

**Manhattan Community Board 9 – Youth, Education and Libraries Committee  
December 14, 2011 Meeting**

**MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER – Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 6:45 p.m.
2. ATTENDANCE

**Committee Members: Present:** Joe Rogers, Jr. (co-chair), Dr. Vicky Gholson **Absent:** Winston Majette (co-chair) (excused), Judith Insell, Tisha Jackson; Carmen Morillo (on leave of absence); Kyle Doyle; Alyson Gordon-Browner; Yvonne Stennett

**Public:** Sam Penceal, David Dinkins Charter Schools for Boys (proposed); Bernadette Penceal, David Dinkins Charter School for Boys (proposed)

3. AGENDA APPROVAL – Approved.
4. MINUTES APPROVAL – No quorum.
5. PRESENTATIONS

**Sam Penceal, David Dinkins Charter School for Boys (Proposed); Bernadette Penceal, David Dinkins Charter School for Boys (proposed)**

- Has tentative and/or conditional support of some elected officials representing our community
- Slated for School District 6 (no elementary school charter schools in District 6). Serve 500 students at its peak.
- Seeking authorization from the NY State Education Department; working with NYC Charter Center and hope to secure 500-700k planning grant
- School application due in Feb. 2012; expect decision in June 2012 (if need to strengthen, can resubmit in December and still be eligible to open following year)
- Next Steps
  - Present to CB9 full board at January 2012 meeting – seeking letter of acknowledgement (of community engagement) or letter of support
  - Planning to present at upcoming Community Education Council meetings, District Superintendent, and neighborhood elementary schools
  - Informational sessions at Convent Avenue Baptist Church in January and a number of meetings in various peoples' homes
  - Ongoing communication with two P.S. 186 alumni, both of whom have pledged their support; one is in their charter school application program cohort
  - Required to:
    - show that they have community support and listened to concerns and have responded

- recruit same proportion of English language learners and students with special needs as are enrolled in the existing schools
  - devote a minimum of 15 pages of their school application to community outreach and collaboration
- Applicants' Background
  - Mr. Penceal is a former NYC school principal and a former regional superintendent of schools in Cleveland. He also launched a charter management organization in Ohio. His experience also includes teaching at Green Haven Prison, co-founding the Urban League Street Academy (Harlem Prep), and serving as principal of M.S. 61 in District 17, Crown Heights. Bernadette Penceal taught English at New University for 30 years. Both are members of Convent Avenue Baptist Church.
- Researched educational needs in District 6:
  - 1/3 of students in schools in elementary are proficient in math and reading
  - From grades 3 to 5, some schools in our area appear to be losing students
  - 8% of elementary school students are African-American
- School plans include:
  - School designed to address the unique learning needs of boys ("boys more active and not as successful with passive activities"). Need to help boys overcome stigma of being smart. Boys often misdiagnosed and end up in special education.
  - Hire teachers who have been trained in both special education and reading. Emphasis on literacy, math, science, and will offer Spanish from kindergarten.
  - Mentoring program starting in kindergarten
  - Students will wear uniforms
  - Training for parents on how to support their young people; engage in scholastic activities together
- Potential Partnerships
  - Is exploring potential partnerships with NYU school of medicine, health center at 145<sup>th</sup> and Amsterdam (mental health), the City College of New York (both Mr. and Mrs. Penceal are graduates of that institution) graduates), Bank Street College (around training teachers); Syracuse University (again, both are graduates; school of education has expressed interest and also hope to secure financial support from fellow Syracuse alumni)
  - Looking to partner with daycare center on 145<sup>th</sup> between Broadway and Amsterdam (universal PreK program; only one in zipcode 10031)
- Siting of School
  - Looking into what is happening with development of P.S. 186. Will be meeting with Boys & Girls club soon to discuss.
  - Goal is to build a building; have met with some of Mayor Bloomberg's associates about securing space

- Planning to gather friends and associates of David Dinkins to support their efforts
- Dr. Gholson advised presenters to consider expanding to include girls and provided a summary of co-location histories in this community. Also advised them to have their architects consider setting up a temporary structure.

## 6. REPORTS

Joe Rogers, Jr., School Leadership Team, Teacher's College Community School [TABLED]

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

30<sup>th</sup> Precinct is hosting a children's holiday party on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

- 12/10 Youth Resources Expo – *Committee* [TABLED]
  - Debrief
  - Schedule Spring 2012 Expo

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- Status of educational equity and the impact of budget cuts on CB9 schools and youth-service organizations – *Dr. Gholson, Committee* [TABLED]

## 10. ADJOURN – 8:30 p.m.

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011 - 6:30 PM**