

CB12M Youth and Education Committee

Meeting #1

Monday, January 9, 2023

Minutes

LOCATION: **VIRTUAL MEETING**

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimon, Chair; Maria Luna; Jacob Banas; Luis Cruz;
Excused: Jonathan Nunez-Frometa; Domingo Estevez.

Member: Michelle Lee, no longer with Y&EC effective 1/9/2023

Board Member: Emily Marte.

Board Staff: Paola Garcia, Community Associate.

Public Members Present: Guillermo Perez.

Guests: Imani Doumbia - Manhattan District Attorney's Office; Captain Michael Cegelski - NYPD, School Safety Division; Arlene Rodriguez Martinez, Program Manager - Jazz Power Initiative.

Community members: Jason Cowan; Maria Martinez.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Fe Florimon at 7:02 p.m.

The following report is a brief summary of the virtual meeting discussion that took place on the above date. For an in-depth report, please access the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5phuCmzSBB0>

Chair Florimon greeted everyone "Happy New Year. Let's welcome 2023." want to say, Happy New Year. Let's welcome 2,023. welcomed and thanked members, and the general public for their attendance. Domingo Estevez was also welcomed and introduced a new returned member. Committee members and guests were asked to introduce themselves for the record. Chair proceeded to discuss the unfolding of the agenda as follows:

Committee Reflection and Performance towards 2023 was the first discussion.

Ms. Florimon invited members to reflect on the committee's progress for the past year 2022 and shared possible agenda goals initiative for 2023.

Member Maria Luna shared the history of the emergence of the committee (Y&E) which started as a Task Force on education in 1989. She discussed the role that city agencies such as the Department of Education, the NY City Council among other local government agencies play in the areas of education which according to her it can be little tricked as to what the committee can do.

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Member Luna “We do everything we can to ensure our members are informed, but we can’t always guarantee our ideas will be implemented in District 6, the Board of Education district that encompasses our Community District.

Y&E Committee needs to work within CD12 to make sure that supplemental organizations which provide something for youth (sports, arts, club activities) should also come to the board so we can help expand their services in our community to our youth.

Luna shared that Florimon has also been working with the police to bring police and community together which will be shared later.

Need to get more city council members or reps to attend our meetings so they can bring the right information to the city council and share their work with our members and community.

Member Luis Cruz shared that he feels the youth should be more involved in our Y&E committee. They should know that these meetings are open to them for them to share their voice.

In the past we’ve had youth panels were Y&E has brought in young members of the community to discuss their concerns and ways to make better connections between police and community.

Cruz shared that he feels sometimes we’re trying to develop a topic and we don’t get a response from government agencies and organizations. We need to develop ways to get a better response for those inquiries. The best way to solve and come up with a plan is by working together.

Jonathan Nuñez-Frometa echoed the previous sentiments and also shared that there needs to be more work in making sure youth in our community know what opportunities are available to them, especially those which are for free. We need to find a way to deliver this information. Timing is very important. Sometimes by the time our youth hear about a program it has already ended or they learned too late. This is something we can change this year by gathering information about programs from schools and having a webinar or any type of meeting to let them know all the available resources are open to them.

Ms. Florimon thanked the board members for their thoughts and views. Florimon then shared her own thoughts on progress as well, including the inroads Y&E has made with police, the leadership of the committee to be a presence in the community, the work the committee had done back when charter schools became a topic of discussion in the community district. This year the committee had many education partners supporting the youth and police building bridges event.

What is important moving forward is looking at the state of education today and what the committee can do. Florimon feels the education system has room for improvement, whether at the state or local level.

Many people feel the biggest problem of the education system is that many people feel the youth are not learning as much as they could.

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Florimon shared many (11 suggestions) of the challenges facing the education system including but not limited to funding cuts, student home environments, technology, as well as youth health and childhood obesity.

Florimon shared that the committee needs to take a look at what is going on with the traditional system of education and charter schools. There must be something very attractive to parents who are switching their students to charter schools.

Chair suggested that one the biggest thing the committee may address first this year is the issue of bullying in our public schools. She also suggested revisiting the conversation the committee had about the DOE and charter schools back in 2011.

Luna shared that she, listening to Cruz, was wondering if Cruz would be willing to speak with some of his young friends to get their voices in our committee meetings.

Cruz shared that one of his motivations for joining the community board was to show younger people that if he could join, they could join too. He emphasized that he feels bringing back the committee's youth panels on Saturdays to discuss issues that are affecting our community could help to raise the concerns of the youth.

Domingo Estevez expressed that he hears the concerns of his fellow board members about how tricky it can be to run anything by oneself. That by better understanding what each board member excels in we could better leverage their talents. Also, while it's great to look at big items, we need to help set the vision on smaller local issues we can address by understanding what is in our community and how it's being addressed in a way that's more manageable than some of these bigger items.

Estevez went on to say that he wanted to be cautious of putting too much expectation on any one person, especially on Luis to represent young people on our committee and that perhaps Luis could share his ideas and help to identify schools to contact, that sort of thing, but shouldn't shoulder the whole burden and Ms. Florimon agreed.

Discussion ensued regarding directions for the community board in 2023, including conversations about bullying in schools, understanding what resources our schools have to combat bullying, and conversations with other schools which have bullying issues.

Discussion ensued on how bullying is reported in schools and what constitutes bullying.

