



Chairman: Nicholas Himidian, Jr. - District Manager: William Rivera

## Youth & Education Committee Meeting Minutes

**June 14, 2018**

Committee Chair: Venus Williams

Vice Chair: Harry Dunlap

- **Introduction**

Committee Description: The youth & education committee represents the community's interests with regards to education and programs that target the youth and acts as a liaison between community members and the NYC Department of Education including Parent Advocates, PTA's, Educators and Principals, School Safety, the Administration for Children Services, the District Attorney's Office, NYC department of Youth & Development and local organizations and nonprofits.

- **Guest Speakers**

A. Shingi Mutasa, Brilla College Prep Leadership

- Teacher for 7 years in Brooklyn and just moved to the Bronx
- Brilla is charter school and has a management organization
- There are two elementary schools and one middle school exclusively in the South Bronx
- Mission is on the website, but basically educating the whole child classically
- Looking to expand and build two K-4 elementary schools in 2020 in the South Bronx
- School District 7 but will draw in students from School districts 7, 8 and 9
- Have their own building on E. 144<sup>th</sup> St
- Submitting application for the new elementary schools and will ask for letter of support
- There is concern for space
- Ending at 4<sup>th</sup> grade because of lack of space and will be accepting 90 students per grade
- The middle school is sharing space with the elementary school
- As per Venus Williams, long distance for students from our districts to travel to E. 144<sup>th</sup> St, will they provide transportation?
- For now, the answer is no but will provide transportation to students with disabilities
- There is no established building for the future elementary schools
- There is a 1,000 to 1,100 waitlist of students from school districts 7, 8 and 9
- DM Rivera: Are you mandated to give transportation? Parents are willing to drive to this school?
- Wants to expand in the same location
- There will be information sessions for parents to come and ask questions
- Nicholas: Are you looking to other locations?
- Submitted proposal to be on High Bridge but didn't work out and ended up in 144<sup>th</sup> St
- Nicholas: Have you reached out to Catholic Schools in this area? They may have space. You can try to have a charter school in every district and relieves pressure of travelling from parents
- As per Nicholas and DM Rivera, there are former Catholic schools that have spaces and little work needs to be done for the conversion
- Students are chosen through a lottery system
- After graduating from their elementary school at E. 144<sup>th</sup> St, all students go to their middle school (Cortland), which is grades 5-8
- There are two elementary school and one has a middle school but the other one doesn't
- Started a third elementary school last year

- DM Rivera: When you open another school, you don't have to submit another application or ask for a letter
- Presentation is mostly for feedback
- Working to get high schools in the future
- Nicholas: Look at what facilities are available in other districts. It would be better for everyone if everything isn't just located in one district. Do you have any after school programs?
- Has some sports and has after school program called El Camino, which has connection to the Church
- El Camino helps with voluntary character formation program
- DM Rivera: What makes your school different from other schools?
- Venus: Are you following the DOE standards?
- By law, they have to follow the standards to be accountable for the education they are providing the children
- El Camino teaches children important values, bible study (if they want to) and field trips
- They have classical education and use blended learning (using technology)
- Nicholas: Who supplies the equipment?
- CEOOC, Walton Funds and some Catholic Funds
- Nicholas: Verizon had commercial to fund schools with technology and you can see if they would supply equipment and Wi-Fi. Handwriting is important and learning script is crucial to understanding old documents that are handwritten.
- 15 laptops per class, 2 teachers per class and 8 field trips a year
- There aren't any statistics on how they are doing in high school or college because it is still new
- According to state tests, the school ranked number 11
- ~22% of students are disabled in ESL
- 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades are still empty but another elementary school is sharing same space
- Cortland does K-8 but only has space for 5-8 but looking for space for K-4
- There is a possibility to have a high school if there is space
- Nicholas wants to advocate for vocational schools for students who don't want to go to college. Will there be preparation for students who will go or won't go to college?
- DM Rivera: Sometimes there are career fields that are more high school-based than college-based
- Nicholas: Apex is the only vocational school in the area but it's in Queens
- Vanessa: Some children are not college-bound but they can do something else and still be successful
- DM Rivera: There should be a safety nets besides just college
- Nicholas: There needs to be other options besides college

## ● **New Business**

### A. 2019 Initiatives

- Was not discussed

### B. Giselle, High School Counselor

- Would like her students to get more involved and wanted to see if there are any volunteer opportunities for them
- Learned about Community Board 9 through Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda and wanted to know about grants and events in her community

### C. Darlene, Idealist.org Event

- They gather people who live in the Bronx on specific days to bring food and play games
- July 7<sup>th</sup> at Soundview Park
- Going to help host
- Nicholas: Present at the General Board Meeting
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## **OFFICE INFO**

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