

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD # 17
4112 FARRAGUT ROAD
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11210**

Minutes of February 09, 2023

YOUTH/EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT:

Gail Grandison
Natasha Duncan
Timothy Davis
Rodrick Daley
Monica McKain – Brown
Muline Mickle
Rose Graham
Ozni Lewis
Cheryl Saunders

ABSENT:

Kimberly Moraman
Lamont Kirton
Lenwood Hicks
Danna Lennon-Thomas
Alicia Johnson
Bianca Siquez
Marcelle Sealy-Welch
Genevieve John
Kary Williams
CK Price
Hyacinth Charles
Jasmin Hoyt
Joy Jones
Zosha Marcelle-Welch

EXCUSED:

Barrington Barrett
Joan Bakiriddin
Patricia Reddock

GUEST:

Emmanuel Jeanty
Naudia Salvadon
Paul Marianovsky

The Youth Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 09, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. virtually, via WebEx.

Ms. Gail Grandison called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

Mr. Emmanuel Jeanty stated that he's a 7th grade ELA teacher at Meyer Levin Intermediate school and is interested in community affairs and would like to bridge the gap between the community and the school.

Ms. Naudia Salvadon introduced herself and explained that she was a representative from the Brooklyn Kids Prep School.

Mr. Paul Marianovsky introduced himself and said he's the Outreach Coordinator for Dynamite Youth Center. He said actually he's new to the job, been there only a few months. He said that normally he would do clinical case work first. He stated that he worked for an organization which was nonprofit have been around for over 53 years, and now, they are using analyst centers and recently an adult program as well for people struggling with substance abuse disorders. He said that he's just trying to get into the schools and spread awareness about substance abuse to the children, parents, and educators of the schools of East Flatbush and to make sure the community knows that there are resources out there..

Everyone introduced themselves.

Ms. Grandison asked for someone to make a motion to approve the minutes for January 2023?

Mr. Ozni Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes for January 2023.

Mr. Timothy Davis seconded the motion.

There being no further corrections or abstentions the minutes were approved for the month of January 2023.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Ms. Grandison stated that she will be giving a brief report. She said that Lennox Academy will be performing at the next General Board meeting for Black History Month everyone is welcome to attend. She stated that Lennox Academy has three different locations. She said the school, the annex, which was the middle school, which was located on flatlands and 100th street, it's going to become a standalone middle school. She stated that annex will no longer be part of Lennox Academy. She said the elementary school is now from K-5 located near Downstate Hospital. She stated that the early childhood center is going to remain also and that's in that compound by Nazareth High school behind the McDonald's. She said that Board has made a decision to remain at 4112 Farragut Road for an extensive period until the new location is ready, located at 1107 Rogers Avenue. She stated that summer youth is coming up from the ages of 14 to 24 years of age. She said the application process should be opening up shortly and she would like for them to encourage the young adults to apply for the summer employment. She stated that this is all through DYCD, they can apply on line. She said it's a 6-week program and they can also look up the businesses in the areas they live in that are hiring on the site. She stated that the ladders for leaders' program is like the children get to work for different corporations and it's kind of an annex for the summer youth program. She said that it's not the same process as summer youth it's a little more extensive with interviews and resumes in order to be a part of this program. She stated that they attend classes every Friday to teach professional mannerisms in the work place. She said it's about professional development that they put them through that entire day. She stated she's going to get the information and send it to the committee members. She stated that her Daughter attended the program when she was about 14. Ms. Grandison stated that they have events coming up like the spelling bee, Cops with Kids and Essay competition.

Question: Ms. Moline Mickle, doesn't this program come through the schools?

Ms. Grandison stated that this program is not done through the schools.

MS. Grandison introduced **Mr. Paul Marianovsky** from the Dynamite Youth Center and said he will be giving a presentation on his organization. She said that Mr. Morianovsky will give the presentation and the committee can ask questions once the presentation is complete.

Dynamite Youth Center – Mr. Paul Marianovsky – Outreach Coordinator

Mr. Marianovsky stated that he gets confused sometimes with what's his job as that outreach coordinator, you know, because I'm used to doing clinical work and kind of got thrown into this because unfortunately, what we're seeing now, is that not as many people that need treatment are receiving treatment. He said that with all these smoke shops showing up selling marijuana and K2. He stated that relapse levels are through the roof and he is present to spread a message and the message is there is hope. He said what people considers treatment varies depending on where you go, which hospital you go to, which physician you go to. He stated that they have been around for 53 years. He said their program teaches people life skills and the way the program works is they have a offset facility is where a young adult will go to the upstate facility for a year and in this facility, when they get a young adult, they're not just going to groups every few hours, not just receiving 1 on 1 sessions they are learning how to live a productive, healthy and happy life. He stated that their facility takes in everyone, documented, citizens or undocumented and they do not care if they have coverage or not, their mission is to help as many people as they can. He said they have been struggling with the referrals, mostly they receive referrals from the court system, schools and different organizations and they're not seeing that anymore.