Emily Marte asks how Y&E committee would tackle the issues they would like to pursue. How should the committee pursue the issues it's interested in tackling, and how can Marte help?

Florimon responds that she, as chair of the committee, is open to whichever conversations the committee members are interested in pursuing.

With regard to charter schools, Estevez shared that he feels the committee should look at something like what the liquor licenses have (having to get special permission to obtain a liquor license within 500 ft of an already licensed business) but for charter schools. He feels these charter schools are opening too close to existing schools.

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Luna expressed that we should look at the opening of marijuana dispensaries. They should not be licensed to operate near schools, similar to how liquor licenses operate. Estevez responds that this is already the law.

Jason Cowan shares that he works in both charter and public schools, working to support schools with transformative justice and both issues are connected. Schools receive funding based on seats filled, but bullying is a larger issue that starts at home in communities.

Guillermo Perez expressed that he feels the committee needs more discussions outside of the Y&E committee meeting. To get together and discuss ahead of this meeting, and to regroup at the end of the year with principals and educators to determine whether or not plans have been successful.

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## Old Business

The pending committee meeting discussion held December 12, 2022, about the implementation of the new radio channel policy on public schools was finally clarified. This is an agreement between the DOE and the School Safety Division of NYPD. **Guest: Michael Cegelski**, Officer at NYPD School Safety Division – provided a clarification on the subject as follows:

The new policy in DOE with radio channels in schools used between school staff and public safety officers on the premises that did away with the radio systems schools used to have in favor of calling over the phone.

**The old policy** was to have staff radio school safety officials in a central headquarters and central 911. This often resulted in miscommunications.

**The new policy**, if it's a one-person school where there's one safety agent assigned to the school, the agent is assigned two radios: one to the school and one to the NYPD radio dispatcher.

Two agents: One agent is ALWAYS connected to DOE frequency, other agent is on the NYPD channel to get help from NYPD, EMS, Fire, etc.

School safety is finding that this is working much more efficiently for getting the help that they need.

Before the policy took place, if a 911 call took place, the agents would not know about that 911 job occurring. Now those agents are able to hear those 911 calls coming in as they happen and respond if they are in their schools.

Officer Cegelski clarified that agents are staying in schools and NYPD and additional school safety officers are able to respond as well.

Ms. Florimon, "Are school safety that are present allowed to react or do they need to wait for backup?"

Officer Cegelski says it depends on the situation, but officers are trained to respond. If they aren't trained to handle a specific situation they are told to wait for backup. They've seen agents responding and handling situations, not waiting, generally speaking.

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Florimon asks how often school safety incidents are shared with the public.

Cegelski says anything crime related is public information, shared on NYC gov site. DOE reports aren't even shared with his agency.

Luna - It's a sad day that we have to have police officers in schools. It's a sad day we have parents allowing children to go to schools and bully children.

Marina Martinez asks for Cegelski's contact information. Florimon will follow up with Martinez. Martinez's email is [mmartinez@lincnyc.org](mailto:mmartinez@lincnyc.org).

## **New Business Announcements:**

Imani Doumbia - Education Coordinator, Manhattan District Attorney's Office

January is human trafficking awareness month, and they offer presentations on the subject.

February is teen dating violence awareness month, and they offer presentations on how to identify red flags in their dating relationships.

Accepting applications for their high school education program. Ms. Doumbia will email the Ms. Florimon the application to forward to interested parties and contacts.

### **Arlene Rodriguez Martinez- Jazz Power Initiative -**

Northern Manhattan initiative that looks to transform life through jazz performance. Spring program is coming up for youth in March. As Jazz power, they feel they are a very good compliment for DOE, charter schools, etc. to provide high quality education in jazz arts at no cost.

12-week program in jazz voice and theater. Located in Holy Trinity Church near Seaman Ave. Excited to provide this access to kids.

Excited to offer a great staff and access

Jazzpower.org for open studios, registrations.

Two options for open studios:

Thursday, January 19, 2023, 6-7:30 PM,

Aliana Dominicana Cultural Center, 530 W 166th St, New York, NY 10032

And

Thursday, February 2, 2023

4:30-7 PM

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

20 Cumming St, New York, NY 10034

10-17 years old can sign up and participate.

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Recently got some support from the national endowment of the arts to fulfill the mission of keeping the legacy of the blues.

## **Luis Cruz - Announcement about the Explorer Program**

Luis announced the 33rd Explorer Program which provides young men and women with an introduction to a career in the criminal justice system.

Open to ages 14 to 21, need good grades and be passionate.

Contact 917-319-1582 or Officer Rodriguez at 917-971-0804

## **Ms. Florimon:**

Representative Adriano Espaillat (NY-13) will host his annual State of the District address Sunday, January 29th at The Forum located at Columbia University, 601 W 125th Street, New York, NY. 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Guillermo Perez asks if Cruz could send a flier about the Explorer Program. Cruz will share the flier with the community board and Florimon.

Lastly Ms. Florimon shares at the next committee meeting, students from WHEELS will be presenting an update of their project "Creating School Streets: Centering Youth Environmental Justice"

Ms. Florimon called a motion to adjourn the meeting. Guillermo Perez Seconded.

## **Meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm**

**NOTE:** To view this meeting, please access the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5phuCmzSBB0>

Committee thanks member Jason Banas for taken the minutes.