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## **EDUCATION YOUTH & LIBRARIES**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, February 15, 2022

Hon. Marquis A. Harrison, Chair

Hon. Dr. Cheryl Smith, Vice Chair

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Stephanie Palmer, Shawn Brannon, Crystal McKay, Verna Diggs, Milan Reed, Tamara Martin, Dana Points, Genisha Metcalf, Marquis Harrison, Daniel Patterson

**Committee Members Absent:** Jose Mendez, Afrika Owes, Oscar Bahena

**Board Members Present:** Cicely Harris, Derek Perkinson

**Staff:** Jasmin Heatley

### **MEETING OVERVIEW**

The focus of this meeting were presentations and reports by several children and youth serving agencies and organizations. Among them, New York City Parks, New York City Public Libraries and Community School District 5. These entities shared an impressive menu of programs, projects and activities designed to improve outcomes for children, youth and families in our community. All the representatives from these organizations shared their challenges in successfully attracting children and youth to attend and benefit from these program offerings. This disturbing fact caused the members of the committee to ask the question, "Where are the children". There was a discussion that explored if the pandemic has had an impact on school and afterschool program attendance.

**AGENDA ITEM:** Presentation by New York City Parks, Afterschool Programs, Hugo Ayala

### **Key Discussion Points**

Three major programs described; Toddler Program featuring Open Play and socialization activities; traditional afterschool program activities and the Junior Knicks basketball clinic and league Seeking to partner with daycare centers in the neighborhood 10–13-year-olds underrepresented in their program offerings post pandemic. Not planning to offer enrichment activities in their upcoming summer program.

### **Action Items**

Identifying ways in which the Board can support NYC Parks efforts to partner with daycare centers in their neighborhood Follow up with the possibility of NYC Parks to offer enrichment activities in their summer program offerings.

**AGENDA ITEM:** Presentation by Macomb's Bridge Library, Elizabeth Graham and Anisha Huffman

**Key Discussion Points**

Library fines and fees have been eliminated. Members will no longer be penalized for returning books past the due date. Library staff will make class visits in person or virtual visits. They encourage schools to make class trips to the library. Offerings include Story Time programs for toddlers, programs are also offered in French and Spanish. After school tutoring Monday through Thursday, 2:45 PM -5:40PM. Building solar powered robots coming in May. Young adult programs that feature career coaching, support in applying for Summer Youth Employment Jobs. Brain Fuse writing lab provides help with editing writing assignments.

**Action Items**

The committee will help to promote the libraries summer learning programs. The committee will help to promote the libraries program to assist youth to complete applications for 2022 SYEP.

**AGENDA ITEM:** Report from Community School District 5 by Robin Davson, Acting Superintendent District 5

**Key Discussion Points**

The district is hiring a Director of Early Childhood Education to replace Yael Leopold, our former representative to the Education, Youth and Libraries committee. Yael Leopold is now the new Principal of PS 125. Schools in the district are focused on Black History Month celebrations and activities. Principal Leopold's school had Nicole Hannah Jones from the 1619 project and Renee Watson, poet, address the children after the curriculum had them create poetry inspired by the authors book collaboration. The district is experiencing student attendance as low as 70%

**Action Items**

Contact Superintendent Davson to refer candidates for the position of Early Childhood Director Work with the district office to plan an Education, Youth and Libraries committee school visit/tour Committee should provide feedback on our view of education needs in our community

**AGENDA ITEM: OLD BUSINESS**

**Key Discussion Points**

The committee is currently working on a response to the request for support from a charter school. It was shared that CB10 had a policy that refused support to charter schools that were co-located with a Traditional Public School. The committee is working on drafting updated policies and standards that would inform decisions to provide support to charter schools

**Action Items**

The working group on charter schools will share their work products with the committee and the Executive Committee. Marquis Harrison will join the working group

**AGENDA ITEM: NEW BUSINESS: Skills Trades Fair for High School Students**

**Key Discussion Points**

There should be resources for those students not interested in attending College

**Action Items**

Committee members Milan Reed, Tamara Martin and Crystal Mc Kay volunteered to work on the fair

**AGENDA ITEMS: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pre-K and 3 K applications are open now through May  
New York City Teaching Fellows Program is accepting applications