



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

**1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457**

Telephone: (718) 579-6990 Email: [bx06@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bx06@cb.nyc.gov) Website: [nyc.gov/bxcb6](http://nyc.gov/bxcb6)

*Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President*

*Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member*

EVONNE CAPERS  
Board Chairperson

RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT  
District Manager

**Youth and Education Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM  
Laura James, Youth and Education Committee Chairperson**

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, January 13, 2025 both in-person at the district office and via Zoom Video Communications. The following Board Members attended the Youth and Education Committee meeting: Brigette Brantley (virtual), Cornell Brown (virtual), Ashonda Culcleasure, Fousani Hamidou (virtual), Frank Franz, Gail Irby, Laura James, Julio Jimenez (virtual), Magdamary Marcano, Reggie Powell, Carol Robinson, Gladys Sotomayor, Annette Wright.

The Youth and Education Committee discussed the following information:

- **Discussion on the Fordham University's Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) Club Ban**

Representatives of the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) at Fordham University addressed the Youth and Education Committee regarding ongoing challenges with university administration. The speakers stated that YDSA was founded in 2023 and has repeatedly sought official recognition as a student club, but approval has remained stalled despite student government support. The representative described their work distributing free contraceptives, including Plan B and condoms, to students and community members, citing public health and accessibility concerns. They reported that Fordham University has threatened academic repercussions for these activities, including when distribution occurred on public property off campus. Members were reportedly subjected to investigations, resulting in some leaving the organization out of fear of disciplinary action. The representative noted that a student government-approved proposal to allow student-led contraceptive distribution was canceled by university administration shortly before a scheduled meeting. They stated that administrative "backlog" has been cited for delays in both the proposal and the club recognition process. Students reported they are still awaiting an administrative hearing for the club to understand whether they can be recognized by the university.

The Youth and Education Committee asked clarifying questions regarding the group's off-campus activities, university affiliation, and legal considerations. The representative emphasized they operate independently of Fordham University and that their activities are legal and conducted on public property.

The representative requested support from the Board in the form of public acknowledgment, a letter, or other action to raise awareness of the situation and to discourage retaliation against students. The Board requested a brief written summary from the group outlining their requested assistance and agreed to consider the matter further.

- **Discussion on the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Giveaway and Holiday Party Event**

The Youth and Education Committee reported on the successful holiday event, highlighting strong collaboration among board members and volunteers. The event drew a large turnout, with more than 400 attendees and over 300 toys distributed, in addition to food and refreshments for participants. Committee members coordinated toy and food donations, flyer distribution and social media outreach, decorations (many of which will be reused for future events), music, and face painting. The total budget of approximately \$2,800 was fully expended. The Fordham Leadership Academy also provided assistance with event setup and on-site support.

The Youth and Education Committee discussed the potential of establishing the holiday event as an annual tradition, tentatively proposed for the second Saturday in December. Committee Members noted the need for a larger venue and additional resources due to capacity limitations and discussed the importance of initiating fundraising efforts earlier and securing additional partnerships to support future events.

- **Discussion on the Bronx Community Board 6's Youth Program Evaluation Project**

The Youth and Education Committee discussed a proposal to engage a consultant to conduct a year-long evaluation of city-funded youth and afterschool programs operating in the district. The proposal aims to provide the board with clearer, more uniform information about program performance, as existing city and state evaluation data is complex and not easily comparable. The consultant would analyze available agency data, develop and administer surveys to program providers and participants, and support site visits by board members, culminating in a written report and a convening of local providers to discuss findings and best practices. Members discussed the scope of programs to be included, funding sources, and the potential value of the evaluation in helping the board better understand program effectiveness and make informed recommendations to residents and city agencies.

The committee considered advancing the proposal to the full board for further review. A motion was made by Gladys Sotomayor, second by Gail Irby, and was unanimously adopted by the Youth and Education Committee members.

- **Update on the New York Yankees Community Youth Leadership Award**

The Youth and Education Committee discussed the upcoming release of the Yankees Youth Leadership Award application. It was agreed that outreach and promotional efforts would take place throughout February, with the application deadline set for early to mid-March. Applications will be reviewed at the March committee meeting, and only complete and eligible submissions will be presented for consideration. The Youth and Education Committee will coordinate outreach efforts with the Fordham Leadership Academy, as well as local high school teachers and youth programs, to promote the opportunity. A promotional flyer will be prepared and distributed to Board members, and the submission deadline will be set a few days in advance of the March committee meeting.

- **Review of Committee Meetings Quorum Records**

The Youth and Education Committee reviewed and discussed committee meeting quorum records. We addressed quorum requirements and the inconsistencies in their application during committee meetings. It was clarified that, pursuant to the New York State Open Meeting Law, meetings and votes require a majority of committee members to be physically present. Virtual participation is permitted only under limited circumstances. The Youth and Education Committee members noted that quorum has frequently not been met, which limits the Board's ability to conduct official business. To address this,

starting in February, the Board will begin enforcing stricter quorum requirements. These measures include more rigorous standards for virtual attendance and earlier quorum deadlines. Additionally, the Executive Committee will meet to review attendance and overall committee structure. The Youth and Education Committee also discussed potential strategies to improve in-person participation, such as consolidating committees, improving communication, and adjusting member assignments. The Youth and Education Committee members acknowledge the prior confusion regarding these rules and are committed to establishing clearer expectations moving forward.