

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

## Meeting Minutes

### Meeting #1

**Monday, January 8, 2018**

**Location: 549 Audubon Ave 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10040**

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| <b>Committee Members Present:</b> Fe Florimón, Chair; Glennis Aquino, Assist Chair; Luis Tapia, Derek Peralta |
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| <b>Committee Member(s) Absent:</b> Ayisha Oglivie; <b>Excused:</b> Maria Luna |
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| <b>Community Members:</b> Al Kurland, Police Athletic League, Inc. |
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The meeting was called at 6:11p.m by Fe Florimón, Chair

6:00pm-8:00pm

### Discussion that took place as indicated below:

On the aforementioned date, members of the Youth and Education Committee, met at the George Washington Educational Campus' Library with the objective to participate in the Community Meeting held by the D6's Superintendent and hear about his proposal to close the *H. S. for Health Careers & Sciences based on a series of claims. The committee learned that on December 18, 2017 a letter was given to the students, announcing the proposal to close the school because of the school's enrollment and graduation rates have decreased by 26 % since the year 2013-2014.*

On his visual presentation (PowerPoint Presentation), the Superintendent Manuel Ramirez discussed additional areas of low performance subjects such as: "Renewal School Program", college readiness, and students' absences. However, the data presented by the Superintendent at this meeting, did not match the data written on the letter given to the students and parents. The committee witnessed many testimonies provided by a wave of participants including: Parents, Students, School Staff, Elected Officials, Union Representatives, Community Based Organizations, and Community Board Members as well as others. In the presence of the News representatives participants did not hold back their disagreements and frustration, which all resulted in the collected opposition to the DOE's and Superintendent's proposal to close the school.

Eva L. De Jesus, Model ENL Teacher also expressed her frustration with the proposed school closure stating that academic content and English proficiency according to research takes 5-7 years to acquire, thus, dispelling the superintendent's argument and the NYDOE's resolute to close the school in 3 years because specific benchmarks were not met.

Moreover, Ms. Yhanka Veras, Representative of DC37 and Local 372, also questioned the claims made by the Superintendent about the enrollment when the school has no control or say over who we can or cannot accept. In addition, if the office of enrollment is controlled by representatives that are not direct stakeholders and are only seeing students as numbers that how can our enrollment improve? Furthermore, the enrollment has declined at the building level and the school is by far not the worst regarding enrollment and numbers.

While expressing her disagreement Ms. Florimon also provided a positive overview based on the accumulated work merit of the school. She highlighted the outcome of the school as demonstrated in the "Quality Review Report 2016-2017" issued by the Department of Education in which the school was rated "Proficient and Well Developed." Consequently, the committee proposed to pass a resolution opposing the proposal for closure. Since the committee did not have quorum, it was suggested to be submitted to the next Executive Committee for their consideration.

**There was not New/Old Business discussion**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05pm

**Next Meeting; Monday, February 12, 2018**