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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Youth, Education & Libraries Committee
Thursday, April 22, 2021 - 6:30 PM
*This meeting was conducted via Zoom***

Minutes:

Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

CB8 Members Present: Taina Borrero, Peter Patch, Rami Sigal*, Gayle Baron, Sandra Coleman, Rebecca Dangoor, Billy Freeland, Edward Hartzog, Elizabeth Rose, Tricia Shimamura, Russell Squire, Marco Tamayo, and Sasha Behrens*

*Public Member

Resolutions for Approval:

Item 2 – Resolution in Support of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

Item 3 – Resolution to Address COVID-19 Related Learning Loss

1. Open Discussion on Education issues in CB8

a) Chairs' Comments

- YEL Couldn't secure a representative from Chancellor Porter's office for this meeting, but the invitation remains open
- Education hasn't been at the forefront during the pandemic because the focus has been on public health so we want to open up the conversation to the community to hear from you about the issues you are facing and what is important with regards to education.
- This meeting will help YEL plan for future meetings
- PSAL has re-started, following COVID precautions
- Survey was released to opt-in to hybrid learning, but it is now closed for the rest of the year
- We need more clarity for what will happen in the fall
- What is the restart/relaunch going to look like?
- Can we capture, serve, and support our students?
- We need to think about how we can engage with the DOE
- How can we supplement and complement what's going on in the schools?
- How can we help with enrichment - music, tutoring, etc.
- What are your interests and concerns?
 - Early education and universal literacy Pre-K-3rd grade
 - Supporting all other students into high school, college, and career

b) Public Comments

- Shannon Burkowsky- Co-President of PTA at PS 183
 - DOE is not listening to parents

- Will move to 5 days /week next week because we can now move to 3 feet apart vs 6 feet apart
- We don't have a calendar for next year
- Times of elementary school has been shortened this year. Will we go back to our usual schedule next year?
- Ed Hartzog
 - My son is in 7th grade at Browning. I'm curious when a policymaker is going to talk about the "lost year."
 - How will we help kids who didn't have parents at home all year to supervise?
 - Teachers need to go back to the classrooms and children want to go back
 - The natural slide from June to September in a normal year is significant
 - In private schools, the parents bound together.
- Tricia Shimamura
 - I've heard there is zero communication coming from the Mayor's office.
 - Top questions:
 - Lack of communication teacher/principals
 - Why is the turnaround for our teachers 5 years or less? How are we supporting, mentoring teachers
 - Lack of PPE, communication from the top, testing, resources, mentorship
 - Looking back - who did we fail? We have failed our students with disabilities and our students with IEPs
 - 25% of students with IEPs failed to have services during the pandemic
 - Failure to reopen dual-language program on 76th Street
 - Technology - teachers have to be tech support. Laptops students were given have broken
 - For families with Birth-Four year olds, there is no support in our community. We will universal child-care - it's the best thing we can do to recover economically.
- Saundra I. Coleman
 - Internet not working well in NYCHA - how can we repair this for students who need access to the internet?
- Rami Sigal
 - At a recent PTA meeting at my school, a parent asked the principal about times for the school day. It can't be pushed earlier due to covid protocols. This is only a snippet of time compared to school that have metal detectors in their buildings
 - Covid Slide - At our June 2020 meeting, we addressed slide
 - In 2019, the DOE invested in the MAP test, which measures academic success virtually
 - Any school can give it quarterly or trimester may work best
 - Get a scaled score based on grade standards
 - Last March schools were overwhelmed and didn't do them in June, and were not offered this year at all
 - The policymakers that set the standards for state tests won't have the data to figure out what to do next year
- Billy Freeland
 - Councilmember Kallos was at the full board meeting yesterday and he was asking where the seats and buildings will be for 3K
 - He would like to see us have a hands-on role to find 3K seats
- James
 - Says in-person learning is better than virtual - better for learning, for social purposes, it's better for your eyes, and exercise in the gym

