

On Wednesday, May, 1, 2013 I attended District 25's monthly CEC Meeting at the Department of Education building on Linden Place in Flushing, NY. The meeting, which was scheduled for 7:00pm, did not begin on time. By this time, many of the committee members were not present and there were only about 5 audience members, including myself.

By approximately 7:07pm, there were seven members of the committee present and they were sitting at the conference table located towards the front of the room eating dinner. At this point, there were approximately eleven members in the audience.

By 7:17pm, the meeting began with the president of the committee calling the meeting to order and asking everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. After the pledge, he asked everyone to take a moment in silence to remember the victims of the terrorist attack at the Boston Marathon.

At this point, with only eight members of the committee present, a quorum had not been reached. The president of the committee announced that they would still hear the superintendent's report, as she had taken the time out of her busy schedule to attend the meeting. During her report, the superintendent discussed various workshops that the DOE was offering, including the Annual ELL Conference slated for May 15.

Upon completion of the report, the president mentioned that Parents Association members throughout the district were mailed information regarding upcoming CEC elections. He reminded everyone that voting would take place between May 1 and May 14.

By 7:27pm nine members of the committee were present, thus forming a quorum. The committee continued to discuss important issues within the district such as PS 244's announcement to go vegetarian (the first public school in the nation to offer a strictly vegetarian menu). They also discussed concerns about CCSS, school construction, teacher evaluations and budgets. It was mentioned that all funding awarded to schools from Dan Halloran's office was frozen pending investigation.

At 7:39pm the speakers from the committee ask the audience if anyone has any questions or comment. The audience remains completely silent.

The floor was open for public speakers at 7:43pm. At this time, one audience member spoke about a Black History Extravaganza she was planning. She mentioned that venue costs were too high. However, she was working on securing permits for the Queens College Quad with assistance from the head of African Studies at the college. The audience remained silent with no reactions.