



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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Education & Libraries
COMMITTEE REPORT
Tuesday, May 21, 6:30 PM
215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor

ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS: Brian Benjamin, Tamara Martin, Marquis Harrison, Deborah Yates, Co-Chair, Dan Clarke, Steven Watkins, Cicely Harris, Karen Horry, Crystal Mckay.

Guests

Sonja Jones, Chair Community Education Council, District 5; Evelyn Collins, Onyx Academy ; Joe Rogers, Total Equity Now

Summary

Karen Horry Education committee member attended the conference of the National School Board Association which was held in San Diego from April 11-13. This organization reaches over 50M children.

Sonja Jones who is the Chair of District 5 Community Education Council (CEC) came before the committee to ask for support of a Town Hall meeting the CEC was sponsoring to inform parents of a proposal to eliminate zoning in District 5 elementary schools. Ms. Jones explained that she was not asking the committee to vote on whether or not we agreed with the proposal to eliminate zoning, she was only asking for us to support parents' right to be informed. The committee vote 8 yes and Zero no to support.

Evelyn Collins of Onyx Academy came before the Education committee requesting a letter of support for a proposed Performing Arts charter school. Onyx has yet to locate a suitable space for the school and is now looking at a space which is located within Community Board 11. The committee felt it should not give a letter of support at this time. The committee recommended Onyx attend CB11 Education Committee meeting to inform them of their plans and come back to us in June.

Joe Rogers of Total Equity Now presented an update on the Uptown Education Collaborative which is comprised of Community Education Councils 3, 4, 5&6 and Community Boards 9, 10, 11 &12. He also requested a letter of support for the June 4Forum the Collaborative was sponsoring. Joe Rogers stated that the collaborative was going to put together an Empowerment guide for parents to help guide them through the maze that is the Department Of Education. The collaborative hopes to have the Empowerment Guide completed for the 2013-2014 school year. The committee voted unanimously to support the process.

Announcements

Crystal McKay asked every to sign a library petition. The New York Public library System is facing a 4.7M budget cut.

Dan Clark reported on the success of the Mayoral Forum that Democracy Prep hosted. He stated that it was very well attended. The questions to the candidates focused on problems in schools uptown and the issues facing young people in our schools. Kids from a number of schools were on hand to ask questions.

Steven Watkins gave an update on his idea to host a Harlem Teacher of the Year Award ceremony. He reported that the Schomburg Library has agreed to partner with our committee and has offered a space in there Black History 360 program which is a two week education program held at the library.

Steven Watkins announced the first Harlem Green Economy Forum to be held at the State Office Building on June 22, from 8am to 2pm. Some topics to be discussed are, 'what is the green economy', 'policy', 'how to start a green business', environment stewardship' and 'education'.

Marquis Harrison reported on a rally to be held in Albany on June 8, One Voice United, to oppose the closing of SUNY Downstate hospital in Brooklyn. There will be buses leaving from Harlem for those interested in attending.

Adjourned at 8:33