

Public Meeting of the CB12M's Youth and Education Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting #3

Monday, March 14, 2016

Location: 530 West 166th Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimón, Chair; Priscilla Mota Willis, Assistant Chair-INT; Maria Luna; Glennis Aquino; Estevan Nembhard

Committee Member(s) Absent: Ayisha Oglivie; Manny De Los Santos;

Guest: Ms. Caitlin Robisch, Director of Educational Partnerships and Programs NY Tristate;

Community Members: Jennifer Araujo, Representative, District Attorney Office; Kirys Gomez; Al Kurland, Representative from PAL; Joe Yoffie; Veronica Almedist, from Amber Charter School; Rose Castillo, from Amber Charter School; Heidi Hamilton, from Amber Charter School; Carmen Paulino

The meeting was called at 7:15p.m by *Priscilla Mota- Willis*, Assistant Chair Members of the Committee and attendees were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves.

Part I. Discussion was taken place as indicated below

- ❖ **Ms. Caitlin Robisch**, Director of Educational Partnerships and Programs in NY Tristate from the WE.org organization introduced herself and gave a brief presentation on her organization, the resources it provides for the community and their mission for NYC and Washington Heights.

WE.org is a non-profit organization, which was started by a 12 year old as Free the Children 20 years ago. The organization now strives to inspire youth worldwide to effect change in their communities through academics, civic education and career engagement. The program also has a yearly WE Day, a culmination of the program to help inspire and share youth achievements from the middle school and high school student participants.

Ms. Robisch's presentation was followed by a Q&A session from the committee and community attendees. She proceeded to further explain in depth the services that WE.org provides as an organization by creating service projects in communities that in turn lead to service actions by youth. The program currently exists for grades K-12 and is administered by a school administrator and organization coordinator. Funding for the program is primarily via private donors and self-funding projects. WE.org has no affiliation with political organizations.

Several meeting attendees noted the need for these types programs in our community and that they are hoping for a positive impact from the program.

Ms. Robisch expressed her desire for the committee to assist in disseminating information about her program to District 6 schools and citywide, if possible.

Fe Florimon, Chair, Prior the Committee meeting, she was attending a meeting with the NYPD regarding Community Partner Program. She stated it was a positive meeting, which made emphasis on the NYPD

appreciation for the support they have received from Community for their “NYPD Community Partner Program” She also spoke about the importance of supporting the NYP’s initiative and encouraged everybody to get involved.

Part I New Business/Old Business

Assist. Chair Priscilla Mota-Williams mentioned a new initiative in our community called, “Paint the Heights.” It is a program where young women (ages 11-17) are encouraged to join a group who paints murals throughout the Washington Heights/Inwood area where illegal graffiti exists.

Member Glennis Aquino mentioned the recent Big Brothers & Big Sisters orientation that took place at the Armory on March 9th @ 6:00pm. The program is in serious need of young professional males and is hoping to do an extensive outreach in the Washington Heights area. They will be holding several more orientations in the community and hope to increase community participation on the next events.

Member Maria Luna mentioned a trip to Albany with the Manhattan Borough President’s office in support of affordable housing.

Member Estevan Nembhard mentioned the CUNY budget crisis that is currently taking place. Governor Cuomo is planning to cut \$485 million from the CUNY budget. 75% of the student population is non-white. He mentioned several rallies to protest the budget cuts and wanted to make the committee and attendees aware. **Priscilla Mota-Williams** mentioned that communication regarding the rallies (time, place, date) is key in order to obtain the maximum amount of participants. All committee members agreed. **Maria Luna** suggested creating a resolution for the budget crisis and having all members of the committee spread the word on the issue.

Estevan Nembhard mentioned the hash tag for the issue on social media is #saveCUNY
It was suggested by an attendee of the meeting that the Executive Committee of CB12 should formulate a strategic plan to disseminate information to the general public regarding meetings, rallies, events, etc.

Fe Florimon, Chair, stated that at the April 11th Y&E committee meeting she will make a presentation showing the deplorable conditions in some of the schools located in District 6. She is hoping that from this presentation and other community issues, the committee may draft several resolutions, perhaps, five (5) which will be proposed to the general board. , including but not limited to, ramps for access, class size, classrooms for science and asbestos abatement, etc. **Maria Luna** proposed that the committee speak directly to our district representatives (Councilman, State Senator) in order to bring actual change to these conditions. A discussion followed amongst the committee members regarding the presentation and the actions that needs to take place in order to improve the conditions.

Manhattan DA’s office representative **Jennifer Araujo**, gave a short presentation on extending youth court services to 16-21 year olds as an alternative to incarceration. She also provided a clarification on how violations/warrants will be enforced and their procedures.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58pmSubmitted By: **Glennis Aquino, Member**

NOTE: Next meeting:

Saturday, April 2nd 2016 @ 10:30am – Isabella Geriatric Center 515 Audubon Ave NYC 10040

Monday, April 11th, 2016 @ 7:00pm – Board Office listed above