

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

Meeting Minutes

Meeting #3

Monday, March 12, 2018

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

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimon, Chair; Maria Luna; Ayisha Oglivie; Derek Peralta

Committee Member(s) Excused: Glennis Aquino;

Committee Member(s) Absent: Luis Tapia

Community Members: Lloyd Donders, Special Education Law Attorney, Jennifer Duran, Manager, and Alessandra Devia from Zeta Charter School; Al Kurland, Representative from PAL, Paloma Lara; Diego Ani, representative from GDS

The meeting was called by Fe Florimon, Chair

7:05pm

Discussion that took place as indicated below:

1. Lloyd Donders, Special Education Law Attorney, made a presentation about "Special Education in New York City Schools" and "What Can Community Advocates do to help our most vulnerable students? An overview of the federal status and abiding regulations were part of the presentation as follow:

✓ Individual with Disability Education Act (IDEA) was implemented at federal law and requires schools to serve the educational needs of eligible students with disabilities under section 504. Under this regulation the "Child Find" strategy is implemented in which school district has the obligation to seek students with disabilities and perform evaluations to help determine the student's needs and who is entitled to "Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) regardless of the nature and severity of the child's disability. This regulation also requires the students with disabilities to be placed in the "Least Restricted Environment" meaning with other students in general education where they can equally benefit the most. Therefore, school districts are not allowed to place all the students in the same environments as it must be specific to the Child's needs. This regulation also requires that highly qualified special education teacher must be involved in the process.

- ✓ The presenter also discussed the topic of "Early Intervention Services" ages of 3-5
- ✓ Committee on Special Education (CSE)
- ✓ An overview of the NYC Department of Education
- ✓ Individual Education Plan: out of 1.1. million students in over 1,800 public schools, nearly 200,000 students (almost of the public schools have 19% of students) have IEPs –Individual Education Plan
- ✓ Independent Evaluation Education
- ✓ Districts evaluations are often insufficient
- ✓ Law entitles the parent to certain types of evaluation
- ✓ IEE: Independent Education Evaluation
- ✓ RSA: Related Service Authorization: Public Advocate has found that DOE has failed to fulfill its legal obligation. For example, 57% of the RSA go unused in the School District Six (SD6)
- ✓ School give parents vouchers called RSAs, which rates too low for many service providers
- ✓ Bullying: Special protections afforded to Special Ed students who are bullied. This gives merit for private school placement
- ✓ Schools are required to educate a child even when in the hospital dealing with medical concerns.
- ✓ Parent must receive annual update about status and reevaluation every 3 years.

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- ✓ Students are supposed to receive an initial evaluation within 60 days of request however many students wait years.
 - ✓ Under child with a disability, there are 13 classifications, which must fit in one of the following categories: Autism, deafness, deaf-blindness, serious emotional disturbance, and so forth.
 - ✓ Schools attempt to put the burden of finding service on Parents and in some cases deny services based on discrimination (i.e.: neighborhood, etc).
 - ✓ In New York States children and parents have a greater chance than in many states to defend their rights to receive needed services/accommodations.
 - ✓ Mr. Al Kukland mentioned that ICT classes exist which are collaborative classrooms. Integrated Collaborative Teaching.
 - ✓ Self Contained classes have approximately 12 students which is more restrictive than ICT.
 - ✓ Certain districts don't like to "hand-out special education" as much.
 - ✓ Once child ages out of high school there is no requirement for school to follow through on accommodations.
 - ✓ Member Oglivie suggested that information about student with IEP should be included in the orientation process at the beginning of the school year.
 - ✓ Q/A section were provided.
2. Ms. Paloma Lara, member of the “Northern Manhattan is not For Sale” expressed concerned about the Inwood Rezoning Proposal- referring to the committee’s minutes dated April 12, 2017. However, comment/or concern was not clear to the committee. But, she promised to send the committee a note via email clarifying her concern.
 3. Representatives from Zeta Charter Schools announced that their school is officially located at 652 West 187 Street New York, NY 10033 (the previous location for Amber Charter School). The will be serving K-1st grade, 30 students per classroom, with two teachers. Presently, over 1,000 students have applied to Zeta Charter Schools, and Zeta Inwood 1 will enroll around 180 students, and registration is based on lottery system. Students will have access to enjoy the playground located next to their school- PS. 048 located at 4360 Broadway (near West 187 Street). Unlike the NYC Public School, charters schools start their school year at the end of August.

New/Old Business discussion

Several announcements were made including:

- ✓ 3rd Annual Youth and Police Partnership Walk & Resourced Fair – May 19, 2018
- ✓ The NYC Homelessness Students Crisis Impact- Part II- In collaboration with Housing Committee April 26 or 27, 2018 (pending)
- ✓ Conversational Youth Forum at GWEC (pending)
- ✓ Youth Mental Health Part III (fall 2018)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm

Thanks to Member Oglivie for sharing some notes.