Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa
Education Committee

July 28, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes

Westchester Municipal Community Building, 7166 W. Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045

www.ncwpdr.org

Education Committee Members
Michele Cooley Strickland, M.Ed, Ph.D. – Chair
Andrew Kamm
John-David Webster
Grace Yao
TBN – Currently seeking new NCWP Board and Community Members

Members Present: Michele Cooley Strickland, Andrew Kamm, John-David Webster, and Grace Yao

1. Call to Order and Introductions – Dr. Michele Cooley Strickland, Chair
   a. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Cooley Strickland at 1pm. A quorum was achieved as all four of the NCWP Education Committee (“Committee”) members were present.
   b. The Committee thanked Pastor John David Webster (NCWP Religious Director) for his leadership and service on the NCWP Education Committee for the past 12 years, with the past 4 years as Chair.
   c. The Committee thanked Mr. Andy Kamm (NCWP Education Director) for his extensive years of contiguous service on the NCWP Education Committee.
   d. The Committee welcomed Mrs. Grace Yao (NCWP LMU Director) as a new member of the NCWP Education Committee.
   e. Dr. Michele Cooley Strickland (NCWP Residential District 1 Director) introduced herself as a new member and Chair of the NCWP Education Committee.

2. Public Comment
   a. There were three NCWP residents who attended the meeting and were welcomed.

3. New Business
   a. During the introductions by both the Committee members and the NCWP stakeholders, enthusiasm was expressed for specifically targeting efforts in support of Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets High School (WESMHS), in addition to the other local schools.
   b. As a longstanding member of the local community since the 1950’s and the only public high school in Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista, the Education Committee voted (4-0) to establish a standing agenda item toward issues related to Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets High School.
      i. Action Item: Dr. Cooley Strickland will send a letter of introduction and welcome from the NCWP Education Committee to the new WESMHS principal, Debra Bryant.
      ii. Action Item: Explore developing a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) list to post on the Education Committee website and/or through collaborating with the LMU Family of Schools.
4. **Action Item One**: Following Committee discussion and public comment, a **New Mission** for the NCWP Education Committee was established *(Vote: 4-0)*:
   To represent the NCWP stakeholders in helping support and enhance:
   1) elementary, middle, and high schools located in Westchester, Playa del Rey and Playa Vista; and
   2) the relationship with local Westchester/Playa colleges and universities.

5. **Action Item Two**: Following Committee discussion and public comment, a **New Goal** for the NCWP Education Committee was established *(Vote: 4-0)*:
   To engage the community in support of advancing the success of the local elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as that of the local colleges and universities.

6. **Action Item Three**: Following Committee discussion and public comment, **Tangible Targets** for the NCWP Education Committee were established *(Vote: 4-0)*
   Represent the NCWP stakeholders in helping support local schools by:
   i. Enhancing school resources;
   ii. Enhancing students’ educational experiences;
   iii. Enhancing parental involvement; and/or
   iv. Enhancing community partnerships.

   An abbreviated **summary** of the Committee’s mission, goals, and targets is:
   *To engage the Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista community in support of advancing the success of the local elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as that of the local colleges and universities, manifested by enhancing: i) School resources; ii) students’ educational experiences; iii) parental involvement; and/or iv) community partnerships.*

7. **Action Item Four**: Following Committee discussion and public comment, **Specific Education Committee Activities** were established.
   a. Several **local education meetings** were identified as relevant to the Mission of the Education Committee. It was established that:
      i. Dr. Cooley Strickland will communicate with several local relevant education organizations (e.g., LAX Chamber of Commerce, LMU Family of Schools, Westchester/Playa Education Foundation, local Neighborhood Council Education Committees) on behalf of the NCWP Education Committee to (re-) introduce ourselves and express interest in shared attendance and potentially collaborating on matters that address the Education Committee’s tangible targets (see item 6 above).
      ii. Dr. Cooley Strickland will communicate with several local primary and secondary school principals and parent-teacher organizations on behalf of the NCWP Education Committee to (re-) introduce ourselves and express interest in supporting the schools and potentially collaborating on matters that address the Education Committee’s tangible targets (see item 6 above).
      Invitations will be extended for principals to attend and/or make presentations to either the NCWP Education Committee or, if approved by the NCWP Board, directly to the NCWP Board.
b. Mrs. Grace Yao presented the opportunity for the NCWP to partner with the 2015 Race for Success - [http://raceforsuccess5k.wordpress.com/](http://raceforsuccess5k.wordpress.com/) to increase the available resources for our local schools.

   i. Mrs. Yao proposed that the NCWP sponsor the 2015 Race for Success (held April 25, 2015 on the LMU campus) through efforts involving the:

   1) NCWP Education Committee (the Education Committee voted 4-0 to support a partnership/sponsorship with Race for Success and will work toward its success. The goal is to directly benefit the available resources for our local participating schools and enhance community partnerships (i.e., Education Committee targets 1 and 4; see item 6 above); and

   2) NCWP Community Services Committee (Chair: Garrett Smith)

c. Dr. Cooley Strickland introduced the idea of sponsoring a half-day NCWP Westchester/Playa Education Summit for Primary and Secondary Students (WPES).

   i. The NCWP Education Summit would potentially:

   1) serve Westchester, Playa del Rey, and Playa Vista families;

   2) develop practical knowledge and academic skills for local elementary, middle, and high school students and parents through presentations and workshops hosted by educators, specialists, researchers, and employers; and

   3) enhance school/community partnerships, students’ educational experiences, and increase parental involvement.

   ii. The idea of exploring a potential NCWP Education Summit was supported by the Committee (Vote: 4-0).

   1) **Action:** The feasibility of hosting and/or co-hosting (through local relevant groups, including the LAX Chamber who used to host a Youth Summit) a NCWP Education Summit will be explored with an update presented by Dr. Cooley Strickland at the August Education Committee meeting.

d. Creating **social media links** for the NCWP Education Committee (e.g., Facebook, Twitter) was not discussed due to time constraints and will be placed on the August meeting’s agenda.

8. **Action Item Five:** Interest in expanding the NCWP Education Committee Membership was briefly discussed. The steps to do so were presented.

9. **Next meeting** – Planned for **August 27, 2014 at 6:30pm** (Westchester Community Building); the fourth Wednesdays of each month at 6:30pm in the Westchester Community Room are the standing meeting time and location for the NCWP Education Committee

10. **Adjournment:** 2:26pm.

*The public is requested to fill out a SPEAKER CARD to address the Board on any item of the agenda prior to the Board taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Boards subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless waived by the presiding officer of the Board.

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