



Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa Education Committee

Meeting Minutes - September 24, 2014 – 6:30pm

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

www.ncwpdr.org/education

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, and Grace Yao

Members Absent: John David Webster

1. Call to Order – Dr. Michele Cooley Strickland, Chair
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Cooley-Strickland at 6:37pm. Four of the five NCWP Education Committee (“Committee”) members were present.
 - b. The Committee welcomed the guests attending today’s meeting, including Bryan Williams (LMU Family of Schools), Gwen Vuchsas (LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce), Dr. Cynthia Hoepner (St. Bernard High School), and Stefani Turner (WOW Multi-School Mom’s Group).
2. The Minutes from the September 24, 2014 Committee Special Meeting were approved unanimously.
3. Announcements were made from Local Education Group Representatives:
 - a. **Loyola Marymount University:**
 - i. **LMU Family of Schools** – Bryan Williams described the upcoming series sponsored by LMU and open to the public entitled, “2014 - 2015 Community Dialogue: *Building Educational Justice within African American Communities*,” Co-hosted by the LMU School of Education, LMU Family of Schools and the Ed.D. Program in Educational Leadership for Social Justice. For more information and to RSVP, see <http://soe.lmu.edu/admissions/programs/edd/eddnewsandevents/communitydialogue/>
 - ii. **LMU Community Relations** – Grace Yao described the upcoming October 14, LMU Community Relations and Family of Schools networking reception, “Community Partnerships in Education,” featuring representatives of local educational organizations and the resources they offer to area schools.
 - b. **LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce** – Gwen Vuchsas summarized the first 2014-2015 meeting of the LAX Coastal Chamber Education Committee held on September 12 that was very well attended by local elementary and high school principals and/or their representatives, as well as several community groups. The next meeting will be

held October 3 at 8am featuring Dr. Sharma Henderson presenting on “Tutoring.” The Mini-Grant Applications will be distributed at the October 3 meeting (due November 7). Ms. Vuchsas also announced that on February 11, 2015 at the Covenant Presbyterian Preschool Campus, the LAX Coastal Chamber will host its School Expo showcasing the local elementary, middle, and high schools. See <http://www.laxcoastal.com/>

- c. **St. Bernard High School** – Dr. Cynthia Hoepner is in her third year as principal of St. Bernard high School. She described St. Bernard High School, the co-educational student population, innovative curriculum (e.g., single-sex math and science classes; world language culture; Common Core Boot Camp), \$1.5M recent renovations, new Assistant Principal dedicated specifically to curriculum and instruction; long-term commitment to the school and plans for more than doubling the student population before 2021. Dr. Hoepner also described the inclusive and innovative admissions outreach St. Bernard’s has initiated: September 26, October 3 and 30, November 7, 2014 at 4pm (St. Bernard High School): St. Bernard High School Admission Tour, 5:30pm Dinner/Tailgate; 7pm Viking Football Game. See www.stbernardhs.org
- d. **WOW Multi-School Mom’s Group** – Stefani Turner announced an October 24, 2014 fundraising concert that will be held at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center at 6:30pm. Three local Westchester/Playa schools will benefit from the proceeds from this family-friendly concert featuring *Disney Jr’s* the “**Imagination Movers.**” Tickets are available at www.BrownPaperTickets.com.

4. Action Items:

- a. The Committee reviewed and revised the list of potential **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)** generated at the September 11, 2014 NCWP meeting.
 - i. The **goal** is 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.
 - ii. Edit the list of potential questions generated at the September 11th NCWP Education Committee meeting:
 - 1) There are lots of choices for schools in Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista. What is a brief summary of each (by grades)?
 - 2) Provide operational definitions, such as: What is a:
 - 1. Magnet school
 - 2. Charter school
 - 3. Parochial school
 - 4. Incubator School
 - 5. Private/independent school
 - 6. Home school
 - 7. STEAM vs. STEM vs. LACES
 - 8. Common Core
 - 9. Learning Disabilities

10. IEP

11. Permit (and how do I obtain one)

- 3) 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)
- 4) What opportunities are there for parents to get involved in their local schools? How do they get started?
- 5) If I do not have [school age] children, why should I care about the local schools?
- 6) If I do not have children, how may I help the local schools? (e.g., donate funds/time).
- 7) As a local realtor, what information should I know about the local schools?
- 8) I am looking at schools for my child; what questions should I ask?
- 9) What are the students' home zip codes served by each local school, particularly the percentage serving the three Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista residential zones.

iii. The **next FAQ steps** include LMU Family of Schools developing a draft of the responses to ten of the questions, which Bryan Williams will forward to Michele Cooley-Strickland for perusal and editing. A final draft will be presented at the October 22 Committee meeting, with the goal of developing an informative webpage that will be co-posted on the LMU FOS webpage and the NCWP Education Committee webpage (with a potential weblink accessible through the LAX Coastal Chamber).

b. Discussed the feasibility of Co-Hosting a **2015 Westchester/Playa Youth Summit: The BASES (Business, Arts, Sciences, Education, Sports) of Careers for High School Students** – Report from Dr. Cooley-Strickland and discussed by all in attendance at the Committee meeting.

i. **Objective:** To inspire and accelerate the career goals and career pathway planning of high school students residing in and/or attending high schools in Westchester, Playa del Rey, or Playa Vista.

ii. The Summit objectives would be accomplished by focusing on the following five **disciplines:** Business, Arts, Sciences, Education, Sports (i.e., BASES).

iii. Speakers representing various careers in each discipline would be invited to address the following **six questions:**

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|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) WHO are you? | 3) WHEN did you decide to do this? | 5) WHY did you choose this career? |
| 2) WHAT do you do? | 4) WHERE do you work? | 6) HOW do I follow your career path? |

iv. **Potential Partners:**

- 1) LMU Family of Schools
- 2) LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce
- 3) Westchester/Playa Education Foundation
- 4) Others

v. **Conclusion:** Although identified as a worthwhile cause, the resources needed for a full Career Summit exceed those available at this time to the NCWP Education Committee. It was agreed that a project smaller in scope would be

more ideal, at least in the short term. The Committee will keep the objective in mind and strive to find other ways to achieve it.

