



Diane Collier **Chair**

Angel D. Mescain
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
1664 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10035
TEL: (212) 831-8929/30
FAX: (212) 369-3571
www.cb11m.org

Youth & Education Committee Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 6:00pm Board Office

***** Minutes *****

- Present: David L. Giordano, Lillybelle Gonzalez, John Green, Peggy Morales, Nilsa Orama, Mahfuzur Rahman, Jeremiah Schlotman, Jason Villanueva, Angel Mescain (staff)
- Absent: none
- Excused: Yolanda Brown, Elsie Encarnacion, Wendy Hewlett, Chandra Smith
- Guest(s): Paul Dawkins, NYSOM; Madai Velz, DANY; Paola Carnelle, NYU; Rayna Bautista, Aspen Institute; Victor Fascio, Children's Aid Society; Jannine Douglas; NYCDPR; Stephannie Caban, Reading Partners

Opening Remarks:

The Committee Chair, David L. Giordano opened the meeting at 6:15 by welcoming members and guests. He then explained that the Committee Vice Chair, Nilsa Orama, will be facilitating tonight's meeting as The Children's Aid Society East Harlem Center has approval for their Summer Playstreet on the agenda tonight. The Committee's Vice Chair officially called the meeting to order and went over the agenda items. Motion to adopt the meeting's Agenda at 6:45 when quorum was reached.

Discussions/Presentations:

I. The Children's Aid Society East Harlem Center Playstreet Application.

Victor Fascio, Assistant Director East Harlem Center gave an in-depth presentation on The Children's Aid Society East Harlem Center: He explained that CAS EHC has been operating a Summer Playstreet on 101st Street for over 40 years. The Playstreet will operate from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday from July 5th, through August 18th, 2017. While the program is operated and staffed through the CAS EHC Camp program, the activities are available for all community members (Children & Families) who are looking for a safe place for their children to participate in fun and engaging activities with adult supervision. Mr. Fascio also explained the various different types of activities from: Box & Board Games, Relay Races, Obstacle Courses, Volley Ball, Soccer and Arts & Crafts as well as providing an opportunity for teen youth to learn Job skills through

Angel Mescain CD 11 District Manager explained and defined that the CAS EHC Summer Playstreet is different than the School Playstreets the Board has been dealing with concerns from community members this year; specifically as it relates to parking on the street and obtaining approval from residents living on the block. Mr. Mescain further explained that

summer playstreets require that no cars are allowed to park on the block from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and that the Playstreet is for all youth living in the community not just attending the school or the camp program.

Jason Villanueva made a motion to write a letter to DOT in support of The Children's Aid Society East Harlem Center's 2017 Summer Playstreet application to operate a Summer Playstreet on 101st street between Lexington and Park Avenues from July 5th 2017, through August 18th, 2017. The motion was seconded by Peggy Morales and passed unanimously.

II. East Harlem Re-Zoning Update: Jeremiah Schlotman

Mr. Scholtman gave a brief but in-depth update and history of the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan and Rezoning of East Harlem. Several of the public were not familiar or knew much about the plan so Jeremiah and several other board members presented loads of information to the public about the Re-Zoning process and what stages the project is currently in. During the presentation, the Committee also learned that the RFP for the Development of 111th -112th street was awarded.

During this presentation, Jeremiah Schlotman also informed the committee members that The Legal Aid Harlem Law Offices will be closing June 15th, 2017 and will be moving June 15th, 2017 to 125th Street in Harlem. He explained that many of the Attorney's really wanted and advocated to stay in East Harlem on 106th street, however, they are still moving. Many committee members were saddened and wanted to try to keep the office in East Harlem; or at least the Board should advocate to maintain a storefront office staffed with a few attorneys locally in East Harlem to support East Harlem residents.

Old Business:

Youth Metro Cards

The Committee had a brief update regarding the next steps for the committee in reaching out to get other groups, individuals and community boards involved in supporting the Metro Card resolution to increase metro card rides for youth. Since the last meeting, Reverend Rogers reached out and made contacts with each Community Board Youth Committees and sent a list for all Manhattan Community Board's Youth & Education Committee, times they meet and who are the Chairs. Mahfuzar Rahman stated that he too also began to reach out to do a presentation so that they can adopt the resolution. It was suggested and Committee members agreed that we need to have a working group to meet either before the monthly scheduled meeting or set up a time to meet on a Saturday so that we can put in the time to begin to implement and follow-up with making presentations at other Community Boards, Schools, Youth groups and CBO's working with youth and the youth themselves. Chair will send out a meeting invite.

New Business:

Central Park East 1 (CPE 1) Sit in by Parents.

David L. Giordano informed the Committee members that on Thursday April 6th, 2017 after CPE 1 School Leadership Team meeting, several parents refused to leave the school holding a rally, a "Sit In" protesting that their requests to the DOE to fire Principal Garg have not been adhered to. Several parents refused to leave the school until their requests to fire the principal approved. It also appeared that the parents, who refused to leave, wanted to be arrested because they actually put out a Press Release before being arrested stating that they, the parents were arrested in being removed by the DOE and police from the school; which was not the case. No one was arrested or

removed from the school. Many committee-board members were appalled that this occurred and wanted to better understand what are the real issues?

