

Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa Education Committee



Special Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2015

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

*This Special Meeting is being held instead of the regularly scheduled January 28, 2015 meeting**

www.ncwpdr.org/education

Education Committee Members

Michele Cooley Strickland, M.Ed., Ph.D. – Chair

Andrew Kamm

Denny Schneider

Matthew Teclé

John-David Webster

Bryan Williams

Grace Yao

Members Present: Michele Cooley-Strickland, Denny Schneider, Matthew Teclé, John David Webster, Bryan Williams, and Grace Yao

Members Absent: Andrew Kamm

1. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Michele Cooley Strickland, Chair, at 6:36pm.
 - a. Six of the seven NCWP Education Committee (“Committee”) members were present.
 - b. The Committee welcomed the guests attending today’s meeting, including: D. Aish (former teacher); C. Johnson (WESMHS parent); J. Landon (Westchester Secondary Charter School, Principal/Founder); and A. Wexler (Westchester Parent Education Foundation and WSCS)
2. Approval of the Minutes from November 13, 2014 Committee Meeting was deferred because of printing problems.
3. The two newest NCWP Education Committee Members were officially welcomed:
 - a. Matthew Teclé – Otis College of Art and Design
 - b. Bryan Williams – LMU Family of Schools
4. Announcements were made from Local Education Group Representatives:
 - a. **LMU Family of Schools** – Bryan Williams described:
 - i. January 25th Concert for Children at LMU (1 & 3pm); no tickets or reservations required
 - ii. February 15th: Family of Schools Art Exhibit and Awards Program
 - b. **LMU Community Relations** – Grace Yao announced that her office had limited access to supplies that schools may benefit from. If there were interest, schools may submit a wish list of supply needs to her at LMU.
 - c. **Otis College of Art and Design** – Matthew Teclé described:
 - i. March 18th: Annual Report on Creative Economy (with LA Economic Development Corporation) at LA Live. Theme: The Talent Pipeline: PreK to College.
 - ii. April 11th: Otis College of Art and Design’s Fourth Annual “Gallery in the Skies” free day of kite-building and flying. <http://www.otis.edu/calendar/4th-annual-kite-festival>
5. New Business

1 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.

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- a. NCWP Education Committee and LMU Family of Schools **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** – Bryan Williams reported on progress on the FAQ. Since the LMU FOS office and the NCWP Education Committee had completed their edits, the FAQ was being reviewed within the LMU School of Education and was expected to be approved for release in the very near future.
- b. The majority of the meeting was focused on **establishing Education Committee Goals for 2015** that enhance education community connections and support local schools. Several ideas were discussed, including those that involved:
 - 1) **Continuing to invite local Westchester/Playa principals** to present informally at the NCWP Education Committee meetings, as well as
 - 2) **Visiting/touring local schools.**

A **report** was given by Michele Cooley-Strickland on the recent (January 2015) tours several members of the Education Committee made of **The Incubator School, Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet High School, Westchester Secondary Charter School, and Otis College of Arts and Design.** Walking the campuses and interacting with remarkable students, inspiring faculty, and dedicated administrators was illuminating and reinforced the mission of the NCWP Education Committee. More school tours/visits will be planned throughout the year.
 - 3) **Partnering with other NCWP Committees, such as:**
 - a. **NCWP Finance:** The Committee briefly discussed potential plans for a Grant Writing seminar for local teachers/principals. Denny Schneider announced that the LAX Kiwanis offers scholarships and that it may be helpful for the Education Committee to develop a repository for student scholarships.
 - b. **NCWP Community Service:** Grace Yao reported that the Race for Success on April 11th remains an excellent annual opportunity for schools to benefit from pooling the proceeds from the race so that each participating school directly benefits.
 - 4) **Inviting governing education representatives** to make presentations to our local stakeholders (e.g., parents, teachers, administrators, real estate agents and other business leaders, interested community members) was discussed at length. It was concluded that the Committee should explore:
 - a. **Potential plans for a Local Education Summit or Town Hall** in which governing education and City/County representatives would be invited to engage in a Q&A with our local stakeholders. John David Webster encouraged the Summit to include our neighboring communities (e.g., Venice, Mar Vista) as there are overlapping concerns and interests.
 - b. **Developing a Survey of Local Parents, School (Principals), and/or the LMU Family of Schools** to obtain objective data on where local Westchester/Playa parents are sending their children to school, why, and their satisfaction. The goal would be to understand, serve, and support the local schools and families and use the data to guide the questions we ask of our education and City/County representatives. The Committee approved moving forward with one or more surveys, potentially

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collecting data as early as the February 11th School Expo sponsored by the LAX Chamber of Commerce.

6. **Relevant local education events were announced** (which are posted on our Committee webpage):
 - 1) February 11, March 6, April 17, May 8 (LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce): LAX Coastal Chamber's Education Committee monthly meetings
 - 2) February 11, 2015 (Covenant Presbyterian Preschool Campus): LAX Coastal Chamber's School Expo showcasing the local elementary, middle, and high schools.
 - 3) April 11, 2015 (Otis College of Art and Design) Second Annual Otis College Kite Day, Santa Monica Pier; <http://www.otis.edu/creative-action/spotlight/second-annual-otis-college-kite-day>
 - 4) April 25, 2015: Race for Success - <http://raceforsuccess5k.wordpress.com/>
 - 5) July 25-August 3, 2015 (Special Olympics World Games, Los Angeles): Volunteer opportunities available now; <http://www.la2015.org/>
7. **Next meeting** of the Committee will be held on February 25, 2015 at 6:30pm in the Westchester Community Room, the standing meeting time and location of the NCWP Education Committee (i.e., fourth Wednesday of each month).
8. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

*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 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.