking about the issues we are concerned with
- Optimistic
- Attainable

EDUCATION & SCHOOLS Working Team draft of Guiding Principles:

Guiding Principles for Education/Schools Working Team:

1) Protect, preserve, support and strengthen Chinatown's learning institutions (public schools, daycare centers, youth based organizations, senior learning centers, GED and tutoring programs, etc.) that serve the Chinatown area.

As in (but not limited to):

-Protect the buildings that house schools and centers from demolition, gentrification and overshadowing (from new construction).

-Insure adequate school space for the existing community and any future growth in the community (though not inviting overbuilding of the area).

-Insure timely input from the community and administrators of learning institutions of any proposed changes to existing schools.

-Prioritize traffic and park safety as it affects pedestrian students and seniors.

-Discontinue over-testing (it adversely impacts ESL learners).

-Reduce classroom size.

-Facilitate regular meetings among Chinatown public school principals administrators to enhance cooperation and communication, etc.).

-Encourage meaningful input from Chinatown school administrators in order to create rational school policies that take into account Chinatown's unique circumstances and needs.

2) Prioritize resources for parents to improve their capacity as parents in languages they can understand. Increase access to English language learning for parents to help level the playing field for both students and parents.

As in (but not limited to):

-Workshops on: parenting, computer use, voting, parent involvement, access to city services, etc.

3) Provide parents, schools, daycares, seniors, and youth centered organizations with tools to empower themselves in the community. Encourage partnerships and the pooling of resources between relevant community resources. Establish a central clearinghouse on After-Schools, tutoring, cultural activities and other information for parents, young people and schools.

As in (but not limited to):

There is a need for political clout and outside partnerships on issues like: housing, jobs, ELL and ESL, gentrification, evictions, and translation.

4) Create ongoing opportunities to encourage the young people of Chinatown to have their own voice in the issues of learning and education.

Education/Schools Wish List – Chinatown Public School Principals

1) Actionable Item:

Assessment –Limit or decrease ELLs- 2 years

Agency: DOE, City Agencies, NYSED, PTA, Community Boards/Formal CEC

2) Actionable Item:

Enrollment/Programs with Schools

Agency: DOE Internal, OSEPO, SCE, OSYD, School Administration that is affected

Review Assignments based on special consideration:

Bilingual

SE-CTT; 12:1

Gifted & Talented

Title I/EGCSR funding and restrictions

Education/Schools Wish List – Chinatown Public School Principals

- 1) Increase capacity for school leaders, families and community members to have input / decision making power related to the functioning of their schools

-Agencies: DOE/BOE, CB 1, 2, 3

- 2) Provide a central clearinghouse on after-school programs, tutoring, cultural activities and other information for parents, young people and schools.

-Agencies: see list compiled from AFFNY list