The Committee Chair and Vice Chair gave a brief summary of the school history and some of the current challenges facing the school for the past several years. It was explained that CPE 1 is a small Progressive school that has been serving the community since the 1970's and was one of the first progressive schools. It was also stated that CPE is not a title one school. CPE 1 is a choice school with enrollment criteria. Priority enrollment/admission goes to a sibling of a student currently attending the school, then District 4, then District 5 and then other districts city wide. Pre-K students currently in the school receive priority enrollment. Some of these concerns for the Community Board 11 at CPE 1 have been the position with all schools in CD 11/DOE District 4 & 5, are they primarily serving the youth of this community? The Committee Chair explained that when any school comes before this committee the one constant thing the committee asks of these schools before us is what is the ratio of youth attending the school that come CD 11 Zip Codes 10029 & 10035 and how can the Board assist in outreach to CD 11 youth. However, what is most affecting the school and the daily functioning of the school is that a group of parents are trying to get the principal replaced.

David Giordano explained that CD 11 facilitated a meeting during this summer between representatives of CPE1 and DOE District 4 & DOE Central Office, CPE Parents & staff as well members from the Speaker's Office and Borough President in order to better understand some of the challenges facing CPE 1 and how can the Community Board support the process of working through some of these challenges. Those present were asked to focus and work on solutions to these challenges. (Attached are the notes from that meeting). However, it doesn't look like many of the solutions were put into place or even given a chance to work because the following day, several parents who attended the District 4 CEC meeting again asked the CEC and the Superintendent to remove the Principal.

Committee Members were very bothered by the actions of these few parents taking over a school in CB 11 and strongly feel that we must take the position that this cannot be allowed to happen again. All members felt strongly that No Schools in Community Board 11/District 4 should be allowed to be taken over and held hostage by parents or anyone else thus affecting the daily operation of the school and most importantly adversely affecting the children attending the school. Several of the new members felt that we need to better understand both sides and want to research the facts before taking action.

David L. Giordano made a motion to reach out to all CPE 1 vested parties involved: (Parent Representatives from both positions, School Principle and School Leadership Team, DOE District 4 Superintendent & District Leadership Team, District 4 CEC, DOE Central Office, Borough President's Office and the Mayor's office) in order to provide and facilitate a second intervention meeting regarding concerns at Central Park East 1 (CPE 1). A friendly amendment was made by Jason Villanueva to add: The Committee members will conduct Research & Development before meeting again with all parties in order to ensure that the committee members have all the facts before intervening. Motioned was second by Mahfuzur Rahman and Passed, One abstention, Nilsa Orama.

Peggy Morales made a motion that The Community Board 11 Chair, Diane Collier write a letter to all parties (School Principle and School Leadership Team, DOE District 4 Superintendent & District Leadership Team, District 4 CEC, DOE Central Office, DOE Chancellor, All local elected Officials, Council persons, Borough President's Office, The City Council Speaker and the Mayor's office) taking a position that the Youth & Education Committee find it incomparable that a School in Community Board 11/District 4 community school be held hostage by any parties/parents. The motioned also asked and encouraged all Community Board 11 Members to each write a letter to address the concerns identified at CPE 1 being taken over by parents. The motion was seconded by John Green, Jeremiah Schlotman, Lilly Belle Gonzalez and Jason Villanueva Abstained from vote. Motion Passed: 5 Yes' Support, 0 No's & 3 members Abstain

Motions & Action Items:

1. Jason Villanueva made a motion to write a letter to DOT in support of The Children's Aid Society East Harlem Center's 2017 Summer Playstreet application to operate a Summer Playstreet on 101st street between Lexington and Park Avenues from July 5th 2017, through August 18th, 2017.

The motion was second by Peggy Morales and passed unanimously.

2. David L. Giordano made a motion to reach out to all CPE 1 vested parties involved: (Parent Representatives from both positions, School Principle and School Leadership Team, DOE District 4 Superintendent & District Leadership Team, District 4 CEC, DOE Central Office, Borough President's Office and the Mayor's office) in order to provide and facilitate a second intervention meeting regarding concerns at Central Park East 1 (CPE 1). A friendly amendment was made by Jason Villanueva to add: The Committee members will conduct Research & Development before meeting again with all parties in order to ensure that the committee members have all the facts before intervening.

Motioned was second by Mahfuzur Rahman and Passed, One abstention, Nilsa Orama.

3. Peggy Morales made a motion that The Community Board 11 Chair, Diane Collier write a letter to all parties (School Principle and School Leadership Team, DOE District 4 Superintendent & District Leadership Team, District 4 CEC, DOE Central Office, DOE Chancellor, All local elected Officials, Council persons, Borough President's Office, The City Council Speaker and the Mayor's office) taking a position that the Youth & Education Committee find it incomparable that a School in Community Board 11/District 4 community school be held hostage by any parties/parents. The motioned also asked and encouraged all Community Board 11 Members to each write a letter to address the concerns identified at CPE 1 being taken over by parents.

The motioned was second by John Green, Jeremiah Schlotman, Lilly Belle Gonzalez and Jason Villanueva Abstained from vote. Motion Passed: 5 Yes' Support, 0 No's & 3 members Abstain

Announcements:

Madia Velez made three announcements:

1. Da Vance's "Kids Against Hate" Poster Contest – Due May 31st.
2. DA Vance RFPs of HUB grant awarded to Union Settlement
3. DA Vance's WEB Site initiative

Mafuzur Rahman made two announcements:

1. Spirit of Service Festival: On April 29th, 2017, from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm at The Children’s Aid Society East Harlem Center, 130 East 101st street. The Festival is sponsored by Community Board 11 & Council Member Ben Kallos and the goal is seeking opportunities to connect volunteers and CBO’s who are in need of volunteers. .
2. On Saturday April 29th, 2017 from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm, NYU Kimmel Center will hold 2017 New York City Asian American Student Conference: Realities at 60 Washington Square South.

Paul of New York State of Mind (NYSOM) announced:

NYSOM’s 5th Annual Easter Eggstravaganza on April 15th, 2017 at the 117th street Garden between 1st and Pleasant avenues from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mahfuzur Rahman to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Green.