



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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HENRIETTA LYLE
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
District Manager

Education, Libraries & Youth Committee

Tuesday, November 18th, 2014

Board Members in Attendance:

Present: Chair, Deborah Yates, Michelle Booker, Tuesday Brooks, Daniel Clark, Michael Downie, Marquis Harrison, Karen Ann Horry, Crystal McKay, Jennifer Prince

Excused: Christina Curry, Tamara Martin, Shanelle Washington

Absent: Reverend Lisa Jenkins, Stephen Watkins, Khalifa Diop, Brandi North, Troy Gethers

Guests:

Flores Forbes, Columbia University Initiative; Victoria Mason, Columbia University Initiative; Dr. Kal Smith, GRAAFICS; Sharrah Shakize, GRAAFICS; Princess Lyle, Democracy Builders; Tchiyuki Cornelius, Democracy Builders; Bianca Tarnary, NYC HHC-HAPPI; Melissa Truman; Cynthia Seymore

Columbia University Initiative for the Obama Presidential Library

Victoria Mason and Flores Forbes from the Office of Governmental and Community Affairs at Columbia University came to inform CB10 of their efforts and status as one of the applicants to house the Obama Presidential Library. The Obama Presidential Library consists of a library, museum, foundation, and as an added component a presidential suite/apartment for the president to use during his stay.

Columbia University received the “request for qualification” from the Obama Presidential Foundation in April with the deadline to respond in June. The Leadership of Columbia University decided to respond. They submitted their “request for qualification” in June with a one page face sheet overview of existing presidential libraries. Columbia University understands its challenge of being an urban campus unlike its competitors. Currently, Columbia University is on the short list of four universities for the next second round of inquiry. The four short listed universities are: Columbia University, University of Chicago, University of Hawaii, University of Illinois-Chicago. The second round for submission is due December 11, 2014.

Questions from the CB10 Members:

How do you propose to make yourself look different?

- In order to show that Columbia University is a viable institution to house the Presidential Library, they must demonstrate their capacity to respond to the qualifications and

questions in their submissions. Although Columbia University is an urban campus, their campus is a vibrant, culturally diverse campus, in a global city with eight global centers that may serve the President with future global outreach.

- Each round has a host of questions to respond to.
- The concept is a work in progress
- The President and the Foundation may elect to divide up the facilities like the way the Clinton Family: the Library and the Museum are in Arkansas, and the Foundation is in New York.
- We are hoping for all three facilities at Columbia University.

What would you like from us in regards to support?

- We are still in the process of responding to the bid, so at this juncture we don't need anything.
- However, we may need to request an official letter of support.

How accessible will the location be?

- The Presidential Library will be in Harlem in Manhattanville.

In the next phase, do you have to present a design?

- The President and the First Lady will select the architect.
- The Bush Presidential Library is 210 thousand square feet.
- It will also be based on zoning restrictions.
- It will be an urban plan for the area.
- The Library will be mostly digital, there will not be a lot of hard copies of books, to maximize space.

Gang Diversion Reentry And Absent Fathers Intervention Centers, Inc. (GRAAFICS)

Deborah Yates, Chair of the Education, Libraries, and Youth Committee invited Dr. Kai Smith, the founder of GRAAFICS in 2003 with the mission "To decrease criminal activity, recidivism and absent fathering by providing positive real time alternatives for people genuinely interested in change". The objective is to develop and produce customized programming that will provide the Manhattan District Attorney's Office with a 'new' and measurable approach to reducing street gang membership and street gang violence using education and entrepreneurialism. The goal is to develop and product targeted network of Manhattan DOE district superintendents and school leaders, that will partner with Manhattan DA and GRAAFICS to offer 'new', innovative and measurable approach to increasing LTA attendance, decreasing school based incidents and increasing the grades of at risk and disconnected youth.

GRAAFICS is a vendor to NYC Department of Education, and the program targets middle and high schools that either: have histories of and/or incidents of mid-level to high violence; are failing in their letter grade, and/or are on the list to be closed. Their core curriculum has been approved by the NYC DOE, which is in alignment with the Chancellor's regulations and common core standards. The GRAAFICS life skills curriculum is blended with teachers' lesson plans to produce a 'New' daily lesson goal that speaks directly to each child's experience delivered by a 'CREDIBLE' witness. GRAAFICS is modeled after the SNUG program from Chicago based on a Cohort Enrollment method which allows for the removal of the most

challenging students to transitioning them back into a healthy classroom where they can keep up with the coursework and succeed.

GRAAFICS has had success in seven (7) Brooklyn schools and is looking to expand its program to Harlem. The organization has been in Harlem for three months with a new location at 150th and 8th Avenue. They will be providing a twenty week course for youth ages 14-24 years old on entrepreneurship.

Dr. Kai Smith requested assistance with the following; (1) A joint email to community board to schools; (2) Arrange a meeting District Manager for schools in District 5; (3) Help facilitate outreach for the GRAAFIC's Programming; (4) Help find a large facility to accommodate 100 plus students for the upcoming program.

Question(s) from committee members:

What do you see as your obstacles?

- Mobilizing resources for the program
- Networking
- Funding for Gun Violence Prevention beyond 144th street

Contact Information:

Dr. Kai Smith
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New York, NY 10037
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www.graafics.org

DEMOCRACY BUILDERS

Ms. Lyle and Mr. Cornelius from Democracy Builders presented the organization's position on mandatory "Backfill" for charter schools that co-locate with district schools. They are a parent advocacy group. Democracy Builders is currently drafting a White Paper on the issue and will be drafting legislation in the near future.

Currently, charter schools are not required to fill any seat vacated by a child in any educational cohort. The only requirement for existing charter schools is that they maintain 20% of the projected enrollment in their original charter document. These projections usually taper as they approach the upper grades allowing some charter schools to have reduced cohort sizes while maintaining compliance with their charter.

Charter schools are graded on the same statistics as district schools, however because of the size of the charter school diminishes over time, the statistics are often misleading. Parents that have better information can make a better choice for their children. If they have fair numbers for comparison, they can then make a truly informed decision.

As a result of the new state regulations, New York City cannot charge rent to charter schools located on public property. However, the city is allowed to make stipulations regarding any space sharing agreement or building utilization plan.

The City Council has the authority to mandate that all charter schools that are co-located in public school buildings implement an “open enrollment policy” whereby any vacated seat, in any grade, must be filled with an eligible student during that school year.

Several charter schools have established effective models of integrating new and transferring students in the upper grades.

They also introduced an app “Kininvolved” that tracks student attendance among at-risk youth through improved communications and access to shared data among, schools, after school programs, and family members. See: www.kinvolved.com.

Question(s) from Committee Members

What pool do the students come from and when would they be integrated into the charter school system?

- The students would be selected from the “waitlist”’t lottery system from existing applicant pool.
- The students would be integrated at the start of the school year.

Contact Information:

Democracy Builders

2130 Adam Clayton Powell Blvd.

New York, NY 10027

Harlem Hospital Center (HHC)

Harlem Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (HAPPI)

Bianca Tarnary from HAPPI at Harlem Hospital Center will be hosting their Annual Youth Career Fair on Thursday, December 11, 2014 from 4pm-7pm at the HHC, Martin Luther King Pavillon on the 2nd floor (at 135th st. and Lenox Ave.)

HAPPI is also hosting its free Annual College Tour to visit SUNY College/University in Upstate NY. The event is open to students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grade. The bus will be departing from Harlem Hospital Center located at 506 Lenox Avenue on the corner of 135th Street.

If interested in participating, RSVP for a pre-college tour session, call HAPPI at 212-939-4028.