April 4, 2017 Education, Culture & Youth Committee
Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Diane Norris, Chair; Linda White, Co-chair; Bernadette Ferrara; Danny Monti; Gabriella Musto; Shradhanand Pirtam; and Marnie Rodriguez.

GUESTS: David Nochimson, Van Nest/Pelham Parkway, Dawn Holloway, Morris Park Library Managers; and Sydney R, DOE.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

A presentation was made by Dawn Holloway:
1. Library Hours: Mon-Thurs 10-7, Fri- Sat 10-5.
2. 4/6 Wakefield Library events – Mon & Thurs. math tutor at Morris Park library.
3. Early Literacy Initiative
4. Reading Growth Calendar
5. Class sizes up
6. Children’s librarian hired
7. Teen information Assistant
8. Toddler Program 10-12 Wednesdays
9. Need bigger space
10. Math tutor who speaks Arabic.
11. Would like more homeworker helpers from teens

The committee asked questions regarding children coming from P.S. 83. 49th Precinct officers patrol in front of library 2:30-3:00 pm. Dawn spoke about how the staff handles any problems with students.

A presentation was made by David Nochimson:
1. Early Literacy Special Pre K selection of books
2. Support services with families of young children
3. Storytime for toddlers and babies
4. Increase class visits and visits to schools
5. Parent workshop and distribute kits.
6. Furniture for early literacy program to arrive. Opening ceremony to be held
7. Created new position educational books, e.g. SAT
8. Summer Reading Kick off
9. Story Walk in the park
10. Separate teen area for programs and to be used by teens
11. Educational books SAT prep etc.
12. April flyers
13. Adult Calendar
14. Play Streets

Sydney R gave out fact sheets on lead testing in the schools. Results to be sent to elected officials and schools when completed.
Questions were asked regarding budget requests. Ms. R will get back to committee on items she did not have answers to.
1. P.S. 76 – Technology Upgrade – needs to be funded by elected officials.
2. Bronx Park Middle School – needs to be funded by elected officials
3. P.S. 89 – funding for auditorium seating from Councilman Vacca, technology upgrade from Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
4. P.S. 121 – technology upgrade funded by Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
5. J.H.S. 144 – technology upgrade funded by Councilman Vacca
6. The issue of transgender was raised and Ms. R stated that there is a liaison who works with the schools, and that programs are in the works.
7. Nutritional Programs – Ms. R will get back to the committee
8. Transportation – metro cards are issued for students who qualify, pickups by yellow busses are available.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes taken by Diane Norris, formatted and edited by Staff.