



Chairman Mohammed Majumder – District Manager William Rivera

Youth & Education Committee Meeting Summary

September 10, 2026

Committee Chair: Ram Halder **Vice Chair:** Julio Quinones Jr

Committee Members Present: Ram Halder, Richard Owusu

Committee Description: The youth & education committee represents the community's interests with regards to education and programs that target the youth and acts as a liaison between community members and the NYC Department of Education including Parent Advocates, PTA's, Educators and Principals, School Safety, the Administration for Children Services, NYC department of Youth & Development and local organizations and nonprofits.

1. Introduction

A. Members Roll Call

2. Speakers

A. Kalia Baber, iMentor NYC

- Ms. Baber presents the organization's mentorship program supporting Bronx high school students. The program pairs 11th and 12th graders with adult mentors to guide them through college and career planning.
- Mentorship lasts junior and senior years, with an optional two-year college mentorship extension.
- The presentation highlights their impact on student college acceptance rates (approximately 96% of seniors are accepted to college) and opportunities for community involvement.
- Mentors attend monthly evening events at schools and engage in weekly online check-ins. The program also includes a career readiness class taught by full-time staff at partner schools. Mentors undergo interviews and background checks, and the program recruits about 1,200 mentors annually in NYC. Mentors are volunteers and must be at least 21 years old; a college degree is no longer required. They receive training and attend virtual information sessions.
- Community members and staff express interest in volunteering and supporting the program through connections and events.
- The program operates with a hybrid model combining in-person monthly events and weekly online communication. Mentors are matched to students based on shared interests and backgrounds through a personalized process. The program collaborates closely with school staff including counselors and social workers to support students' academic and personal development. Mentors can engage beyond minimum requirements with activities like field trips and group workshops. Program managers at schools coordinate with counselors and social workers to address students' needs holistically.

- Consent from guardians is mandatory for student participation.
 - iMentor NYC is currently based in fourth Bronx high school but seeks to expand its reach within the Bronx by partnering with more high schools and community organizations. The presentation encourages community board members and local officials to connect the program with resources, events, and potential mentors. There is interest in hosting group workshops and involving professionals from various industries to better represent the student population's diversity. BMs discuss potential collaborations with elected officials and local organizations to increase mentor recruitment.
 - Workshops and group sessions are planned to supplement one-on-one mentoring and provide broader exposure. Efforts are underway to recruit mentors reflecting the ethnic and cultural diversity of Bronx students, including Bengali and Latinx communities. Local professionals' express willingness to participate in mentorship or speak at events. The program offers flexible participation options to accommodate busy professionals.
 - Community service high schools and internship opportunities are identified as potential areas for partnership expansion. Follow-up communications and presentations at general board meetings are planned to maintain engagement.
 - **Follow up priorities:**
 - Ms. Baber should send an email to the committee with contact information, slides, and details about the program and upcoming events. She should also send an email to the committee with information about the four Bronx high schools currently partnered with iMentor and inquire if any of those schools have internship or community service opportunities for students.
 - Committee members interested in mentoring should discuss with their office staff to be connected to the iMentor program.
- 3. Bronx Community District 9 Needs & Resources**
- The district faces challenges such as high population density.
 - The district uses an online platform to manage and update its needs statement and capital project requests.
 - **Follow up priorities:**
 - The committee chair needs to email the youth and education committee members within the next week with last year's district needs report related to education and request input on additions or changes for the upcoming fiscal year.

OFFICE INFO

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