Mr. Marianovsky stated that luckily, their program has a huge family association they think the family has a huge part to play in the person's life, therefore we include them in their recovery. He said that every Wednesday they have family time. He stated that they have over 100 families that participate in groups and discussions, sort of taking away that stereotype and the shame that they may feel having a child as an addict. He said there is no shame in having a child that's an addict, drugs do not discriminate it doesn't matter what color or age they are. He stated that he remembers growing up and seeing the same heroin addict everyday at the same corner in the neighborhood and fortunately and unfortunately they don't see that anymore there's no more experimental drugs not trying it out for the first time because fentanyl is in everything. He said most of the overdoses they see now are not from taking too much drugs, it's not someone who've been taking drugs for decades, it's the person who made a mistake wanted to try a drug and unfortunately the next thing that happens, their gone. He stated that their program is trying to get plugged into the community to prevent this from happening so what he's been doing is having speaking engagements to try and reach out to the schools, reaching out to the schools is very difficult. He said he has speaking engagements at Morrow and Midwood, one scheduled for the Goldstein Williamsburg charter school. He said and what he does is bring a few of the members of the program with him to the speaking engagements and they would share their stories. He stated that he also does free Narcan training to help people learn to save someone. He said the next thing he will be doing is reaching out to the courts and this is why he's visiting community Boards. He stated that their inpatient program deals with young adults from the ages of 16 to 26 and the first part is in Fallsburg, N.Y. He said that they do not outsource for cooks, maintenance, or cleaning. He stated that when the clients enter the facility for help they learn later down the line after some treatment they are taught a life skill and are allowed to utilize that skill they learned within the facility. He said so depending on that skill they have a kitchen crew, maintenance crew, gardening crew, landscaping crew and a variety of other skills taught at the facility. He stated that once the 10-year program is done upstate they come to Brooklyn to the outpatient facility where they are slowly placed back into society, they help them make a resume, apply for college or completing their GED. He said before COVID they had teachers in the facility and the residents would attend school and receive treatment but since the pandemic they haven't been able to acquire a teacher so they have the children attend school and then come to the facility after school for treatment and it depends on the case. He stated that they do not believe in just giving the clients medicine for everything and as of now they take residents from the age of 27 to 33 years of age. He said his presentation is complete and he is now ready to take questions.

Question: Ms. Grandison, in the program has there been an influx in young people addicted to weed?

Mr. Marianovsky stated that they have more people that smoked then don't, it's more normal to smoke whether it's because it's social media, whether it's because of the delis across the street. He said another issue is the fact that they don't know what they're putting in the weed. He stated that they have people that are popping up for fentanyl and other opioids and they claim that their just smoking weed, it depends.

Question: Ms. Grandison, do you think the laced weed is coming from the streets or the facilities that house the weed because she knows that the Mayor of NYC is cracking down on these illegal weed spots?

Mr. Marianovsky stated that this can be true because they have a lot of children coming into the program stating that they purchased the weed from delis who are the oldest about 16 and the parents are confirming that the children are buying from delis. He said he just attended the NCO meeting within the boundaries of the 70th Precinct and they confirmed that they just issued about 7,000 citations for selling weed illegally.

Question: Ms. Grandison, you as an organization, we, as a community board, we have more schools around us. What should we do to help them? Or what message should we put out there to let them know?

Mr. Marianovsky stated that he reaches out to the guidance counselors in the schools but what he suggests is for them to get him in touch with the schools and he brings all of the supplies to train them for situations like overdosing and counseling the children that may need help.

Mr. Lewis he said the way certain things are looked at even the mayor discussing the use of weed where it seems it's okay to do it and funding was taken from education and made to seem that the use of this drug is a good thing can be a problem. He said that funds were not put to good use for mental health or homelessness. He said he believes that the Borough Presidents from all 5 boroughs and the Elected officials need to meet with the communities to assist in trying to stop this epidemic.

Mr. Marianovsky stated that he agrees that what the Mayor did was unacceptable and embarrassing and they are going to Albany next month to lobby for assistance from the elected officials.