- c. NCWP Education Committee members attended **recent local education meetings** and provided brief reports, including:
- i. Otis College of Art and Design – Campus Improvement Plan Open House (September 11, 2014; 6:00-8:00pm at 9045 Lincoln Boulevard) – attended by Dr. Cooley-Strickland
 - ii. LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce Education Meeting (September 12, 2014; 8am; LAX Chamber) – presentations made by Grace Yao and Michele Cooley-Strickland (feedback received)
 - iii. 2014 Neighborhood Council Congress (September 20, 2014; 8:30am; Los Angeles City Hall) – attended by Dr. Cooley-Strickland
- d. The Committee decided to **share with NCWP Stakeholders** relevant local education meetings through our NCWP Education Committee webpage (www.ncwp.org/education) and/or as part of the NCWP Outreach Committee through the *HomeTown News*, including:
- i. Local Neighborhood Council Education Committee meetings, such as Del Rey and Venice.
 - 1) October 1, 2014 at 7pm (Del Rey Square): **Del Rey Neighborhood Council Education Committee** Meeting (Co-chairs: Wes Farrow, Mariana Aguilar); Committee meetings are open to the public and they are currently looking for stakeholders in the community to serve on the committee. Email Wesley.Farrow@delreync.org. See more at: <http://www.delreync.org/education#sthash.aSGqA7zu.dpuf>
 - 2) October 14 at (Coeur d’Alene Elementary School): **Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Education Committee**. Mission: General responsibility for addressing issues, concerns, programs and services related to education of children, youth, and adults and developing specific strategies and policies for influencing and achieving constructive outcomes within schools, classrooms, and other education/ learning centers that serve the Venice Community. <http://www.venicenc.org/committees/education-committee/>
 - ii. September 26, October 3 and 30, November 7, 2014 at 4pm (St. Bernard High School): St. Bernard High School Admission Tour, 5:30pm Dinner/Tailgate; 7pm Viking Football Game; See www.stbernardhs.org
 - iii. October 3, 2014 at 8am (LAX Coastal Chamber): LAX Coastal Chamber Education Committee Meeting – Dr. Sharma Henderson will present on “Tutoring;” and the LAX Coastal Chamber Mini-Grant Applications will be distributed (due November 7, 2014). Subsequent meeting dates are: November 7, December 5, January 14, February 6, March 6, April 17, May 8, and May 12. See <http://www.laxcoastal.com/>
 - iv. October 4, 2014 from 9:30am-4:30pm (Otis College of Art and Design): Professional Development for Educators: The Arts in Education Series – “Social

- Media for Educators and Educational Success” (free for teachers; cost for others); <http://www.otis.edu/ce>
- v. October 8, 2014 (LAUSD Schools): Second Citywide Walk to School Day L.A. – <http://www.WalktoSchoolDay-LA.org/register/>
 - vi. October 8, November 5, 2014, February 10, 25, March 25, 2015 (LMU): Educational series sponsored by LMU and open to the public entitled, “2014 - 2015 Community Dialogue: Building Educational Justice within African American Communities,” Co-hosted by the LMU School of Education, LMU Family of Schools and the Ed.D. Program in Educational Leadership for Social Justice. See <http://soe.lmu.edu/admissions/programs/edd/eddnewsandevents/communitydialogue/>
 - vii. 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.
 - viii. October 24, 2014 fundraising concert that will be held at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center at 6:30pm. Three local Westchester/Playa schools will benefit from the proceeds from this family-friendly concert featuring *Disney Jr’s* the “**Imagination Movers**.” Tickets are available at www.BrownPaperTickets.com.
 - ix. October 28, 2014 (Loyola Village): LAX Coastal Chamber and Westchester Parent Nursery School (WPNS) Expo for Toddlers and PreK Parents
 - x. November 14, 2014 (Orville Wright Middle School): PTA Meeting involving 13 local schools
 - xi. February 11, 2015 (Covenant Presbyterian Preschool Campus): LAX Coastal Chamber’s School Expo showcasing the local elementary, middle, and high schools.
 - xii. April 25, 2015: Race for Success - <http://raceforsuccess5k.wordpress.com/> *A partnership with the NCWP (Education and Community Service Committees).
- e. **Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets High School** - Standing Agenda Item
Principal Debra Bryant had a conflict and sent her regrets, but will attend the October 22, 2014 NCWP Education Committee meeting.
- f. **Expand Education Committee Outreach to Local School Communities**
- i. The Committee decided to send congratulatory letters to the local schools recognized as outstanding by the *HomeTown News* (August 2014 edition) readership (both “best” and “favorite” categories);
 - ii. The Committee decided to invite local school principals to upcoming Education Committee meetings, beginning with the WESMHS (see “d” above) and the schools recognized as outstanding by the *HomeTown News* (see “i” above).
- g. Discussed **New NCWP Education Committee Membership** – NCWP Committee appointments are made by the Board President, Cyndi Hench; Dr. Cooley-Strickland will speak with Ms. Hench about potential nominees.

5. Next meeting – Scheduled for **October 22, 2014 at 6:30pm** (Westchester Municipal Building Community Room).

6. Adjourned: 7:39pm.

*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.ncwldr.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.