

EDUCATION & YOUTH

AGENDA

October 13, 2022

Mr. Hakiem Yahmadi – Chairperson

VIRTUAL MEETING

<https://nyccb.webex.com/nyccb/j.php?MTID=mc8784043e382a95aeade97a6409ccea6>

By Phone – 1-408-418-9388

Meeting Number - 2338 343 4799

Meeting Password – s3tQ5rZjjw9

1. Introductions

2. Presentations

- Ms. Niri Halperin – Program Manager
Street Lab
Re: PS 18X Open Street Letter of Support. **(Voting Item)**

Questions and Answers

- Dr. Roberto Padilla - Superintendent
Community School District 7
Re: School District 7

Questions and Answers

- **Adjournment**

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MINUTES

Mr. Hakiem Yahmadi, Chairperson said good evening and I'd like to welcome everyone to the meeting tonight. The Chair requested a roll call.

The roll was called.

Ms. Niri Halpern, Street Lab said thanks so much for having us today. So, Maurelhena can you get us going.

Ms. Maurelhena Walles, Equity Design said that this is a result of a collaboration between Equity Design and Bronx Health Reach in being able to identify the physical activity and health needs of the community. We focus on the design of physical activity programming the catch is that we look at sustainability models. So, we're working with Bronx Health Reach, and I'll kick it to Diana just to tell you a little bit about what Bronx Health Reach does overall and how together we're rewriting the story of the Bronx.

Ms. Diana Beatriz Bernal, Health Reach said Bronx Health Reach is a program of family health and we focus on the Bronx community because it is 62 out of 62 it ranks 62 out of the 62 counties with regards to health meaning that it's very low when it comes to health so, that's why we focus on the Bronx. Through our creating healthy schools and communities we work with, and this is a five-year grant not only with the schools within the Bronx but also with other organizations such as Food Pantries through food service programs, community gardens and all these other organizations in order to improve the nutrition and physical activities standards. So, we're focusing with schools and our goal is to recruit about 30 schools and to work with

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them to kind improve their schools, wellness council so, if they don't have one to help them develop one, which through these wellness councils they can follow local wellness policies within their schools around nutrition and fitness. We also work to improve nutrition standards within the school, how can we improve on the snack choices that kids make when they bring outside food into the school, so we want to see less Takis, and sugary drinks brought in, but we also provide them with the knowledge and the tools to make those choices especially because those are the choices so readily available to them. Then on top of that we also create physical activity programming to improve their fitness and so how can we incorporate that into their school. The overall goal is not only to improve the student's wellbeing but also Teachers, the staff and everyone with the school building to improve their wellbeing and hopefully that kind of radiates out into the community. So, with that being said we have been meeting with schools and making assessments with them to see what areas they feel that they want to move on and tackle first because every school is different and there are like you know different situations, so that's something that we've been doing and in order to do that we have partner organizations that work with us.

Ms. Maurelhena Walles, Equity Design said so on our end in looking at that we are driven by data and the data unfortunately shows how Mott Haven is ranked as it relates to health and physical activity. When we started working with Bronx Health Reach one of the schools we looked at was PS18. During our assessment Principal Jordan relayed to us that she had a vision to be able to safely open the street for her students and for them to have the opportunity to an access to a bike. So, one part of that vision was fulfilled in terms that we were able to connect with a bike cycling program Major Taylor Iron Riders and they've provided 68 bikes that will be used within the PE Program at PS18 so that's one part of the vision. The other part of the vision is how can we safely open the street to allow for the PS18 community and the other communities that we serve to play and engage in safe physical activity. This is in collaboration with the Department of Transportation and Street Lab.

Ms. Niri Halpern, Street Lab said that we're a non-profit organization and we do pop-up programs in public places around the city such as the one in the photo here. We have different kinds of programming, we have a reading room, we have drawing program that's like an art studio we bring Lego's we have all these different kinds of programs but this past year or a few years we've been doing a lot of work specifically on open streets. When the streets were bare we developed a program called Play that you can see on the righthand side where we brought a colorful customizable obstacle course that brings life to the street and also allows kids to play safely together. All of our programs are free they allow people to dip in and out you know they can come for five minutes, can stay for an hour so there's a lot of flexibility there but we always

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find that it brings people together and it shapes how they interact in their environment, how they see their public spaces. So, we're really excited to be part of this initiative at PS18 with Equity Design and Bronx Health Reach and the community that the school serves.

