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Joseph Russo Chairperson

Matthew Cruz District Manager

## Youth and Education <br> October 23, 2023

Present: A. Torres, J. Thomas, C. Brockington, S. Woods


#### Abstract

Absent: N. Sala, M. Sajous, N. Nunez Guests: M. Benedetto, J. Rosoff, J. Patridge, A. Minguez, R. Verdiner, V. Ruiz, B. Grate A. Torres introduced District 82 State Assembly Member Michael R. Benedetto. Mr. Benedetto began his career as an educator at a parochial school. Within 5 years, Mr. Benedetto joined the Board of Education and taught children with developmental disabilities. For 35 years, Mr. Benedetto taught in P.S. 160. Mr. Benedetto is the Education Committee Chairman of the New York State Assembly and has served for 5 years. The state education budget is approximately $\$ 34$ billion. There are over 750 school districts in the state of New York. Budget matters occur between January and April of each year. Funding is determined by a formula that considers special education students, overall students in school, whether students are bilingual and poverty. Mr. Benedetto says this formula has not changed in roughly 25 years and he is hopeful that the formula discussion will take place next year. Issues such as busing, mental health needs and school lunch are some of which Mr. Benedetto is tackling. C. Brockington discussed initiatives that need more resources such as fish tanks and plants in schools that help with social and emotional learning. Chair Torres mentioned schools such as Delta and Mott Hall need air conditioners. Mr. Patridge, UIM principal, reiterated that his school has no air conditioning in shared spaces such as auditorium and cafeteria.


Good Shepherd Services presented. There are now 685 participants. The organization reached over one thousand people. The program is low on high school students. Boxing, sports fitness, youth advisory, civic engagement, dance, and fashion lab are some program components. Chairperson Torres invited the program to next month.

The meeting closed by an unanimous vote of adjournment at $8: 45 \mathrm{PM}$.

