**Community Board 17**

**Education Committee Virtual Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 22, 2022**

**Present:** **Guest:**

Gail Grandison Sherrod Moore

Monica McKain-Brown

Jorge Tait

Rodrick Daley

Muline Mickle

Rose Graham

The **Education Committee Virtual Meeting** was held on **Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7:30pm**.

**Ms. Gail Grandison** called the meeting to order at 7:44pm.

Going through their norms, they are going to keep doing this to show each other some respect and dignity, respect each other’s opinion, treat each other with respect, no one knows it all, but together they know a lot, each one, teach one. There is a learning and teaching moment in each of them, let’s share and care and they are going to take space and make space. They are going to take the time to speak, but they are also going to give their colleagues time to speak.

**Chairperson’s Report**

**Ms. Grandison** said she sent out an email asking people about staying on the committee because they have been having a difficult time approving minutes and getting a quorum in the meetings and tonight is the last night for those not in attendance, they will be removed from the list. The removals are being done so they can move forward.

They will continue to work on the strategic plan. She sent an email to Keisha from Sesame Flyers for them to have a conversation to see if they can work together to plan for the essay writing competition and she will give them updates when she gets to unfinished business. They also need to start planning for the spelling bee.

She spoke to Ms. Graham and they are going to partner with her for Youth Happen’n. They are also going to partner with the 67th Pct. Explorers and they will need 3 additional tablets for the spelling bee. She put in a request for $1,500.00 to buy tablets and she will talk about that later. She is on her committee and she wants them to know about it and take part in any way that they can to help out. They were approved for the discretionary funds at the Board meeting and she spoke to Ms. Fraser about putting the order in for the laptops and she is going to start the process. She asked her if there were any money left, if she could order some other prizes.

She attended a presentation on open data put together by Mr. Ross, the Treasurer for Community Board 17 and it was very informative. It is a website where they can gather a lot of information that will be needed for the need’s assessment. They can get information for education, housing and social services needs. According to the presenter, depending on the agency, the information is updated often for DOE and it is usually a **(INADUIBLE)** maybe a year behind and not the current school year, which is probably good because for the current school year, there is still a lot of data that they don’t have the full data set until the end of the school year. She finds it to be very helpful and resourceful. Moving forward, when she needs to compile information, she knows exactly where to go and she just needs to learn how to navigate and manipulate the data to get what she wants.

**Roll Call**-Gail Grandison, Jorge Tait, Monica McKain-Brown, Muline Mickle, Rodrick Daley, Rose Graham, Sherrod Moore, guest.

**Ms. Grandison** said the guest speaker for tonight is Ms. Natalie Oakley, the Admission Coordinator at the State University of New York. They spoke last week about some upcoming training she has. She will tell them about her programs and how they can help her get the information out and how it is beneficial to the schools and the youth in the community.

**Ms. Natalie Oakley** said she is the Admission’s Coordinator at the Brooklyn Education Office Opportunity Center and they have been providing tuition free training programs for New York State residents, who are eligible, for over 50 years, since 1966 and they are funded by the State University of New York. There are not a lot of State colleges in Brooklyn and they are administered by the NYC College of Technology, located on Jay Street. They have a great relationship with them in terms of programs and services they offer at EEOC. If they have applicants, family members, friends and neighbors who want to do college and they do offer college prep programs and all programs are tuition free. Once applicants meet the eligibility requirements, they can apply for the programs and successfully navigate the programs, they will be able to participate in the different programs that they offer. Annually, they serve up to 1,600 students and offer tuition free academic, career and short-term training programs for NYS residents who are eligible. The Executive Director, Dr. **(INADUIBLE)** Hanson is very involved in the day-to-day running of the EEOC and the students have the opportunity to meet with her at the new student orientation and at the graduation ceremony in June.