What we've decided to do is test this concept on three Saturdays in October to close the street, we've got the permits for it to do this initial test, the Street Activity Permits. We've been talking to the precinct and the community outreach people there and they're going to pitch in and help so we're going to test closing College Ave temporarily and if cars need to get by we're going to make sure safely, generally there's going to be No Parking signs. So, we're going to test this on three Saturday's and we're going to have these activities there's going to be the school with their new bikes the kids are going to be learning how to bike ride and practicing on the street, then we're also going to have Street Lab Programs and will have a lot of people there basically welcoming people to use the street a space move and play. So, Street Lab has a lot of experiencing doing this we've worked with groups all over the city and a lot in the Bronx too and it's really beautiful and its sort of a very dramatic transformation, it's visible to anybody walking by anybody can participate and it's been really great. I think we're here today to answer any of your questions and get your support for this. The school I know would love to have an open street which is the city's official program that some of you may know started during the Pandemic where the city made this program to close the street to be temporarily used for play and other activities during the Pandemic to create more space and get the permits for that and so it's now an official city program in some cases it comes with resources so there's a movement to kind of get schools to use open streets especially those that don't have necessarily safe outdoor space for kids to play. So, we're pitching in to follow the lead that was really started by Maurelhena and PS18 with their vision and we're going to test it on these upcoming days, and we would love to have an open street next spring as well and to continue this idea and we're going to learn a lot just from these first three Saturday's and it's going to be for the whole community. Now I'm going to turn it back to you Maurelhena just to wrap it up here.

Ms. Maurelhena Walles, Equity Design said we want to hear and learn from the community what an open street looks like, we're testing this out so that we can engage in spring and sustain it for years. So, again we appreciate this opportunity we would love to be able to have your support as we build this out so we can imagine how communities safely play.

Mr. Hakiem Yahmadi, Chairperson said so any members have any questions?

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Mr. Hakiem Yahmadi, Chairperson said so this is a voting item and if we don't have any more questions will have a roll call vote.

Motion made to approve a letter of support for the PS18 Open Street Project. **The roll was called**, and all members present voted to approve a letter of support for the PS18 Open Street Project.

Mr. Hakiem Yahmadi, Chairperson said the next item on the agenda is Community School District 7, and the Superintendent is here, and I'd like to welcome and thank him for coming.

Mr. Roberto Padilla, Superintendent Community School District 7 said I want to thank the previous presenters it was amazing to hear the work that you're doing. I have talked with Principal Jordan so she shared with me some of this work and so I'm interested to see how this further develops so, just kudos to you and thank you for supporting our scholars. Tonight, what I'd like to do is provide the Community Board with some of the things that are happening in the district. I'm hoping that this can be somewhat interactive as there is some information that I want to present and get your feedback and input on. So, I'll just share my screen.

So, since July we've been involved in some in-depth planning, so I just want to highlight a couple of things you see I know this is a little busy, so I'm trying to really make sense for you. We're exploring all grant opportunities that come our way so for this first one Gear Up Grant it has a CRE focus so it's really about careers and exploration and what way we can expose our children to career exploration opportunities and so the schools that you see the X obviously stands for Bronx 224, 296, 298, 343 and 584 are currently in the process of planning with some Grant Managers to try to secure this multi-year funding opportunity. The next one is Expand It, this is for high quality tutoring, this is a tab that is going to be picked up by DOE and what they're attempting to do in this first year is to provide one-on-one tutoring before school, during school, after school on weekends and these are the sites that we've identified so far. There is a particular focus for this tutoring it's catered to literacy and math so, its 50 seats per school and a total of seven sites.

I've been engaged in listening and learning sessions really since June trying to better understand the needs of the community. So, I welcome this stakeholder group and this Board, and I'd love an opportunity in the very near future to engage in the listening and learning session where I can hear directly from you and your constituents around three things what's working in your opinion, where do you think our biggest improvements are

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needed and what advice do you have, and then I'm going to try and immolate that data among other stakeholder groups and then work with a team to create a 5-year strategic plan.

We are piloting some G&T Programs it's a new initiative out of the DOE as you may be aware they opted to continue to stay with the same screening process for Specialized High Schools. In addition to that there are a number citywide G&T Programs and this year there's an effort to create more G&T Programs across the city. We have three particular sites PS43, PS49 and PS359 that are attempting to pilot our G&T Program in their school. I'll be completely transparent right now our enrollment in those programs are really low and that's for a myriad of reasons so we're working with the office right now to communicate throughout the year that this opportunity exists and see what families would consider enrolling their children in these three sites to receive the G&T Programming.

Project Early Promise this particular initiative has been widely communicated and touted you may be aware or not aware that the mayor has publicly shared that he was dyslexic and the impact that it had on him as a student. So, throughout the city there are only a few sites and a few districts across New York City that is actually piloting this dyslexia so, we have one in our district that at PS161. So, that actually started this summer and enrolled into the school program in September. I've had an opportunity to meet with that personnel and I've had an opportunity to visit the two classrooms and most recently the DOE acknowledged that outside these early Promise Pilots that perhaps there needed to be more dyslexia pilots and so we have an additional four schools on board.

