



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
**BOROUGH OF THE BRONX**  
**COMMUNITY BOARD 7**



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

JEAN HILL, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

**EDUCATION, YOUTH & LIBRARIES COMMITTEE**

<b>Chair</b>	Myrna Calderon
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Wednesday April 3, 2019
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	6:30 PM
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Bronx Community Board 7 Office
<b>Members (Check Those In Attendance)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Myrna Calderon <input type="checkbox"/> Emmanuel Martinez <input type="checkbox"/> Yeny Medina <u>Exc</u> Denise Relf
<b>Minutes Done By:</b>	Myrna Calderon

**Minutes:**

**I. Introductions**

- a. Meeting was called to order however no votes or resolutions could be taken due to lack of quorum.

**II. Review of last month's minutes**

**III. Follow-up from previous month**

**IV. New Business**

- a. Mr. Guerino continued to ask for CB7 and community support to stop the collocation of another school in the Dewitt Clinton HS campus. Board Chair Myrna Calderon reported that she attended public hearing at Dewitt Clinton HS to hear all sides of the issue to report back to the committee. She was disheartened to hear that the DOE officials accused parents and community members of not wanting special needs children in their school. However, parents, teachers, students, administrators and community members all stated their support for special needs students. The problem was a space issue and the fact that three other schools were already being housed in DWCHS. Suggestions were made to use other schools in the Bronx that would be more suitable to special needs students. Also a suggested by administrators was to allow the children to be placed in DWCHS without a separate administration. The ongoing sentiments stated that under the Bloomberg administration DWCHS suffered and now they were finally climbing up again to the great school they have always been. Most speakers felt that another collocation of a school would work against all the progress they have made.



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#### b. Presentation: Monique Ferguson, Freedom Youth LLC

1. Freedom Youth LLC offers free training to youth and youth workers to prevent the sex trafficking of young people. They work in all 5 boroughs of NYC and Mount Vernon.
2. The purpose of this organization is to train and equip students, Parents teacher's administrator's community members to spot the signs of youth being trafficked. The organization's desire is the work with the Department of Education to prevent youth from being trafficked. And to teach children how to protect themselves.
3. She made us aware of the problem occurring at St. James Park on Jerome Avenue and on 241st and White plains Road, as well as other locations throughout our borough.
4. Ms. Ferguson informed us that youth are being targeted for trafficking starting at age 12-21yrs.
  - 52% are African-American and Latino
  - 50-90% of the youth at Covenant House have been or are currently being trafficked.
  - The main ages are 12-14 years old.
  - 76% are refugee or migrant children
  - 50% are LGBTQ youth
  - 50% are homeless
  - 14% are runaways
5. Cover-ups
  - Cabarets and clubs
  - Grocery Stores - They will pass young people a number they call and trap them
  - Schools - They wait for young people outside schools and use other youth to recruit inside the schools. Parents are not even aware what is occurring.
6. District Manager Ischia Bravo informed Ms. Ferguson that to work with the DOE that Freedom Youth would need a vendor number.



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7. Ms. Ferguson informed us that they were currently under the Nehemiah Project's vendor number and that they were currently obtaining their own.
8. All present agreed to assist in spreading the information and to assist with opening doors for this needed trading in schools, churches and community organizations.
9. Also present at meeting was Sidney Valena, another parent from DWCHS. She also discussed her opposition to the proposed collocation of another school. She also stated that the school had been targeted by the Bloomberg administration. She stated that it is the last remaining large HS in The Bronx and is 130 years old. Current parents and former graduates meet every 3rd Wednesday at Dewitt Clinton HS.
10. She was concerned over the closed door meetings that they were not informed of. She was concerned that the school was already overburdened.

**V. Discussion on next month's agenda**

**VI. Next month's meeting date:** Wednesday, May 1st, 2019

**VII. Adjournment 7:55PM**