

Meeting Minutes
Meeting #7
Monday, September 14 , 2020

Location: CB12M Office 530 West 166 Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimon, Chair; Waldys Cruz, Assist Chair; Glennis Aquino; Maria Luna; Gabriela Estrella; Jonathan Nunez-Formeta; Paradis Phoenix;

Committee Member(s) Absent: Miriam James; Excused: Christina Richiez

Public Member: Guillermo Perez

Guests: School District 6's Parents: Gabriela Remigio; Nadiuska Ramirez; Elisa Read, Lisandra Medina, from School District 5- Bronx

The meeting was called to order by Chair Fe Florimon at 7:06pm.

CB 12M members provided an introduction to the committee and to the guests to the meeting. Fe asked for the parents in the meeting to introduce themselves as well.

Fe: The purpose of this meeting is to have a discussion with the parents to discuss the reopening of schools. Fe provided overview that schools will be starting on 9/21 if things go as scheduled. Over 95% of DOE schools have been tested for proper ventilation.

Fe proceeded to begin the conversation in question format to receive community sentiment on school reopening:

What were some of the concerns you have as a parent when you heard the schools were reopening?

Gabriela R: The school is doing a good job with the ventilations and providing follow up to the parents. She trusts that her daughter is aware and conscious enough in order to

Lisandra M: Is a CB 5 resident and goes to school in CB4, her children have both asthma, congestive lung complications. Her children cannot be sent to school physically because of their pre-existing conditions so she opted for remote learning. She does not have the means to pay for medical or funeral expenses.

Elisa R: Lives in the Bronx but children go to school in District 12. Her children never left school and went to school throughout this time. She placed her children in an Enrichment Center because her child's psychologist suggests that they need it for mental health. When they said the school was opening, she wondered what measures will be taken? In the Enrichment Center, they took temperatures, went outside periodically and used gloves. All of her kids will be going to

school the 2 days they've been assigned. She believes schools will do the work, not the DOE. I want to know what the DOE is going to do outside of the ventilation checks. Are the lunch people and the custodial people going to get tested too? The teachers will be getting tested 1 x month.

How effective was remote learning for you at home last year?

Lisandra M: It was definitely challenging but they pulled through. Some classes have different applications with various apps for every class so it becomes difficult to track.

Elisa R: Remote learning was a complete disaster. 1 child in HS, 1 in JHS and 2 in elementary school. Curriculum was a joke because a lot of misinformation. 3 of the 4 kids have IEPs and I don't have time to teach 4 different grades. Tablets stop working and schools have a long response time. She cannot work 8-10 hours and then teach her kids. DOE is not doing a good job and schools are under resourced.

Gabriela R: Remote learning presented challenges and she would communicate with different parents and they struggled because of work. When students need 1 on 1 assistance, it becomes difficult.

How safe do you feel schools are considering the many schools with ventilation problems?

Lee: With regards to ventilation, PPE and sanitation, I don't feel safe.

Nadia: To send a child that it is not properly sanitized or checked, is unacceptable.

Do you feel the District has communicated with parents effectively about what was taking place with the school's ventilation system and other safety measures?

Parents: Yes the district has a decent job but it is very contradicting with what the government officials have to say. The mayor says one thing in the morning and the DOE commissioner says something else in the afternoon.

Do you feel parents were informed about the plans that are supposed to be in place to sanitize and clean the schools?

Parents: This set the precedent for how schools should have always been. We need to set the bar high for now and the future even past COVID. Schools need to do better at checking in with parents and showing that they care. Call parents once a week and ask us how we are doing. We've been tasked with doing this extra work and so it's important to include us too.

Gabriella Estrella: As a parent, she shared her concern as well despite her children being grown. She thanked the parents and affirmed their concerns as well.

Elisa: After school is a topic that wasn't discussed here, but it is important for us to keep in mind and discuss as a whole other topic in the near future as parents need this support.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28pm.

NOTE: Virtual meeting link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qno4hQPcb6o>

DRAFT