

CB12M's Youth & Education Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 8, 2014

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

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimón, Chair; Alyce Smith, Assist. Chair; Maria Luna; Ayisha Oglivie;

Committee Members Absent: Manny De Los Santos

Excused: Lorena Jimenez-Castro

Board Members: Chair, George Fernandez; Richard Lewis

Guests: Elvin Garcia, Bronx Borough Director-Mayor's Office Community Affairs Unit

Community Members: Carmen Acosta – Representative _ Asociacion de Mujeres Progresista; Augusto De La Cruz, Instructor; Pat Jacobs, Educator Advocate; Kimberly Gonzalez, Parent; Javier Trejo, Principal at H.S. for Health Careers and Sciences; Danny Swersky, Principal at KIPP Washington Heights Middle School; Meredith Marin, LMSW,- Representative for CHALK Program at Presbyterian Hospital; Katie Carrol- Representative for America Scores New York; Al Kurland from PAL; Roberto de la Rosa, Community Activist;

The Chair Fe Florimón opened the meeting at 7:15PM.

Members of the Committee and attendees were introduced by the Chair.

❖ Meeting Phase I/ Open issues

- ✓ The Minutes of June 9, 2014 meeting was approved by the committee. No change or adjustment was made.
- ✓ After the opening and introduction of the meeting, Chair Florimon ceded the floor to Mr. George Fernandez, Chairman of the Board. The Chairman welcomed attendees and shared some community news. Chair Fernandez submitted a petition to the committee that he received from the Parent Teacher Association-co President Sorelys Irizarry from P.S. 366 Washington Heights Academy (WHA) requesting that an additional staff – Security Guard be added to the school because as of September 2014 WHA will begin its school transition from elementary school to middle school (Pre-K to 8th grade)
- ✓ In addition, Mr. Fernandez indicated that it is his understanding that the commander Officer of local Precinct 34th is the one responsible for appointing school Security Guard and therefore, he has scheduled a meeting with the Commander of Precinct 34th and is also inviting the chair of the Youth Committee to discuss this matter. Member Luna joined the conversation and suggested that a resolution for this matter maybe taken in consideration by the committee.

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- ✓ The possible implementation of Success Academy in the place of Mother Cabrini high school was also the subject of the conversation brought by the Chairman. Ms. Florimon added that CEC 6 have expressed profound concern about the way the negotiation of this initiative has been conducted. The process has been carried out without transparency and/or community participation. CEC 6 still fighting this battle. Mr. Fernandez also suggests that CEC and CB12M's Youth Committee should work closer to benefit the community.

- ❖ **Mr. Elvin Garcia**, Bronx Borough Director –Citywide LGBT Outreach, Office of the Mayor, Community Affairs Unit (CAU) was the special guest for the Committee who attended in Ms. Alize v. Beal's - Manhattan Borough Director for CAU - stead.

- ✓ The Bronx Borough Director (BBD) was warmly welcomed along with all participants including Committee members, community activists, educational leaders and public official representatives who were eager to speak and learn from him. Mr. Garcia introduced himself to the committee as the Bronx Borough Director for CAU. He shared his academic background and the nature of his job. BBD discussed central matters including the role and mission of CAU, the importance of community relations, as well as, some of the Mayor Policy initiatives including UPK, NYC ID among many others.

- ✓ According to Borough Director, Mr. Garcia the initiative of the CB12M's Youth Committee to invite CAU to their meeting was an important step towards building community relations, an initiative that is taking place already in his borough. Ms. Florimon added to this statement that a bridge needs to be opened between CAU and the community of Washington Heights/Inwood in order to facilitate and increase mutual collaboration.

- ✓ BBD stated the Mayor de Blasio's initiative to implement NYC Municipal ID will provide free access to New Yorkers to cultural institutions including museums; access to special events, performing art centers, as well as, others related benefits. In addition, Mr. Gracia also shared his experience in the area of policy advocacy, which include. Immigration, LGB and homeless population, and also the expansion of middle school are some of the policies he has been working with. Because of the lack of time many participants were not able to ask their questions. Mr. Garcia and Chair Florimon agreed on the need to continue the conversation with Ms. Alize v. Beal, who represents the borough of Manhattan and serves the community directly.

- ❖ **Meeting Phase II/Open issues- Preliminary Budget FY16**

- ✓ Chair discussed the about possibility of delivering the second of the past event on the subject of "Youth Mental Health," which will concentrate on the Latina teen suicide rate, and "Youth Violence" which will be specifically bullying.,

- ✓ The committee discussed the preliminary budget priorities for FY16. A report containing a list of new and old priorities was presented by the chair for the

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consideration of the committee. Committee's budget inputs, as well as, for the attendees was also encouraged by the chair. The committee agreed with the capital and expense budget priorities list presented for FY16. Member Oglivie will add an additional item, which she agreed to send in writing for the committee consideration.

- ✓ Ms. Oglivie also brought to the Committee attention the report issued by the Daily News which stated that "90 city schools failed to pass a single black or Hispanic Student on state tests, study shows." Ms. Oglivie expressed concern for this situation and thought that would be a good idea for the committee to follow up on it.

❖ Meeting Phase III/ New Business

- ✓ **Mr. Al Kurland** – PAL representative– encouraged the committee and attendees to support and promote the recruitment of youth people to be assigned to community board. Training for this initiative has been in place/scheduled for October 28, 2014, location PAL at the Armory Center. Mr.Kurland encored participants to spread the words about the event in the community and everywhere in the city. Literatures specifying the initiative including location where teen will be trained to become board member was available at the meeting.
- ✓ **Javier Trejo**, Principal at the H.S. for Health Careers and Sciences- George Washington Campus, spoke about his school's priorities. According to Principal Trejo his school's technological infrastructure needs to be enhanced; also the school needs funding for the school's Green House Project, additional staff and also funding to repair their library, which is in deteriorating condition.
- ✓ **Carmen Acosta**, on half of "Asociacion de Mujeres Progresista" announced the organization new initiative named "Girls Get Even." This initiative still in process of development. The initiative seeks to create leadership among girls, get them into mainstream, and address the problem of violence and suicide rate among young Latina girls.

- ❖ Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm

Submitted by Alyce Smith, Assistant Chair

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