Mr. Jorge Tait stated that before his questions he would just like to say that there is no legal dispensary in Brooklyn so where ever they are getting the marijuana is illegal and could be laced with anything. He said that to him it seems the Mayor is upset that these illegal dispensaries are not paying taxes to the city. He stated that there is a program that was started by a judge upstate where instead of locking the problem children up they were sent to a facility in Yonkers where they would stay and if they received good behavior they were allowed to go home on weekends, is this the same type of facility or do they stay for the entire year and have they reached out to the District Attorney's office or the courts to assist with some of the juvenile cases?

Mr. Marianovsky stated that they do have a lot of repeat offenders that come in from the court and once they realize it's due to substance abuse they seem to do much better once they enter their facility but this was in the past and they have not gotten much referrals from the courts lately. He said in the first 6 months their families are allowed to visit them every 2 weeks and at the 6 month mark it depends on the case they are allowed to go home for weekends but they do not go home alone, they go with a chaperon which is one of their friends that are a little further along.

Ms. Cheryl Saunders stated that most people believe that Marijuana is something that mellows the person out but that's not always the case the younger generation are very erratic when their using marijuana.

Ms. Grandison stated that was everyone aware of the dispensary on Nostrand Avenue and Avenue D.

Mr. Tait stated that he's noticed at least 9 dispensaries in the neighbor and even one near the Board office.

Ms. Grandison thanked **Mr. Marianovsky** for attending and asked him if he could send her some literature and she will try and get the information into the schools.

Mr. Jeanty stated that he got a chance to hear the presentation and asked **Mr. Marianovsky** to place his information in that chat and he will bring the information to Meyer Levin.

Mr. Marianovsky stated that he would like to thank everyone for allowing him to give his presentation.

Ms. Mickle stated that she was just wondering what is being done to get direct contact to the parents.

Mr. Marianovsky stated that next week he will be having a meeting with the parent coordinators of South Brooklyn.

Ms. Grandison stated that she would like to give each teacher from the two schools present at the meeting 2 minutes to speak about their schools, **Mr. Jeanty** was asked to speak about his school first.

Mr. Jeanty stated that he's not sure if everyone is aware he's been at Meyer Levin for 2 years and they are centered around performing arts. He said that they have a pretty vast program around performing arts including, steel bands, theater, art, and music including their band. Um. I mean, the school is great. He stated that they have a new principle, she's very innovative, very progressive and, the initiative right now is community, and in order to be able to bring resources to the school. He said right they are working with elite,

edge, the suns program and those 3 community-based organizations provide additional resources for the students. He stated that for instance, they have a basketball team and a football team an extensive after school program where the kids essentially have a place to go up until about 5:30 or 6:00 P. M. He said the school is essentially open for students 7 days a week up until 9 pm. He stated that there is always something going on there and they have teachers that look like the students, teachers that live in the community and his goal is to see what they can highlight or bring withing the school.

Ms. Grandison stated that the Education/Youth Committee is here to partner with the schools and see what they can do in other areas that they may be able to allocate or provide resources. She said that one of the things they would like to do is be there in anyway possible for the schools they love to advocate. She stated that she would love to see him at the meetings as well as the principal, teachers, the kids, and the parents.

Mr. Jeanty stated that he would like to make sure that the students are aware that there is a community board in their community and bring awareness to the students in the community.

Ms. Grandison thanked **Mr. Jeanty** for attending and stated that they will keep in touch and asked **Ms. Naudia Salvadon** to give a small presentation about her school.

Ms. Salvadon stated that they are currently virtual due to the space situation that she mentioned in the last meeting. She said that they have put a pause on looking for a location due to other issues but will pick up the pace at the end of this month. She said if anyone can point her in the right direction for a new location that would be greatly appreciated.

Ms. Grandison stated that there is a building on the corner of Avenue D and Nostrand across from Duane Reade, does anyone know what's in that building she thought it was a school.

Ms. Salvadon stated that she heard there were a number of schools that closed but is not aware of the locations.

Ms. Grandison stated that the building that she's speaking of is a newly developed building but she's not aware of what's inside the location. She told Ms. Salvadon to check out that space and see if it's available. She stated that CB 17 now has a news letter and she asked for some space and if she wants she can get a half of page but she believes she was offered a full page. She said that it will be their page and she would like to post information about there events and meetings. She stated that she would also like to open it up to the schools because she would like to showcase the poems or art of the students and it will be going out to the entire community. Ms. Grandison asked if anyone has any new or old business, hearing none she would like to asked for an adjournment.

Mr. Tait stated that before they end he would like to give them some information there was a robbery by gunpoint where they assailants dressed up like Con Edison and robbed the house and this happened on Winthrop and East 94th Street.

Ms. Grandison asked for someone to make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Tait made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Mickle seconded the adjournment.

There being no further questions or statements the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.