

Youth Education & Libraries Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 2010 - 6:30 P.M.
583 Riverside Dr – 7th Floor
Co- Chairs Vernon Ballard & Winston Majette

Members present: Vernon Ballard, Winston Majette, Miriam Aristy- Farer, Tisha Jackson, Danielle Chase, Vicky Gholson, Joe Rogers, Fathima Torress

Youth and Education Committee Notes 4.14.10

- **New York Public Library Harlem** branch manager, Ms. McKay– 11am – 6pm
 - Harlem libraries not hit as hard as in other communities; upcoming large layoff of librarians across the boroughs
 - By May 1, will get letter to support libraries and update on where the budget cuts are headed.
- There will be cuts – Youth Employment Training program – will let know outcome
- DOE hasn't completed budget cut from two years ago
- -Vern have to be prepared for cuts – question of how much and how it will impact opportunities for the youth in the community

Harlem School for the Arts

- Elected officials have met
- PS 153/ Hamilton Heights School update
- Letter of support - PS 153 – K-5 St. Catherine's Church . PS28 wants them and has for some time now.
- Hamilton Heights School parent and teachers want school unified.
- According to DOE presentation most of PS153 cluster rooms (science/computer labs, art/dance studios) will have to be demolished to allow classrooms to be constructed. have to abolish cluster rooms (art/dance) to convert to classrooms.

NEW BUSINESS

- City College NOW outreach and recruitment program
- Harlem Hospital – HAPPI teen pregnancy program request for presentation
 - Nicole Jenkins, Program Administrator (Jenkins@nychhc.org)
 - Christiana nyanteh, community liaison
- # 1 in teen pregnancy o abstinence first program – work with grades 5 and up and do parent workshops – persuade parents to have conversation with kids about delaying sex
 - Healthy relationships and boundaries
 - Vickie Gholson – what data is being collect
 - Do a pre and post survey
 - Program around at lest 20 ears
 - Teen leaders are peers –
 - Adolescent clinic goes up to 21

- All services are free – all programs take place at Harlem Hospital – if they need services, they come to Hospital
- Open to going to other schools
- What kind of diseases are people picking up?
 - Female mentoring program and male mentoring program – half and half
- Work with Teen Pac
- College tour – delhigh,
- Vern will send a copy of planned parenthood resolution
- Community based adolescent pregnancy prevention

Motion to adopt the agenda (7:22). Would like to have minutes tonight so can

Minutes adopted with all necessary adjustment

Let Vern know about minutes by tomorrow. Will send out tonight.

Harlem School of the Arts

Vern summarized Arts and Culture meeting

- Fact finding confirming details of
- 4/5 years ago received grant from empowerment zone that lasted 3 years. When funding ran out, no strategy for sustaining the model.
- Chair was tyrant- -fired staff who students liked. Fired chair, fired comptroller (hiding deficits)
- Board announced at forum that they were forming a task force to save school
- Jackson and Perkins had not been contacted. Jackson was at meeting—made appeal to parents re: coming up with funds to replace funds
- Looking for short and long term solutions
- Judy Insell Parents association of HSA – approached arts and culture committee for support in avoiding closure.
 - Statement from Parent Association chairman – Efraim Emmanuel. Conversation in past week and a half. Sent statement this morning to read tonight. S
 - Special Save Task Force created by Keith Wright
 - District reps
 - H chamber of commerce,
 - Parents of HAS, members of the community
 - Has met wi
 - Wright, Jackson, Perkins, rep from Manhattan Borough pres., Congressman Rangel's office – Sen. Perkins and Assemblyman Wright recognized – set up special fund at capital one bank for donations to the schools
 - Prelim plans for task force
 - Plans for end of year recitals still on – committees set up for each of . . .
 - Parent association seeking rehearsal space – Aaron Davis Hall to provide space for recital – has reached out to city college
 - Parent meetings at 11 am in front of the school

- No official notice to date re: reimbursement, plans to render services to parents
 - VERN: reimbursed parents out of 100k received several months ago. Operating budget 3 million, 500,000 to close out year.
 - F – what percentage to programs and what percentage for over head/administration
- parent ASSOCIATION trying to gather information so all o the same page
- inflated salaries with empowerment zone , but unsustainable
- Chris Patch, chair of board, only one who has the figures
- Vickie: If CB9 doesn't deal appropriately other ethnicity. Make a public statement to community to have public record of exchange. Make elected officials compel them to attend.
 - Vern
 - Patchie lent the school 2400 out of pocket, hasn't piad back
 - Board disconnected from staff
 - Masai – two rounds of layoffs
 - Vern - two issues: board and supporting the schools
 - Judy spoke to head of music department- either he wasn't doing his job or people above him not willing to do anything
- Vickie
 - Have chair or someone reach out and request that
- PS 153 update
- Concerns about how to share facilities – lunch room
- Going to lose the cluster spaces
- HH concerned that will lose cluster space for first year – if don't have cluster room will lost science labs.
- APRIL 24th, PEP meeting in BK
 - Vern – wants to writ letter of support – so DOE makes effort to preserve science lab and cluserter room space, to the degree possible.
 - Arts initiative programming – if cluster space . . . DOE may not have acknowledged program – (A lot of people who aren't zoned for the school, can't attend. DOE wiling to put down successful programs.
 - Leadership from two schools still reeling
 - Request to doe at PS 153 and repeated to chancellor at
 - Vickie: formal request from two model schools – should go to chancellor and cc'd to Dennis Walcott, who comes from this community == establish direct communication with the chancellor.
 - Letter of support for 153 and HHA with request for meeting with chancellor (not portfolio administrator)
 - Vern: have to read building council toolkit

