

Meeting Minutes
Meeting #3
Monday, March 11, 2019

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

Committee Members Present Fe Florimon, Chair; Maria Luna; Gabriela Estrella; Curtis Young; Jonathan Nunez-Frometa, Deborah Nabavian

Board Member(s) Excused: Glennis Aquino, Assist Chair

Public Member (s) Present: Liane Ramirez

Committee Member(s) Absent:

Board Member Present: Richard Allman

Guest: Presenters: Francesca Rodriguez; Jesse Donaldson, **Lead Teachers of NYC FIRST STEM Center**

Public: Ericka Cao, Director, Humans & Harmony; Al Kurland/PAL/Teen Board; Olga Perez MVP Lifeguards; Maceo Raysor, Sugar Hill Neighborhood Association; Alexis Marnel, Morris Jumel Mansion; Ryan Desso; Tatiana Mahoney, Inwood Academy; Erica Cao, Humans in Harmony Music School; Yessenia Rosario-Adam; Sheila Willard; Rayda Marquez; Yvonne Anderson.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Fe Florimon at 7:13pm.

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. Jorge Mendizabal, Deputy Director of Department of Youth & Community (DYCD)-Presentation was cancelled.
3. **Introduction of the NYC FIRST STEM Center in Washington Heights presented by Francesca Rodriguez and Jesse Donaldson, Lead Teachers**
 - Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Donaldson took the committee and the public through a presentation that details what a NYC FIRST STEM CENTER is, the mission, and the levels of competition.
 - Summer program available. Details at www.nyc.first.org
 - Presenters asked for assistance with getting the word out. Chair Florimon offered to connect them with the School District 6 office and Principals.
 - Committee members asked questions:
 - What happens after the students complete their project? They can apply for jobs, continue their education, and create a portfolio.
 - How long has this location been open? Since October of 2019. It's been challenging to get the word out.
 - How are they paying for materials? NYC FIRST STEM works with donors to pay for the materials.
 - How do they recruit for schools? CEO Michael Zigman approaches different schools.
4. **Chair Florimon opens floor to announcements by the public.**

- Representative from Reyna Daycare asked for any information or guidance the committee could provide for the RFP on Universal PreK process. Chair Florimon offered to get more information.
- Representative from MVP Lifeguards suggested for a resolution to renovate the swimming pool at George Washington High Educational Campus. Chair Florimon mentioned one pool was already renovated; the opening of the second pool still under discussion which the committee still consistently advocating.

5. The Board Budget Requests for the Preliminary Budget FY20: Responses from OMB on Capital (8 items) and Expense (5 items) Budget Rankings

- The Committee reviewed and discussed the following Expense and Capital Budget items identified below with their respectively **tracking code**:
 - **312202007E**— Increase fund for Individualized Education Program—Individualized Tutoring for students with learning difficulties in District 6. **OMB response**: More information is needed.
 - **312202021E**— Request Summer Youth Program Increase funding for the creation of jobs for the Summer youth program in Washington Heights/Inwood. **OMB response**: Unable to provide funding at this time.
 - **312202019E**— Additional funding to hire social worker staff at George Washington Educational Campus—Response from OMB response: Principals have direct control over their school staffing needs
 - **312202022E** Increase funding for Class Size Reduction in School District 6. **OMB response**: Unable to prioritize funding for this program at this time.
 - **312202036E**—Increase funding for Gifted and Talented programs for students in District 6. **OMB response**: Ambiguous response.
 - **312202042E**— to hire additional School Safety Officers. **OMB response**: Contact NYPD

6. FY20 Capital Budget responses.

- **312202013C**—Request Digital Library Provide funding to build Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) “Digital Library” within school District 6. **OMB Response**: Unable to provide funding at this time.
- —Provide funding for new elevator at George Washington Educational Campus. **OMB response**: Unable to prioritize for this project
- **312202015C** —Request Biotechnology and Aquaponics/Hydroponic Biotech Laboratory for M468 HS for Health Careers & Sciences. **OMB response**: Further study by the agency is needed.
- **312202016C**— Full renovation of Fort Washington Branch Library. **OMB response**: Project is currently in Design.
- **312202017C**—Private Gymnasium at George Washington Education Campus to update Gymnasium built in 1969. **OMB response**: Unable to prioritize for this project.
- **312202021C**—Provide funding for a new elevator at George Washington Educational Campus. **OMB response**: Unable to prioritize funding at this time.
- **312202025C**—Expand Computer Lab and upgrade Science Lab at M468 HS for Health and Career Sciences. **OMB response**: This request includes more than in proposal. Funding for parts is recommended.
- **312202027C**—Renovate and upgrade classrooms at M468 HS for Health Careers and Sciences. **OMB response**: Further study needed.
- **312202030C** —HVAC Upgrade to add air conditioning in the George Washington Educational Campus. **OMB response**: Further study is needed.

- Although at the beginning of the budget discussion the committee encountered some confusion, it was able to discuss at length the responses provided by OMB. Committee also agreed to follow with OBM responses and challenge unclear and/or ambiguous responses.

7. Committee revisits Board Member Curtis Young's proposed a resolution in support of the increase of Social Workers in public schools for FY20 budget.

- Chair Florimon mentions Borough President Gale Brewer's support for a call on Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza to increase the number of social workers in city schools. Committee reviewed and distributed an article written by the BP Brewer addressing the needs of Social Worker in public schools.
- Committee recommends that the resolution be broader to include the subject of mental health, homeless youth, and all school students. Specify the word "schools" before the position of Social Workers. Chair also suggested quoting information from Borough President Gale Brewer's report as friendly amendment in the resolution.
- Chair called for a vote on the resolution and was unanimous passed as indicated below:

Committee Members 7-0-0 = Yes

Other CB 12 Members -0-0

Members of the Public 4-0-0= Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm.

Prepared by: Public Member, Liane Ramirez Swierk