Youth and Education Committee
Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Board Office

*** MINUTES ***

Present: Yolanda Brown, David Giordano, John Green, Nilsa Orama (ex-officio) Malik McCullough, Mahfuzur Rahman, Isaac Scott, Jason Villanueva, Carly Wine (staff), and Jason Wu

Absent: Jada Heredia

Excused: Elsie Encarnacion & Shawn Smith

Guests: Velma Morton, New York Public Library; Michael Miroso, School Construction Authority; Steven Tuozzolo, School Construction Authority; Xavier Santiago, Manhattan Community Board 11; Luther D. Isler, Senator Benjamin’s Office

1. Call to Order– Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Malik McCullough made a motion to adopt the agenda and Reverend Yolanda Brown seconded the motion.

Committee Chair open the meeting by welcoming members and guests. The Chair then gave a quick mention about the agenda changes and explained that we would be having a special presentation from School Construction Authority (SCA), discuss the Budget Priorities & Statement of District and then conduct an exercise on how we measure success as a community board committee member. The Chair then informed the committee that Rev. Brown and he would be “vice-chairs” moving forward and Reverend Brown will be tasked with conducting the committee meetings so I can focus on developing the youth Task force.

2. Announcements

David Giordano announced that on Saturday September 14th, 2019 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm DOE District 4 will hold their annual Back to School Fair on East 120th street between Lexington & 3rd Avenues.
3. Presentations & Discussions

   a. Committee Presentation DOE SCA, School Construction Authority

      Michael Mirosola and Steven Tuozzolo from School Construction Authority gave an in-depth and enlightening presentation on SCA, detailing the agency’s background, history and scope of work (the agency focuses on the “Big Stuff”, or the larger capital renovation projects, rather than maintenance and general repairs). Together we reviewed the Fiscal Year 2020 requests developed by CB 11 & the Youth and Education committee. They went through each item and explained why or why not each of these requests would be funded and what we could do to better present and advocate for each request. They then spent time presenting on their current and upcoming projects and the anticipated completion dates. They mentioned there is money for meeting the mandate for air conditioners in every classroom and money available for Handicap renovations throughout schools. They provided a wealth of valuable information which can also support the committee in advocating for capital projects so many of our (very old) schools needs in D4.

   b. Committee discussion on FY 2021 Statement of District Needs and Budget Requests

      The Committee had a long discussion on the Statement of District Needs & Budget priorities; we reviewed the actual requests and also went over the history and process of completing the work so that it can be presented to the community and reviewed and voted on by full board. The Committee reviewed each of the budget priorities and decided which requests to remove from the list, to keep and/or adjust with additional follow-up and tracking required, and to add.

   c. Committee exercise – How do we measure success?

      The Chair explained that he wanted to complete an exercise with the members regarding how we measure success of a community board committee: success of what we do, how we identify success, and what we bring to contribute and support the success of the committee. The Chair then handed out a form asking members a series of questions about measuring success as a community board member and explained that everyone should take the form home and complete their answers so that we can discuss next month. The Chair further explained that after completing this exercise, he wanted to review the Mission and goals of the committee and make any necessary changes.

4. New Business

   a. Committee discussion on the proposal to eliminate all gifted education programs in New York as part of a citywide desegregation plan – TABLED

5. Old Business

   a. Youth subcommittee- The Committee Chair explained that he would be taking the lead this year and will be having youth begin attending in January

6. Adjournment

   A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jason Villanueva and seconded by Reverend Yolanda Brown. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.