- He speaks for all private schools in support of public schools being in person
 - Office hours on Zoom are helpful to do extracurricular activities and practice for upcoming quizzes
 - Talking with friends online is good to talk and work
 - James is working on his citizenship in the community badge for the scouts and he is a fifth-grader at St. David's
- Amy Schwartz - Four Freedoms Democratic Club
 - Advocate for Children spokesperson came too and spoke about equity and how to involve parents in planning / get parental input
 - Parent leaders from district 2 and district 4
 - One area of great concern is the digital divide
 - a. An iPad is not good for older students who need to compose
 - b. Need support for devices
 - Learning loss - we need to deal with this now
 - Tyler Fischman
 - I'm a private school student at SAR in the Bronx - 4 days a week in person and 1 day on Zoom
 - Mental health toll taking on kids
 - a. We need to have accessible mental health resources for kids
 - b. Need to destigmatize this
 - I understand what it takes to safely reopen - my school took out a 3 million dollar PPP loan and all students had to sign a 70-page document before returning to school
 - My brother has learning difficulties, and these children need to especially be back in school
 - Sasha
 - I'm a junior at Hewitt and mental health is really important
 - Signs at school to take a deep breath and relax
 - Mental health awareness club
 - Virtual learning has been hard / it's hard to participate. It's been detrimental to my learning. It's easy to turn the camera off
 - Marco Tamayo
 - My major concern about education - we have the same problems as when I joined the Community Board 12 years ago.
 - We need enough space for our children

2. Discussion on Summer Youth Employment

a) Rami

- About a year ago, we had a discussion on Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)
- It's subsidized by NYC to get students ages 14-21 jobs - helps earn money, help family and get experience
- This was one of the first programs to be cut last year, partly because students couldn't work in person
- This summer there are 77,000 paid positions available

b) Tricia

- We should make sure we are doing as much outreach as possible to promote it
- We need pre-pandemic level funding
- This should be done whole-heartedly with the funding we had pre-pandemic
- The SYEP resolution should be regardless of deadline - its' "yes" to continuing and expanding this program with all the pieces Russell mentioned before

- c) Russell
- Biden stimulus - when it comes to more funding for SYEP we can ask for more federal funding and talk about other ways we want the funds spent in education
 - How can we help as a Community Board - we can reach out to schools and ask what they need?
 - Some people will have applied by deadline.
 - To get more funding after the deadline will have value
- d) **Resolution in support of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP):**

WHEREAS: The SYEP budget was cut in 2020 due to the pandemic;

WHEREAS: Manhattan's Community Board 8 calls on The City of New York to utilize the billions of dollars from the state and federal governments to expand SYEP to all youth who would like a job for Summer 2021 and subsequent summers;

WHEREAS: The deadline to apply for SYEP is the 30th of April 2021; all youth who applied before the deadline should receive a paid position;

RESOLVED: Manhattan's Community Board 8 supports restoring and expanding funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

VOTE: 13-0-0-0

In Favor: Taina Borrero, Peter Patch, Rami Sigal*, Gayle Baron, Sandra Coleman, Rebecca Dangoor, Billy Freeland, Edward Hartzog, Elizabeth Rose, Tricia Shimamura, Russell Squire, Marco Tamayo, and Sasha Behrens*

3. Resolution to address COVID-19 related learning loss

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 pandemic has created an education crisis;

WHEREAS: Due to the pandemic, students have lost 14 months of in-classroom time as of June 2021;

WHEREAS: Many students have fallen behind New York State education standards;

WHEREAS: The NWEA *Measures of Academic Progress* (MAP) growth assessments provide students, families, teachers, administrators, and school districts with specific, accurate, and actionable data on student academic progress;

WHEREAS: MAP growth assessments have been approved by the New York State Education Department for use under Education Law §3012-D;

WHEREAS: The New York City Department of Education (DOE) budgeted for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 to allow any DOE school to opt-in for the test;

WHEREAS: The New York State Exams fail to provide the detail needed by educators to assess growth among students;

WHEREAS: Manhattan's Community Board 8 supports expanding the use of MAP growth assessments and ensuring the tests are used effectively and solely for the purpose of addressing subject area growth rather than using the tests to address student value such as in admissions;

WHEREAS: Manhattan's Community Board 8 urges the New York State Department of Education and the New York City DOE to release data on learning loss during the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS: Manhattan’s Community Board 8 urges the New York State Department of Education and the New York City DOE to address learning loss during the COVID-19 pandemic and present a recovery plan;
RESOLVED: Manhattan’s Community Board 8 supports the above clauses and the use of MAP growth assessments.

VOTE: 13-0-0-0

In Favor: Taina Borrero, Peter Patch, Rami Sigal*, Gayle Baron, Sandra Coleman, Rebecca Dangoor, Billy Freeland, Edward Hartzog, Elizabeth Rose, Tricia Shimamura, Russell Squire, Marco Tamayo, and Sasha Behrens*

4. **Old Business** – No old business
5. **New Business**
 - a) CB8 welcomes Sasha Behrens as a new public member to Youth and Education

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