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Morry Galonoy
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

November 14th, 2022

Health and Human Services and Education Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Attendees:

Lauren Springer, Chair
Clara Oza, Co-Chair
Amparo Abel-Bey
John Bahia
Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos

Absentees:

Sandra Bigitschke
Jewel Chowdhury
Selena Romero
Mary Torres
Phuntsok Tashi

Guest

Kelly Craig, (CB2 Board Member and D30 CEC Member)
Houria Fella, student

Community Board 2 Staff

Debra Markell Kleinert, District Manager, Community Board 2

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

Clara Oza asked Kelly Craig about parent involvement and how to get more parents volunteers.

- Kelly Craig stated that it has been really hard to get parents involved since the pandemic.
- Clara Oza mentioned that in the past there was Learning Leaders, an organization that would train parents on the procedures of being in the classroom. However, that organization is no longer.
- Kelly Craig recommended to get in touch with the Superintendent's in-house Face team member for parents classroom training.

Lauren Springer, introduced Kelly Craig, a CB2 Board Member and D30 Community Education Council (CEC) Member.

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

- Kelly Craig is the PTA President at PS IS 78 at Hunter’s Point. This is her third year as PTA President; prior to that she was the Vice President. This is also her 2nd year as the Queens Borough President Appointee to the D30 CEC.
- Before living in NYC, Kelly Craig attended schools in Florida where the school system was much different.
- The CEC stands for Community Education Council.
- There are 32 districts that serve 2 million children in NYC.
- District 30 (D30) represents a large portion of western Queens into Corona.
- There are about 40,000 children in our district of D30.
- Another city might refer to the CEC as a school board.
- There are 11 members, two are appointed and 9 are elected.
- The terms are for two years. You are able to run again as long as you have a child in District 30.
- There are monthly calendar meetings that are recorded.
- The community is invited to these meetings to express their educational concerns.
- The CEC does write resolutions that are sent to the Chancellor who oversees the Department of Education (DOE).
- Each council member is given 4 to 6 schools which are their liaison schools.
- CEC serves up to the 8th grade.
- The CEC does have committees.
- Kelly Craig is co-chair of the special education committee and is also on the zoning committee.
- The other committees are By-Laws and Communication.
- The issues that the CEC are dealing with right now are zoning issues, Long Island City is the fastest growing area in the country, with a population explosion over the past ten years. There are not enough schools.
- Another issue is adjusting children coming back to school from remote learning to in-person learning. There have been a lot of social and emotional issues. There is not an adequate number of social workers. For nearly 800 children there is one social worker.
- Kelly Craig shared with the Health & Human Services and Education Committee her background and how she grew up.
- A Title 1 school gets increased federal funding. A Title1 school means that 60% of the children attending qualify for free or a reduced lunch.
- Lauren Springer, Chair asked about what issues or challenges the district is facing with the refugee situation and what needs are arising from this situation.
 - Some children can’t speak English yet and some of the schools are not equipped to handled ESL (English as a second language) children
 - These children have been uprooted from their native countries, the schools need to have more social workers.
 - They are living in temporary shelters.
 - Randall’s Island has closed down the tents and instead are sending families to hotels in Manhattan and Queens for temporary housing.

- These children are being placed in Title 1 schools which are not set up for children that have specific needs.
 - A non-Title 1 school does not have free after school care. To stay on site for an after-school program, it would cost \$7,000 a year. In contrast, Title 1 schools have community-based organizations they can contract with to provide free on-site after-school programming.
- The CEC is not in charge of the Budget. That comes from the Mayor, the Chancellor, and the NYC Council.
 - Kelly Craig is presently writing a resolution about the social worker ratio. Right now there is not a ratio that is required by state law of how many children to how many social workers are required in schools.
 - The website is www.CEC30.org
 - The Superintendent would let all the principals know when the CEC meetings are which are listed on the website for the community.
 - The more people and organizations involved with an issue, the more hope for changing a situation.
 - Short discussion on student funding.
 - Kelly Craig will share with the Health & Human Services and Education Committee a resolution concerning the lack of social workers in the school system.

There was a short discussion with Houria Fella a student asking about the Community Board meetings and Committee meetings and how they work.

Lauren Springer, Chair, Health & Human Services and Education Committee mentioned a motion that Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos had distributed at the November 3rd, 2022 CB2 Meeting concerning the Open Meetings Law and that they be amended to allow for virtual participation. Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos went on to explain that this motion is to validate the virtual participation and the health reasons connected with this motion. Amparo Abel-Bey made a motion to support this motion and John Bahia seconded it. This motion was unanimously approved by the committee members present at this meeting.

Kelly Craig explained that it is the same State Law, Open Meetings Law, which applies to schools also applies to School Leadership Teams (SLT) and Community Education Council (CEC). However, PTA's are not under State Law which means PTA's can stay fully remote. Having small children at home, and then having to pay for childcare, makes it very difficult for parents to attend in person meetings.

A discussion was held on the wording of the motion to include the voluntary groups that serve the community. It was suggested to add Community Education Council (CEC) and School

Leadership Team (SLT) to the motion. It was approved by the Health & Human Services and Education Committee to add this wording.

Lauren Springer thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Waber