

**Manhattan Community Board 9 – Youth, Education and Libraries Committee
December 14, 2011 Meeting**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 6:45 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

Committee Members: Present: Joe Rogers, Jr. (co-chair), Dr. Vicky Gholson **Absent:** Winston Majette (co-chair) (excused), Judith Insell, Tisha Jackson; Carmen Morillo (on leave of absence); Kyle Doyle; Alyson Gordon-Browner; Yvonne Stennett

Public: Sam Penceal, David Dinkins Charter Schools for Boys (proposed); Bernadette Penceal, David Dinkins Charter School for Boys (proposed)

3. AGENDA APPROVAL – Approved.

4. MINUTES APPROVAL – No quorum.

5. PRESENTATIONS

Sam Penceal, David Dinkins Charter School for Boys (Proposed); Bernadette Penceal, David Dinkins Charter School for Boys (proposed)

- Has tentative and/or conditional support of some elected officials representing our community
- Slated for School District 6 (no elementary school charter schools in District 6). Serve 500 students at its peak.
- Seeking authorization from the NY State Education Department; working with NYC Charter Center and hope to secure 500-700k planning grant
- School application due in Feb. 2012; expect decision in June 2012 (if need to strengthen, can resubmit in December and still be eligible to open following year)
- Next Steps
 - Present to CB9 full board at January 2012 meeting – seeking letter of acknowledgement (of community engagement) or letter of support
 - Planning to present at upcoming Community Education Council meetings, District Superintendent, and neighborhood elementary schools
 - Informational sessions at Convent Avenue Baptist Church in January and a number of meetings in various peoples' homes
 - Ongoing communication with two P.S. 186 alumni, both of whom have pledged their support; one is in their charter school application program cohort
 - Required to:
 - show that they have community support and listened to concerns and have responded

- recruit same proportion of English language learners and students with special needs as are enrolled in the existing schools
 - devote a minimum of 15 pages of their school application to community outreach and collaboration
- Applicants' Background
 - Mr. Penceal is a former NYC school principal and a former regional superintendent of schools in Cleveland. He also launched a charter management organization in Ohio. His experience also includes teaching at Green Haven Prison, co-founding the Urban League Street Academy (Harlem Prep), and serving as principal of M.S. 61 in District 17, Crown Heights. Bernadette Penceal taught English at New University for 30 years. Both are members of Convent Avenue Baptist Church.
- Researched educational needs in District 6:
 - 1/3 of students in schools in elementary are proficient in math and reading
 - From grades 3 to 5, some schools in our area appear to be losing students
 - 8% of elementary school students are African-American
- School plans include:
 - School designed to address the unique learning needs of boys ("boys more active and not as successful with passive activities"). Need to help boys overcome stigma of being smart. Boys often misdiagnosed and end up in special education.
 - Hire teachers who have been trained in both special education and reading. Emphasis on literacy, math, science, and will offer Spanish from kindergarten.
 - Mentoring program starting in kindergarten
 - Students will wear uniforms
 - Training for parents on how to support their young people; engage in scholastic activities together
- Potential Partnerships
 - Is exploring potential partnerships with NYU school of medicine, health center at 145th and Amsterdam (mental health), the City College of New York (both Mr. and Mrs. Penceal are graduates of that institution) graduates), Bank Street College (around training teachers); Syracuse University (again, both are graduates; school of education has expressed interest and also hope to secure financial support from fellow Syracuse alumni)
 - Looking to partner with daycare center on 145th between Broadway and Amsterdam (universal PreK program; only one in zipcode 10031)
- Siting of School
 - Looking into what is happening with development of P.S. 186. Will be meeting with Boys & Girls club soon to discuss.
 - Goal is to build a building; have met with some of Mayor Bloomberg's associates about securing space

- Planning to gather friends and associates of David Dinkins to support their efforts
- Dr. Gholson advised presenters to consider expanding to include girls and provided a summary of co-location histories in this community. Also advised them to have their architects consider setting up a temporary structure.

6. REPORTS

Joe Rogers, Jr., School Leadership Team, Teacher's College Community School [TABLED]

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

30th Precinct is hosting a children's holiday party on Saturday, December 17th

8. OLD BUSINESS

- 12/10 Youth Resources Expo – *Committee* [TABLED]
 - Debrief
 - Schedule Spring 2012 Expo

9. NEW BUSINESS

- Status of educational equity and the impact of budget cuts on CB9 schools and youth-service organizations – *Dr. Gholson, Committee* [TABLED]

10. ADJOURN – 8:30 p.m.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011 - 6:30 PM

- TCCS DOE application has not been filed with CB9 or the LDC, in spite of several written and verbal request by the committee.
 - Carmen will look for the application through online public records.
 - If the application is not found online, the committee will make another request in writing.
- School District 6 - Community Education Council
 - Fathima Torres, CEC 6 member, will circulate the School Performance Report.
 - The statistics in the report are questionable and may be misleading (e.g., some schools show improvements in student performance, which may relate to an influx of higher-performing students, not necessarily to improvements in performance).
 - CEC has a new structure whereby members are split into committees, including parent involvement, ESL, training, class size, and data.
 - Due to a scheduling conflict with CEC and the general board meetings, Fathima will temporarily resign from the Board but will participate as a public member of the YEL Committee.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Harlem School of the Arts is currently accepting online applications for its free arts program.
- DONAR's office is reopening after a summer-long renovation.
- The youth and gang/gun violence mural on 159th and Amsterdam Ave. has been completed.
- The registration period for the Community Impact GED program ended on 9/1/11.
- Grand opening of the Hamilton Grange Library Teen Center is on 10/25/11.
- NY Urban League is hosting its annual football game/scholarship fundraiser on 9/24/11.
- Harlem Hospital H.A.P.P.I. program is hosting college tours for 11th and 12th graders and is currently accepting applications.
- Harlem Chamber Players concert on 9/18/11 at Saint Mary's Church.
- Hamilton Grange reopening on 9/17/11.
- UN World Health event held at 163rd and Broadway on 9/16/11 at 12 p.m.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- Teachers College Community School – SLT Representative Selection
- 12/03 Youth Resources Expo

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 2011-12 YEL Committee Work Plan
- Response to Youth Violence at General Grant Housing and Throughout Community
- New Inez Dickens Grant (\$11,700) for Community Outreach – YEL Priorities
- P.S. 153/Hamilton Heights Academy – Response to Vandalism
- 10/25 Hamilton Grange Library – Teen Center Grand Opening – CB9 Role?
- Committee Presentation for 9/16/11 CB9 General Board Meeting

10. Adjourned - Wednesday September 14, 2011 at 10:36pm