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/communitydialouge/
      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
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2. 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.

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
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**:

   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](http://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](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/](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](http://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/](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
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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.


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.


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.
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