

Manhattan Community Board 9  
Youth, Education & Libraries  
May 9, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Alec Barrett, Deirdre McIntosh-Brown, Ken Miles, Shaneeka Wilson  
Call to order at 6:38pm.

**Katrina Ortega, Hamilton Grange Library**

Recovering from a number of staffing issues. Pretty short-staffed across the board. Partly due to budget – current hiring freeze. Branch manager went on unexpected medical leave, coming back in June.

Bloomingdale Library on 100<sup>th</sup> street is closed for long-term renovations and borrowed staff members from that branch are helping to alleviate. Children's and teen floor is doing great, and the branch is seeing new students on a more regular basis.

There's no written rule about the minimum age for children being unattended at the library – it just depends on a child's ability to conduct themselves. Practically speaking, this is around 10 years old.

There are restrictions on collecting data on library patrons, especially those under age 18, so the library generally does not collect information on patrons, how they arrived at the library, or their experience.

Some classes come to check out books, including from New Heights Charter School and Thurgood Marshall Academy. Individual teens don't generally check out a lot of books, but some come in to read in the library, and many come in to use the computers. Patrons are guaranteed 45 minutes, first come first serve. Youth who want another turn on the computer after getting bumped off can get a second slot by doing a task like filling out a college/career preparedness form. Hamilton Grange is a college/career hub within the library system, and staff has gone through training by the Options Institute, which DOE college counselors also receive.

The library is creating a new College & Career Pathways Department at the library offices in midtown. Katrina will be leaving Hamilton Grange branch to lead this department. The department will support existing programming at hubs and look to create new programming. They will also provide a supplemental/alternative source of college guidance outside of school hours because of how overworked DOE college counselors are. The goal is to have 10 hubs at the end of the first year. This will be modeled on early literacy programs at library branches. They will likely collaborate with the DOE Office of Postsecondary Readiness.

**Meldis Jimenez, Community Organizer for Broadway Housing Communities**

Hosting mental health and first aid training tailored for people who work with youth. Training is free and participants receive a 3 year certification which can be used for professional development. On Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – will disseminate information via CB9 office. There will be more opportunities in the future, including a Spanish-speaking one.

**Discussion on CB9 Street Scans and getting local youth involved**

CB9 subcommittee on transportation planning is holding periodic street scans and want to include young people's perspectives. Question of incentivizing: why do youth want to participate? School dismissal times are also a key time to look at traffic patterns. The 125<sup>th</sup> street BID does a street reimagining exercise which could be a partner. Social media could also be a vehicle – CB9 could solicit videos of dangerous or problematic intersections.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.