



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Michael Budabin, **Chair** / Joseph Marziliano, **District Manager**

TO: All Board Members
FROM: Eileen Miller, Health & Human Services Committee Chair
Justin Chew, Education Committee Chair
DATE: January 25, 2022

On Monday, January 24, 2022, a joint meeting of the CB11 Health & Human Services and Education Committees was held via Zoom teleconference to discuss several issues.

Board Member's Present

Michael Budabin, Board Chair	Adriana Aviles, Committee Member
Henry Euler, 3 rd Vice Chair	Stephen Pivawer, Committee Member
Eileen Miller, Health Committee Chair	Carin Bail, Committee Member
Justin Chew, Committee Chair	Sharon Chin, Committee Member
Lourdes December, Committee Member	Fleur Martino, Committee Member
Jena Lanzetta, Committee Member	Susan Cerezo, Committee Member
Stephen Popa, Committee Member	Albert Galatan, Board Member
Christina Scherer, Committee Member	Paul DiBenedetto, Board Member
Rosemarie Guidice, Committee Member	

CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager
Jane Bentivenga, Community Coordinator

Guests

Michael Athy, outgoing Principal, Bayside High School
Tracy Martinez, incoming Principal, Bayside High School
Peter Georgatos, Assistant Principal, Benjamin Cardozo High School
Warren Brand, Branded Arts

Mrs. Miller started the meeting by going over information and guidelines related to the Covid-19 pandemic. She reviewed the most up-to-date data from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) regarding mask wearing, testing and vaccines. You can call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692) in New York City to schedule at-home vaccinations or find vaccination sites. Korean Community Services in Bayside is currently doing testing and vaccinations. Mrs. Miller said if anyone has any further questions, they can email her.

Mr. Chew stated that he felt a joint meeting was warranted to discuss quarantine protocols and the ever-changing guidelines in NYC public schools. He introduced Mr. Athy, who thanked CB11 and its Education Committee for all the support given to schools over the years. He stated that Bayside High School had their tenth straight year of above 99% graduation/college acceptance rate. Enrollment has been kept at an acceptable level. They are currently at 146% but in a multi-session environment, it works. He said there will be a biodome behind the school. He also said that use of the school by community groups is yet to be determined as this is dependent upon Covid-19 protocols. Mr. Athy also stated that his last day will be Monday, January 31, 2022.

Mr. Athy gave the floor to Ms. Tracy Martinez, who introduced herself as the incoming principal of Bayside High School. She spoke about how staffing and school attendance has been greatly affected by Covid-19. She stated that her goal is safety for all staff and students and talked about the distribution of Covid-19 test kits and masks every Monday. She also said that they hosted a town hall last week regarding Covid-19.

Ms. Martino spoke about the new guidelines from the CDC such as no longer notifying close contacts after a positive Covid-19 test and instead doing at-home testing and changing the quarantine period to five days (down from 10) and an additional five days of monitoring. She questioned how this, and self-reporting worked in schools. She also asked how the Community Board can support schools. Mrs. Miller stated that the change to five days is based on the newest research regarding the infectious period of Covid-19. Mr. Athy spoke about how the CDC's recommendation in the reduction of social distancing allowed Bayside High School to avoid five split sessions which would have required classes to be scheduled from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. He also said that operating at the beginning of the school year under the DOE centralized system of testing, which quickly became overwhelmed, did not work. The new protocols of home testing and in-school testing work better. Ms. Martinez added that the Board Members staying informed and being aware of and understanding their limitations is a great help. She looks forward to their partnership with CB11.

Ms. Chin inquired about recent student strikes and asked if our district experienced any. Ms. Martinez said some students did walk out of school. They circled the block and returned to the building. Mr. Chew stated that students from Cardozo High School participated as well. Due to weather conditions, it was conducted inside the building. Mr. Chew offered his congratulations to Mr. Athy on his retirement and Ms. Martinez on her new position.

At this point, Mr. Chew recognized Mr. Galatan who spoke about the removal of impartial hearings regarding special needs students who have an IEP (individual education placement). He reviewed the process and said that if a parent does not agree with the plan for their child, it goes to an impartial hearing and a hearing officer is assigned to the case. There are over 60 hearing officers in New York City at the present time. Most of these officers have over 40 years of experience. Currently, there are two proposed bills; Assembly 7943 (withdrawn) and Senate 7189 that recommend this process be executed under the auspices of OATH (Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings). He stated this can be a costly process. If payment can't be made, the person loses by default. Mr. Galatan made a motion to recommend opposition to Assembly Bill 7943 and Senate Bill 7189 which would change the OATH decisions regarding special education hearings. Mr. Euler seconded the motion. Mr. Budabin said that he would like to hear from the sponsors of these bills as well. Mr. Galatan said he did reach out and invited them but received no response. Mr. Chew requested they be invited to our next meeting. Mr.

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Budabin agreed but recommended going forward with tonight's vote. A voice vote was taken resulting in 15 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstentions. The motion carried.

Lastly, Mr. Chew spoke about a mural project at Benjamin Cardozo High School. He stated 20 murals will be painted outside and inside of the school. Mr. Chew introduced Peter Georgatos, Assistant Principal of History, Cardozo High School who spoke regarding this mural project. Mr. Georgatos introduced Warren Brand of Branded Arts who shared a Power Point presentation and explained this art installation project. Local, national and international artists will be represented. Mr. Brand said they need to raise funds and stated there will be a mural festival the last week in May 2022. He invited all to come to see the completed art projects. Mr. Marziliano asked Mr. Brand for information to be put in CB11's weekly digest. Ms. Bail thinks this is a terrific project and will do anything she can to help. Ms. Aviles asked if there are any financial sponsors and how will the project be funded. Mr. Brand stated it is privately funded. There will be no logos or signage of any kind on the artwork.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted 1/26/22