



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

## Youth & Education Committee Meeting Minutes January 11, 2018

Committee Chair: Venus Williams  
Vice Chair: Nicole Washington

- **Introduction**

1. 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. Katherine Preyno, Bronx Charter School for the Arts

- Middle school will open in Fall 2018 on 1440 Story Ave
- Currently there are 314 students with about 26 students in each class in the elementary schools
- They offer different arts programs and has been open for 13 years as elementary schools. They hope to get 100 students per grade and start taking applications until February for K-6
- April 13 is when the lottery takes place
- Nicholas: How does child get selected? What is the criteria?
- 4 Rounds of lottery: 1<sup>st</sup>- siblings get preference; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Residents of District 8; 3<sup>rd</sup> – Residents of the Bronx; 4<sup>th</sup>- Residents of NYS
- Nicholas: Besides the arts portions, what are the academic parts?
- A: Pretty much the same as doe. We have special education, counseling
- The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will move into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade unless they choose to go to another middle school.
- The name will be Bronx Charter School for the Arts Middle School.
- Nicole: What's an area you need to work on?
- A: Academically, not comfortable with talking about teachers because works under operations. There are students who misbehave but there are paras and social workers that helps improve students' behaviors
- Nicole: What are the hours of school?
- A: Doors open at 7:30, breakfast is served until 8, school ends at 3:30 and then afterschool homework help by the teachers takes place 3 times a week (3:30-4:00) mon, tues, thur
- Every grade has a different color uniform and is purchased at school but in middle school, they will have a complete uniform with slacks and shirts
- Not affiliated with DOE
- There is also an afterschool program 3:30-5:00 every day
- Nicholas: Have you connected with York Studios?
- A: We intend to because they are right next to us

- Nicholas: Right now there's a situation with traffic because of construction. All of York studios traffic goes to their parking lot. At the corner of Bruckner Blvd and Bronx River, they are building a storage unit. Roadway is on the corner of Story Ave and Bronx River and across the street is the Empire Towing Company. We've been trying to redefine traffic there for the past year. Parking could be an issue for teachers.
- Nicole: most junior high kids go to school by themselves and have to walk across the traffic. You should have a think tank for the safety of the students when they come in the morning and leave in the evening.
- A: There will be siblings who drop off their siblings. We will have parents at the end of the bridge. We also mapped out where the students will be coming from. There will be different groups of parents walking them over to the school.
- Nicole: They can take the 5 bus or get a charter bus because there isn't sidewalk to walk on in some of the route.
- Nicholas: Traffic will be severe once York Studio opens. They are planning on removing a bus stop.
- Nicole: We should talk about getting more bus stop shelters.

- **Old Business**

- A. Toy Drive

Nicole: I don't have much information.

- B. Coat Drive

- Over 10 bags of warm clothes were collected. There was a fire in Crotona and then another fire happened in Van Nest. The clothes were donated to the church.
- Nicole wants to add gloves to coat drive and socks because the number one requested item in homeless shelters is gloves.
- There is one more bag
- Nicholas: Bring the coats to cb9 and take the rest of the warm clothes to Sepulveda's office

- **New Business**

- A. Easter Egg Hunt

- The plan is to work with the Parks committee and set up event for kids in the neighborhood in April
- Nicole wanted to talk logistics about it
- They would need a permit; they will have plastic eggs with chocolate or candy in the eggs and whoever gets the most will get a special basket. Everyone will get chocolate bunnies
- Olivia would like to work on getting the eggs and setting them up
- Harry wants to work on the fliers and Sea can do flier using draft from Harry
- Student can get friends to work as volunteers for community service but would need letters indicating the volunteers worked certain hours
- Committee wants to do it on March 31<sup>st</sup> but concerned about weather and permit for park
- They have to send email to parks
- Nicholas: There should be a raincheck day (the following sat, April 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Nicolas: In case you can't get a permit, instead of doing Easter egg hunt, you can do it later in May or June maybe an annual treasure hunt and use something instead of eggs or can use eggs. You would need permit for two days (original day and rain day). You should email Parks ASAP.
- Nicole: We need donations but need to be specific on what we need. We will also need a porter potty and volunteers to quarter off the park section.
- Nicholas: We can coordinate with FDNY or EMS and also get the 43<sup>rd</sup> precinct involved
- Nicole: How long does a permit take? 3-4 weeks
- Nicholas: We have 65 days. We can reach out to sponsors and will need about 20 volunteers.
- Nicole: We should have a ribbon to have parameters set up. Plan B would having it later in the year with a treasure hunt. We just want to do something for the community.
- Nicholas: We can get PSA involved too

- Nicole: We need to have somebody on parent patrol and have map of where everything is going to be. We have to communicate through email
- Nicholas: I will reach out to DM Rivera to see who we can come out (FDNY, EMS, and 43rd precinct)
- Nicole: We will have to have more meetings to get this done. We also plan on opening up to 100 kids. We should do first come, first serve and those who are inside will have wristbands. Parent/guardian must be present with child. Will parks open the bathroom for us that day?
- Nicholas: Harry, include "volunteers are welcome" in the flier
- Nicole: For the treasure hunt, maybe who finds the golden egg would win and instead of using chocolate, using different objects with treasure hunt.
- Nicholas: We can do both and the Easter egg hunt would be for younger kids and treasure hunt would be for the older kids
- Nicole: We need to talk to DM Rivera about the permit. We also need a clean-up committee. Everybody needs to be mindful about meeting more often. After we get the permit, we need to reach out to sponsor. The Easter Egg Hunt may not be as grand. We can have separate age groups.
- Nicholas: Or you can do different sections for different age groups.
- Nicole: We will have meetings on Friday evenings or Saturday mornings but trying more for Friday evenings.
- Nicole will email Venus about updates

#### B. College Prep Course

- It's not really prep course
- Nicole wants to work on a college fair where the concentration will be educating middle school parents on what needs to be done to be prepared for college. She wants it to be more of an information session than a college fair. It's important for the parents to know what needs to be done earlier rather than later. They want to include students as young as 6<sup>th</sup> graders. So, they know what it means to be on track.
- Nicholas: We can get Kips Bay for the informational session.
- Nicole: Parents need to know about financial aid and how much salary will allow their child to get financial aid. We need to get big enough space and reach out to the junior high schools in community.
- Nicholas: It would be nice to travel to different high schools
- Nicole: They need permits to open high schools on Saturdays. We should get them to RSVP, so we know capacity.
- Nicholas: Kips Bay is good because parking is ample and kids are already there. We can offer kips bay 3 dates or offer Sotomayor 3 dates.
- Will take place in June because it's easier for college representatives to come out
- Student: You can also get representatives of college programs to come out
- Nicholas: For the next meeting, we will work on time frame and permit
- Nicole: If we don't have enough funding, we can ask for donations

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:53 PM**

#### OFFICE INFO

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