The requirements are that the applicants must be 18 years and older. If the applicant is 17 years old, they must have a high school diploma or GED to be a part of the programs. They must be a US citizen, permanent resident or refugee, and a resident of NYS for at least 1 year, receiving low to moderate income for career and college prep programs. The applicants must have less than 33 college credits.

When EEOC started, it was a college preparation program and they have expanded for the needs of society as the years go by and this has caused them to include other training programs.

With COVID-19, must of the classes are online and the students must have internet access, a laptop or desktop in order to participate in the classes and successfully complete them. They have 2 in-person classes, medical assistant and direct support professional training programs and the students must be fully vaccinated to come into the offices. The programs offered are academic and they do offer English for speakers of other languages, ESOL for short, high school equivalence preparation and college preparation programs. The ESOL program runs from 12 to 30 weeks, with evening classes being offered. Classes will start on March 31st, 2022 and if they want to share this information, they can log onto their website to complete an online application. The high school equivalence program runs from 15 to 45 weeks and the length of time varies, because every applicant for the programs at the EEOC, is required to **(INADUIBLE)** tests and that will be an indication of how long the student will be in the HSE program. The minimum score to be a part of the HSE program is reading at a 5th grade level, they will be with them for 45 weeks, unless during the course, they are excelling, getting the work done, getting their grades up and doing really well, the Professors will decide if that student can do a practice test and they will cut the time down for them. the HSE programs are offered during the day and evenings. The day classes are from 9am to 5pm and the evening classes run from 6 to 9pm.

The college preparation program runs from 7½ to 15 weeks to prepare students for the college entrance exams, reading, writing and math, if they don’t have their SAT scores or the scores that are required. The student is going to have to remedial classes and what the EEOC does is help the students and work with them on their reading, writing and math skills, and once they get through that period of time with them, then they will go back to their college or the college of their desire.

The career training programs, the Medical Assistant program runs for 30 weeks, is offered during the daytime, 9am to 5pm, and classes will start in the Fall of 2022, the end of August. The medical billing and coding programs is 15 weeks long and is offered in the evenings, from 6-9pm and will also begin in the Fall. With the Medical Assistant program, students are able to earn 4 certifications and they will have their certified Clinical Medical Assistant certification and be certified as EKG and ECG Technicians, certified Phlebotomy Tech and Microsoft Office Specialist and the EEOC covers 2 of these certifications and the other 2 certifications will cost the student $120.00 for each.

They do offer office administrative professional training programs for persons wanting to work in office settings and they will be taught Microsoft, Excel and if someone is interested in earning their Microsoft Office certification, then this would be the program for them. This program is also offered during the evenings and is expected to start on March 31st, 2022.

They also offer a direct support training program for individuals who are developmentally or mentally challenged, and the program runs for 7½ weeks and offered during the daytime and is also scheduled to start March 31st, 2022.

They do offer medical **(INADUIBLE)** office administration programs, but they have been suspended for this Spring and hopefully, they will be able to offer it for the Fall semester.

The Tourism and Hospitality Operations programs are for persons interested in working in the hotel industry, they will work with them in preparing themselves for this field. The program runs for 15 weeks and expected to start June 2022. They do offer 2 short-term programs, the OSHA certification and the Security Guard training program. These programs run for 2 week and offered during the day, with various start dates, one in April and the other in June. The next start date for the Security Guard training is March 14th, 2022.

At the end of the courses, they recommend highly, strongly and deeply that the students get certifications, because in the end, the certifications will allow them to be employed. They tell the students that attending and passing the classes and graduating is wonderful because they cannot just apply for a job with a diploma. Certifications are nationally recognized, and the students are able to work anywhere in the United States with them.

The direct support professional training program offers 3 certifications, strategies for crisis intervention or scripts, CPR and first-aid and approved medication **(INADUIBLE)** and EEOC pays for all 3 certifications.

