



The City of New York  
**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1**

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*Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose*



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BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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CHAIRPERSON

**ANTHONY R. JORDAN**

DISTRICT MANAGER

Education & Youth Services Committee Minutes

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Hakiem Yahmadi, Chairperson

**Outline**

**Human education council meeting.**

- Diana Williamson provides background on reading partners program.

**Reading Partners' mission and Bronx outreach.**

- Senior Volunteer Coordinator Diana Williamson with Reading Partners introduces a program to help children become lifelong readers in the Bronx.
- Partnership with 14 high schools and 3 colleges in the Bronx, serving historically underserved communities.

**Educational equity and tutoring program for NYC kids.**

- Reading Partners aims to advance educational equity by providing equal access to reading instruction for NYC kids.
- Tutors work with students in kindergarten to 4th grade, providing direct instruction and gradually releasing responsibility to the students.
- The program coordinator monitors lessons, provides feedback, and ensures tutors are ready for each session.

**Reading program for underprivileged children.**

- Ms. Diana Williamson emphasizes the importance of background checks for volunteers, stating that as long as they are cleared, there are no limitations.
- Ms. Diana Williamson also highlights the program's focus on children aged kindergarten to fourth grade, as this is the critical age range for developing reading skills.
- Ms. Diana Williamson explains that Reading Partners' goal is to catch children early in their academic journey, and the organization partners with schools to provide volunteer tutors to support students' reading skills.

- The process of getting Reading Partners into a school involves developing a contract with school leadership, and the organization works closely with teachers to identify students who need support.
- Volunteer coordinator in Bronx aims to spread word about Reading Partners program.

#### **Education advocacy and data analysis.**

- Organization seeks to advocate for public schools in NYC, particularly those with housing insecurity.
- Members discuss the importance of early childhood education and its impact on future outcomes, citing studies by the University of Chicago.

#### **Education funding and gun violence in the Bronx.**

- Chairperson Hakiem Yahmadi raises concern about budget cuts affecting after-school programs for kids.

#### **Lack of access to recreational spaces and negative impact on youth.**

- Chairperson Hakiem Yahmadi expresses frustration with lack of community resources, including after-school programs for District 75 kids.
- Member Dalourny Nemorin suggests writing a letter to the Local Elected Officials to address the issue.
- Chairperson Hakiem Yahmadi discusses the lack of access to gyms and recreational spaces for youth, citing a personal experience of building an open gym for local kids.
- Member Dalourny Nemorin suggests drafting a letter to local politicians to address community concerns about a lack of resources and infrastructure in a housing project.
- Member Dalourny Nemorin proposes focusing on a specific, narrow issue, such as renovating a basketball court, to demonstrate the impact of community donations and advocacy.

#### **Budget cuts impacting recreational centers.**

- Anthony Jordan expresses concern about budget cuts impacting recreational centers and young people's programming.
- The group discusses inviting City Council reps to the full board meeting to elaborate on their positions on the budget cuts and potential solutions.

#### **Community center usage in NYC.**

- Members discuss unused community centers in the city, including St. Mary's rec center, and potential uses for them.

- Anthony Jordan explains that the Boys Club is trying to find a space in Mott Haven, but it's difficult due to budget constraints and the need for permits and approvals from school officials.

#### **Youth and education cuts in city budget.**

- Member Dalourny Nemorin advocates for a detailed plan to reopen the gym, citing community need and lost park space.
- Jordan proposes draft letter to address education cuts, with input from other board members.

#### **Action Items**

Draft letter addressing youth and education budget cuts from the city, with recommendations for opening up rec centers and unused school spaces for youth activities in the district.

Meet with Superintendent of District 7 at his office to introduce Reading Partners program.

Attend next Community Education Council meeting to advocate for Reading Partners.

Provide Reading Partners with impact data and statistics at end of May.

Have Commissioner of Parks & Rec and Football Federation present before Community Board on St. Mary's Rec Center.

Question City Council reps on their budget positions when they attend the next full board meeting.