



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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HENRIETTA LYLE
Chairperson

ANDREW LASSALLE
Assistant District Manager

Education/Libraries & Youth Committee

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Board Attendance:

Present: Acting Chair, Deborah Yates, Daniel Clark, Christina Curry, Karen Horry, Crystal McKay

Excused: Jennifer Prince, Marquis Harrison, Tamara Martin, Stephen Watkins

Absent: Troy Gethers, Michael Downie, Stephanie Howze, Reverend Lisa Jenkins

Guests:

Princess Lyles, Democracy Prep; Michelle K. Hayes, Sisulu-Walker Charter School; Courtney N. Flowers, Sisulu-Walker Charter School; Shamik Mitchell, Sisulu-Walker Charter School; Tamila Nicholas, Sisulu-Walker School; Paul Hersh, DOE; Andrea Esper; Evelyn Murrell; Bianca Tamayo, Hapri @ Harlem Hospital; Mutale Nkonde, Bill Lynch Associates; Angela Garces, CEC6

Michelle Haynes, School Leader Sisulu-Walker Charter School

Ms. Haynes came before the committee to inform us of the school and to talk about the work they are doing. Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem, located at 125 West 115th Street, is New York State's first Charter School it opened in September of 1999. Children are told they have an obligation to serve the community. Sisulu-Walker Charter School currently has 225 students, 81% Black, 12% Latino, & % Asian. Their main focus is to prepare their students for high quality middle schools. Sisulu-Walker Charter School has a 182 day school year, 8am-4pm daily. The school has individual and group incentives where the children (they call their students citizens) are rewarded for good behavior. Committee member Karen Horry asked how is technology taught, they stated that at present they have one smartboard and computers. They have applied for a technology grant. Sisulu-Walker Charter School has several partnerships, including Real Simple Magazine who came in and decorated their lobby, The Nightingale-Bamford School that come in and tutor the children, Ironwill Kids and New York Public Library. They also have a program Breakfast with a Civil Rights Legend and for the past two years Reverend Dougherty has been visiting the school to discuss Civil Rights.

Mutale Nkonde, Bill Lynch Associates

Ms. Nkonde came before the committee to speak about an initiative that Bill Lynch Associates in Partnership with Dignity in Schools Campaign is currently working on 'Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline'. Ms. Nkonde stated that this issue is a district school issue not a charter school issue. The problem is the school discipline code which is very subjective. A child may be deemed 'defying authority' if he/she is chewing gum or some other minor infraction as well as a more serious event. Ms. Nkonde and associates are also working with Shawn Dove, Manager, Open Society Foundation, Campaign for Black Male Achievement. Mr. Dove was part of the conversation with President Obama that led to the "My Brother's Keeper" initiative which has a budget of \$250M some of which is slated for our area. Ms Nkonde stressed that this is not an initiative against the NYPD because they are police officers and are doing what police officers do. The problem is that our children should not be policed. The collaboration offers an alternative to the present educational discipline code, Restorative Justice. Restorative Justice is about restoring you back and does not automatically offer a harsh punishment for an infraction but looks at the whole child and their home life. This process would also come with services to help the child deal with problems. She also informed us of a program taking place on April 24th at First Corinthian's Baptist Church entitled #Change the Code Solutions for Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Committee member Crystal McKay mentioned lets be sure that girls are included in this discussion. Ms. Nkonde and the committee spoke about possible future partnerships to highlight this problem to the community.

Fear that attendance will be less because of the political climate. Rev. Walrond is running for Congress against long time Congressman Charlie Rangel.

Education Forum April 12, 2014

Education, Youth and Libraries Committee had a very successful forum held on April 12th. It was held at Harriett Tubman School located on West 127th Street. We had four very interactive panels, Charter Schools, pros and cons; Special Education; Testing/Common Core and Role of Parents. We offered breakfast and lunch. To advertise this event we e-blasted it to Community Boards 9&11 as well as CECs 3&5, we stood at train stations during morning rush hour, a committee member Daniel Clarke with the help of volunteers put a flyer in the door at several housing units including St. Nicholas houses. The day will began at 8am and ended around 4:00pm. Congressman Rangel and Councilwoman Inez Dickens both stopped by to offer support. Borough President Gale Brewer opened the event and former Councilman Robert Jackson delivered the keynote address and he tweeted the event all day. This was the first of what we hope to be an annual event.

The Education Committee spoke about having smaller programs on a more regular basis. Invite people into our monthly meeting to present issues important to the community. The first one may be about Gifted and Talented children. We want to be more relevant as an education committee we also want to invite the community in so that we know what they need and what we as a committee should be doing.

Announcements

Princess Lyles of Democracy Prep announced an upcoming event that Democracy Prep is hosting. The Korean Street Festival is taking place on Saturday, May 17th from 10am to 4pm on West 134th Street between Adam Clayton Powell & Frederick Douglas Blvd.

Karen Horry read a letter from a parent who is concerned about Charter Schools and the space in District Schools that they occupy, the media and co location for special needs children.

NEXT MEETING May 15th, 6:30 PM