



Donovan Richards
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Morry Galonoy
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

April 11th, 2022

Health and Human Services and Education Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Lauren Springer, Chair
Sandra Bigitschke
Dr Rosamond Gianutsos
Clara Oza
Ryan Smith

Absentees:

Amparo Abel-Bey (*Excused*)
Jewel Chowdhury
Selena Romero
Mary Torres

Guest

Andrea Thomas, Sunnyside Community Services
Janet Dominguez, IS 125
Leticia Vasquez, President of the Parent Association, The Children's Lab School

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, Community Board 2

Lauren Springer, Chair of the Health and Human Services and Education Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Educational issues and concerns from Parent Coordinators and parents.

Janett Dominguez, Parent Coordinator from I.S. 125 introduced herself.

- Janett Dominguez has been parent coordinator for two years at I.S. 125.
- Three days later the school went into lockdown due to COVID.
- Parent Coordinators are the connection between the school and parents.
- Parent Coordinators answer parents phone calls, help parents connect with teachers, help with any resources they need, workshops, or any communication from the school.
- Parent Coordinators would direct the parents if they need further direction from a guidance counselor or the school.
- Parent Coordinator is a full-time job with the Department of Education.
- Responsibilities differ from school to school.

“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”

- During the COVID, the Parent Coordinator became the second person in charge helping parents and students with technology support, as well as translating for parents that don't speak English.
- A question was asked if there was a connection between the Parent Coordinator and the PTA?
 - They do work with the PTA.
 - They assist with translation and any help with flyers.
- Clara Oza is the Parent Coordinator at P.S. 343, The Children's Lab School.
 - She will provide any translation that is needed at the PTA meetings.
 - Parent Coordinators also assist at the workshops.
- There is a parent coordinator liaison that parent coordinators meet with once a week.
- There are schools that need parent coordinators, however, our district is ok.
- A question was asked to the President of the Parent Association. How can the community board be of assistance?
 - Sunnyside and Woodside have a heavy Asian and Hispanic representation. During the pandemic, families had difficulty finding or had to travel far to access COVID testing centers and vaccination sites.
 - It was also mentioned that there is a need for more supplies in food pantries to meet demand.
 - There needs to be greater community engagement with immigrants and non-English speaking families and communication about available resources.
 - Parents are always looking for services that are available for the younger children that are not school age.
 - A list of resources that are at low cost or free, culturally relevant, and language accessible would be great.
- Andrea Thomas, Sunnyside Community Services spoke of the services that were available during the pandemic. A lot of support was given to the immigrant community and those that are undocumented. Andrea Thomas mentioned the workforce training that is provided by Sunnyside Community Services.
- It was also mentioned how the Health & Human Services and Education Committee is working on gathering a list of resources for all ages.
- Leticia Vasquez mentioned how resources need to be communicated better with the community. Perhaps a coalition being formed with organizations that have similar goals and supplementing the needs of the community. A system that is seamless, sometimes an application dissuades residents for various reasons. Lack of language skills or technical skills.
- A discussion took place about smart phones, access to them, WiFi, and knowledge of smart phones.
- Janett Dominguez continued her report about I.S. 125.
- Technology is very good.
- Tutoring is needed, extra help in math, reading and English.
- The parents are always looking for resources.
- A guide listing all the resources would be very helpful.

- A suggestion was made to have the schools have a fair with resource information given out and if any neighborhood is having a street fair.
- Multiple mediums would be needed to get the information out to the community, tabling at fairs, a database created by parent coordinators and pamphlets.
- A suggestion was made to have resource information sent to the parent coordinators and then the parent coordinator could email the information to the families and /or have a flyer.
- It was suggested to have information at the farmer's markets.
- It was also suggested for GrowNYC to be listed as a stakeholder.

HHSE Committee's mission statement, goals and stakeholder's document

Lauren Springer sent the HHSE committee different mission statements from various community boards to get an idea of what theirs should be.

Chair Springer welcomes comments and suggestions on how the mission statement should be stated. She also mentioned to the committee that the Unhoused & Shelter Task Force Committee needs to be incorporated in the mission statement as well.

Lauren Springer thanked everyone for their attendance and engagement in the committee.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber