

Youth Education & Libraries Committee Meeting
Wednesday May 13, 2008 - 6:30 P.M.
Dorothy Day Broadway Houses
583 Riverside Drive @West 135th Street Corner on Riverside Drive
Co- Chairs Barbara Marshall & Winston Majette

Attendees: Winston Majette, Barbara Marshall, Tisha Jackson, Debra Byrd, Vern Ballard

CB9 member attendees (new, unconfirmed committee members): Daniel Chase, teacher; Marshita Washington-Meyers, Social services; Miriam XXX

1. Call to order: 7:50pm
2. Parent Commission on School Governance and Mayoral Control
 - a. Parent Commission on School Governance and Mayoral Control representative Josh Karan introduced himself (appointed to CEC6 by Virginia Fields and reappointed by Scott Stringer) and introduced the Commission's draft resolution for rescinding mayoral control and replacing it with an alternative structure that would enforce existing statutes
 - b. Presented Parent Commission draft resolution CB12 and passed similar resolution which proposes taking power from mayor and granting to parents.
 - i. Parents comprise majority, Mayor appoints 3. Establish independently funded Independent Parent Association for parent power and not parent input as currently exists.
 - ii. Reempower School Leadership Teams and School District Office.
 - iii. Establish a Constitution Commission for Public School systems, mandating gyms, art, library – correctly apportion of Campaign for Fiscal Equity funds. Regardless of who is Chancellor.
 - c. Requesting endorsement in order to help persuade state elected officials .
 - d. According to recent Marist poll, 50-60% of NYC Citizens opposed to Mayoral Control.
 - e. Q: What is the deadline for sunset of Mayoral Control law A: Mayoral Control Law sunsets June 30th.
 - f. Motion to approve resolution: Winston Majette; Vern second.
 - i. 3 yes; 1 present not entitled to vote; 1 abstain.
 - ii. Question on whether passes, consensual recommendation to submit to CB9 Executive Committee.
3. Public Library Resolution Opposing Budget Reduction introduced by Barbara Marshall.

- a. Motion to approve resolution: Tisha motion, Winston seconded
- b. 5 yes; 0 no, unanimous passage.

4. Manhattan Borough President's office.

- a. Anthoniee Pierre, community liaison.
- b. Reported Chancellor Klein met with members of the State Senate and was informed that Senate would not renew Mayoral Control law as it currently stands.
- c. MBP Stringer determined parents need new model for engagement.. New a new process for guiding parental input. – DOE has no mandates when it comes to interacting.
- d. submitted report: A New Day for Parental Engagement which recommends a new law governing Community District Education Coucncils (CDECs)
 - i. Currently 32 school districts with no clear purpose to the community; no specific tasks; no timelines for decision making;
 - ii. BP recommends replacing with a
 - 1. CECs should be under appropriate Borough Present's authority freeing them from conflicts of influence where they are currently under the auspices of the Mayor who appoints the Chancellor, a majority of Panel for Educational Policy (formery School Board)
 - 2. Training would be conducted by BP Office, allowing current DOE training resources to be reallocated
 - 3. Enact a UPEP process (along the lines of Community ULURP)
 - a. Formal process with specific tasks,
 - b. Specific timelines for consultation and review
 - c. Public hearings following by annoucnent of CEC official position
 - d. Require DOE response
 - 4. directly address criticism of Mayoral control w/out diluting accountability; cost savings.
 - 5. Draft legislation already presented in State Assembly by Assembly members Squadron and Dinowitz S. 3912 of 2008.
 - 6. Requesting letter of support.
 - 7. Q: If CECs are under Borough President how does that make them any more independent than under the DOE and Mayor; A: designed to take them outside of the DOE, which is independent of Mayor who oversees DOE.
 - 8. Q: was there outreach to other BPs and what was the result; A: there was outreach, but not sure about response.

9. Q: restructures, but does not specifically address parental engagement A: major concern in CB9 and CB10 closing traditional schools in favor of charter schools with no formal, public process. UPEP process and reconfigured CEC will enable a formal process closer to the community. Will create accountability with BPs rather than mayor who oversees DOE (and conflict of interest).
 10. Q: plan to reorganize plans and objectives A: take training away from DOE and introducing a new process.
 11. Q: What is the role of the Office of Parental Engagement A: no one really knows, many parental issues are deflected to the BP.
 12. Q: will this abolish existing CECs A: no, just the reporting structure.
 13. Comment: DOE disconnect from school officials, language barriers, and insufficient parental involvement makes it difficult to engage parents. CEC currently provides the only guidance on re-siting. Not much feedback or leadership from DOE.
 14. Q: are there translation services for parents at meetings A: translators do translate CEC6 meeting simultaneously, minutes are also translated.; but hit-and-miss with individual schools, depending on resources of school.
5. New Members introductions: Daniel Chase, teacher; Marshita Washington-Meyers, Social services; Miriam XXX
 6. UFT Presentation
 - a. Anthony Harmon and Mr. Clarke
 - b. Commended CEC 5 on helping to organize April 25th Harlem School Pride Fair and Parade sponsored by UFT and MBPO ; it was a resounding success
 - c. Gov. Patterson and Congressman Rangel attended.
 - d. UFT officially thanked community board for its support
 - e. Working with Harlem Chamber of Commerce for thank you reception for June 11th no venue yet.

Announcements

- West Harlem Community Organization has a new Head Start Preschool Program. Barbara Grant Assistant Director
- DYCD SYEP deadline May 15th. www.nyc.gov/dycd; summer guide is not finished yet.
- Amber Ready Child Safety Seminar, May 4th.

Old Business: