

**Brooklyn Community Board 9**  
**890 Nostrand Avenue**  
**Brooklyn, New York 11225**

**Youth & Education Committee Meeting**  
**January 13, 2026**

**Attendance:** (**Board Members**): Dawn Welters-Dumpson; Melissa Severe

**Attendance:** (**Resident Members**) Ainslie Binder; T. Billi Martin; Pamela Payne

**Absent:** (**Board Members**): Soul Creary; Letwine Mavima

**Absent:** (**Resident Members**) Brian Allaway; John Beckles Jr.; Demetria Farrow; Yvonne Lowe; Cynthia Rose

**Guests:** John Colon; Brandon Boyce; Amina Mahima- Representative from NYC Family Policy Project / Public Library Action Network; Felice Robertson

**CB9 Staff:** Mia N. Hilton, Assistant District Manager

---

1. Call to Order & Introductions
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm
  - b. Members and guests briefly introduced themselves.
2. Approval of December Minutes
  - a. Members discussed the December meeting minutes and tabled for February meeting.
3. Discussion:
  - a. A concern was raised regarding the language describing outreach responsibilities.
  - b. The current minutes state that Sole is conducting outreach to vendors and schools, including follow-up calls and confirmation emails.
  - c. It was clarified that:
    - i. Soul is conducting outreach to vendors only.
    - ii. Melissa, Pamela, and Billi are conducting outreach to schools, including phone calls and confirmation emails.
    - iii. Due to the absence of secretary, Cynthia, and lack of confirmation via the meeting recording, Melissa suggested it would be preferable to add clarifying language rather than strike existing text.
    - iv. Decision: Approval of the December minutes was postponed until February to allow time for review and accuracy
4. Guest Presentation: Library Advocacy - A guest from the NYC Family Policy Project and Public Library Action Network is a Library Funding Advocacy in our community.
  - a. Key Points:

- i. The organization advocates for 0.5% of total city funding to be allocated to public libraries (current level is approximately 0.45%).
- ii. Mayor Mamdani previously expressed support for the commitment of 0.5%.
- iii. Libraries are positioned as critical infrastructure for family well-being, education, and community support.
- iv. The presenter asked whether the Community Board could:
  - 1. Express formal support
  - 2. Assist with advocacy to the Mayor's Office and City Council
  - 3. Allow distribution of flyers and materials
  - 4. Next Steps:
    - a. Flyers may be distributed at the Youth Fair on January 31.
    - b. The Committee will discuss potential advocacy actions and coordination with City Council members, including Council Members Rita Joseph and Crystal Hudson.

#### 5. Youth Fair Planning Update

- a. Melissa provided an update on planning for the upcoming Youth Fair.
  - i. Attendance & Volunteers:
    - 1. Approximately 160–165 youth RSVPs, primarily from within the district Volunteers confirmed:
      - a. 3 for welcome table
      - b. 2 for résumé review
      - c. 1 for interview coaching
    - 2. Outreach Efforts:
      - a. Email outreach to all 8 high schools in the district
      - b. Flyers distributed near schools and train stations (approx. 60 flyers)
      - c. Board office contacted 60–100 organizations
      - d. 15 vendors confirmed date
      - e. Eventbrite page, Google Form, QR code, and phone outreach script were created
      - f. Phone calls to organizations have been effective.
    - 3. Outstanding Needs:
      - a. Continued phone outreach to vendors (goal: up to 20 vendors)
      - b. Soul interns are assisting, but additional support is welcome due to a vendor list of ~150 contacts
    - 4. Logistics:
      - a. Food and snacks are being coordinated by Dante and the Board Office with local partners
      - b. \$150 donation being pursued from Senator Myrie.
    - 5. Suggestions:
      - a. Reach out to youth who attended last year using prior sign-in sheets

- b. Explore engaging alumni attendees to support current participants.
  - c. Follow up with Dante regarding access to last year's sign-in records
6. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned after discussion of the next steps.