



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Education & Youth Services Committee Minutes

June 10th, 2024

Zion Baldwin, Committee Chairperson

DRAFT

Literacy and attendance in NYC public schools – CSD #7

Superintendent Padilla highlights district's achievements and grounds the discussion in NYC Public Schools' mission and vision.

Mr. Padilla emphasizes the importance of financial literacy and generational success in NYC public schools.

The vision is to create conditions for students to graduate with financial economic security and be a positive force for change.

District 7 in the South Bronx has the best year-to-date attendance and lowest chronic absenteeism in the city.

New York City Reads is a literacy initiative that standardizes literacy curriculum across 15 school districts, including District 7.

Improving literacy in a school district through various initiatives and partnerships.

Superintendent Padilla highlights positive results of district's reading program, including increased proficiency in ELA and math.

Superintendent Padilla emphasizes importance of grounding education in scientific knowledge of how children learn to read.

Superintendent Padilla highlights the importance of involving parents and community members in decision-making processes.

Superintendent Padilla describes the launch of a Family Advisory Committee and community town halls to gather feedback and improve student outcomes.

Partnership with community organizations for financial literacy expo and literacy fair.

Dyslexia screening and literacy programs in a NYC school district.

South Bronx Literacy Academy is the first public dyslexia school in the nation, serving grades 2-3 and expanding to 8th grade in the future.

District 7 is a choice district, open to all families in the Bronx, with a focus on literacy interventions.

Schools in the district have a real focus on tier one core instruction to prevent the need for interventions.

Literacy crisis in schools, enrollment decline, and recruitment strategies.

Superintendent Padilla believes their approach to literacy instruction has a fighting chance to support students in new ways.

Decrease in enrollment in the district is due to competition from charters and a decline in overall enrollment across New York City.

Superintendent Padilla highlights the school's welcoming culture for newcomers, emphasizing their choice to attend despite potential challenges.

Education funding and support in a Bronx school district.

Acting Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin asks about low graduation rate in district 7, specifically at PS 277 X and South Bronx Preparatory.

Superintendent Padilla provides information on mental health satellite clinics and restorative justice coordinators in district 7 schools.

Acting Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin and Superintendent Padilla discuss the challenges faced by students in foster care and the need for support from the district and community.

Superintendent Padilla shares how the district is working to improve attendance and address the needs of families, including reallocation of funds and budget meetings with principals.

Superintendent Padilla explains that schools are not getting extra funding despite enrollment decline, and there will likely be a readjustment of funding in the near future.

Superintendent Padilla believes that schools should be funded at a lower enrollment level, such as 300 students, to reflect the actual needs of students.

Resource allocation for schools, including fiscal and non-fiscal support.

Community leaders prioritize resource allocation for student success.

Leadership and vocational opportunities are major concerns for schools.

Improving schools in the Bronx with a focus on networking and community involvement.

Member Argelia Ortiz advocates for rebuilding the network between businesses and schools to support students' academic success.

Member Argelia Ortiz advocates for more library programs in the Bronx.

Designing an annex for Horizon Juvenile Detention center.

Mr. Juan Porral from Grimshaw Architects thanks the Community Board for inviting them to present on the design phase of the Horizon Juvenile and highlights the annex's benefits for programming and education.

Mr. Juan Porral shares a personal anecdote about a previous project and how it improved residents' daily lives, emphasizing the same approach for the annex.

Mr. Juan Porral describes the layout of the Horizon Academy Annex, including the sports building and parking lot.

The annex is designed to integrate with the neighborhood, showcase sustainability, and provide a dignified environment for youth and staff.

Mr. Juan Porral explains the phasing of construction, starting with the elevated sports building and annex.

The annex will replace one of the current sports fields, while the rest of the project is being built.

Proposed renovation of a facility with new sports , housing, and security measures.

Mr. Juan Porral explains the proposed project, including an elevated sports platform & new buildings.

The project includes vocational and education programs, housing units, and a mechanical space on the roof.

Landscape architect selects preliminary plan selections for outdoor spaces.

