



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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Nilsa Orama
Chair

Angel D. Mescain
District Manager

Youth and Education Committee
Tuesday, February 11th, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Board Office, 1664 Park Avenue

***** MINUTES *****

Present: David Giordano, Yolonda Brown, John Green, Isaac Scott, Jason Villanueva, Carly Wine (staff), and Jason Wu,

Absent:

Excused: Elsie Encarnacion, Malik McCullough, and Jada Heredia

Guests: Kimber Bogard, NYAM; Noelle LaDue; NYC Parks; Leon Wi; Jose L Vonega, Picture the Homeless; Deon Whitter, Union Settlement; Ivy Hume

1. Call to Order– Adoption of the Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by John Green and seconded by Yolanda Brown at approximately 6:35 PM. Committee Chair welcomed members and guests.

2. Presentations & Discussions

a. Informational Presentation on GreenThumb Youth Leadership Councils Program

Noelle LaDue, Green Thumb Program gave a brief presentation of Green Thumb's Youth Leadership Council program. The program engages youth who are interested in gardening community organizing and civic duty & leadership. Youth work with specific Gardens through the city learning about how to maintain and grow a healthy garden. They attend workshops and work on special projects in composting, carpentry, planting and harvesting from local Gardeners in order to support and maintain a community Garden in NYC. Applications are being accepted for ages 12 through 21. Approximately 185 youth apply, and 90 to 100 youth will complete the application process and program.

b. Fiscal Year 2021 Preliminary Budget Review

Jason Villanueva lead a healthy discussion/debate and collaborative response regarding the review and editing of the Statement of District Needs & Budget Priorities. During the discussion we decided which priorities to advocate for, which to maintain and reword in order to re-ask (being more specific in the asks), specifically in Work Learn & Grow youth employment opportunities and early Childhood after-school programming/care. And to follow-up through budget consultations and advocacy.

c. Committee discussion re: DRAFT Where We Live Plan:

The Committee briefly reviewed the Where We Live Plan and had a brief discussion on the the plan. The committee had no major recommendations at this time.

3. New Business

4. Old Business

a. Resolution on School Diversity Advisory Group Recommendations

The Committee members reviewed the Resolution on School Diversity Advisory Group Recommendations. Committee had a brief discussion and felt strongly about supporting the resolution.

Motion by I. Scot and seconded by Y. Brown to provide a resolution in support of the School Diversity Advisory Group Recommendations. The motion passed.

b. Resolution in Support of “Black Lives Matter” in Teaching and Curriculum

The Committee members reviewed the Resolution in Support of “Black Lives Matter” in Teaching and Curriculum. Committee had a brief discussion and felt strongly about supporting the resolution.

Motion by I. Scott and seconded by J. Wu to provide a resolution in support of "Black Lives Matter” in Teaching and Curriculum. The motion passed.

c. Updated Letter of Support for Foundation Aid

The Committee reviewed the previous letter sent to Governor Cuomo regarding foundation aid due to New York State and specifically to New York City students, specifically: 1.4 billion. The committee had a brief discussion regarding Foundation Aid and the long history in attempts by advocates such AQENY to get the money released. Committee members felt strong to advocate and support attempts to access this money.

Motion by Y. Brown and seconded by J. Green to reissue a letter to Governor Cuomo in support of the full funding of Foundation Aid statewide. The motion passed.

5. Announcements

Kimber Bogard gave a brief update about the East Harlem Action Collaborative for Child Health and Well-being. The group is presenting on the Hopes and Dreams for Children in East Harlem on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at the New York Academy of Medicine from 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Isaac Scott and seconded John Green

Your Name:

Home Address:

Your Phone:

Your Email:

DEAR GOVERNOR CUOMO,

Every day children around the state attend schools that are underfunded. Our New York City public schools are owed \$1.4 billion in unpaid Foundation Aid. They have old books that are falling apart. They don't have properly certified teachers teaching them. They learn in a classroom with 30 or more students. They don't have supplies for science labs. These are just a handful of the conditions we find in our schools.

In 2006, the State's highest courts sided with parents in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit in which the students' constitutional right to "a sound basic education" was being denied. This historic lawsuit is why public schools statewide are owed \$4 Billion in Foundation Aid money. In 2020 NYC public schools are owed \$1.1 billion and this is why we continue to fight to ensure our children and schools finally receive the money they are rightfully owed.

For too long the state has been shortchanging its students. Many school districts which provide education to mostly low income students and students of color, are not able to provide enough qualified staff, programming and services to meet their students' needs and to engage them academically and holistically.

Our children need:

- Smaller class sizes
- Restorative justice practices (end the school-to-prison pipeline)
- Culturally responsive curriculums
- After- school and extracurricular programs
- Mandated services for Special education students and English Language Learners
- Other: _____

A "sound, basic" education is guaranteed by the state constitution for every student regardless of zip code, and because of the policies of the state, this right is being violated. Racial Justice demands NYS prioritize education justice. In 2020, the New York State Legislature will prioritize our public schools.

Sincerely,
