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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8
Youth & Education Committee Meeting
NY Blood Center, 310 East 67 Street, Conference Room
Monday, September 10, 2012 at 7:00 PM

Community Board Members (Present): Sarah Chu, Ed Hartzog, Hattie Quarnstrom, Judy Schneider, M. Barry Schneider, Debbie Teitelbaum

Community Board Members (Excused): Lori Bores, Deidre Breslin, Jim Clynes, George Fuchs, Lorraine Johnson,

Community Board Public Members (Present): Sophia James

Community Board Public Members (Excused): Michael Hoffman

A. Introductions were made by everyone present.

B. Break Through NY Program presented by Natalie Cox

- Break Through NY (BTNY) is an 11 year old program started and sponsored by the Town School at 540 East 76 Street. In 2009, BTNY became an independent not-for-profit organization, which continues to operate programming out of the Town School.
- Break Through NY (BTNY) is a 6-year, tuition-free, college access program that maximizes the academic achievement of high-potential, low-income students. The program admits motivated, under-served public middle school students and equips them with the skills, knowledge and support necessary to succeed at college preparatory high schools and attend 4-year colleges. 2 of their current students attend Wagner Middle School.
- The student-teaching model makes them unique. BTNY hires exceptional high school and college students to teach small classes that match their academic strengths and passions. They are trained by professional teachers and coaches in the best practices of teaching, curriculum development, classroom management and student assessment.
- The program starts when the students are in 6th Grade and continues through high school graduation. The students engage in mastering the core areas of math, science, reading and literature through academically rigorous, 6-week summer program and during the school year 2-day a week after school program.
- Upon successfully completing the competitive application process, BTNY students make a 6-year commitment to the program.
- The **middle school** component includes 3 rigorous academic summer institutes, educational enrichment classes, after-school tutoring during the school year, mentoring high school placement guidance and post-placement support and opportunities.
- During **high school**, BTNY continues to support its students, with guidance in college applications, campus visits, and SAT prep. BTNY has many partner organizations and offers a variety of academic, social and enrichment opportunities.

C. Rhinelander Afterschool Program & Saturday Program for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children + Teens by Laura Klein

- In 1891, Julia and Serena Rhinelander donated the "Rhinelander Industrial School for Girls" to the Children's Aid Society. It has now grown to have 5 major programs: Early Childhood, Nursery School, Summer Camp and the two that are being presented tonight—Saturday Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Teens and After School Program.
- Saturday Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Teens
 - The Saturday program is the only free, recreational weekend program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and teens in New York city.

- They meet twice a month on Saturdays. Deaf and hard of hearing young people from ages 5 to 20, from all over the city, meet at the center at 350 East 88th Street, for arts, sports, community service and field trips. They also teach American sign language.
- The program runs from October to May. It is totally free. They also have a parent support group run by a social worker.
- After School Program
 - The After School Program is designed for working parents and runs from the first day of public school to the last.
 - Each day's schedule includes homework help, enrichment classes—arts area a specialty, play time with friends and lots of fun.
 - Participants are enrolled in Pre-K to 6th Grade at local schools.
 - This year the fee has been cut for this program. The After School Program fee includes walking service or bus transportation from P.S. 151, P.S. 158, P.S.198, P.S.290 and the Lower Lab School.
 - Financial aid is available to those who qualify. Applications are available upon request. They accept vouchers from the Administration for Children's Services, which can be obtained by eligible families by calling 311.

D. NYPIRG's work on reducing underage smoking by Meghan Ahearn

- The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) is a statewide student research and advocacy organization. They are a member of the NY Smoke Free Coalition. They focus on reducing tobacco marketing to youth, reducing tobacco sales in pharmacies and conduct outreach to youth on tobacco usage and marketing.
- Underage Smoking Statistics
 - 17,000 New York City high school student are smoking
 - There are 11,500 tobacco retailers, 75% are within blocks of a school
 - LGBTQ youth face a higher probability of smoking
 - \$1.1 million a day is spent by tobacco marketers on marketing
- NYPIRG is educating youth by hosting events, writing letters and providing information about how they can protect themselves against tobacco marketing.
- They are working with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center to raise awareness of tobacco usage and marketing in the LGBTQ community.
- The Center is hosting a BBQ on September 22nd for LGBTQ youth and their families in conjunction with NYPIRG and other student centers to raise awareness about underage smoking.
- NYPIRG is launching a media campaign which aims to reach 100,000 people to empower young people.

E. Future Meeting Dates

- October: Special Date due to Columbus Day—Our meeting will be Monday, October 15: We will discuss the new re-zoning plan presented on September 19 to the CECD2 by the DOE, for community input + Update on school by PS 527.
- November 12: Continued Discussion of the current re-zoning plan + Update middle school in vacant space at PS 158
- Reminder to the committee to check out the CB8M.COM website. Go to Committees on menu bar and scroll down to Youth & Education. Click on that and scroll down: Community Updates—The first update will be the current re-zoning map that is being proposed. The second map will be the existing zoning map, currently in place. Also you will find the minutes from prior meetings, if you were unable to attend.

F. Old /New business

- The DOE has signed a long term lease for 15 years for the PS 527 school building (formerly the Our Lady of Good Council School). *It has been confirmed that the construction on the 5th floor will be finished by the end of the year and this will include a play roof on the top of the building.*
- Update on 2nd teacher/aide in the classroom: Due to the efforts of Council Member Garodnick and his staff the agreement has been extended for another year.
- Mandatory Kindergarten: As per Elizabeth Rose, of the DOE, the law takes effect July 1, 2013, and creates the option to make kindergarten mandatory. There is NO impact on Kindergarten for this September. Students turning 6 in the calendar year will continue to be age appropriate for 1st grade.