



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

PAOLA M. MARTINEZ
CHAIRWOMAN

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

Education, Youth & Young Adults Services Committee Minutes

October 8th, 2025

Stephane Calzado, Committee Chairperson

DRAFT

Introductions and Meeting Start

- Chairperson Paola Martinez welcomes everyone and mentions that Stephanie Calzado is absent.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan introduces Mr. Thomas Carswell, who represents the Bronx chapter of the National Action Network.
- Thomas Carswell shares his background, including his involvement in the community and his role in the National Action Network.

Community Board Member Introductions

- Mohammed Sheikh introduces himself as a board member of Bronx Community Board 1 and a native of the South Bronx.
- Member Jacqueline Dejesus introduces herself as a parent advocate for kids on the spectrum and a chair for youth education.
- Member Naicha Diaby introduces herself as a board member for youth and education and a case manager for Fortune Society.
- Diana Leonard introduces herself as the Community Associate at the Bronx Community Board.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan, the district manager, welcomes everyone back from the summer and expresses excitement for the upcoming events.

Guest Introduction and Committee Chair's Background

- Chairperson Paola Martinez introduces herself and shares her background, including her previous roles at Catholic Charities.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez emphasizes the importance of community engagement and the role of the community board in listening to the community's needs.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez mentions the partial collapse at Mitchell Houses and the need for support and resources for the affected families.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez encourages everyone to participate in upcoming events and to represent the community board at various meetings.

Review of Previous Year's Accomplishments

- District Manager Anthony Jordan asks for a review of the previous year's accomplishments and events.
- Member Jacqueline Dejesus mentions the successful job fair and the lessons learned, such as the need to include younger participants.
- Member Jacqueline Dejesus discusses the planning for the "Seat at Our Table" event, which aims to engage high school students in community discussions.
- Member Naicha Diaby and Member Jacqueline Dejesus provide details about the planning and execution of the job fair and the "Seat at Our Table" event.

Discussion on Job Fair and Community Engagement

- Chairperson Paola Martinez suggests using Survey Monkey for collecting feedback from job fair participants to improve future events.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan and Chairperson Paola Martinez discuss the benefits of using Survey Monkey for immediate feedback and statistical reports.
- Member Jacqueline Dejesus and Member Naicha Diaby discuss the importance of having a panel of experts at job fairs to provide relevant information and support.
- The committee members discuss the need for more local employers to participate in job fairs and the potential for separate job fairs for youth and adults.

Planning for Upcoming Events and Community Engagement

- Chairperson Paola Martinez suggests organizing a game night to attract more youth and provide opportunities for community engagement.
- Member Jacqueline Dejesus and Member Naicha Diaby discuss the success of a previous game night and the potential for future events.
- The committee members discuss the idea of hosting an inclusive Halloween event for all children, including those on the spectrum.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez and District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasize the importance of planning events well in advance and involving the community board office in the process.

Introduction of the Learning Route School

- Mr. Thomas Carswell introduces the Learning Route school, which focuses on vocational and health careers.
- The school aims to provide students with marketable skills and certifications, such as EMT and medical coding.
- The school plans to partner with local hospitals and community organizations to provide job placement and training opportunities.
- The committee members express interest in collaborating with the Learning Route school and discussing potential partnerships and events.

Discussion on Community Partnerships and Engagement

- District Manager Anthony Jordan mentions the importance of community partnerships and engagement in the committee's work.
- The committee members discuss the need for more consistent and structured events to better serve the community.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez suggests exploring the possibility of hosting a prom event for youth, which could include educational and job readiness components.
- The committee members discuss the potential for collaborating with local businesses and organizations to provide more opportunities for youth.

Conclusion and Adjournment

- District Manager Anthony Jordan and Chairperson Paola Martinez emphasize the importance of planning and coordination for future events.
- The committee members discuss the need for more resources and support from the community board office to execute their plans.
- The meeting concludes with a motion to adjourn, which is seconded and approved by the committee members.

Action Items

- Provide the Learning Route school representatives with the community board's committee presentation form to formally request a spot on an upcoming agenda.
- Finalize plans for the Halloween-themed event at the community board office, including coordinating with organizations that work with children with special needs.
- Develop a survey to collect feedback from attendees of the previous job fair and use the results to improve the next job fair.
- Reach out to the Learning Route school representatives to discuss potential collaboration opportunities, such as hosting an informational presentation at a future community board meeting.