



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
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**HENRIETTA LYLE**  
Chairperson

**ANDREW LASSALLE**  
District Manager

**Education/Libraries & Youth Committee**  
**Tuesday, May 20th, 2014**

**Board Attendance:**

**Present:** Acting Chair, Deborah Yates, Jennifer Prince, Tuesday Brooks, Daniel Clark, Michael Downie, Christina Curry, Marquis Harrison, Tamara Martin, Brandi North, Shanelle Washington

**Excused:** Karen Horry

**Absent:** Troy Gethers, Reverend Lisa Jenkins, Stephen Watkins, Crystal McKay, Khalifa Diop

**Guests:**

Valerie Zika, NYFACS

Shanita Williams, NYFACS

Helena Judd, Plai Theatre

Bianco Tamayo NYC HHC-Happi

James Zika NYFACS

Edith Boncompain, NYFACS

J. Conrad Fagon, CEC 3

**New York French American Charter School (NYFACS) – Edith Boncompain**

Edith Boncompain who is the principal at NYFACS came before the committee to re-introduce the school. She stated that the majority of the students at NYFACS are from West Africa and the Caribbean. The School has made major achievements in the last two years which include adding new classrooms and usage of the roof for activities. NYFACS has applied for participation in the Universal Pre-K program having submitted their application NYFACS expects an interview this month to complete the process. NYFACS has begun outreach to the community lately because they are concerned about visibility to. They want to ensure that the population that needs their services are aware of what is available. NYFACS is interested in partnering with cultural and community services in the area. NYFACS would also like to invite the community to participate in future school events. NYFACS requested suggestions about how they can further outreach to the community and invited the Committee to come and tour the school at any time.

Questions from the Ed Committee included:

**Michale Downie** – Which countries in the Caribbean are represented by your students and what percentage are African. NYFACS noted that 80% of their students are from the continent of Africa and the Caribbean islands represented are Haiti, Jamaica among others and there is a significant population from the Bronx as well. Interns from international schools in the Bronx. Three interns coming in this year. Do you plan to expand? The original plan was to continue to the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. They have three years to prove they have the stability to grow to a high school

**Jennifer Prince**- we visited this school many years ago can you share lessons learned and changes that have been made. Major lesson that the school did not have stability. New Board main concern was stability. Ability to look at mistakes and correct them. The new principal is a former teacher and French speaking which helps to relate to classroom problems. Developed a special department to prevent over-identify students. No students with IEPs and now 12% with IEPs. Charter schools have to allow

for students with special needs. All IEP students are main streamed in the classroom with a spec ed teacher in the classroom or a special period with the spec ed provider. They have a ten year lease, small school and are growing have added classrooms and rooftop area, very active PTO. Valerie Zika who is a parent of a student at the school commented that NYFACS takes the students to the local museums and go above and beyond what you would expect from a school. Cultural of the school is to make it happen. If something needs to be done they find a way to get it done.

### **Daniel Clark**

What are you doing to make sure that parents know about you. Not just around 116 but the entire community. He mentioned that in Spet there will be a student that does not speak English and a parent that does not know what to do. Edith B mentioned that this the reason for the outreach. One suggestion might be to call all the schools in the area to have meetings with the guidance or parent coordinator to introduce yourself.

How many students do you currently have and what is your capacity. K-5 at this time. NYFACS currently services 250 students with 280 capacity.

If you have any additional ideas please send them to us.

### **Helena Judd – GiGis Playhouse Plai Theatre**

Partnered with GiGis Playhouse for children with Down Syndrome. New Soccer program. All volunteers from Columba University. Nice community center for families to come and share information. A lot of new parents who were not aware their child would have down syndrome. The parents share real day to day problems. They have connected with the new song church to have a fundraiser to help fund baskets for parents in hospitals for new parents with down children. Gratitude committee that creates thank you cards.

Plai fund for Manhattan community Teen. 17 kids for orientation and now they have 8 committed actors that are they earch week to create the show and 7 volunteers. Created arts therapist , drama director. Hopint to expand sho at 115<sup>th</sup> street library on June 15<sup>th</sup> . the show will be after working for 15 weeks and it will be interactive. Different sensory smell sound and touch. The show's theme is focused around what makes them Happy and starts on a playground with the actors trying to discover what makes them happy. The kids have been created this play themselves. Want the community to be involved and grow to maybe two ensembles next year.

### **Announcements**

**Daniel Clark** thanked the Board for their support of the Korean Street festival held by Democracy Prep. About 5,000 people attended the event.

**Marquis Harrison** wanted to close out the Education Forum and suggested that we start thinking about next year's forum now and plan. **Deborah Yates** agreed and mentioned that the committee had discussed the Ed Forum and how to move forward at the April meeting as well as having more subject oriented smaller events going forward.

Deborah Yates mentioned that the school Discipline Code is changing and there is a public hearing to discuss the changes scheduled for June 10th. It is an issue we need to continue to talk about. Deborah Yates wanted the committee to decide if the Education Committee should hold an Information session or blast a flyer out so parents are aware of the public hearing and that they have certain rights. The committee decided to produce a flyer and to make an announcement at the June General Board meeting. CEC3 attended the meeting to introduce themselves

Community Liason from Harlem Hospital for the Happi program. Milk pavilion event 'A Baby Can Wait' on May 22. Introduce participants to preventive services at Harlem Hospital. They have 50 rsvps but can accommodate up to 200. Focus is middle school student and High School students. College Bound at risk youth, NY Urban League are also supporters of this initiative.

**NEXT MEETING June 17th, 6:30 PM**