

Youth, Education, Libraries Committee
November 8, 2017
583 Riverside Drive (Broadway Housing)

Committee Members Present:

Deirdre McIntosh-Brown (Co-Chair), Alec Barrett (Co-Chair), Ken Miles.

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm.

Zachary Malter, Educators for Excellence

Mr. Malter's organization works to get teachers involved in advocacy for school climate issues. They have recently been working to emphasize a holistic school environment.

The DOE recently released data on their website about suspensions in SY1516 and SY1617. Mr. Malter drew the committee's attention to District 3, which had 1334 suspensions in SY1617 (higher than most districts) and to District 5, which had a 4.3% increase in SY1617 while most districts decreased and the city decreased by 6.1%. The vast majority of students suspended are students of color.

Educators for Excellence is working on social and emotional learning programs in the 300 schools with the most suspensions. The city implemented a pilot in District 18 that incorporates deescalation and peer mediation into its discipline program. The district saw a 27% decrease in SY1617, and the pilot will be expanded to 3 new districts that require the greatest support.

Mr. Malter shared the floor with **Shavon Glover**, who teaches at Urban Assembly Academy for Future Leaders and is also a parent on the SLT at TCCS. Ms. Glover told the committee how Future Leaders implemented a restorative justice curriculum including social and emotional learning, in which each teacher was responsible for 10 to 12 students in an advisory meeting every Monday morning. These conversations gave everyone the opportunity to defuse potential conflicts that had arisen over the weekend and had a noticeable effect on the number of student conflicts.

Mr. Malter presented a resolution that has been passed by several other Community Boards and is based on a letter from teachers to the DOE about restorative justice programs. The resolution was addressed in the new business part of the meeting.

Jason Toledano, Boy Scouts of America

Mr. Toledano is a district associate with the NYC affiliate of the Boy Scouts. Boy Scouts works to instill core values important to youth character development. Their aims are character development, physical fitness, and creating beneficial citizens. They teach leadership by giving young people leadership opportunities in which they learn by doing, including from their mistakes.

Mr. Toledano is looking for partner organizations in Upper Manhattan to start programs. Young people from ages 5 to 10 years old can be Cub Scouts, and those 10 ½ to 17 can be Boy Scouts. Starting a

program requires a charter organization, which must be a non-profit, and are often religious organizations. Dues to Boy Scouts can be paid through the troop, and many troops fundraise together.

There are currently around 1000 scouts in 48 troops in Manhattan, including nearby chapters at 114th and Broadway through Broadway Presbyterian Church and at 127th and Lenox. The minimum to start a chapter is 5 leaders and 10 boys. Adult leaders must be trained, and troops meet weekly.

Per a recent policy change, starting next year, girls and youth of any gender identity will be able to join the Boy Scouts. Girls can be members of the same troop but will be part of separate dens than boys.

Old Business: Updates from KYER project

Committee members met with Joe Rogers and members of CECs 5 and 6, which was productive. The committee plans to recruit active parents from school PAs/SLTs to be trained with the expectation that they will be able to share their knowledge and skills with other parents at their schools.

The project still faces funding obstacles: of the original \$15,000 proposed budget, some material can be attained in kind. There are grants in our area that could be applicable to this project, but they would need to come from parents or the Center for Educational Equity itself.

New Business: Resolution from Educators for Excellence

The resolution was passed by a vote of 3-0-0 with friendly amendments that added statistics about the districts overlapping with CB9 (D3, D5, D6) and called for District 5 to be prioritized for inclusion in the next round of pilot programs. Mr. Malter said that at least one other board had also tailored the resolution to the particulars of their district.

New Business: Visiting PS36 SLT Meeting

Mr. Barrett reported that a member of PS36's SLT contacted the committee to invite us to a meeting. We are interested in maintaining a relationship with the parents of that school especially after their successful organizing with the parents from TCCS to oppose the colocation proposal this year. Mr. Barrett submitted a request to CM Levine for Participatory Budgeting to fund upgrades to the school's playground. Mr. Miles pointed out that the recent closing of DNAInfo, which had thoroughly covered the colocation debate in the community, was a loss for the community. The SLT's next meetings are 11/29 and 12/20 and Mr. Barrett will ask for members of the committee to attend.

New Business: Report from TCCS SLT October Meeting

Ms. McIntosh-Brown attended the TCCS SLT's meeting, which are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 3:15pm, in October. Nancy Streim from TC and Principal Verdinier spoke about the expansion plans. The school will meet with Space Planning from the DOE, but prospective parents are already asking and concerned about space plans despite being otherwise interested in the school. It has been rumored that St. Aloysius on 132nd street is being considered but this is not official. (This would place the school outside of CB9, but given its origin in the Community Benefits Agreement, CB9 would still take a strong interest in the school).

New Business: Updates for the CB9 Website

First Vice Chair Edwards requested that the committee provide goals for the year to update the CB9 website. The committee briefly discussed its goals, including working with CEE on KYER, supporting TCCS and CSS especially regarding long term space needs, helping PS36 to get the upgrades it needs and ensuring that the CBOs operating there continue to have the space they need, and meeting with WHDC grantees in the education space.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.