

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

Meeting Minutes #2

Monday, February 10, 2020

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

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimon, Chair; Maria Luna; Gabriela Estrella; Jonathan Nunez-Frometa; Ariel Miranda;

Committee Member(s) Excused: Curtis Young; Assist Chair; Carolina Charles
Members Absent: Glennis Aquino-Gill; Miriam James

Committee Public Member Absent: Wendy Castillo; Guillermo Perez

Guests and General Public: Cynthia Carrion; Carrie Amon; Orlando De Los Santos; Rick T. McKay ; Al Kurland; Katie Hereheniveder; Lucelly Ortiz

The meeting was called to order by Fe Florimon at 7:08 pm.

Discussion that took place as indicated below:

Members of the Committee and the audience were introduced by the Chair followed by the review of the agenda.

1. Guests: *Carrie Amon, Principal and Cynthia Carrion, Director of Community Development* at School in the Square (S2) presented on their new Dual-Language (English and Spanish) elementary school, Dos Amigos at School in the Square as follow:

- ✓ S2 is a free public charter that currently has a middle school serving grades 6th, 7th and 8th, located at 120 Wadsworth Ave, on the corner of 179th. According to presenters, School in the Square engages, educates and empowers adolescents in Washington Heights to respond mindfully and creatively to life's opportunities and challenges. S2 draws its name from the concept of the public square, where communities come together to solve problems and celebrate successes. They envision S2 as a place where students, families and educators are seen, heard and inspired, and where students build the academic foundations, emotional intelligence and leadership skills necessary to excel in college and professional life. In line with commitment to equity and diversity, S2 is dedicated to serving all students. If case of any questions, including invitation for community collaboration with DOE was discussed. A video about their school inclusive learning environment was shown and can be viewed at: www.schoolinthesquare.org
- ✓ Located at 108 Cooper Street, the new dual-language school will be open to all Kindergarten eligible children in District 6 via lottery for the Fall 2020 School year. The three pillars of their dual-language school will be 1) bilingualism and biliterate 2) high academic achievement and 3) sociocultural competency. The "Dos Amigos" program at School in the Square Inwood Campus will provide a creative program designed specifically for each child, which includes:
 - Alternating days of English and Spanish playing and learning
 - Daily classes including Literacy, Writing, Math, Science and Social Studies
 - Small class size with two teachers in every classroom
 - Focus on small group learning
 - Social Emotional Learning built into every day
 - Creative Play, Music, Art and Movement
- ✓ They have scheduled the below open houses and welcome members of the community to attend and share with others: 3/14 at 9:30AM, 3/17 at 5:30PM, 5/27 at 8:30AM and 3/31 at 5:30PM. S2 also shared information about their "Book Box Initiative," providing days cares, preKs and local businesses within District 6 free books in Spanish and English for children. Over 20 book boxes have already been distributed. To request a book box or for more information about School in the Square reach out to Cynthia Carrion at: ccarrion@schoolinthesquare.org
- ✓ Presenters informed the committee that a crossing guard was desperately needed at their Middle School for the busy intersection at Wadsworth Ave and 179th Street where buses, cars, trucks and high pedestrian foot traffic

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

occurs. They are very concerned for student and staff safety during arrival and dismissal times. It was suggested they present this matter to the Traffic and Transportation Committee for a possible joint resolution between both committees. And last, literature about the school's programs were distributed

2. Guests: *Orlando De Los Santos - Financial Service Professional at Lee Nolan & Koroghlian a MassMutual Firm and Rick T. McKay, Financial Service Professional*, made a presentation about: "Student Loan Refinance program with CommonBond." An overview of the company's goals and available programs were collectively facilitated by both presenters- all related to the need of financial education in the digital age.

✓ FutureSmart program it's about protecting parents, children in times of needs through financial education and commitment to this purpose. Students who have the opportunity to participate in the program before starting middle school will develop the capacity to understand a variety of important complex aspects in the field of economic including financial judgments and assign value to purchases and brands. Unfortunately, the majority of students are not aware of and less receiving the financial education they need to navigate in today "modern financial world" as the it was described.

✓ The Foundation, makes every effort to bring economic opportunity for millions of students and their families. They are projecting to bring critical financial education to 2 million middle and high school students by 2020 and so far have reached over 1.7 million students across United States according presenters.

✓ The program is bilingual (English/Spanish). It's comprised of three curriculums designed for middle and high school students. For example, middle school, it is a standards aligned web-based resource that empowers students to effectively manage their finance, make sound decisions, and become stewards of their financial future. They also discussed about co-curricular tool at middle school level, teachers used the web-based curriculum as an in-class activity to supplement traditional classroom instruction. For example, students are encouraged to do role playing exercise. They play the mayor of town as they help local citizens make real-life, personal finance decisions. These exercises will challenge students to learn and make choices to achieve important financial goals related to savings, career planning and budgeting.

✓ In a precise manner, the topic covered in the middle school's curriculum include: Financial values and Goal setting; budgeting and opportunity costs; saving and investing; payment type; banking; risk vs. return; and planning for the future.

✓ As for the high school's curriculum, the following topics were discussed as integrated part of it. First the course help students obtain better understanding in of real life financial scenarios simple as such buying a car or filling/completing a FAFSA form in a simple way needed to be understood. Second, about topics covered include savings; banking; payments, credit score; financing higher; education; renting vs. owning; taxes and insurance; consumer protection; and investing. Further information can be found at: futuresmart.massmutual.com During ALL presentations members of the committee and the general public were given the opportunity to ask questions., which many did it.

3. Business / New Business: Community Announcements

✓ Lucellys Ortiz, from Community Engagement Coordinator briefly addressed the committee about the effect of homelessness, especially among young people due to the use of drug- a problem that has turned into an epidemic in many communities in NYC. Ms. Ortiz, expressed interest to attend at the next committee meeting to present- Monday March 9th @ 7:00pm.

✓ Ms. Florimon invited the school community and their students to participate the annual event of "Peace In The Street Global Film Festival." The event will be held at the United Nations in November 2020. Further information can be found at: www.sgff.org or calling at 646-256-2308 Ask for Suzanne Harvey

✓ Chair discussed about the pending meeting for the Planning Committee for the 5th annual **Youth and Police Building Bridges** will be held in March 2020, location and date still pending.

✓ An announcement was made about for the coming event of "Human Rights in New York State in the Age of Trump- Tuesday, February 11th @7:30pm" This event will be facilitated by Angela Fernandez, Esq. NYS Commissioner of Human Rights

✓ Members of the committee had their final discussion and agreement about their committee's goals for 2020. Most of their goals are in consistency with the commitment to improve and increase community relations at all possible levels and within the appropriate means to benefit the community- according to the chair.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:16pm