

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

*Minutes of March 8, 2023*

**YOUTH/EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

Gail Grandison  
Rodrick Daley  
Timothy Davis  
Monica McKain Brown  
Muline Mickle  
Ozni Lewis  
Jorge Tait

**ABSENT:**

Rose Graham  
Marcelle Sealy Welch  
John Genevieve

**EXCUSED:**

Joan Bakiriddin  
Barrington Barrett  
Patricia Reddock

**GUEST:**

Nicola Grant  
Emmanuel Jeanty  
Kamara Swaby

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*The Youth Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. virtually, via WebEx.*

**Ms. Gail Grandison** called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. She said that she would like for everyone to step up when having something to discuss and step back when others have something to discuss. She said they are a group of individuals who come onto the space with a mixture of knowledge and expertise in many different areas and she thinks that they all learn from each other. She wants them to show up and participate in an effort to be your best self, stories stay and lessons leave and multiple respectful of all opinions.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison, can everyone introduce themselves?

Everyone introduced themselves.

**Ms. Grandison** stated that the minutes will be tabled until they reach quorum and will now give the chairpersons report.

**CHAIRPERSONS REPORT**

**Ms. Grandison** stated that she will give a brief Chairpersons report. She said that the Commerce Committee will be hosting a Business Networking Breakfast on April 4<sup>th</sup>, located at Woodzzy 113 Clarkson Avenue, housing committee will be meeting tomorrow with a guest speaker, Monodock periodic gas piping, the meeting is opened to the public and the link to join the meeting is on the Community Board website. She said that the Transportation Committee is having a Transportation Forum on March 14<sup>th</sup> at Erasmus Hall which is open to the public as well. She stated that one of the issues they are facing is the Ride Share Program that was implemented without coming before the Board. She said that the forum will be covering several issues in the community. She stated that a business named the Citron Inc. and Clark Holding Company will be attending the General Board meeting requesting a zoning permit to build a storage unit at 5381 Kings Highway, 5 stories high. She stated that the Sanitation department is giving a presentation regarding changes in the garbage pick-up at the General Board meeting. She stated that the Shirley Chisholm center is asking for MWBE (Minority Woman's Business Enterprise) to submit proposals because they stated that 30% must for all people in the community who have small businesses or businesses that work in the construction area. She told the committee to share the information with small businesses that they are aware of in the area and all of this will be placed in an email

after the meeting has ended. She said that the SYEP are taking applications the ages are from 13 to 24 it can be submitted on the DYCD website and it is done by lottery but they won't know if their child or grandchild is eligible until they apply. She stated that the other part of SYEP called Ladders for Leaders it's for high school students and young adults.

**Question:** Ms. Mickle, are you saying that there are two SYEP programs?

**Ms. Grandison** said yes there's two, the only difference is Ladders for Leaders have to go on interviews and regular summer youth does not. She stated that this completes her report and she would now like for the guest speaker **Ms. Grant** from PS 235 to give her presentation. She said at the last meeting she did discuss the separation of the annex to PS 235.

**Ms. Nicola Grant, Principal of PS 235** stated that she was a teacher at 235 and was hired back in 2001. She said she taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade math and science in the main building and as the school grew **Ms. Knight** the principal at the time moved them over to the middle school on Flatlands Avenue in Canarsie. She stated that they were there quite a few years before moving back to the main building and the main building is located on Lenox Road directly across from Kings County Hospital and they have been at that specific location for about 40 to 50 years. She said that they were a High School back in the 80's but the elementary schools have been there for about 90 years they opened in the late 1920's. She stated that she moved on from 235 and started working for District 16 where she became a math coach for a couple of years before she was hired as an assistant principal for a high school, downtown Brooklyn for about 7 years. She moved on to adult education where she worked on Rikers island with incarcerated youths and young adults. She said that while she was there she was in contact with the principal at the time **Mr. Lawrence Lord** and after being contacted she left Rikers and went back to 235 as the assistant principal up until the pandemic when they went into lockdown. **Ms. Grant** stated that not only being an educator of PS 235 I had a student so even when she wasn't an employee of the school she constantly spoke highly of the school about the programs they offer in all fields especially art which actually comes out of their budget.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison asked Ms. Grant, are any of these programs opened to the public?

**Ms. Grant** said that they have not in the past under the other administration but is very interested in this idea. She said one of the other schools she worked for had a program where the children went to Paris for spring break because they were learning French. She said that she would like to take her students to Lincoln University, it's a very prestigious black university and she knows it's in Pennsylvania but she would still like to take them.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison said that she mentioned that the symphony art space comes out of your program, does all of the programs come out of your budget?

