



Manhattan Community Board 9

Manhattan Community Board 9 – Youth, Education and Libraries Committee

March 14, 2012 Meeting

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – 6:33 p.m.

ATTENDANCE – Committee Members: Joe Rogers, Jr. (co-chair), Winston Majette (Co-chair), Judith Insell, Yvonne Stennett, Tisha Jackson, Kyle Doyle, Alyson Gordon-Browner, Dr. Vicky Gholson, Jen Silverman (public member). **Public Attendees:** Sonja Jones, President, District 5 Community Education Council; Lloyd Burwick, Member, District 5 Community Education Council; Letitia Akens, Streetwise Partners; Sara Morgridge, Executive Assistant, Office of NYC Council Member Robert Jackson; Theodora Telfort, Community Outreach Associate, The New York Public Library; Teresa Willis.

AGENDA – Approved.

MINUTES – Minutes tabled for approval at April 11, 2012 monthly meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Sarah Morgridge, Executive Assistant, Office of Council Member Robert Jackson

First, with respect to the communication by the DOE as it relates to co-location, the DOE does not consult with Community Boards or the Community Education Councils on the placement of schools within the district. These decisions are made solely by the DOE with no input from community or other entities. As for the collection of data on the impact of budget cuts on schools, Dr. Gholson requested on behalf of the Committee that the Office of the Council Member help CB9 better understand the impact of the budget cuts on schools and to ascertain the best way to capture that information. The Council Member previously requested from the DOE information on the impact of budget cuts on schools but received no response. The Councilman also asked for school principals to respond to the impact on their specific schools and received responses from only four schools. It was suggested that better results could be obtained if the request to the DOE was made through a collective effort (i.e., the Community Board, Community Education Councils, the Office of the Manhattan Borough President, and others should formerly request this data as well as data on which schools CB9 children attend.

Sonja Jones, President, Community Education Council 5 (CEC 5)

No school in CB9 is scheduled for co-location at this time. There will be a public hearing on April 4th at P.S. 92 to address the proposed co-location of a high school with a middle school. There are several issues with the proposed plan for P.S. 92, including the fact that there is only one entrance. Also, P.S. 125's building is not equipped for the student population and there are no plans to modify the space. Ms. Jones agreed to share the DOE's Educational Impact Study with the Committee). Co-location decisions are being made, with no community consultations or plans, at the DOE by Yael Calbin in Office of Portfolio Management. Specific demands are being made by the CEC and they would like to enlist the support of the Committee in: (1) stating CB9's position on co-locations, (2) getting the DOE to recognize the CEC and that they are allowed to have a role in the DOE's decision-making processes as they relate to co-locations, and (3) supporting CEC 5's "Enough is Enough" stance on charter schools within District 5.

Theodora Telfort, Community Outreach and Technology Training Associate, NYC Connected Communities, New York Public Library

NYC Connected Communities is conducting computer training programs at the Hamilton Grange Branch Librar. She spoke to the value of these programs to the community: promote economic growth, strong community, employment opportunities, cultural exposure, etc. Along with basic computer training courses, they also offer a Broad Band Technology Opportunity Program designed to service 6000 individuals. This is to be accomplished through partnering with a variety of community organizations. The programs are for individuals over 18, including the homeless. Ms. Telfort can be reached at 212-491-2090.

Letitia Akens, Street Wise Partners

Provided an overview of the Street Wise program, a free career employment consulting service for youth. Business-professional mentors, resume writing, developing a pitch, and other courses that assist participants to identify their career paths are also provided. Yearlong program with two phases: Phase one consist of a three-month training period; Phase two is an eight-month ongoing mentoring relationship which includes a training component. Currently recruiting volunteers. Long-standing relationships with the New York Stock Exchange and a variety of Wall Street firms that are the placement sites for participants, who range in age from 18 to 40. Participants must be "low income," possess a GED, some knowledge of computers (Microsoft Office, etc.) and be proficient in English.

Chad Franklyn, CEO, SLATE

SLATE focuses closing the achievement gap by providing parent education and other adult programs such as LED Certification. Financial Literacy, GED Prep, and Family Literacy. Operates in 25 schools but does not have a presence in Community District 9. Offers a rites of passage program for young men and young women. Committee member Kyle Doyle works with Chad Franklyn on NYC Department of Education projects in other parts of the city and hopes to bring their collaboration to Harlem.

REPORTS

Teachers College Community Pre-K Status- (Judith Insell, Joe Rogers, Jr.) – Juan Rosa will approach Councilman Jackson about bringing the DOE to the table with members of the ad hoc TCCS pre-k group, which met on Feb.13 and includes CB9 Chair Rev. Morgan-Thomas, Donald Notice (West Harlem Local Development Corp.), Juan Rosa (Council Member Robert Jackson's Office), Nina Saxon (Manhattan Borough President's Office), Pat Jones (WHLDC), Joe Rogers, Jr., Judith Insell, Nancy Streim, Matt Camp meeting with Teachers College. Juan will report back to the group as soon as possible, given the upcoming deadline for pre-k applications. Nancy Streim of Teachers College had informed the ad hoc group that she learned from the DOE that it would cost \$100,000 to convert the planned half-day pre-k for Fall 2012 to a full-day pre-k program. The group agreed to ask Council Member Jackson if the City Council can provide the funding for this year and, if cannot, will pursue other funding sources. A total of 18 children would be served this year, and the ad hoc group would work together to ensure that the DOE would build into its annual budget the funding needed to sustain full-day pre-k at TCCS starting in Fall 2013, as it does for the 13 other full-day pre-k programs in District 5. All parties, having been briefed by Joe and Nancy on the related research, agreed that, as stated in the resolution passed by CB9 in January, full-day pre-k is the educationally sound choice for West Harlem families.

CB9's 3rd Youth Resources Expo (Saturday, April 12, 9:30 a.m – 1:30 p.m.) – Tasks to be managed include: outreach, recruitment, registration, maintaining contact and task spreadsheets, task mastering, creating press release, following up with media, creating attendance sheets, and all other forms needed. The budget lines include permits, printing, photographer, food, promotional items (e.g., draw string bags), event-planning consultant. Still waiting for food costs. Kyle is checking with IHOP, and Winston will follow up with other entities. The bags are being printed and will be delivered at least two days before the Expo. Next Expo planning meeting: Monday 3/19.

ADJOURNED at 10:02 p.m.