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**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan  
Joint Meeting of the Social Justice Committee &  
Youth, Education, and Libraries Committee  
Thursday, September 30, 2021 - 6:30 PM  
*Conducted Remotely via Zoom***

**Minutes**

**CB8 Members Present:** Vanessa Aronson, Taina Borrero, Tyler Fischman\*, May Malik, Elizabeth Rose, Barbara Rudder, and Rami Sigal.

\*Public Member

Rami shared his own perspective as a NYC public school student, not as a chair of the committee or member of the board:

- Public schools - The Start of school has never been easy for students or educators (holidays, programming), with the pandemic layered on top, there is uncertainty surrounding a) schools being open for good and b) being safe in school. If students don't feel safe, kids can't learn.
- There are discrepancies in ventilation. The DOE spent 40 million on air purifiers claiming they were HEPA filters, but it turns out they are "HEPA-approved filters." A whole lot of issues surrounding this and the filtrations.
- Global steel shortage - schools can't get laptops they pre-ordered/no computers being ordered by DOE because there aren't any available.
- Staff, substitute, and administration shortage.

Barbara shared her perspective as a grandparent of a 12-year-old who was about to enter middle school last year:

- She didn't meet new kids, but now she is meeting friends.
- Last year she had a teacher leave mid-year, and it was a wasted period.
- There is a level of fear - do you let kids socialize and play sports?
- The teachers seem to be not settled in the same way.
- Emotional and economic issues have made it hard for kids. NYC needs more social workers.

Elizabeth shared two ideas for future topics to be discussed in committee: moving beyond Covid; the impact the new admissions process had on middle school students in our district and where they ended up attending high school.

*Táina Borrero, Peter Patch, and Rami Sigal, Co-Chairs*