**Ms. Grant** stated that all of the programs come out of their budget she manages the funding accordingly and then she prioritizes what's more important and what can wait. She said she then tries her best to recruit new students because with more students comes more funding.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison, how many students do you have?

**Ms. Grant** stated that they currently have 950 students.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison, being that you are losing the middle schools, are you in contact with the other middle schools to try and get your children in?

**Ms. Grant** said yes, PS 56, Meyer Levin and Brooklyn school of Science and engineering have been her support system. She said honestly she tried working with the parents and the children to try and find out what's

best for their children. She stated that she is working on the budget so next year she can get a social worker on fulltime.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison, what about the medical do you have a nurse's office?

**Ms. Grant** stated that they do have a nursing office.

**Question:** Ms. Mickle, what do you feel your lacking in the school?

**Ms. Grant** stated that she feels that they do not have enough enrichment programs for the students. She said one other thing she needs assistance with is covering the lunch periods. She said she do not have enough lunchroom assistance, one lunch room setting has about 200 children and not enough staff to cover them.

**Ms. Monica McKain-Brown** stated that she commends **Ms. Grant** for wanting the children to travel to colleges because when she worked the DOE she was able to do the same thing and it was a success. She said they were able to get the buses and lunches with the help of neighboring schools and the children they took were from 16 to 18.

**Ms. Grant** stated that they did have a program in the past called College Access and the colleges worked with them for the students to visit different colleges but the no longer have that funding.

**Mr. Ozni Lewis** stated that he would also like to commend **Ms. Grant** because his daughter is in her school and she is now excited to attend because of the different programs going on where she does not have to be in uniform everyday she gets to play dress up. He said coming from a private school where she only got to dress down on Fridays to being able to do it quite often is very welcoming. He said that he is big on technical and city schools for careers for the children even though some of the children aren't interested in college it gives them other opportunities to look forward to. He said he is willing to direct those parents whose children that might not be college bound right now and once they've entered their career they have options for receiving assistance to pay for college.

**Questions:** Ms. Grandison, what programs did you have to discontinue due to budgetary issues?

**Ms. Grant** stated that she had to discontinue the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music program where the children were taught how to play instruments she would like to be able to reinstate that program. She said they taught children from Kindergarten to 2 grades. She said that they need if permitted in her budget next year a morning program where they will have that physical activity. She stated that they need to play games and sports 1st thing in the morning because they open up the building at 7 and this should get them ready for the day as well as an afterschool program. She said they tried and it did not work out but they do have boy scouts every Friday.

**Ms. Grandison** stated that she was going to inquire about Saturdays but if they do not have funding for an afterschool program she decided against it.

**Ms. Grant** stated that they do have a Saturday program for the next 5 Saturdays but its only for 2 hours each Saturday, that's all they can afford.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison, what kind of program is that?

**Ms. Grant** stated that this program is academic based for the upcoming Math and ELA testing coming up soon. She said there are not a large number of children that attend because since its only two hours it's mainly targeted for the children that are in need of the program.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison, your school has no sports program?

**Ms. Grant** said no. She said in the middle school they have Pure Elements which is a culinary program but it's only in the middle school.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison, how strong is your PTA?

**Ms. Grant** said their very strong, very active, very visible, and very vocal.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison, how is the PTA fund raising structure?

**Ms. Grant** stated that they follow the chances regulations one in the fall and one in the spring.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison, why was the structure created?

**Ms. Grant** stated that they have rules and regulations that they must follow when it comes to funding.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison, do you have external funding sources that are sustainable?

**Ms. Grant** said no, they lost their title one the beginning of the pandemic, she's hoping to get that back and she can then fill out for certain grants.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison, how did you lose the title one?

**Ms. Grant** stated that the parents of the children were not filling out the lunch forms and it's about guidelines.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison, did they not understand the importance of the forms?

**Ms. Grant** stated that this year she used a different approach where she recruited the support of the PTA to reach out and hold different information sessions in multiple information sessions around filling out the forms and explaining the guidelines.

**Mr. Daley** thanked **Ms. Grant** for her hard work and dedication to the school and the quality of education the children receive in her school. He said he would also like to commend **Ms. Grandison** for her efforts to invite every school in the community to the table and do not hesitate to reach to the Board for assistance.

