

Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa Education Committee



NCWP Education Committee Members

Michele Cooley Strickland, M.Ed., Ph.D. – Chair
Grace Yao – Co-Chair Matthew Teclé
Andrew Kamm John-David Webster
Denny Schneider Bryan Williams
www.ncwped.org/Education



MEETING MINUTES – March 25, 2015

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

Members Present: Michele Cooley-Strickland (Chair), Grace Yao (Co-Chair), Andrew Kamm, Denny Schneider, and Matthew Teclé

Member Absent: Bryan Williams

1. The meeting was called to order by Michele Cooley-Strickland at 6:39pm.
 - a. Six of the seven NCWP Education Committee (“Committee”) members were present.
 - b. The Committee welcomed the guests attending today’s meeting, including: Joe Davis (Carousel School); Janet Landon (Westchester Secondary Charter School, Principal/Co-Founder); Melanie Perry (Zeallionaire Enterprise); and Sara Roos (Mar Vista Neighborhood Council Education, Culture, and Arts Committee and Venice High School).
2. Approval of the Minutes from February 25, 2015 Committee meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Announcements from Local Education Group Representatives were made, including:
 - a. A representative from the **Mar Vista Neighborhood Council Education, Culture, and Arts Committee:** Sara Roos (Co-Chair) attended by invitation. The Mar Vista Education Committee includes school representatives. Sara described the goals and activities of the Committee, including recognizing outstanding merits of students and schools, and providing neighborhood purpose grants. Sara conveyed an interest and willingness to collaborate on relevant community issues with the NCWP Education Committee.
 - b. **LMU Community Relations** – Grace Yao reported about the upcoming April 25, 2015 Race for Success and Community Expo as a part of the Action Items (see below)
 - c. **Otis College of Art and Design** – Matt Teclé reported about the upcoming April 11, 2015 Otis College of Art and Design’s Fourth Annual “Gallery in the Skies” day of free kite-building for 3,000 anticipated attendees.
 - d. Local Schools –
 - i. **Westchester Secondary Charter School** – discussion was held as part of the Action Items (see below)
 - ii. **Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet High School (WESMHS)** was discussed because congratulations were due to the WESMHS Aspen Team –Winner of the 2015 Aspen Challenge – Los Angeles (forerunner to a national competition sponsored by the Aspen Institute; <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/policy-work/challenge>) for their First Annual Drought Awareness Solutions Summit held March 7, 2015 at WESMHS. A motion was made and passed unanimously to request that Councilmember Mike Bonin (via Fred Sutton) prepare a commendation for the WESMHS Aspen Team from the City of LA to be presented in person to the students, advisor, and principal. It was also recommended that the local newspapers be notified of the event.

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4. New Business

- a. An update on the status of the **LMU Family of Schools and NCWP Education Committee Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** was provided since it was posted on the NCWP Education webpage with a downloadable PDF <http://www.ncwpdr.org/westchesterplaya-schools-faqs-neighborhood-stakeholders>. It was recommended that the FAQ link be added to the NCWP webpage and Twitter Feed.
- b. Yesterday's "**It Takes A Village**" – **Westchester/Playa Community/Business Leaders Breakfast on Education** was very successful. It was co-hosted by LMU, the NCWP Education Committee, and the LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce on the Coffee Company, 8751 La Tijera Blvd, Los Angeles 90045. (See the Supporter Database survey at <http://community.lmu.edu/education/supportinglocaleducation/>). Dr. Darin Earley, Director of the LMU Family of Schools, was an exceptional keynote speaker and there was excellent attendance. The infrastructure was established to begin to meet the goal of connecting local stakeholders and resources to our community's schools and will remain an ongoing collaborative effort.
- c. An update and discussion on the NCWP's response to **Westchester Secondary Charter School's** request to enlist the NCWP's assistance in engaging our local representatives and stakeholders to maintain the school within the boundaries of the Westchester community, currently located at 8820 Sepulveda Eastway, L.A., 90045.

Janet Landon (WCS Principal/Co-Founder) expressed her appreciation for significant support and actions from the NCWP Education Committee in working to advocate for WCS. These efforts included successfully bringing a motion to the NCWP Board which voted unanimously to send letters drafted by the NCWP Education Committee to: Councilperson Mike Bonin and LAUSD School Board Member Steve Zimmer, with copies sent to Hon. Maxine Water, Congresswoman, 43rd District; Hon. Ben Allen, Senator, 26th District; Hon. Autumn Burke, Assemblywoman, 62nd District; Hon. Mark Ridley Thomas, Supervisor, 2nd District; Hon. Ramon Cortines, LAUSD Superintendent; Hon. Richard Vladovic, Board President, LAUSD Board of Education; Hon. George McKenna, 1st District, LAUSD Board of Education.

