



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

Youth & Education Committee Meeting Minutes January 10, 2018

Committee Interim Chair: Nicholas Himidian, Jr.
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**

- Diana Rodriguez, East Side House Settlement
 - Absent
- Emily Kim, Zeta Schools
 - Founder and CEO of Zeta Charter School, came last year
 - Opened two schools at Washington Heights and South Bronx
 - Would like to open two more charter schools in Community School District 9 and Community School District 12
 - Update: Opened with K-1 and adds a grade each year until it's an elementary school of K-5; eventually they hope to serve Pre-K to 12
 - School demographics in staff and students reflect the community demographics
 - Rigorous hands-on academics and there are innovative labs
 - Students are learning meditative techniques with adults
 - View families as customers and measure themselves according to whether the families are satisfied
 - There is an enormous demand because they receive a lot of applications
 - They are looking for an affordable facility that is large enough to fit a growing school
 - They recently applied for their charter and will be looking for places in the Bronx with a focus on a location near public transportation
 - They will rent Inwood space to another charter and the South Bronx is also being rented to another charter

- Request for a letter of support and she already has a template from last year's letter of support
- They already submitted their application and is working on getting community support letters
- DM Rivera: Why are you submitting another application?
- They are submitting another application for new schools and they don't have names
- You have to get a charter for each school but you can open an elementary, middle and high school with the same charter
- They like to see that the charter school continuously engages with the community
- They need another letter for a different application and they want a facility for CDS12 because that fell through last year
- Charter schools are public schools that are privately operated but sometimes share facilities with public schools
- No one was against writing the letter
- They take 180 students the first year and 90 students per class through a lottery system and gives priority to students living in the district
- Brandon Martin, Opportunity Youth (Phipps Neighborhood)
 - Part of Phipps Neighborhood, which is a nonprofit organization that provides social programs for everyone
 - 15 week internship for 16-24 year olds, who aren't working
 - \$15/hr for 10 hours a week
 - They are working in a variety of places in conjunction to life readiness workshops including developing resumes, professionalism and writing cover letters
 - They have guest speakers come in to provide resources
 - Workforce one came in and provided job opportunities
 - There are college trips as well and colleges come to provide information on programs
 - Upon completion of the program, they help with the next steps students want to take whether that be finding a job, going to college or getting a GED
 - They provide food and metrocard money; they also have a small graduation ceremony at the end of the program
 - Only requirements is age, which is 16-24 and they have to be out of work and school
 - Young person can come in Sonia Sotomayor Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-4 or call, so Danielle can help to apply to the program
 - This program started in Soundview and West Farms in 2015
 - DM Rivera: We will email blast and do you have city agencies that come and offer job opportunities
 - They don't get offered job opportunities from city agencies
 - Enrollment is mixed with students who have graduated high school or dropped out of college or don't have jobs
 - Young people start internships and also complete a high school equivalency program
 - Chair Himidian: Get young people in mentorship program with ConEd and learn about the electrical industry, also helps ConEd to create a workforce. Would it be a violation of the grant money? Maybe, you can do investigate

more. We are looking for more vocational programs. We should let people take exams like ASRAB to help them see where their skills would be best used. We should give children more opportunities and hope. You should look into more programs.

- They help youth prepare for next steps by Week 7
 - To apply, they need their ID, proof of birth, proof of address, parents' paystubs
 - They would help with the application but they have to physically come to the site and they recommend the youth to call, so they can set up an appointment
 - Chair Himidian: Advocate for a website to make it easier for the youth. At least begin with a checklist that will help them start off. You should include the two cycles in the flyer
 - There are two cycles, a spring cycle (Feb-June) and fall cycle (Sept-Dec)
 - Enrollment targets are 14 youth for Soundview and 12 for West Farms
 - It is on a first come and first serve basis
 - In the last cycle, 17 out of 25 graduated and 14 were accepted into school or went into the workforce
 - They meet the targets by the last day but two agencies will get the word out
- **Old Business**
 - Yankee Scholarship is due on Feb 1
 - We have two applications but waiting on three applications
- **New Business**

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