

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.ncwpdr.org/Education



MEETING MINUTES – May 27, 2015

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

Members Present: Michele Cooley-Strickland (Chair), Denny Schneider, Matthew Teclé, and John David Webster

Members Absent: Andrew Kamm, Bryan Williams, Grace Yao

1. The meeting was called to order by Michele Cooley-Strickland at 6:35pm.
 - a. Four of the seven NCWP Education Committee (“Committee”) members were present.
 - b. The Committee welcomed guests attending today’s meeting, including: Joe Davis (Carousel School); Barbara Ford (Westchester Secondary Charter School); Janet Landon (Westchester Secondary Charter School, Principal/Co-Founder); Melanie Perry (Zeallionaire Enterprise); Gwen Vuchsas (LAX Chamber of Commerce Education Committee Co-Chair); and Ann Wexler (Westchester Secondary Charter School, Co-Founder).
 - c. There was no April, 2015 NCWP Education Committee Meeting so there were no Minutes to be voted on.
2. Announcements from Local Education Group Representatives were made, including:
 - a. **Otis College of Art and Design** – Matt Teclé reported that Bruce Ferguson is the new college president. Matt represented Otis College at the LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce 32nd Annual Teacher Eddy Awards, and Otis will participate in the LAX Chamber’s July 4th parade. Otis is offering need-based scholarships for talented art students for its *Summer of Art* (See <http://www.otis.edu/summer-art>).
 - b. **LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce** – Gwen Vuchsas reported on multiple events on behalf of the Education Committee.
 - i. The LAX Coastal Chamber’s **32nd Annual Teacher Eddy Awards** were held on May 13th and were an extraordinary success.
 - ii. School marching bands are needed to participate in the July 4th LAX Chamber’s **16th Annual Fourth of July Parade**.
 - iii. The **LAX Chamber Education Committee** suspends its meetings in June and July and will reconvene in August 2015.
 - c. **Local Schools** - Westchester Secondary Charter School – Barbara Ford, Janet Landon, and Ann Wexler participated in the discussion as part of the Action Items (see below).
3. New Business
 - a. An update and discussion of the NCWP’s ongoing response to **Westchester Secondary Charter School’s** request to enlist the NCWP’s assistance in engaging our local representatives and stakeholders to support maintaining WSCS within the boundaries of Westchester. Currently located at 8820 Sepulveda Eastway, L.A., 90045, Westchester Secondary does not want to be relocated 7 miles away (classrooms in Crenshaw High School), but hopes to stay within Westchester.

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Report on May 15, 2015 Meeting with LAUSD School Board Member Zimmer: In response to our NCWP Education Committee's request, a meeting was held between representatives of the NCWP (Cyndi Hench, Michele Cooley-Strickland, Grace Yao) and Councilperson Mike Bonin's office (Debbie Dwyer Harris) with LAUSD School Board Member Steve Zimmer and his Chief of Staff, Claudia Vizcarra. We shared our **LMU Family of Schools and NCWP Education Committee Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** <http://www.ncwpdr.org/westchesterplaya-schools-faqs-neighborhood-stakeholders> with Mr. Zimmer and Ms. Vizcarra who appreciated the objective and informative document. The meeting was lengthy and successful in renewing a partnership between Mr. Zimmer's office and the NCWP, as well as directly expressing our community's vehement support for maintaining/relocating WSCS within Westchester.

NCWP Meeting Update: WSCS representatives gave an update of the relocation issue from their perspective. The viability of Emerson Manor Campus as a potential WSCS relocation site was discussed. It was also reported that a hearing held earlier today resulted in a preliminary decision given in favor of the District (i.e., classrooms in Crenshaw High School). A final decision is expected at the end of June. Continued NCWP support in working to maintain WSCS within Westchester was encouraged.

- b. NCWP Education (Grace Yao, Michele Cooley-Strickland) and Community Outreach (Garrett Smith) Committee representatives attended and participated in the April 25, 2015 **Race for Success and Post-Race Expo at LMU**. As planned, we distributed copies of the **LMU Family of Schools and NCWP's Westchester/Playa del Rey/Playa Vista Schools Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Neighborhood Stakeholders** to very interested and appreciative community stakeholders and parents. Also as planned and approved via motion at the April 7, 2015 NCWP Board meeting, we **distributed the revised NCWP Education Committee Parent/Teacher/Principal/Student Survey** at the Race for Success. (The survey may be viewed at: <http://surveymonkey.com/s/5JNVD8X>). A **summary of the NCWP Community Survey combined results** from the 2015 Race for Success and the 2015 LAX Chamber School Expo was discussed as well as next steps. (see attached **NCWP Education Committee Parent/Teacher/Principal/Student Community Survey Results**). It was suggested that the demographic characteristics are described with the recognition that the sample is skewed toward the most motivated and engaged parents. A **motion** was made and unanimously supported to share the Results with the NCWP Board, as well as to add one item to the Survey ("*How many volunteer hours do you spend in your child's school?*") and administer the Survey at other community venues.
- c. Continuing plans to Co-Host a **NCWP Local Education Summit** for parents and local stakeholders to have Q&A with their local education leaders to engage their support/partnership in strengthening our local publicly-funded schools. This topic has been discussed since January, 2015 and remains a priority. More suggestions were provided for potential presenters (e.g., LAUSD Superintendent Ramon Cortines, LAUSD School Board Member Steve Zimmer, Assemblymember Autumn Burke, City Councilperson Mike Bonin, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Senator Ben Allen); potentially

