

Public Meeting of the CB12M's Youth and Education Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting #12

Monday, December 11th, 2017

Location: 530 West 166th Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimón, Chair; Maria Luna; Ayisha Oglivie; Luis Tapia, Derek Peralta

Committee Member(s) Excused: Glennis Aquino, Assist Chair; Maria Luna

Guests: Nikki Khosla, Founder and Executive Director Denice **Birch Academy Charter School**; Maritza Polanko, Founder & President, Polanko Inc, "**10,000 Youth Initiative**"

General Public: AL Kurland, Paul Zablocki; Jose Gonzalez, Gregorio Luperon; Nobles Crawford; Luis J. De la Cruz; Amy Diaz; Dr. Susana De Jesus, Education Unlimited; Michael Hano; C. Fulcher and Hans Fulcher IDI; Robinson Hildaldo-IDI; Edna Fernandez; Edgar Cedeno IDI; Melving Rivas- IDI; Andrea Paulino- IDI; -Dreamers Can; Pedro Alvarez-Alvarez Corp; Crissaris Sarnelli; Nariader Randove;; Zachary Malter, Outreach Director, Educators for Excellence New York; Debora Cardona; Rosita Romero, Executive Director of the Dominican Women's Development Center (DWDC)

The meeting was called at 7:05 pm. - by Fe Florimón, Chair

Discussion was taken place as indicated below:

1. Ms. Florimon initiated the meeting by welcoming all participants and asking to introduce themselves. Following this procedure, the Chair reviewed the agenda and explained what to expect at each phase of the agenda.
2. **Nikki Khosla, Founder and Executive Director of Birch Academy Charter School**, presented a Charter School proposal to be located in the School District 6. In an effort to help the audience understand better and increase their interest in support of her proposal the presenter provided a visual and detailed presentation with the following data:
 - ✓ On the learning: the school is designed with three important components: "Supportive, all-girls environment; Rigorous, college preparatory curriculum and Character education, mindfulness, and service"
 - ✓ Birch Academy Charter School will be serving K-5 all girls elementary school (starting first with Kindergarten and 1st grade); small class group with the personalized attention needed to be successful. Their curriculum will consist of world class literature and math program, science on a daily basis, a class on discussion and public speaking skills, vocal music, coding class, entrepreneurship and philosophy.
 - ✓ The school is expected to be open by fall 2019 and is accepting applications for Kindergarten and 1st grade.
 - ✓ At the end of the presentation, a survey was distributed with the objective to collect the opinions of the public.
 - ✓ Opportunity was given to the audience to ask questions, however members of the committee were allowed to post questions first.
3. **Ms. Maritza Polanko, Founder & President, Polanko Inc, of "10,000 Youth Initiative"** made a presentation to introduce the "10,000 Youth Initiative", which consist on the following:

- ✓ According to presenter the “10,000 Youth Initiative” is a socio economic cultural educational development program with the mission to address the needs of the youth, young adults and high-school students to enable them to enter the job market. The Polako organization is committee, along with other partner organizations, to reduce the number of drop-outs students by 10,000 in the next five years with the objective of:
 - Engage youth and businesses within the community
 - Reduce crime and improve community safety
 - Expand economic development and employment opportunity
 - Provide education, Associate Degree and job training
 - Help small business in the community by developing strategies alliances
 Reduce unemployment rate and provide job internships for high school age young adults.
- ✓ Ms. Polanko also discussed several solutions proposed for the project.
- ✓ The public has the opportunity to ask questions, however members of the committee were allowed first.
- ✓ Chair asked Mr. Polanko what did wants from the Board. Her response was that they need space in the community to implement their program and would appreciate if the board may help identify any available space. However, no promise was made.

4. Old Business

- ✓ “Resolution in support for Safer and more Supportive Schools in the School District 6” were presented. The committee and general public voted as follow:
 - Community Members: **4 yes; 0 No; 2 absents- 0 abstain**
 - Members of the Public: **9 yes; 0 No; 0 abstain**
 - Resolution was proved anonymously

5. New Business

- ✓ On behalf of the Youth and Education Committee, on December 7th, Chair Florimon attended the Aging Committee meeting to propose an event (the first of its kind in the community) in mutual collaboration for seniors at Isabella Geriatric Center and also open/welcome to seniors in the community. The event was titled: **“Holiday Season Youth Performances for the Seniors”** with the objective to have young people performing and sharing their talents to entertain the seniors. The Aging committee was enthusiastic about the initiative and everyone present including the members welcomed the initiative. At the end of her statement, Ms. Florimon asked the Y&EC for the collective support and collaboration at the event, and they all agreed. A draft for the event’s flyer was distributed. The event is scheduled to be held on December 16th from 3:00pm to 6:00pm at the Isabella Center. All were invited.
- ✓ The planning for the 3rd annual “Youth and Police Partnership Walk and Resource Fair” was announced. Meeting will start in January 2018- more details remain pending.
- ✓ Rosita Romero, Executive Director of the Dominican Women's Development Center (DWDC) was acknowledged by the Chair. Mrs. Romero made an announcement of her new program to help homeless LGBTQ youth for safe place and shower. The location for this program is at the Holyrood Episcopal Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29pm Next Meeting;

Monday, January 8, 2018