

CB12M-Youth and Education Committee

Monday, January 13, 2014

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

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimón, Chair; Chris Smith, Asst. Chair; Manny De los Santos; María Luna; Lorena Jiménez Castro; Ayisha Oglivie

Committee Members Excuse: Alyce Smith

Public Members Absent: Shaun Abreu, Student at Columbia University

CB12 Members Present: Mr. George Fernandez, Chair

Community Members: Police Athletic League Inc; Laura Katz- KIPP; Mery Melendez, KIPP Parent; Wileen Jamison, Tenants Association

The Chair Fe Florimón called the meeting to order at 7: 20PM.

Chair introduced herself, the members of the committee and the chair of the board. Those present then introduced themselves including many (about 32) youth representative from WHEELS Schools. The agenda was also reviewed, with amendments

Open issues

Community Board function and roles was reviewed. The students discussed their particular areas of concerns that they are seeing how change would be possible. Sample topics included childhood obesity, problem of violence in the schools, and school to prison pipeline.

- The committee reviewed the work of the committee during 2013, including 19 meetings (10 weeknight and 9 Saturday) including involvement of youth especially within the Saturday meeting forums.
- The committee took leadership of the issue of teenage representatives on community boards, issues of exploring capital funding that seemed to not be used by a school, worked on budget prioritization, a scholarship forum
- Passed three resolutions
 - ✓ Co-location of schools
 - ✓ Lack of release of funding to the city by the state after CFE lawsuit
 - ✓ Involvement in the Upper Manhattan Educational Cooperative
- Completed the third year of Saturday meetings
- Three forums especially designed for:
 - ✓ youth and parent involvement;
 - ✓ Teens on Board – to allow 16 and 17 year-olds on Community Boards in New York City;
 - ✓ Scholarship opportunities for High School Seniors
- The safety of drinking fountain water in school was also explored and resolved

The committee considered committee goals for 2014. Discussion centered around the importance of youth participation and voice as well as the different political environment. This conversation will be continued next month.

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The Assistance Chair highlighted some important events and deadlines:

- ✓ Special event on Common Core Standards at Isabella on February 6th.
- ✓ Saturday event focused on scholarship opportunities at Isabella on March 1st
- ✓ Upcoming committee meeting on Saturday and Monday, February 1st and 10th
- ✓ Congressional internship deadline of February 5th

Community processes of change were reviewed.

- ✓ The chair explored aspects of committee member involvement. This included the importance of everybody involved and sharing the responsibility of the committee.
- ✓ The last meeting of the Upper Manhattan Education Collaborative (CB and CEC representatives) was reviewed. The current work is focused on providing a guide to help people navigate the school system.

During open community announcements, the following items were raised:

- Event around reducing the age to serve on a community board
- The importance of individuals learning computer coding
- KIPP spoke about their “Calm down space” for prolonged episodes for specific students for the escalation that was featured in the media. Committee members expressed residual concerns and will visit the schools when more specifics about this intervention will also be provided. Additional concern was raised about broader compliance across the district of special needs compliance with mandates and police involvement in schools.
- The letter to SCA about PS 28 has been drafted and should be going out this week.

The assistance chair adjourned the meeting at 9:39pm.