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collaborating with Mar Vista, Venice, and Del Rey Neighborhood Councils' Education Committees; and co-hosting the event with LMU and the LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce. Discussions of when to hold the event resulted in the recommendation to approach the LAX Chamber Education Committee to partner with them and hold the Education Summit immediately following the LAX Chamber's Second Annual School Expo in the same location. Gwen Vuchsas will present this idea to the LAX Chamber Education Committee in August 2015, which plans to hold its event on a weekday in October from 5-7pm in the Westchester Senior Center.

d. **Opportunities for Local Schools** were presented with discussions of how to assist the schools and the offering organizations:

1) Denny Schneider, NCWP Education Committee Member, informed us that Metro's African American Employee Association (AAEA) is sponsoring a student essay contest entitled, "Why Should I Celebrate Juneteenth?" Submissions are due by May 29th to AAEA@metro.net. Gwen Vuchsas agreed to share the LAX Chamber Education Committee's principal's contacts with the NCWP so we may inform them of this opportunity. Principal Janet Landon indicated that WSCS would encourage their students to participate in the contest.

2) Matt Teclé shared more information on the **Otis College of Art and Design Summer of Art** (See <http://www.otis.edu/summer-art>). This is a 4-week intensive college preparation program for students to experience what it's like to study at one of the top art and design colleges in the U.S.A.

3) **Councilperson Mike Bonin's office** (Fred Sutton and Jessie Holzer, respectively) previously informed the Committee that:

a) **The Google Los Angeles Community Grants Program** is currently accepting grant applications through 06/30/2015. Grant amounts typically range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. For online application information, see <https://googlegiving.eresources.com/app/la/default.asp>. Gwen Vuchsas agreed to share the LAX Chamber Education Committee's principal's contacts for the NCWP to inform them of this opportunity. Matt Teclé volunteered Otis College of Art and Design as a potential partner for local STEAM schools. Dr. Sharma Henderson was highlighted as an excellent grant writer who may be available to assist local principals in preparing their applications.

b) **Children's Bike Skills and Safety Festivals** are being offered for free by the non-profit organization, *Walk n Rollers* (www.WalkNRollers.org). They teach bike safety skills to students and encourage safe walking and biking to schools, and include helmet give aways and fun for the whole family. Funding is available for two more festivals through July. We need to inform Jessie Holzer, Mobility Deputy for Councilman Bonin's office, of interested schools. Gwen Vuchsas agreed to share the LAX Chamber Education Committee's principal's contacts for the NCWP to inform them of this opportunity. Janet Landon indicated that WSCS would be interested in hosting a bike festival.

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4) As discussed in previous Education Meetings, **Committee representatives agreed to try to attend** other local Neighborhood Council Education Committee meetings. Matt Teclé volunteered to attend the June 4, 2015 **Del Rey Neighborhood Council Education Committee Meeting** (Co-chairs: Wes Farrow, Mariana Aguilar); <http://www.delreync.org/education#sthash.aSGqA7zu.dpuf>. John David Webster volunteered to attend the June 29, 2015 **Mar Vista Neighborhood Education, Culture and Arts Committee Meeting** (<http://MarVista.org/Committees/EdCultArts>; Co-chairs: Sara Roos and Brad Wilhite). Michele Cooley-Strickland will try to attend the June 9, 2015 meeting of the **Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Education Committee**. <http://www.venicenc.org/committees/education-committee/> (Chair: Bud Jacobs)

The importance of attending and/or sharing other **relevant local education meetings/opportunities** was discussed. These events are posted on the NCWP Education Committee **webpage**:

- 1) May 29, 2015 – 3-5pm – **Free Children’s Bike Skills and Safety Festival** for the whole family. Learn bike safety skills, bike tune-ups, helmet giveaways, and fun. Event is held at Goethe International School at Marina del Rey Middle School (see <http://www.walkrollers.org/mar-vista-bike-festival/> for more information and to RSVP).
 - 2) May 29, 2015 - Metro’s African American Employee Association (AAEA) is sponsoring an original written **Essay Contest -- “Why Should I Celebrate Juneteenth?”** for an original written essay of 300 – 500 words. The grade categories are Middle School (6th – 8th) and High School (9th – 12th). Submissions should be emailed by May 29th to AAEA@metro.net. Winners will read their essay at Metro’s AAEA Juneteenth Celebration and receive a prize. For more information, contact: ClaiborneK@metro.net
 - 3) June 18, 2015 – **Kiwanis Luncheon** held at the LAX Renaissance Hotel.
 - 4) July 4, 2015 - 11am-1pm: LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce’s **16th Annual Fourth of July Parade** themed “*American Beach Party*.” <http://laxcoastal.chambermaster.com/events/details/fourth-of-july-parade-american-beach-party-1061>
 - 5) July 25-August 3, 2015 - **Special Olympics World Games, Los Angeles**: Volunteer opportunities available now; <http://www.la2015.org>
4. 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 will be **Wednesday, June 24, 2015**.
5. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

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.ncwped.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.

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