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EDUCATION YOUTH & LIBRARIES

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 - 6:30 PM

Hon. Stephanie Palmer, Chair

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

Committee Members Absent: Crystal McKay, Jose Mendez, Afrika Owes, Oscar Bahena

Board: Members Present Cicely Harris, Donna Gill

Staff: Jasmin Heatley

MEETING OVERVIEW

This meeting's purpose was to continue to focus on our libraries, the work of the School Construction Authority and Not for Profit Organizations that have Summer Youth Employment contracts in Harlem. Novella Ford, Associate Director, Public Programs & Exhibitions for The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture provided information on the work of the Center. A highlight was the request by Ms. Ford for support by Community Board 10 for the Centers Literary Festival in June.

The Community Relations Manager from The School Construction Authority, Joshua Adams provided information on the agency's mission and their work in Community School District 5. Also, representatives from Mosholu Montefiore Community Center addressed the committee regarding the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

AGENDA ITEM; Presentation by Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Novella Ford

Key Discussion Points

Novella Ford described the Schomburg as "one of the world's leading cultural institutions dedicated to the collection, preservation and interpretation of Black Art and Literature". Ms. Ford also described the current exhibits, including The History of Black Comic Books and the planning for the Literary Festival in June. 18,2022. Ms. Ford, committee members and community members identified ways to help celebrate the upcoming Festival. Committee members discussed youth involvement and volunteer opportunities as well as a Book Swap.

Action Items:

Community Board to approve Street permits for the June 18,2022 Literary Festival

Community Board to spread the word about the festival through e-blasts and social media

AGENDA ITEM: Presentation by The School Construction Authority, Joshua Adams

Key Discussion Points

Mr. Adams described the agency's capital plan and ongoing projects in District 5. Mr. Adams stated that the agency's mission is focused on designing and constructing safe, attractive and environmentally sound public schools for children throughout the many communities in New York City. Mr. Adams identified and described the current 38 projects in our district, including a roof replacement project at PS 242 and an exterior modification project for PS 81. The agency works closely with the Department of Education's Division of School Facilities. Every year the agency does a building condition assessment survey. The agency then focuses on the high priority areas. The agency also manages those construction projects funded by City Council members and Borough Presidents' Office.

Action Items:

Mr. Adams suggested that we reach out to the DSP custodian regarding non-working water fountains in schools. If the problem is outside their scope, SCA will access for project status. Committee will request from SCA a report on the number of schools in District 5 and District 3 with active and upcoming projects. The report should specify scope of work for each school and project type (hydroponic or tech). Committee will request updated reports regarding funds not expended by schools in our district, a recent equity report and sustainability information, retro fit and climate change.

AGENDA ITEM: Presentation by Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, James Bishop and Tina Ibanez

Key Discussion Points:

Mosholu Montefiore Community Center is a Bronx based social services organization. They have expanded their services to Harlem and have been awarded the largest Department of Youth and Community Development contract to serve youth and young adults living in Harlem through the Summer Youth Employment Program. (SYEP). This organization served 1700 youth last year. This year they will serve 3750 youth. 100 of these opportunities are guaranteed to youth in our community. The remaining number of jobs are awarded through a lottery system. What is of concern to the committee is whether the number of summer job opportunities are sufficient to meet the need in our community. The representatives expressed concern that given the impact of the pandemic there may not be enough businesses and organizations to accommodate young interns.

Mr. Bishop asked if the Community Board could be helpful in soliciting the support of local businesses and organizations to participate in the SYEP. The representatives also made the community aware that Mosholu Montefiore Community Center is looking to expand in other areas of service, specifically senior service. The representatives noted that many of Harlem's senior centers were closed.

Action Items:

The Community Board will help to identify /recruit worksites in Harlem
Mosholu Montefiore will forward worksite and staff recruitment letter to our District Office.
The committee will continue to monitor work experience opportunities for youth and young adults living in our community.

Key Discussion Points:

Acting Superintendent Davson provided an update on the work being accomplished in Community School District 5. One highlight was the Superintendent's description of an early intervention program in the district called Harlem Basics. This program comes out of Yale University and is an early intervention strategy targeted at mothers and their children age birth to three. The strategy seeks to teach young inexperienced mothers 5 basic skills to practice with their children. The research shows that this practice can improve outcomes for children. The school district is piloting this project in conjunction with The Administration for Children's Services and Harlem Hospital.

Superintendent Davson stated that there are 4 high schools in our district, Thurgood Marshall, Eagle Academy, Frederick Douglass Academy and Columbia Secondary. She will provide information to the committee regarding the number of youth eligible for participation in SYEP. This information will help us to determine if Harlem has been allocated the necessary job opportunities to meet the need in our community. Superintendent Davson is working with Committee Chair Stephanie Palmer and Dr. Brian Jones, The Director of Educational Resources at NYPL to develop curriculum and train teachers in credit bearing workshops around the Exonerated Five memorial scheduled for the end of the year.

Action Items:

The superintendent will provide the committee with information about the numbers of youth eligible to participate in the SYEP. The Superintendent will work with the committee to coordinate a site visit to schools in the community.

The superintendent will work with the Chair of the committee in conjunction with the NYPL to develop curriculum and teacher training around the Exonerated Five Memorial unveiling at the end of 2022.