Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa Education Committee

Special Meeting Minutes- September 11, 2014 – 5:00pm

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

This meeting was held in lieu of the meeting that was postponed on August 27, 2014

www.ncwpdr.org

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

Members Present: Michele Cooley Strickland, Andrew Kamm, Denny Schneider, 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 5:02pm. All five of the NCWP Education Committee ("Committee") members were present.
   b. The Committee welcomed its newest member: Denny Schneider, NCWP Residential District 12 Director (who also serves as

2. The Minutes from the July 28, 2014 Committee Special Meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Introductions and Announcements from Local Education Group Representatives were made:
   a. **LMU Family of Schools**: Bryan Williams, Outreach Coordinator
      i. September 12, 2014 at 3pm: Family of Schools Fourth Graders’ Carnival and School Supply Drive, LMU Campus
   b. **LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce**: Gwen Vuchsas and Lory Sarlo, Education Committee
      i. September 12, 2014 at 8am (LAX Chamber Office): LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce Education Committee Meeting; *An NCWP Education Committee representative should attend this event.
      ii. September 12, 2014 at 4pm (St. Bernard High School): St. Bernard High School Admission Tour, 5:30pm Dinner/Tailgate; 7pm Viking Football Game
      iii. October 24, 2014: The WOW Group’s Fundraiser Concert
      iv. October 28, 2014 (Loyola Village): LAX Chamber and Westchester Parent Nursery School (WPNS) Expo for Toddlers and PreK Parents; *An NCWP Education Committee representative should attend this event.
      v. November 14, 2014 (Orville Wright Middle School): PTA Meeting involving 13 local schools; *An NCWP Education Committee representative should attend this event.
      vi. February 11, 2015 (Covenant Presbyterian Preschool Campus): LAX Chamber’s School Expo showcasing the local elementary, middle, and high
schools. *An NCWP Education Committee representative should attend this event.

c. **LMU: Grace Yao, Community Relations**

i. October 14, 2014 at 5:30pm (LMU): LMU Community Relations and Family of Schools reception, “**Community Partnerships in Education**,“ featuring local organizations and the resources they offer to area schools. *An NCWP Education Committee representative should attend this event.*

ii. April 25, 2015: Race for Success - [http://raceforsuccess5k.wordpress.com/](http://raceforsuccess5k.wordpress.com/) *A partnership opportunity with the NCWP (Education and Community Service Committees).*

4. **Action Items**

   a. **Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets High School**

      i. **Report from Dr. Cooley-Strickland’s meeting with new Principal Debra Bryant**: Principal Bryant is enthusiastic and receptive to support from the community in enhancing the WESMHS. Discussions from today’s meeting included:

         1) Inviting Ms. Bryant come and speak to either the full NCWP Board and/or the NCWP Education Committee to further explore ways to support WESMHS and improve relationships with NCWP stakeholders.

         2) Encourage/support WESMHS to apply for LAX Coastal Chamber:

            i. Teacher Mini-Grants – Available 10/3/14; Due 11/7/14

            ii. Teacher Eddy Awards – Available 2/6/15; Due 3/6/15

         3) Connect with Miss Visentia (sp?), WESMHS College Counselor, and keep her apprised of potential college scholarships and related opportunities.

      ii. Developed a list of potential **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQ’s) to post online for NCWP stakeholders in conjunction with LMU Family of Schools. The discussion started with WESMHS, but quickly expanded beyond the high school. The **goal** would be to “demystify” the local school options for Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista residents; engage stakeholders in the local schools (e.g., local realtors in promoting the benefits of local schools, providing opportunities for stakeholders to explore how they may contribute to the local schools); and provide accurate information that may assist parents in enrolling/retaining their children in our local schools.

         1) There is a website sponsored by Tanya Anton, [http://GoMamaGuide.com/](http://GoMamaGuide.com/) that – for a cost – provides guidance in choosing elementary and middle schools on the Westside.

         2) The list of suggested of potential questions generated at the NCWP Education Committee meeting include:

            i. There are lots of choices for schools in Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista. What is a brief summary of each (by grades)?

            ii. Provide operational definitions, such as: What is a:

               1. Magnet school
Our NCWP Education Goal: 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.

2. Charter school
3. Parochial school
4. Private/independent school
5. Home school
6. STEAM vs. STEM vs. LACES
7. Common Core
8. Learning Disabilities
9. IEP
10. Permit (and how do I obtain one)

iii. Which school(s) am I eligible to send my child to? (Perhaps provide a drop down menu of local school options by grade and address)

iv. What opportunities are there for parents to get involved in their local schools? How do they get started?

v. If I do not have [school age] children, why should I care about the local schools?

vi. If I do not have children, how may I help the local schools? (e.g., donate funds/time).

vii. As a local realtor, what information should I know about the local schools?

viii. I am looking at schools for my child; what questions should I ask?

3) Next steps include: Reviewing the preliminary list of questions with the NCWP Education Committee at the next meeting; Dr. Cooley-Strickland and Mr. Williams working on further developing the questions; the FOS developing the informative webpage (with a weblink on the NCWP Education Committee webpage and perhaps accessible through the LAX Coastal Chamber).

b. Feasibility of Co-Hosting a Westchester/Playa Education Summit for High School Students was briefly discussed via report from Dr. Cooley-Strickland. Potential Partners include:

i. LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce
   1) Formerly hosted Youth Summit for middle school students
   2) Potentially planning a High School Leadership Program

ii. LMU Family of Schools
   1) Formerly Hosted LMU Annual Westchester High School College-Awareness Program

iii. Others

c. NCWP Education Committee member attendance at relevant local education meetings

i. LMU Community Open House (September 6, 2014; 11:30-1:30pm) – NCWP Booth – Also staff with NCWP Education Committee representative

ii. Otis College of Art and Design – Campus Improvement Plan Open House (September 11, 2014; 6:00-8:00pm at 9045 Lincoln Boulevard)
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iii. **LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce Special Education Meeting** (September 12, 2014; 8am)

iv. Plan to attend other local **Neighborhood Council** Education Committee meetings, such as Del Rey and Venice.

5. **Additional Actions**: Expand Education Committee Outreach to Local School Communities; Agreed on pursuing the following next steps:

   a. Follow-up with local Middle School Principals – Dr. Michele Cooley-Strickland
   b. Communicate with local Parent-Teacher Organizations regarding the re-vitalization of the NCWP Education Committee and encourage attendance at our meetings
   c. Send congratulatory letters to the local schools recognized as outstanding by the *HomeTown News* (August 2014 edition) readership

6. **Next meeting** – Planned for **September 24, 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


*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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In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website by clicking on the following link: [www.ncwpdr.org](http://www.ncwpdr.org) or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the NCWP Education Committee Chairperson, Dr. Michele Cooley Strickland at mcooley7@jhu.edu.