At EEOC, they do offer post-op student supportive services and they have an advisement center, where Advisors will work with the students one-on-one if they have any financial, mental, personal and housing needs. They have outside resources available to assist the students with whatever their needs are. The Career Center is another one of their resources that provides students with their internship experiences, job search assistance and outfits for the interviews. They also prep and help them with their resumes.

They also have a learning resource center that provides the students with different workshops to help them with advisement for their careers. They would also go there for tutoring, books and whatever they might need. Once they become an EEOC student, they can log on because everything is remote, to make use of all the resources that are available.

They offer college connection initiatives where the students are assisted with applying for college, filling out the applications, looking for and applying for scholarships and whatever the students might need with regards to college, except for paying the tuition.

They also have an **(INADUIBLE)** lab where the students and community residents are able to log on, once they apply, and get entrance information and make use of the different services and learn at their own pace. The college connections initiatives and the **(INADUIBLE)** labs are open to the public for applicants who do not meet the EEOC eligibility requirements, but wanting to earn some certifications, they can always apply through the **(INADUIBLE)** lab and make use of the college connections initiatives app.

The website is [www.sunyeeoc.org](http://www.sunyeeoc.org) for the eligibility requirements and they ask the students to view this before they apply for the programs. Once the online application is completed, they will receive an invitation by email to attend an online enrollment session. When the session is done, they will be required to submit some documents and then they will take a **(INADUIBLE)** test and an online placement test, which is required for all applicants.

They can be reached by email, telephone and social media handles. They are located at 111 Livingston Street and when they open, this is where the classes will be held. They also do job placements.

**Ms. Grandison** asked what are some of the organizations they work with?

**Ms. Oakley** said she does not work in the career center, but they do work with Workforce One, but they do have a huge list of organizations that they partner with to assist the students.

**Ms. Grandison** asked do they work with local Government for placements also?

**Ms. Oakley** said she believes they do, but she will verify that for her when she speaks to someone from the career team.

**Ms. Grandison** said why is it only up to 33 credits, why not 40? The reason for asking is because she does not know how popular the Associate’s degree program is anymore and it is starting to disappear and now, everything is 4 years and if they don’t get past 2 years, for multiple reasons that students don’t go back because of financial reasons, and if they need something to fall back on in terms of job training, even though they have this amount of credits, they cannot apply to this program.

**Ms. Oakley** said 33 credit is under 2 years and unfortunately, this is how it is set up. She is not sure how that is going to be dealt with, especially with this period of time they are in. This is focused for those students that are halfway, 60 credits is for an Associate’s degree. They will work with someone that has 35 credits and that will be the Director’s call.

**Ms. Muline Mickle** asked when a person is given a free education, what happens when they go to college, does the amount of money they got from this program affect the amount of money they get when they go to college?

**Ms. Oakley** said these programs are tuition free. With the college prep programs, they do not earn a degree with the EEOC, it is certifications. For the college prep students, they are preparing them for the college entrance exams. No credits are being offered to the students from the EEOC.

**Ms. Monica McKain-Brown** asked what is considered to be low to moderate income?

**Ms. Oakley** said under $35,000.00 per year and it depends on the person’s household size. They use the 100% percentile average under Federal guidelines.

**Ms. Grandison** thanked Ms. Oakley for her presentation. It was very informative. When she receives the information, she will make copies to leave in the Board’s office.

Since they have a quorum, they will approve the minutes for Sept. 28, 2021, Oct. 26, 2021 and Jan. 22, 2022.

**Mr. Rodrick Daley** made a motion to approve the Sept. and Oct. 2021 minutes.

**Ms. Mickle** seconded the motion.

**Ms. Rose Graham** made a motion to approve the Jan. 22, 2022 minutes.

**Ms. Mickle** seconded the motion.

**Ms. Grandison** said for the essay writing competition, she has been working with Det. Barry to get things in motion. They need readers to read and score the essays. If anyone is interested, let her know.

