



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
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**HENRIETTA LYLE**  
Chairperson

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## **Education/Libraries & Youth Committee**

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

### **Board Attendance:**

Present: Chair, Deborah Yates, Christina Curry, Stephanie Howze, Marquis Harrison, Tamara Martin, Crystal McKay, Stephen Watkins, Reverend Lisa Jenkins, Michael Downie  
Excused: Karen Horry, Jennifer Prince, Daniel Clark,  
Absent: Troy Gethers

### **Guests:**

Mark Shine, Education Board Game  
Paul Hersh

Brandon Espinosa, Practice Makes Perfect

### **Educational Board Game**

This is Mark Shines second time before the committee to present his educational board game. The board game is a map of the United States and its objective is to educate kids about states and state capitals and to create one on one communication among children. Children play today but don't communicate because of new technology. Each player question card is a state card, it asks the name of the capital of the states. There is a timer so each child must answer in the allotted time. Christina Curry CB10 Board member mentions that the colors would be difficult for people with low vision to see and should be changed to accommodate children with disabilities. This game will teach geography and math improves attention span. At the end of the game the person who has the most states is the President. The entire process should take 30-40 minutes. Questions were asked regarding will there be any information regarding election processes since the winner is the president. Mr. Shine said that not at this time. Also it was noted that since the state capitals are already on the board how do you keep the participants from looking on the board for the answer. There was also a question about the possibility of an app. Mr. Shine wants to do a conventional board game to start.

Mr. Shine is looking for funding for the board game. He plans to build on the game with more historical information about each state. As for funding Stephanie Howze mentioned that if there is a specific application to a specific foundation that requires Community Board support Mr. Shine could come back and we could vote on that application. Mr. Shine will provide a letter

from a Not for Profit who has agreed to sponsor. Christina Curry mentioned that there is funding for the disabled community if the game were more tailored for vision loss and for those that are developmentally delayed. Mr. Shine will follow up with Ms. James.

### **Practice Makes Perfect**

[www.practicemakesperfect.org](http://www.practicemakesperfect.org)

Brandon Espinosa attended the Education, Libraries & Youth Committee meeting to discuss their organization Practice Makes Perfect a 5013c organization. Their purpose is to “address inequities in socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods over the summer” Practice Makes Perfect aims to replace summer school as we know it with something more effective. Their program pairs skill development for younger students with leadership development, career training and college prep for older students. Practice Makes Perfect has three areas of development, Summer Enrichment for Struggling Learners, Leadership, Career Development and College Prep for High Achieving Learners and Professional Experience and Teaching Exposure in High-Need Environments.

They are currently working with several Charter School summer programs and are hoping to branch out to manage more public school summer programs. Brandon stated that he has met with Keith Wright and has scheduled meetings with Inez Dickens and Bill Perkins. He is going to Albany to lobby for his organization. Wants CB10 support for what they are doing.

They were philanthropic funded but have changed to a fee for service model because it is more sustainable. Cost is about \$500 per student and last summer their students saw a 6% gain in Reading and Writing and a 7% gain in math understanding. The money is reinvested back into the community. The mentors, who all come from the community, receive a \$200 stipend. Print books develop curriculum. Practice plans cultural outings and mandatory Saturday Community Service.

Christine Curry about Practice Makes Perfect desire to get into public schools. Brandon Espinosa has met with Chancellor Walcott. They have a meeting with person in the Board of Ed who runs the summer school program. Practice Makes Perfect has a contract with the school Teach Firms of America Professional Preparatory Charter School in Brooklyn. Marquis- can you go through a day in the summer, slide 4. Breakfast, spelling bee, math, health, reading, gym lunch, vocabulary, writing, reading and each summer there is a project. Last summer it was business plans. All students partnered with Ernst and Young. They were the board to decide who gets the money. 24 students per grade 6 mentors per grade. Students are there because they have failed to meet some kind of requirement. How are you training your mentors? (Brandon, there is a two week 20 hour training session). Using college students recruiting from Columbia, NYU, Hunter want to use local mentors.) right now serving at risk youth not serving mandated summer school students.

### **Education Forum First Quarter 2014**

The subcommittee Marquis, Dan, Tamara and Steven met to discuss the upcoming Forum. It was thought that March 1<sup>st</sup> might be a good date but at the monthly meeting Crystal McKay suggested we consider moving the date back to give us enough time to plan. We have decided on four panels, Charter Schools, benefits and cons, Special Education from the perspective of empowering parents and acknowledging that just because a child is in Special Education does not mean that child is not gifted, Testing/Common Core and Role of Parents. We need to address the fact that most Charter Schools will not accept

children with disabilities. We are asking the new NYC Education Chancellor to be our keynote speaker. We hope to provide breakfast and or lunch and plan to have the forum in a local public school. We need to ensure that there are interpreters at the meeting and that security is provided. We are also looking at some potential partners. When looking at sponsors we need to ensure there is no conflict of interest. We plan to invite organizations to have tables at the Forum to provide additional information to the parents, i.e., Libraries, Gifted and Talented programs, special education, etc. We hope to have the forum in one of the public schools in the area.

**Announcements**

NEXT MEETING February 18th, 6:30 PM