

# CB12M-Youth and Education Committee

## Meeting Minutes

Monday December 14, 2015

Meeting #10

**Location:** 530 West 166<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10032

**Committee Members Present:** Fe Florimón, Chair; Alyce Smith, Assistant Chair; Ayisha Oglivie; Glenis Aquino;

**Committee Member (s) Absent:** Maria Luna; Manny De Los Santos; Estevan Nembhard **Excused:** Prescilla Mota- Willis

**Community Member(s) and Guest (s),** Josh Karan, former CEC6 member, Parent Advocate; Joel Yoffie, Angel Vasquez, Steve Seward, Teacher, Roberto Marrero, Representative from Boricua College

**PART I:** The meeting was called at 7: 15p.m by Fe Florimón, Chair  
Members of the Committee and attendees were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves.

**PART II: Discussion was conducted as indicated below:**

- ✓ The subject of “Education Assessment and Advocacy in District 12 (school district 6) was the initial discussion opened by Ms. Florimon. The topic was presented as an open discussion among participants with the objective to engage the public and assess their input and/or concern about education in the community. Furthermore, the committee encouraged participants to discuss about the most pressing issues in education for the school D6. Some of the topic discussed included dual language (two way bi-lingual program), ESL (English as a second language,) parental engagement, class size reduction, social promotion and funding were among the topics of discussion. A great concern about parental engagement was discussed in depth, arguing that lots of parents may not participate in school meetings due to several reasons. It discussed that school meetings are often scheduled early during the day (sometime 2:00pm) when parents are still at work; other participants also argue that lot of parents may not afford to leave work earlier to attend school meeting because of financial constrain,- it may affect their salary. However, it was also discussed the importance of parents to get involvement in their children’s education and the need for them to understand their education rights. In addition, the following concerns were also discussed:
- ✓ Mr. Vasquez, community member, asked about strategies being used to engage parents, the actual numbers of dual language in the community, what can CEC6 and Youth Committee can do to help parents and students in D6.
- ✓ Mr. Karen, Parent Advocate, discussed about the perception of students’ graduation rate under previous administration; the obstacles (great burdens) families are presently facing because of the increase of the city living standard and the view of the former NYS’ Governor Pataki on education entitlement almost decades ago.

- ✓ Steve Seward, Teacher and community member stated that a lot of foreigner students are not fully literate in their native language and so it is much harder for them to learn English. Many students in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are having tremendous changes with reading and writing because of their lack foundation on their native language. For students with the literacy foundation on their native language, it will be much easier for them to learn a second language. He was also stated that students at early age are more prompt/ better off to learn other language. The older the student gets, the harder it will be for him/her to learn another language.
- ✓ Member Ms. Aquino restated Mr. Seward's comments by adding that students must have a foundation in their native language in order to succeed in other language (English in this case) and she used her personal experience as a child.
- ✓ According to Josh Karan, these are some of the issues that the "Campaign For Fiscal Equity (CFE)" has been advocating and supporting for over a decade
- ✓ The committee also discussed the problem of social promotion – students are being passed from one grade to the grade without preparation. This problem mainly exists because of the lack of funding, which CFE seeks also to advocate according to Josh Karan.
- ✓ Angel Vasquez feels that politicians do not attend Board Meetings, except for the General Meeting to make some announce and don't do much for the community.

### **PART III: NewBusienss**

- ✓ The Committee reported that on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> - at 10:30am, at Isabella Geriatric Center, in collaboration with the D6 Community Education Council (CEC6) a meeting was held in anticipation of D6 Town Hall with Chancellor Carmen Farina. Parents, students and the whole community were invited to allow them with the opportunity to express their education concerns and ask questions, which will be shared with the Chancellor. ·

### **Old Business**

- ✓ The committee delivered its promise when shared the pending District Resources Statement (previous discussed), which is released annually by the Office of Management and Budge. The report provides the reader with a list of all the organization within District 12, revealing their program and their collective allocated funds. Members of the public and the committee received a copy of the report.

**NOTE: Meeting was adjourned at 9:35PM**

**Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm** - 530 West 166<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10032

***Please note that location is subject to change. Please check with CB12M office before attend.  
Thank You!***