

**COMMUNITY BOARD 17  
EDUCATION/YOUTH COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT**

Rose Graham  
Monica Mckain-Brown  
Ozni Lewis  
Gail Grandison  
Ann Hudson  
Rodrick Daley  
Natasha Duncan

**EXCUSED**

Jorge Tait – death in the family

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Meeting of the Education/Youth Committee was called to order by Chairperson Gail Grandison. Ms. Grandison asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

**Chairperson's Report**

- Ms. Nadine Lyons, Staff is out on medical leave, no return date as of yet,. With Ms. Lyons being out, Ms. Fraser has been assisting with the other committee meetings in addition to the meetings she covers as she continues to do her best to move the process and the Board's work forward. The Board is in the process of hiring someone very soon.
- The move to the new location is still on, scheduled for some time next year. Ms. Fraser is preparing and packing and relinquishing items in preparation for the move.
- Anyone interested in volunteering in the Board's office, could reach out to Ms. Fraser
- Mr. Tait's wife lost a few family members within a short period of time, the committee extends condolences to the family.
- Committee meeting attendance will be taken seriously and members will be removed if they are not attending meetings. Letters will be going out to those who have not attended meetings since September.

## **Spelling Bee**

It was agreed the Spelling Bee will be held around the third week in February when the kids are on winter recess. The event will be open to everyone. At this time, the committee will prepare a SAVE-the-Date.

Ms. Fraser was asked to request the room from SUNY Downstate, she is currently working on that location and one of the schools is being looked at, will reach out to the superintendents and have a conversation before Thanksgiving so the information is out there and the event can be marketed in a timely manner.

This year, high schools will be included. A year or two ago there was a conversation about changing the name of the event officially to “Orlinda McInnis Spelling Bee Competition” and it would be nice to have a little celebration to officially give it that name. Ms. Grandison said she will need volunteers to assist with the event.

## **Essay Writing Contest**

The Essay writing contest which will be sometime in April. Will get in touch with P.O Barry and ask her to join the meeting next month to discuss the event in partnership with the 67 explorers and to expand it community wide.

Ms. Grandison said she had a conversation with Mr. Ozni Lewis regarding the forum and he will talk in dept about what the forum should look like. She asked Mr. Lewis to update the members and requested their input after the presentation.

## **Ozni Lewis**

Mr. Lewis greeted everyone, he said most of the young people who do not complete school and do not intend to take the career path of going to college can enroll in internship or other skilled programs that add value towards an employment. He said he enrolled at the young age of 18 with an electrical union and did a pre-apprenticeship program and enrolled in the construction field. He said construction has many areas and it depends on how the person wants to apply themselves.

He said a forum will be held in May on an evening in keeping with the Education Committee meeting schedule, and start a little earlier. The Forum will last for approximately one and a half hour and five panelists will be invited to speak on specific mastery to get knowledge of the various perspectives, building maintenance, electrician, someone to discuss the pre-apprenticeship program and a Site Safety officer. Also, a director of construction skills

will be on the panel, someone who partner with four other organizations that brings people into trade and worked with incarcerated individuals to get them back into the community with a viable career in addition to service men and women transitioning from military service.

Mr. Lewis said it is important for people to prepare for the pre-apprenticeship program so when construction starts on the Shirley Chisholm Recreational center around January of 2024, they are prepared and have an opportunity to get into a union apprenticeship and also be prepared for public works.

Mr. Lewis said he is requesting an official letter of invite to the panelist. He will start the process in January after the holidays

**Question:** Who will be the target audience for the Forum?

**Answer:** As many people that are interested. The forum will be publicized on social media and by flyers, also to high schools, middle schools and as many organizations as possible.

**Question:** Will older adults be targeted?

**Answer:** Mr. Lewis said ages 14-40. Persons could work for 20years and get a full pension and medical, especially when retirement age may be going up to 70years. Additionally, he will consider requesting funding from the politicians for training for those persons serious to move on to the next level.

**Question:** With all the event planned for the Education Committee, how will it be spaced out.

**Answer:** the Spelling Bee will be held in February, the Cops and Kids may be held in March, the Team Forum in May and Mr. Lewis will be working on the panelist for confirmation. Flyers will be disseminated The information cannot be out so early, people tends to forget.

Ms. Grandison informed the members there was conversation regarding a College Career Fair, however she said more people are needed on the committee to make this happen. The planning process is time consuming. She also stated, there are other initiatives the Committee could work on, if more members are present.

Ms. Natasha Duncan suggested building relationship with the schools in the district to ensure the kids in the district are able to attend planned events.

Ms. Grandison said when information comes to the Board from the different non-profits, Ms. Fraser sends that information to the appropriate Committee Chair. She also stated the Communication Chair is putting together a newsletter and she will have a conversation with her on marketing the various events.

Ms. Rose Graham informed those present of the Open Arm project, she said she was on a zoom meeting and School District 17 and 18 are teaming up to distribute coats gloves and other winter items people needs for the cold weather.

Ms. Grandison said she could prepare a flyer and request people drop off new or slightly used winter gear for kids at the Board's office. She said the committee is limited in quantity, however, if they could partner with other people and/or organization, it's something that can be done.

**New Business – None**

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### **Adjournment**

Ms. Grandison asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Ms. Ann Hudson and second by Mr. Ozni Lewis.