



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CLARISA M. ALAYETO
CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

Education & Youth Services Committee Minutes

September 11th, 2024

Zion Baldwin, Committee Chairperson

Attendance: *Zion Baldwin, Claudia Rahman, Patricia Simpson, Mohammed Sheikh, Stephanie Calzado, Christina Cover, Joy Pulphus, Naicha Diaby, Joann Taitt*

DRAFT

Introduction and Meeting Kickoff

- Committee Chair Zion Baldwin initiates the meeting, calling for a motion to call the order and approve the agenda.
- Member Joyce Pulphus moves to approve the agenda, and Patricia Simpson seconds the motion.
- Committee Chair Zion Baldwin introduces himself as the chair of the education and youth committee, sharing his background and passion for community engagement.
- Committee Chair Zion Baldwin mentions his efforts to clean up the community, including distributing flyers with QR codes to gauge community engagement.

New Members and Community Involvement

- Member Joyce Pulphus introduces herself as the principal of Bronx Design and Construction Academy, emphasizing her dedication to young, black, and brown people in education.
- Member Naicha Diaby shares her motivation for joining the committee, focusing on preventing youth from entering the justice system through case management.
- Member Christina Cover introduces herself as a special education teacher and member of various community organizations, highlighting her commitment to local engagement.
- Member Patricia Simpson discusses her long-term involvement in the South Bronx community, including her efforts to provide activities for youth and foster teenage boys.

Community Needs and Special Education Resources

- Committee Chair Zion Baldwin emphasizes the importance of community engagement and keeping meetings short and focused.
- Member Joyce Pulphus suggests creating safe spaces for youth to engage in play and extracurricular activities.
- Member Patricia Simpson shares her experience hosting events for autistic children and the need for more community resources.
- Member Christina Cover advocates for special education advocacy workshops and promoting the South Bronx Literacy Academy.

District Needs and Special Education Resources

- District Manager Anthony Jordan explains the district needs statement process, focusing on identifying concrete capital or expense needs for the community.
- Member Joyce Pulphus questions the specific district needs related to special education and community engagement.
- Member Christina Cover suggests advocating for special education workshops and promoting the South Bronx Literacy Academy.
- Member Patricia Simpson highlights the need for more play spaces and sensory-based activities for children with special needs.

Community Engagement and Youth Empowerment

- Committee Chair Zion Baldwin proposes funding for teachers and youth employment opportunities to support special education classrooms.
- Member Christina Cover emphasizes the importance of educating parents on their rights and providing support groups for them.
- Member Joyce Pulphus suggests leveraging existing partnerships to create safe spaces for youth activities.
- Member Patricia Simpson stresses the need for community centers and activities to keep youth engaged and away from trouble.

Department of Cultural Affairs Presentation

- District Manager Anthony Jordan announces an upcoming presentation by the Department of Cultural Affairs in October to discuss an arts installation mural at the juvenile detention center.
- The committee is asked to provide a letter of support for the presentation.

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto mentions the merging of Education & Youth, Young Adults committees and the upcoming presentation by NYC on voter registration.
- The committee plans to visit the juvenile detention center to see the expansion project and provide feedback.

Planning for Future Meetings and Events

- Committee Chair Zion Baldwin suggests planning a game night for young adults and increasing committee participation.
- Member Joyce Pulphus and other members commit to bringing at least one young person to the next meeting.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto emphasizes the importance of engaging young people and creating actionable goals for the committee.
- The committee discusses the need for a survey to gather community needs and involve young people in decision-making.

Action Items

Committee Chair Zion Baldwin outlines the action items: supporting the South Bronx Literacy Initiative, funding community access for events, and supporting teachers.

The committee agrees to focus on these priorities and gather more input from young people.

Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto suggests creating a survey to gather feedback from young people and involve them in the decision-making process.

The committee plans to continue the conversation and develop concrete action plans for the upcoming meetings.

Submit a proposal to the full board outlining funding priorities for special education resources, community event space, and youth employment.

Circulate a doodle poll to schedule a visit to Horizons Juvenile Detention Center between September-October.

Each member commits to bringing at least one young person to the next meeting and conducting a survey to get their input.

Develop a plan by the next meeting to register 100+ youth to vote by voter registration deadlines.