A motion was made and passed unanimously for our next steps to include the NCWP Education Committee requesting an in-person meeting with LAUSD School Board Member Steve Zimmer to both advocate for the relocation of WCS within Westchester as well as to renew/reinvigorate a supportive partnership between his office and the NCWP.

- d. A discussion was held about NCWP Education and Outreach Activities at the **2015 Race for Success Post-Race Expo**. Because it is a very successful community-wide fund raiser for 14-16 different local schools, a motion was made and unanimously approved to staff a NCWP Booth at the event, pending approval from the NCWP Board.

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- e. Further discussions of the **NCWP Westchester/Playa Parent and Principal Education Survey** were held. The original survey that was distributed at the LAX Chamber of Commerce School Expo was modified. A motion was made and passed unanimously to distribute the edited survey at the Expo component of next month's Race for Success.
- f. Brief mention was made about plans to **Co-Host a Local Education Summit or Town Hall** for parents and local stakeholders to have Q&A with their local education leaders to rally their support for strengthening our local publicly-funded schools. This topic has been discussed since January, 2015 and all agreed that it remains worth pursuing.
- g. The significance of planning for NCWP Education Committee members to plan to attend other local Neighborhood Council Education Committee meetings, such as Mar Vista, Del Rey, and Venice, was reiterated, with Sara Roos (Mar Vista NC) supporting the idea. Upcoming meetings are:
 - 1) April 1, 2015 and May 6, 2015 at 7pm (Del Rey Square; First Wednesdays of the month): **Del Rey Neighborhood Council Education Committee Meeting** (Co-chairs: Wes Farrow, Mariana Aguilar); <http://www.delreync.org/education#sthash.aSGqA7zu.dpuf>
 - 2) March 26, 2015 at 6:30pm at Mar Vista Library Community Room: **Mar Vista Neighborhood Education, Culture and Arts Committee Meetings** (Learn more at: <http://MarVista.org/Committees/EdCultArts> (Co-chairs: Sara Roos and Brad Wilhite)
 - 3) April 2015 meeting: **Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Education Committee**. <http://www.venicenc.org/committees/education-committee/> (Contact: Bud Jacobs)
- h. The importance of attending and/or sharing other **relevant local education meetings/opportunities** was discussed. These events were posted on the NCWP Education Committee **webpage**:
 - 1) 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/>
 - 2) March 27, 2015 – 2015 Outstanding Teacher of the Year Nomination Form Due; see www.laxcoastal.com for more information.
 - 3) March 28, 2015 – 9am – 12 noon - Hike with [City Councilman] Mike Bonin; meet at Temescal Canyon (15637 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, CA 90272). For more information and to RSVP go to: http://www.11thdistrict.com/hike_with_mike_mar28?utm_campaign=hikewithmike328&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ant

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- 4) April 11, 2015 – 10am-4pm (Santa Monica Pier) **Otis College of Art and Design's Fourth Annual "Gallery in the Skies"** day of free kite-building and flying. Buses are available from the Otis campus in Westchester to the Santa Monica Pier. For more information: <http://www.otis.edu/calendar/4th-annual-kite-festival>
 - 5) April 17 and May 8 (LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce): **LAX Coastal Chamber's Education Committee** monthly meetings
 - 6) April 25, 2015: 8am at LMU **Race for Success and 10am Post-Race Expo**– 8am 5K run; 10am 1K for Kids. *Proceeds are shared between participating schools.* Free parking, cash prizes, team running, chip timing, and race t-shirt. Information and registration: <http://raceforsuccess5k.org/>
 - 7) May 13, 2015 – **32nd Annual Teacher Eddy Awards Dinner** at Hilton LAX
 - 8) **Suggest a Parklet, Plaza, or Bicycle Corral Location.** People Street is a Los Angeles city program looking to enhance underutilized public space. A parklet is an expansion of the sidewalk into one or more street parking spaces to create people-oriented places. Sponsored by LADOT and the City of LA. Forward your Westchester/Playa location suggestions to Fred Sutton, Westchester/Playa Field Deputy for Councilman Mike Bonin at Fred.Sutton@LACity.org - Learn more at: <http://peoplest.lacity.org/peoplest-parklet-map/?embed=true#sthash.smlD1thf.dpuf>
 - 9) July 25-August 3, 2015 - **Special Olympics World Games, Los Angeles**: Volunteer opportunities available now; <http://www.la2015.org>
5. Next meeting – The standing meeting time and location of the NCWP Education Committee is the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm in the Westchester Community Room. The next NCWP Education Committee meeting is **Wednesday, April 22, 2015**.
6. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

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 mcoolstrick@gmail.com.