

Youth & Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting #1

Monday, January 1, 2019

Location: CB12M Office 530 West 166 Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Committee Members Present Chair; Glennis Aquino, Assist Chair; Maria Luna; Gabriela Estrella; Curtis Young; Mary O'Shaughnessy, Jonathan Nunez-Formeta

Board Member(s) Excused: N/A

Public Member (s) Present: Liane Ramirez

Committee Member(s) Absent: Luis Tapia

Board Member Present (s): Richard Lewis, Chairman

Guest: Presenter- Andy McCord, Program Chair, City Smart Scholars

Public: Karina Muñoz and Eddie Tirado, Partner Advocate at the Y in Washington Heights; Al Kurland/PAL/Teen Board; Marquis, student from a public charter school.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Fe Florimon at 7:03pm.

Discussion that took place as indicated below:

1. Members of the Committee and the audience were introduced by the chair followed by the review of agenda items.
2. **Andy McCord**, Program Chair, *The City Smart Scholars 2018 5th Grade Program* presented a background on the program as follow:
 - Formed in late 2014 by parents and alumni from Hunter College H.S. as well as Bronx H.S. of Science and Stuyvesant to increase admissions of Black and Latino children to the specialized schools.
 - The program is for 5th graders (main point of entry) to assist them with prep for entrance exams to specialized schools.
 - Work more broadly on English and math
 - Outreach is conducted in Upper Manhattan and the Bronx
 - Program is held on Saturdays and there is also a summer program for four weeks (enrichment in writing and math foundation)
 - There is a recreational piece which is conducted by Coach Dave Crenshaw
 - Applications are open and available online for the next 10 days
 - Mr. McCord asked the committee to spread the word and Chair Florimon promised to share the information with the School District
- 2 **The floor was opened for questions allowing members first:**
 - How long is the program?: 14 weeks (2/5-5/4); summer program is four weeks and the fall is 15 weeks of Saturdays in early September ending in December. Preference is given to families that commit to the entire year.
 - How many students are accepted into specialized schools? Four out of seven got into specialized high schools. 25% have left for other programs such as Prep for Prep. 3500 Black/Latino get 4's but only 500 Black/Latino kids get into the specialized schools.
 - Who is the point of contact of outreach at schools?: Mostly guidance counselors, Parent reps and Principals

- Are you 501c3? Yes. Funding comes from individual funding and from Con Ed and NY Community Trust and Foundations. Fundraising is going well. It costs \$3000 per student, per year.
- Can families apply online on their own? Yes, but test scores and report cards are required.
- How many schools have already applied?: TEP Charter, PS 187, PS 173, PS 278, Muscota and 128 Castle Bridge.
- Have you contacted Mott Hall? Mott Hall has not been responsive perhaps because they are afraid of losing their students.
- What numbers if students do you expect to be recruited? 2 classes of not more than 24 students per class so 48 total (5th grade only).

Questions from the Public:

- Does outreach extend to community organizations and PTOs? Yes, but they are open to more contacts.
- Has the program contacted District 6? We have not met with superintendent but have contacted District 6.
- What is the female vs male ratio of the program?: 50/50; 2/3 Latino

3. Committee Chair Florimon introduced the new Community Board 12 Chair, Richard Lewis.

- Chairman Lewis introduces himself and thanks everyone for their attendance and participation. He asks about the status of the school voucher program. Brief discussion about the program and how it exists but mostly in Brooklyn.
- Chairman Lewis notifies the Committee and the public that Public Member applications will be online. 16 and 17 year-olds are eligible. There was a discussion about providing free MetroCard's to kids who want to serve.
- Chairman Lewis suggested the Committee to pass a resolution, and Fe stated that few resolutions are being considered as part of the committee's goals for 2019.

4. The Committee discussed their goals for 2019

- Members collectively shared their thoughts and provided different goals. However, the final adoption/discussion will be at the February 11th meeting.

5. Old / New Business the following public announcements were made:

- Ms. Munoz, from the Y in Washington Heights, provided information about Uptown Hub which is funded by the District Attorney's office. They have partnered with five other organizations and each non-profit offer something different. They Y offers free access to the computer lab Mondays-Thursdays from 6pm-8pm.
- The first Planning Committee Meeting to discuss the 4th anniversary of Youth and Police Partnership Walk and Resource Fair were also discussed. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 16th at 6:30pm-8:30pm at the location of the Board Office (CB12M).
- The goal is to improve and promote better relationships between the NYPD and the Youth. As part of this initiative Chair has recommended NYPD officers from the Community Outreach Division Manhattan North to facilitate workshops at the schools. The timing for the event is slated for May 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34pm.

Prepared by: Public Member, Liane Ramirez Swierk