We are slated for a new school to open in September of 2024 I've already taken a look at the designs the location right now I'm working with District Planning to build out the program in that particular school. So that's going to take all of this year going into the following year where we can secure leadership, advertise the school to our community and garner interest. Then as you may be aware because this also has been publicly communicated a number of times at this point, but the DOE has experienced a significant decline in enrollment. Part of my planning since the summer has been to what can we do specifically in District 7 to curtail that declining enrollment and there are a number of things that we're planning at this point and I'm just sharing two of them. I strongly believe that in this day and age as our economy becomes more competitive and not just competitive against other districts or boroughs or other districts in New York State, but it is internationally now more competitive. My opinion and my take on this is career technical education is a viable way to make a living and I know the last time you met with a plumber or electrician someone who does autobody the list goes on and on all kinds of engineers and they're making a good living wage. I think we should be exploring technical education in middle school instead of waiting until High School which is fine why that make sense. I think there's some opportunities now to do that exploration work in middle school that would be unique it would be thinking a little bit outside the box there aren't really any middle

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school programs doing CTE work. It's really High School CTE Programs that our children first get that exposure. We're in the process now of collaborating with some CTE High Schools but I think we could do more. I think that we really should be offering programs at the middle level. The second thing is that we have pockets of success so if we're going to stop the trend and stop it then we really need to expand on what's currently working and make that viable for families.

A couple of dates that I just want to put on your radar we're hosting a ten-year overview for our teachers on October 19th we're hosting three different Minority and Women Business Enterprise sessions, so these are multi-faceted so on these particular dates throughout our district we're going to be offering opportunities for those in the community who want to become DOE approved to do business in our schools, to become MWBE certified. Just quickly on that this is a major initiative in case you don't know the DOE has a \$38 billion dollar budget, that \$38 billion dollars when you peel and onion or you analyze how funds are spent very little of it goes to minority and women business owners, so, if you're like me in anyway we should do something about that. One way we're going to do something about that in District 7 is we're going to create an opportunity where those vendors who are already MWBE certified can come and network with people who are interested in doing so. For those events flyers are on our social media, will be on our website for everyone that's interested in learning more and we encourage community members to come out network and learn about how to become certified as an MWBE vendor. We're hosting some townhalls I consider this in some ways an opportunity to get some input from the community as it relates to middle school admissions so we're doing that today, we're doing that tomorrow virtually and in-person at MS223 and in-person again on Monday. We're going to have a Bronx High School Fair on November 5th. Applications for middle school and High School will be due December 1st. Then a College Fair at Truman High School on November 3rd and then we're going to have a Bronx Borough Science Fair on June 1st at Zerega.

We have officially launched the new website and what I want to point out that it's different from the previous website the size, the look and feel. Is that we used to have a website just for the CEC and we had a website just for the district we've agreed that we're going to combine and have one website you can go on our website today you have the address there below and you can find out information about the district, about the DOE you can find out who our CEC members are, you can find out what they do and what their responsibilities are, you can review minutes of previous meetings and when the next meetings are coming up. You can also find out information about our schools where their located who the administration is, their contact and address and in many ways when you click on that it will route you to the school's actual website.

We're going to be engaging in the next couple of weeks in a social emotional screener and we're going to be using a tool called Medessa as children are trying to bounce back in schools

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from the Pandemic we need to make sure that we're placing a priority and a full out awareness on how our children and adults are maintaining themselves and what their mental health is like how their learning and coping and self-discipline skills. So, this information will help our children as well as our adults over the course of this next year.

I just want to spend a little time just talking about the admissions and ask you to just chime in so, let me give you some initial information. As I mentioned earlier we spoke to our administrators earlier to get their input on welcoming you to give some input on middle school admissions. We're having a townhall tomorrow we're going to have an in-person on Friday and then ultimately I'm going to take this information your input and ultimately make a decision. I gave you the information about the application and when it's due. Then our children and families will receive an offer to the middle school they'll be attending in April. So, this process this window will open up on October 26th and then students will apply and make sure they're applications are in, they'll identify a number of schools in a rank order that they want to go to and then wait to hear back in April where they'll be attending the following September.

What the Chancellor has recently announced is that he's open getting input from the community on whether or not there should be a screening process at all so that's what you see to your right, that this is information where Superintendents across the city are soliciting information around the community and what they and personnel think about the admissions process so let me share this information. So, there's been a citywide pause around school admissions over the last two years for obvious reasons. The Chancellor is open however on a limited basis to a screening process. To be clear District 7 has never had a screening process in place and I'll be the first to share with you the thought of screening versus not screening generally creates a lot of philosophical turmoil for a lot of people in many ways people have issues around the equity of admission screeners. As of today, my perspective is that most districts will not create a new screening process and for those schools and those districts that have a process in place they're now going to think as to whether they're going to allow the screening to take place as it did in past years or do away with it all together. So, if I can open the floor up to allow you to ask questions.

Mr. Hakiem Yahmadi, Chairperson asked if any member had questions.

Questions and Answers

Mr. Hakiem Yahmadi, Chairperson called for a motion to adjourn.

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Motion made to adjourn. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed.

MEETING ADJOURNED.