Central park east one, principal Julie Zuckerman – 200 children prek-5, project-based, mixed age groupings, arts intensive, thought about going charter – but portfolio has change d their mind and there are more possibilities (inclusion – general education teacher and special education teacher)

- Told by portfolio that only opening schools in Bronx and Brooklyn,
- Somewhere between 135th and 150th . - - would like to see District 5 and 6 (District 3 overcrowded but has more options) – prefer to keep it by district, to open-zoned – 1/3 get 2s , 2/3 get 3s – great ratio of getting kids into middle schools – new school would be pre-K;
- Begun to affiliate with Fortune Society and would like to have 20% of spaces reserved for children of families impacted by incarceration; all classes would be inclusion classes – fighting against another Eva Moskowitz school. Kids from Bronx and kids from Brooklyn. – one of the few schools in Harlem that's fully integrated

- What's unique – the project work? Not a choice/play time.

Crystal _____ - court liaison Brooklyn public court

Want to open Central Park East-type school in central Harlem –

YOUTH COUNCIL – Danielle Chase

- 25 students, most from HCZ Promise Academy
- Youth and Education Committee – all adults, no opportunity for youth input
- Want youth rep on subcommittee and provide space for them to be involved and engaged Harlem citizens
- Explored different issues – talk about how they as youth activist
 - Police (violence on the part of, community police relations, intimidation, disconnected) – community policing, working with police
 - Fathima – grassroots initiative UNCC (United Neighborhood Community Coalition) – have meeting with 30th precinct about how to work with police); UNCC to bring diversity training to rookies – youth could be part of it. – 30th is a training station – a lot of rookies dispatched from there
 - Precinct 28 – open mentoring program for teens
 - Precinct 26 – will attend next committee meeting – program with fathers and sons in June ;
 - Commander Philip Banks has also offered his support.
- Gang violence
- Environmental justice
- Drugs (clean up the street)
- Want job training/resume training; block parties
- TUES., April 20th at 6:00 at Operation Hope Center (134th & 8th)
- viciek college students at city college – recommended involvement of college students. – College Now program of city college – partnership with committee and youth council program. – college students as mentors.
 - National park service – first bloom – planting session initiated by first lady bush
 - recruiting at community centers, schools, etc. – need more kids

- youth receive major community services - - pizza, talk, get Credit Reporting Companies
- Next session (Danielle)
 - Will talk about structure; brainstorm list of what they want from CB9 – identify three major issues
 - What do we want youth council to be?
 - Fathima – they take ownership when they help to shape the program
 - Fathima – would youth become public members? No committee where you can't add someone.

CLOSED SESSION

Teachers College Follow-up

- Asked about qualitative data on the program
- A lot of program sdon't have data, but indicated fall dates for additional information
- Application? – need to follow-up
- Teachers College doing walk through of Hamilton Heights school – yvonne on board of
- Boys and Girls Club of Harlem (Winston)
 - Meeting scheduled for last week to follow up
 - Reps from BGC at 28 meeting
 - Money from Ford Foundation – 100 million – no one had enough info to sustain conversation
- Architect form 3333 brought in to make it happen, but may not stand the test of time
 - Mid-Manhattan adult learning center – 119th between 7th and St. Nicholas – ask for Cheryl walker who's one of the counselors – bathrooms, multipurpose room, boiler room, classrooms (visual reference for what can be done); refurbished
- Future meeting space
 - Fathima - No classes second Wednesday of every month – 2nd floor available
 - Winston – look at Agenda and figure out what kind of space we need
 - May switch in June if not May – may be more convenient for youth council as well
- Vernon
 - Mark Diller – education chair cb7, channel 11 – town hall meeting for youth
 - PS 123 – Harlem success academy moving in - 138th & 8th
 - CB9 – have session for parents and kids (youth council?), for SLT's- we're initiating a town hall with CB10 and CB10
 - Town Hall – would need to meet once a week.
 - Start planning for fall at our next meeting
 - Powerpoint presentation that can be shared with both schools – Vern: part of google groups
- MEETING
 - Sun, May 16, 2-4pm at Donar 463
- ULURP for NY public school construction resolution
 - File impact state ment but don't gather community input – no formal mechanism for input
 - Suppose to go to cec's but if week doesn't happen
 - Public testimony – 2 minutes

- PEP meeting – testify for up to 3 minutes, vote, implemented if passes
- ULURP
 - Community Board, City Council, Borough President, Mayor Resolution should be drafted and sent to Danny O'Donnell on behalf of
 - Let it be know that this will be submitted separately to the legislators - will present at
 - Submitted with two amendments - Dr. Gholson (all charter schools) and vern should apply to all public schools (otherwise co-location scenarios like PS153 and HHS remain exempt)
 - Vote to accept subject to change with amended paragraph

Submitted by Joseph Rogers