Improving a juvenile detention center's security and facilities.

Young people in custody range in age from 13 to 20, with majority between 16 and 19.

Improved security measures and counseling model reduce behavioral issues at juvenile detention center.

Ms. Nancy Ginsburg, Deputy Commissioner for NYC Administration for Children's Services explains that Horizon has a capacity of 131 people, with plans to expand to 171.

Young people are sleeping in common areas and classrooms when numbers exceed bedroom capacity.

Construction of new youth facility, potential disruptions, and capacity.

Acting Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin seeks clarification on bedroom capacity and ultimate goal of facility expansion.

Construction of new sports facilities will disrupt outdoor activities, but efforts will be made to minimize disruption.

Residents will continue to use interior courtyard despite new residents arriving.

Building a new facility for young people with mental health and health services.

Young people in the facility have limited bedroom space, with some sleeping in classrooms or on temporary beds during construction.

Ms. Nancy Ginsburg discusses ACS's role in providing services for young people, including case management and workforce development.

Ms. Ashlee Gunn, an audience member asks about programs for job placement and resume building and raises the question of what ACS has to offer when young people leave their facilities.

Juvenile justice facility construction and prevention efforts.

District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes need for preventive measures to keep young people from entering juvenile justice system.

District Manager Anthony Jordan expresses concern about timeline and budget for the project, while Mr. Juan Porral assures progress will be tracked and updated regularly.

Acting Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin thanks the District Manager Anthony Jordan for mentioning emergency declaration, and expresses interest in touring the current facility.

Acting Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin expresses concerns about the necessity of barbed wires around correctional facilities, suggesting alternative designs that are more aesthetically pleasing.

Ms. Nancy Ginsburg clarifies that decisions regarding barbed wires are made by the state, not ACS.

Designing a new youth center with multipurpose spaces for various activities.

Speakers discuss adding a dance studio to a school facility to expand art programs.

Young people will have a say in the design and construction of the new cultural facility.

Committee members discussed parole system and patient suffering.

Building a new psychiatric hospital with concerns about capacity and location.

Acting Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin expresses concerns about the construction of a new building for juvenile offenders, citing issues with overcrowding and inhumane conditions at the current facility.

Ms. Naicha Diaby raises concerns about the allocation of funds for the construction project, suggesting that the money could be better spent on building more rooms to reduce sharing and improve living conditions.

Acting Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin expresses concern about the new mental health facility being built in the same location as the current prison, as it could lead to overcrowding and a “prison-like” atmosphere.

The new facility will have a courtyard and remove the existing field, which is currently used for recreation, and replace it with a building.

Improving a juvenile detention center’s facilities and staffing.

Acting Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin discusses the challenges of working with youth at Rikers Island, including lack of resources and funding for mental health services.

Acting Committee Chair Dalourny Nemorin emphasizes the need for more social workers, therapists, and psychiatric nurses to provide adequate support and care for the young inmates.

The staff at the facility are concerned about the lack of recreational spaces for patients.

The facility’s design is criticized for prioritizing safety over other needs, such as recreation.

Committee discusses potential upgrades to a local school’s facilities, including adding more recreational spaces and addressing concerns about mental health support.

Renovating a youth detention center with new facilities and outdoor spaces.

Acting Committee chair Dalourny Nemorin and Community Associate Steven Palmers discuss the replacement of an outdoor basketball court with an indoor one.

The need for more space for probation programs and secure supervision is emphasized.

District Manager Anthony Jordan suggests adding single rooms for new students, while existing ones will have additional beds due to vector chairs.

Elevated outdoor space is a concern for winter use (Dalourny Nemorin)

Questions about indoor flex rooms, staffing, and facilities (Stephanie Calzado, Patricia Simpson)

Action Items

Confirm details on the number of proposed recreational rooms.

Confirm if the elevated outdoor space will have heating to allow winter use.

Get clarification on whether the proposed health center space will be one or two facilities.

Schedule a tour of the current Horizon facility for community board members.

Provide a quarterly update to the community board on the construction project's progress and timeline.