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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Youth, Education & Libraries Committee
Thursday, March 25, 2021 - 6:30 PM
*This meeting was conducted via Zoom***

Minutes:

CB8 Members Present: Taina Borrero, Peter Patch, Rami Sigal*, Brian Correia, Billy Freeland, Marco Tamayo,

*Public Member

Taina welcomed members and members of the public and shared that the plan for the April meeting is to invite a senior member of NYC DOE Chancellor Porter's office so we can hear more about Chancellor Porter's vision and about reopening schools in our district and city-wide, vaccination plans for students and teachers, and summer school.

1. Rami Sigal shared various education updates including:
 - a. The announcement of Chancellor Carranza stepping down and Meisha Porter as the new Chancellor of the NYC Department of Education.
 - b. MBPO Gale Brewer mentioned Chancellor Porter is working on having social workers in every school.
 - c. Public middle and high schools in NYC have re-opened. High schools opened this past Monday. The opt-in period to go back to school is open through 4/7/21, although no timeline for when remote students who opt-in will return to the classroom. Link: <https://www.nycenet.edu/surveys/learningpreference>
 - d. Changes to G&T affect children born in 2016 - look to the DOE website and their resources: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/enroll-grade-by-grade/gifted-and-talented>
 - e. Public School Athletic League (PSAL) is returning youth services and sports as per DeBlasio. Sports will be played outdoors as much as possible. If you would like to get involved, reach out to your after-school coordinator, athletic director, or gym teacher.
 - f. Mayor de Blasio visited the Julia Richman Campus - Talent Unlimited this week.
 - g. If you would like to speak on Julia Richman/Blood Center issues, attend the Land Use meeting after the application is certified and the Zoning and Development Committee meeting on 4/27/21: <https://www.cb8m.com/event/19649/>
 - h. CUNY Law School hate incident occurred.
 - i. U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona was confirmed.
 - j. Senator Schumer stated money from the new stimulus is going straight to DOE vs. funneling through the State.
 - k. Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) - Applications have been open since 3/22/21. There are 70,000 jobs this summer. Link: <https://application.nycsyep.com/>
 - l. Suspicious powder was sent to one private school in our district as well as six others around the city.
2. **Discussion on local library initiative and resources** – *Jesse Moskowitz, Young Adult Librarian, 67th Street Library, NYPL*

- a. Taina welcomed and introduced Jesse Moskowitz, Young Adult Librarian, 67th Street Library, NYPL and praised Jesse as a great partner of our committee. He often attends our meetings and cares about engaging our young adults.
 - b. Jesse presented to the committee:
 - In CB8 specifically, 67th Street, Webster, Yorkville (closed), 96th, and a new branch on Roosevelt Island library are all Grab and Go - you can request books, pick up, and return. Can also pick up tax forms. All library fees have been waived through June 2021. Not sure when in-person programs will re-open at libraries. Don't know when computer services will be available.
 - Digital Access to databases - scan and delivery service for research purposes. Now more accessible.
 - You can come in in person to get a library card at the libraries that are open.
 - Apps:
 - **Simply E** - created by library for e-reader. This is also where you can get a library card
 - **Libby** - used nationwide for e-readers, this is an upgraded Overdrive, which NYPL still supports
 - **Cloud Library** - for e-readers
 - **NYPL** - can check out books with the app and making requests
 - Programs – there are lots of online prerecorded story times. There are also live story times.
 - <https://www.nypl.org/events/calendar/online>. You can also check out other library branches or other library system's online programs.
 - Diverse Teen Reads – currently meeting on the last Thursday of the month. Joe from Webster and Jesse host. This was developed after high school sophomores Justin and Kristin from Eleanor Roosevelt High School brought up the lack of diversity in the reading curriculum in schools.
 - Wednesday nights - Latin-X book club at 67th Street Library
 - c. Q&A with Jesse
 - Career Coaching - resiliency coaching and resume workshop have always been virtual and you can look at other branches if times at 67th Street library don't work for you.
 - Business resources are also available
 - Is there data about children served with NYPL in 2019 vs. 2020? Jesse feels we need to assess the digital divide and mobile hotspots. NYPL can't see what you check out digitally, but there is a massive increase in the use of digital materials.
 - Who needs digital resources that doesn't have access? Who uses digital resources and who isn't? Webster and 67th Street have "top 10" in NYPL requests for physical materials.
3. **Old Business** – No old business
 4. **New Business** – No new business

Taina Borrero, Peter Patch, and Rami Sigal, Co-Chairs