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# CITY OF NEW YORK

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## EDUCATION YOUTH & LIBRARIES

### Committee Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2021

Hon. Stephanie Palmer, Chair

#### **Agenda Item:** Attendance

Committee Members Present: Stephanie Palmer, Daniel Paterson, Genisha Metcalf, Verna Diggs, Tamara Martin, Marquis Harrison, Joshua Clennon, Shawn Brannon

Committee Members Absent: Jose Mendez, Afrika Owes

Committee Members Excused: Milan Reed, Chrystal McKay Other Board Members Present: Donna Gill, Cicely Harris, Tefone Herring, Derek Perkinson,

Guest Presenters: Gregory Baggett, President/Founder A Philip Randolph Alliance O'Neal Ellerbe, Founder/ Lead Coach Skate Everything School

Staff Present: Shatic Mitchell, Jasmin Heatley

#### **Agenda Item:** The New Green Deal

##### *Key Discussion Points*

Gregory Baggett shared the specifics of the New Green Deal for Schools. It is a piece of legislation designed to invest \$1.4 trillion dollars, over ten years, in America's public schools. This new funding will address decades of inequality through underfunding of schools in communities of long-standing need, This new funding will provide retrofit for climate resiliency, zero-carbon energy and technology enhancements. In addition, this new funding will help to reduce teacher-student ratio by hiring teachers and support staff and expansion of social services. Mr. Baggett spoke about how communities can become involved through community organizing and advocacy efforts.

##### **Action Items**

The committee will share information about organizing activities targeted to this legislation, on the CB10 website

Committee members will continue to work with interested parties to support the goals of this legislation. The committee will entertain seeking a letter of support from CB10.

##### DISTRICT NEEDS

- All children have equal access to remote learning resources and virtual learning support.
- Innovate programming in After School, Art Education and Trauma informed services
- Increased investment in Youth workforce development and employment
- Capital improvements to libraries

**Agenda Item:** Skate Everything School  
Key Discussion Points

O’Neal Ellerbe, made the committee aware of his organization’s efforts to expand skateboarding skills to children in the Central Harlem community. He spoke about the importance of providing a diversity of athletic experiences for children and youth., beyond traditional basketball, football and soccer. Community participants spoke about the growing popularity of the sport in the community. They also offered an inspiring vision of a skateboarding team from Harlem participating in future Olympics. Meeting participants also expressed concern about the costs associated with the activity. Mr. Ellerbe spoke about their intention to seek funding support to serve those families who might not be able to afford to participate. Mr. Ellerbe also shared a link that provided more information about the program. Community members suggested that the CB could write a letter of support for the program to gain more access to the Jefferson/ Mt Pleasant Park. District Manager Mitchell, cautioned that the board might be limited in its ability to promote a private company. Gregory Baggett offered the program space at A Philip Randolph Square as an immediate option.

**Agenda Item:** Old Business, District Needs Agency Review  
Key Discussion Points

The committee spoke about the importance of reviewing the City Agencies responses to the Education, Youth and Libraries committee’s identified district needs statements. The committee Chair urged committee members to carefully examine the district needs that were submitted last year. In conjunction with this examination, committee members need to review the response to our requests made by the responsible City Agency. For example, in response to our request to renovate or upgrade high schools in our community, the Office of Management and Budget supports the agency’s position as follows: “unable to prioritize funding for this project request at this time”. The committee Chair, asked for the committee members approval to extend invitations to representatives from the City Agencies to meet with the committee and the community regarding their responses to our requests.

**Action Items**

Committee members will carefully review the City Agencies responses to our District Needs Requests in preparation to our meeting with them.  
Committee Chair will outreach to the City Agencies to invite them to our meeting  
The committee Chair will also reach out to representatives from social service, advocacy and other not for profit organizations to meet with the committee to inform our on-going discussions.

**Agenda Items:** New Business, New District Statement, City Budget Allocations, Issues, Concerns and Opportunities

Key Discussion Points

Under the direction of the Treasurer of CB10, the 2023 District Needs Statement development has begun. A survey to identify community needs has been distributed and a public forum is being planned. Joshua Clennon, CB10 Treasurer, outlined the process for the committee and the community. A community member stated her concern that the Community Board has not solicited the entire community to elicit their concerns and issues. She mentioned Northern Harlem in particular. The Treasurer offered that COVID 19 and the pandemic served as an obstacle to community outreach. He asked for any and all suggestions from members and the committee for how to expand community voices and engagement.

The committee also discussed city budget allocations for Harlem. There was concern regarding the lack of financial support for the schools in Central Harlem. Specifically, just one school in

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our district received funding as compared with ten schools in West Harlem. The committee needs to follow up with our public officials to better understand what happened and why.

The chair of the committee asked for input from the members to identify issues, concerns and opportunities that should be addressed by the committee during this year. Charter Schools and their impact on student enrollment was mentioned as well as establishing stronger relationships with affinity groups and organizations that will broaden our knowledge, the status of our schools, including curriculum, infrastructure, programs and staffing was also mentioned. We are particularly interested in the effect of the pandemic on student achievement and progress,

***Action Items***

Board members who have not done so already, will complete the District Needs Survey  
Public officials will be invited to meet with the committee regarding New York City Budget Allocations

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