



CICELY HARRIS  
Chairperson

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CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10  
215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10027  
T: 212-749-3105 F: 212-662-4215

**EDUCATION, YOUTH & LIBRARIES COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 16, 2021 6:30PM**

**ATTENDANCE**

Present Board Members: Cicely Harris, Donna Gill, Derek Perkinson

Present Committee Members: Joshua Clennon, Marquis Harrison, Tamara Martin, Crystal McKay, Afrika Owens, Stephanie Palmer, Jennifer Prince, Milan Reed, Deborah Yates

Absent Committee Members: Mari Moss (excused), Jamilah Clark (excused)

Present Staff: Jasmin Heatley

Present Guest Presenters: (Project Hope) Jasmine Butler, Arianna Holmes, Alexis Taylor, (NYPL) Sydney Renwick, (District 5) Yael Leopold

**DISCUSSION**

**Agenda Item: Project Hope and Northside Center**

*Key Discussion Points:*

Staff from Northside Center, a major child development non-profit in Harlem, presented on their work with families coping with COVID. Project Hope is a FEMA funded program administered by the New York State Department of Mental Health and implemented by Northside Center. Services include, helping family members to deal with stress, an emotional support help line and providing families help with on-line-learning.

Northside staff shared their challenges with outreach to the community. In response, Committee members offered assistance by offering to connect Northside to charter schools, The Boys and Girls Club, CEC's and The New York Public Library (NYPL). We look forward to future updates.



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Agenda Item: New York Public Library

*Key Discussion Points:*

Sydney Renwick, Associate Director of Community and Government Affairs for NYPL presented to the committee and the public. She shared with us five public libraries in Community Board 10. Of these five libraries, two are currently operating, Countee Cullen and Harry Belafonte. The library at 125th Street is open for “Grab and Go”.

The Director also shared information about the *SHELF HELP* program, which provides tutoring services to children and youth. The child must have a library card. The link for further information about this program was shared during the meeting and will be shared with the community.

It was noted that CB 10’s District Needs request identifies Capital Improvements for both Countee Cullen and Harry Belafonte libraries. These improvements include extensive renovations, ADA requirements, removal of floors and boiler replacement.

The committee will review and report on the status of these requests in future meetings.

Agenda Item: New Business, District 5 Report- Yael Leopold

*Key Discussion Points:*

Continuation of New York City Public Schools openings, high schools will open on March 22, 2021. Yael shared information about a DOE program designed to provide technical support to parents at least once every month. This program is in search of a name. One of our guests recommended the “Brainy Bar”. This initiative is aligned with one of the Committee’s District Needs requests regarding the provision of technical support to families and schools in CB10 who are managing on-line-learning.

Pre-K and 3-K virtual tours for parents have been extended until the end of March. The Department is urging parents to secure SA (Student Accounts) accounts as a way to monitor report cards, student attendance and other important information and announcements.

In response to the controversy surrounding the Gifted and Talented Program, equity and inclusion issues, all parents are asked to apply to enroll their child/ children into the program. Yael reported that the intention is to send the message that all of the children in CB 10 and District 5 are gifted and talented. As such, all of our children are worthy of additional resources to support their positive growth and development.



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There was a brief discussion about the impact of similar programs such as A Better Chance and Prep for Prep on positive youth development. A couple of our board members shared their experiences as participants in these programs and recommended that we explore these issues in depth at a future meeting of the committee.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

The Committee Members will,

- Connect Project Hope with community-based organizations to support recruitment efforts.
- Review and report on the status of District Needs requests at future meetings
- Explore the impact of enriched educational opportunity programs such as, Gifted and Talented, Prep for Prep and ABC on the children from our community

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jacques Brunvil (Manhattan District Attorney's Office) announced that the application deadline for the internship program has been extended. High school students can still apply to participate in this summer program.

Anthony Murisco (New York Public Library) announced that the library has (5) hotspot devices available to families in CB 10. He can be reached by email, for further information. ([anthonymurisco@nypl.org](mailto:anthonymurisco@nypl.org)).