What they have planned so far is for high schools, middle schools and elementary schools and the first prizes will get laptops, second prizes will get tablets and the third prizes will be $100.00 gift cards for high schools, $75.00 for middle schools and $50.00 for the elementary schools. At the gala is where the prizes are presented and there is a performance done by Det. Barry and the Explorers. This year, the tentative date is going to be on May 21st,2022 and is going to be done outdoors, weather permitting, at Paerdegat Park, but some issues came up. They do not mind it being open to the community, but there was the concern of there being a lot of police presence and they also invite the Commissioner and they did not want to risk someone doing something silly with some many exit points. They were thinking of doing it at Tilden High School because of the way it is situated, with one or two exits that people are able to be admitted, making it a safer environment. There will be seating. It will be called “Welcome to Spring”, since it will be in the Spring, it will be an outdoor Spring event and the area will be decorated. Usually, they ask for donations of refreshments and food, but this year, they were thinking to ask some vendors to showcase their Spring menus, which is like marketing for them. She is going to work with Mr. Bakiriddin to help identify a few vendors to send a letter, to see if they are willing to do this. There is a young lady that does pop-up shops and she is going to reach out to a few of her colleagues about coming and doing some pop-up shops.

She worked on the flyer last night, but she wants the committee to approve the flyer before it is released. This will be like a save the date until they get confirmation to use the outdoor space. Det. Barry is looking into the permit for the space and whatever regulations they have to abide on. Once that is confirmed, they can set the date and venue and send out the flyers.

They are asking for donations for help with the kid’s costumes and buying some of the decorations. They will have the next meeting on Thursday or Friday to close down some of these things. She will let them know what they are doing and they can let her know how they can help in any way.

The other thing is the spelling bee and they have to start to plan this. She spoke to the Superintendent and she is trying to identify a school for them. She created a flyer and she is going to send it to the members.

Yesterday, Ms. Fraser reached out to her and asked if they would consider honoring Ms. McGinnis at this year’s spelling bee and she thought it was a great idea. Ms. McGinnis no longer lives in the community and Ms. Fraser will contact her Son to let him know what they are planning to do to see if she physically able to attend the event. She would appreciate any ideas, comments or feedback around this because they have known her for quite a while.

The Youth Happen’n, which is done by the Youth Committee. They can always attend the meetings and they are going to partner with her on this.

**Ms. Graham** said the Youth Happen’n is going to be on Thursday, August 4th, 2022 in Paerdegat Park. She will tweak the letters to send them out by the next meeting. The letters for the lunches was sent out by Ms. Lyons.

For entertainment, she will contact Elite Learners and contact Mr. King from the Boys and Girls Club. She wants to contact people about performing. Mr. Daley will be the MC and Mr. Mungo will be the DJ for the event. The partners will be day care centers and day camps.

**Ms. Grandison** said she is a part of the youth Committee and if they would like to join and help out with this event, they can reach out to Ms. Graham or her and she will pass the information along to Ms. Graham. They want to make sure all of their events are successful this year.

**Mr. Daley** said Ms. Lyons has a list of the vendors that she would send requests to for the event, for whoever is a part of the agenda.

**Ms. Grandison** said she will work with Ms. Graham on this and they will speak to Ms. Lyons to see what she has. She could ask Ms. Lyons for the list of vendors and they can go through them at the meeting

**Mr. Daley** said there is an event this Saturday that he will be speaking on in terms of COVID-19 and the sociological impact. He will send her a flyer for a new program they can do partnership with Physicists **(INADUIBLE)** to discuss physicists and music, and how does that impact their own culture.

**Ms. Grandison** said they did speak briefly about this before.

**Ms. Graham** said there was a conversation about engaging the Superintendents from District 17, 18 & 22 and she does not know what became of that.

**Ms. Grandison** asked if there were anything else to discuss? Having heard none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08pm.

**Mr. Daley** made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Ms. Graham** seconded the motion.