



COMMUNITY BOARD 11
1741 COLDEN AVENUE
BRONX, NY 10462
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www.nyc.gov/bronxcb11

Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Chair Cynthia Rodriguez
District Manager Jeremy H. Warneke

COMMITTEES

- Leadership*
- Bylaws & Ethics*
- Community Development & Budget Priorities*
- Economic Development & Public Safety*
- Education, Culture & Youth Services*
- Health & Social Services*
- Housing*
- Land Use*
- Parks & Recreation*
- Sanitation & Environmental Protection*
- Transportation*

Education, Culture & Youth Services Committee Meeting
 Thursday, October 2, 2025
 7:00 p.m.
 Community Board 11 Office
 1741 Colden Avenue
 Webex Meetings
[YouTube](#)

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m.

1. Introductions
 - a. Conduct Statement
2. Review of Meeting Minutes

Motion by A. Ellefson, seconded by L. Velella, to **APPROVE** the drafted September 2025 minutes to reflect that D. Taylor is Secretary of the Committee.
UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

Motion by A. Ellefson, seconded by L. Velella, to **APPROVE** the drafted April 2025 minutes.
UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.
3. Presentation from [Veronica Arts Media](#) about their after-school programs

Film it Up
 Students are equipped with hands on training in digital story telling, cinematography and much more

Mic it Up
 Students learn storytelling through podcasting by learning the fundamentals of podcast creation from scripting and interviewing to recording and editing
 Both of these programs equip students with literacy, life, and 21st skills amongst a plethora of others
 This program grew from the Bronx, for the Bronx and aims to showcase the diverse creativity, brilliance, and expertise of this Borough
4. Presentation from Derrick Guest, COO & Founder The Learning Root

Vocational & Health Careers
 Derick Guest -COO and Founder:
 Alexandria Bolds - Academic Director



To request any special accommodations, please call us at (718) 892-6262 at least 72 hours prior to any Community Board 11 meeting or event.



The Learning Root Vocational & health Careers

- Vision - To be the premier community-based educational pipeline for healthcare careers in New York City.
- A school where the model is
- Unique single-gender middle school
- Objective for MS -Students will leave middle school with the foundations and knowledge of the medical science
- A single-gender school eliminates stigma, allows for more risk, and increased focus
- Co-Ed high school
- Objective - Graduate with skills and internships geared towards their college and/or health related vocational trade success
- Combining the philosophy of W.E.B. Dubois and Booker T. Washington
- Serving students in East Bronx, focusing on underserved communities, immigrant families, etc
- Why the Bronx?
- The Bronx faces
 - Health care worker shortages
 - Underperforming schools
 - Limited economic mobility pathways
 - Why this school?
 - Healthcare is fastest growing sector
 - What's next in the plan to open this school?
- Looking for a home
- Looking for a partnership
- 5. Review school survey to send to parent coordinators
 - D. Taylor suggested adding an explanation section after “How would you rate your school’s relationship with your local police precinct?”
 - A. Ellefson agreed..
 - We will update the google form and send that out.
- 6. Gallery Session (Public Input): *Those [registered](#) will be called upon first*
Housing Solutions of New York (HSNY)
Maria Raices - Program Manager
Program that works with students 13-21
Embedded in shelters and schools
A series of four workshops on how to cope with stress, anxiety, and mental health
The hope is to help students understand how to cope with these emotions in a way before they are adults
Provide Metro Cards for students in traveling is a hardship
Students receive a \$50 gift card at the completion of the four workshop series
If students need additional support, they connect them with a therapist
Work closely with schools and social workers

Department of Mental Health oversees the organization

7. Motions

- a. Recommend full-board vote in favor of letter of support for Veronica Arts Media

Motion by A. Elleson, seconded by L. Velella, to recommend having the full-board vote in favor of letter of support for Veronica Arts Media. .

UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

8. Old Business

9. New Business

The meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes by D. Taylor, edits and formatting by staff.

Conduct Statement

Community Board 11 meetings must be held in a professional and hostile-free environment.

The following rules of conduct are applicable to members of the public, Community Board 11 and Community Board 11 staff:

- Any action or behavior that disrupts or interferes with Community Board 11 business will not be tolerated during any Community Board 11 meeting and may result in the individual(s) being asked to leave. If the action or behavior continues, this may be considered disturbing the peace, and the appropriate authorities may be summoned. If the meeting is held remotely, the person may be muted or expelled for the remainder.
- Repeated violations by the same person or group of people may result in further action by the Community Board.
- All public speakers must address the Full Board or the Committee with their concerns.
- Electioneering for a position other than an officer of Community Board 11 is prohibited.
- Engaging in acts of violence (including threats) are grounds for immediate suspension of the right to attend meetings, pending review by the Ethics and Disciplinary committee.
- Respect the equality, diversity and privacy of all people by respecting and valuing differences of culture and opinion.
- Refrain from unpleasant or disparaging remarks and other actions.
- Abstain from all forms of harassment by actively discouraging it.
- Disseminating false information is prohibited.