

**COMMUNITY BOARD SIX
YOUTH/HUMAN SERVICES/EDUCATION COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 30, 2011**

PRESENT:

J. BERNARD
M. KOLMAN
S. SHIFFMAN

E. CHAN
M. SCOTT
B. SOLOTAIRE

A. FORNECKER
D. SCOTTO
S. TURET

EXCUSED:

P. BELLENBAUM
T. WILSON

E. FELDER

L. HILL

ABSENT:

E. GOTTLIEB
T. VAZQUEZ

Y. ROMAN
D.C. VITO

M. RUIZ

GUESTS:

M. KELLEY – REP. FOR HON. MARTY MARKOWITZ, BROOKLYN BORO PRESIDENT
A. CHEN

K. SHERPA

E. CHEN

***** MINUTES *****

The meeting began at 6:45pm. There was not a quorum present.

Presentation and discussion with Margaret Kelley, Education Policy Analyst Office of the Brooklyn Borough President.

We opened with a discussion about the co-location of Success Academy Cobble Hill into Building K293. There were differing opinions on the need for charter schools but near consensus on this particular co-location being ill-advised and poorly handled by the Department of Education, specifically due to the lack of community notification and discussion.

Discussion with Ms Kelly:

Ms Kelly began by discussing the need for Community Boards to begin to get involved in the education discussion more fully. In two years the Bloomberg administration will be gone and the rules will begin to change and we should be involved in that discussion now. Two suggestions were put forth for consideration:

1. Begin talking with State Legislators about law changes to mayoral control and charter school system approval regulations.
2. And strengthen connections between CECs and CB.

(Q) Suzanne Turet: Is there a need for more K-5 schools in the district?

(A) MK - Yes, there is a need, many schools have waiting lists. Sunset Park is especially needy. Success Academy is a done deal in Building K293, but there are questions about its legitimacy. Community Board not being notified and the name change were two reasons.

It was pointed out that students cannot be picked to get in due to the lottery system, but they can be kicked out afterwards.

A resolution was put forward by Mark Kolman, seconded by Suzanne Turet:

We request the following:

- 1) That the Department of Education notify Community Boards of possible co-locations in their districts prior to decisions being made.
- 2) There must be an ongoing discussion between the Department of Education and Community Boards of what kinds of schools are needed in the district.
- 3) That the Community Board be involved in the Educational District Planning process.

Also: - We need to meet with representatives from the schools in our district that the DOE indicates has more than 300 empty seats, to review actual space usage and how to be proactive, as these will be targeted for co-locations. Possibly combined with meeting with Tim Terecko from Office of Planning who determines space availability.

- We need to begin process of meeting with State Legislators to discuss future changes to the education law post-Bloomberg.

VOTE: 9.....YEAS 0.....NAYS 0.....ABSTENTIONS

(Q) Elsie Chan: Do models exist to guide co-locations?

(A) MK - I hold Parent Forums regularly with participants who are in co-located schools to discuss best practices and problems. Will notify CB6 of next meeting. CBs need to be more proactive in what the community needs regarding education in the district.

(Q) James Bernard - How can we be more proactive?

(A) MK - There are two things. Reviews the list of schools that the DOE says have space (s. Kelly provided us with the list) and bring in representatives of those schools to review the validity of the assessments. If the DOE thinks there is space then they will eventually recommend a co-location and if we can be proactive in questioning those space assumptions we can mediate the situation before it gets too far.

These should include or be preceded by a meeting with Tom Terecko of Office for School Planning, or Brooklyn representative.

The second thing to do is to hold meetings with State Legislator's to discuss the Education laws. She can get us a list of topics to begin discussion with. For example, NYC is the only city in the country that gives public space for free to charter schools.

There are currently no failing schools in District 15 on the DOE public list of Failing Schools.

Review of Office of Space Planning Process: MK provided us with detailed presentation and contact info from the Office of Planning

- 1 - Review historical capacity and compare to current enrollment numbers
- 2 - Review Building plans

3 - Review Principal's yearly space usage report

4 - Lastly, must do a physical walk-through

(Q) ST - What is your opinion on the de Blasio report on co-location?

(A) MK - It's a good report but didn't really cover any new ground.

(Q) ST - Why does DOE not come to us to discuss their budget cuts?

(A) MK - No one will come. They don't have to. CEC's get Capital budgets and we should ask to see them. But I will try and get some info for us regarding expenses.

(Q) JB - Is there a DOE planning process?

(A) MK - DOE comes to the Borough Hall and meets with all the electeds once a year with a PPT presentation explaining what they've done over the year, and what they plan on doing in the borough over the coming year. Could be time to bring in the CBs.

Discussion of Common Core. Widely known among educators but should invite Anita Skop in to meet with PTAs and the committee.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm..

The minutes were submitted by Benjamin Solotaire.