**Ms. Grant** thanked **Mr. Daley** for his offer and said her hopes for students are the hopes for her own child has always been about exposure and getting them to see as many success stories as possible. She said going back to something Mr. Daley just said one of the things she wants to do with our students is to take them to the African American museum in Washington, D.C. because it's important for them to see us in many different versions and our successes, working with the Shirley Chisholm park. She stated that when they first opened up, she's in walking distance from their she would walk down and ask, is the center open yet, are they going to partner with her school because she's not too far away and she would just bug them until she got an answer. She said that she would like them to have a partnership.

**Ms. Grant** stated that there getting the children out there and pushing the staff and for a lot of people she is an uncomfortable human to deal with because she's determined to get the exposure for their children. She said it's about getting them the exposure, connecting them with different sources and different individuals and different opportunities.

**Question:** Ms. Grandison asked Mr. Jeanty, do you think it would be possible for Meyer Levin to partner with P.S. 235 on some things?

**Ms. Grant** stated that she's sure there are somethings they can partner with. She's thinking about her elementary school moving up to middle school. She said one of the things she wants in her school is a band and she's aware that Meyer Levin has a Band. She said she would like to get her 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders over to there school for an afterschool program for band, as an incentive because the children are doing well in school.

**Mr. Jeanty** stated that one of the things he always wonders how to do was to create a pipeline from elementary to middle school. He said one thing he likes about Meyer Levin is the different programs they have and this is the first time he worked in a school where the educators are predominantly black. You know, um, you know, create that exposure by talking about goals, you know, what do they want to do when they move on talking about career options but also have an input from other students because they hear the same message from the educators all the time. He said he feels it's important to hear it from some of their peers, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader, or a senior. He said they also have a couple of pretty good afterschool programs. He said there's a program called NY Edge and there's a program called the Suns program. He stated that the suns program brings in the sports element so when he returns to school he would like to bring this to the attention of the powers that be and see how they can continue to bridge that gap. He said they have a lot of students that come to Meyer Levin and he feels it would be great to know about the students before they transition over and they would like to do the same thing with their students when they transition over.

**Ms. Grandison** stated that she enjoyed this conversation and have a lot of work to do.

**Mr. Lewis** stated that he is running for school council and one of the was to make changes is to work with them.

**Mr. Davis** stated that the things is important to get people involved with the community Board to not only establish partnerships with the schools but to also have the Community Board establish partnerships with the schools as well. He said that a lot of the parents are not aware of the community board or what the community board entails. He said it's about advocacy and getting the community more involved with the Board. He stated that the Board should visit the schools and inform them of the agency's duties.

**Ms. Grant** stated that this is a great idea and she will be looking forward to the visit.

**Mr. Jeanty** stated that he will speak with the principal and the PTA and he also looks forward to the visit.

**Ms. Grandison** stated that it's 9 pm and they need to be mindful of the staff time but she will allow Mr. Daley to speak for 30 seconds before closing out the meeting.

**Mr. Daley** stated that **Mr. Davis** discussed some of what he wanted to discuss. He said he was at a meeting last night that discussed poisoning and other things and if there schools or other schools would attend the General Board meeting he would be able to get this type of information for themselves and take back to their schools. He stated that there are issues that effect everyone in the community that the Board is working on and they all need to be aware and a part of the discussions and decisions. He said that the General Board meeting is held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday.

**Ms. Grandison** thanked **Ms. Grant** for attending and stated that they are still looking for a location to host the spelling bee on a Saturday and was wondering if Ms. Grant or **Mr. Jeanty** wouldn't mind them hosting it at their schools.

**Ms. Grant** stated that they can definitely discuss it.

**Ms. Grandison** stated that **Ms. Grant** can attend meetings whenever she can and she definitely would like to continue discussing funding and is available to attend any of the college tours and travel with them to the

Museum in Washington. She said they have quorum and she would like for the minutes to be approved unless they have any corrections.

**Mr. Jorge Tait** stated that the only corrections he sees is that he was at last months meeting and he is not listed as attending.

**Ms. Nadine Lyons** stated that she would make the corrections.

**Mr. Lewis** made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections.

**Ms. McKain-Brown** stated that **Mr. Jeanty** name is missing the A.

**Mr. Davis** seconded the motion for the minutes to be approved pending corrections.

There being no further corrections the minutes were approved.

**Ms. Grandison** asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:09 pm.

**Mr. Tait** stated that he would like for everyone to be careful because COVID is still active he tested positive on February 23 was cleared for 5 day and today he tested positive again.

There being no further questions and statements the meeting was adjourned.