Youth, Education & Libraries Committee Meeting Minutes May 13, 2015

Committee Members Present: Judith Insell, Shaun Abreu, and Tisha Jackson, Jen Silverman (public member)

Meeting called to order by Committee Interim Chair- Judith Insell at 6:45 P.M Introductions were made by all present.

Presentation: City College Child Development Center, proposed closure- Sylvia Tyler

Former Councilman, Robert Jackson, allocated \$1.3 million to renovate the center and the school is ready to make the renovations. Projected time for renovation of the center is 2 years. The "Development Center" is designed to present currently enrolled students with childcare for their children; faculty are eligible to enroll their children in the program as well. City College has pledged, to participating program parents, subsidizing "vouchers" to help the parents find other programs for their children. The vouchers would only cover the cost of a 1year enrollment. Ms. Tyler's position is that uprooting young children from an educational environment that they are accustom to will seriously disrupt their development. She asks if the Community Board can help support the parents and the staff of the program in their efforts to keep the children in the same environment (on campus and in the same child groups), instead of having the parents take their children off-campus to find childcare.

Our committee position was of support to Ms. Tyler's request. We stand on the premise that young, developing children need to have a stable environment to continue to their development. The City College campus would better serve the children by making another space available for the childcare center, on campus, while the renovations are being undertaken. http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/famservices/

Presentation: CHALK (Choosing Healthy & Active Lifestyles for Kids)-Hector Carrasco & Program Community Outreach Officer

The presentation focuses on the programming that CHALK is presenting in schools throughout School District 6, primarily in Washington Heights. CHALK desires to be partnered with school in the lower part of District 6, which encompasses a section of CB9.

Through the guidance of CHALK, students, parents, and staff, in participating schools, are educated in healthy lifestyle choices: foods, beverages, exercise, recycling, etc... They also help the schools to support the mental health of their students.

CHALK advocates that each school supply the mandated 120 minutes, each week, for physical education. The help the schools fulfill the "Chancellors Regulations," i.e. healthy snacks policy. CHALK also helps the schools find grants to support funding for health initiatives in schools.

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http://www.chalkcenter.org

Presentation: Proposed Charter School: Harlem Charter School of Global Finance, Arts, Technology, and Entrepreneurship-Sabrina Lamb

Ms. Lamb and a member of the Board of Directors for the proposed charter school have requested a "Letter of Support" for the school, as required by the application process for NY State. They present background on the 10 year old program where the charter school derives its' basis: "World of Money Youth Financial Education Institute," an after school and summer program. The proposed school is set to serve the elementary school population of Harlem, beginning with grades Pre-k, K-2, adding a year to reach grade 8. They are applying to have the school open for fall 2017. There is no designated location for the school, thus raising the committee's concerns about the proposed school being assigned a "collocation" with other school in our district. Their preference is to have their own space and not collocate.

We ask for extensive data to be forwarded to the committee, before we consider supplying the "Letter of Support." Ms. Lamb will send the data in a follow up email.

http://worldofmoney.org

Committee Discussions:

District Needs Statement FY16:

Distribution of previous statement to members present. All are asked to review last years' statement and submit any suggestions for next year's needs statement.

Forum for Teachers College Community School:

Proposal set forth to bring together stakeholders to help them heal after the death of the founding Principal, Jeanne Worrell-Breeden. CB9 YEL would like to host or co-host (with the TCCS Parents Association) a meeting including parents, Teachers College Administration, & Dept. of Education Administration to help support all concerned with moving forward the mission of the school. Jen Silverman will reach out to the TCCS PA, to see if we can partner with them.

Discussion re: YEL Spring Youth Expo:

Final planning for the "District 6: Lives Healthy Expo," in collaboration with Committee Education Council 6 (CEC6). 25 exhibitors are set to participate; discussion of volunteers and duties for the event.

Development of June Agenda:

Scheduled guest presenter: Superintendent of School District 6, Manny Ramirez Theme for the meeting: The State of School District 6

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.