



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 Website: nyc.gov/bxcb6
Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President
Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member

EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

RAFAEL MOURE-PUNETT
District Manager

Youth and Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Laura James, Youth and Education Committee Chairperson

The Youth and Education Committee met on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, both in-person and via Zoom Video Communications. The following Board Members attended the Youth and Education Committee meeting: **Brigette Brantley, Frank Franz, Gail Irby, Laura James, Julio Jimenez, Magdamary Marciano, Reggie Powell, Carol Robinson, Gladys Sotomayor, and Annette Wright.**

The Youth and Education Committee discussed the following information:

- **Presentation on the Love Back to School Drive and Community Basketball Tournament Funding Proposal 8/15/2026**

A funding proposal was presented by Brigette Brantley for the Annual Love Day Back-to-School Drive and Community Basketball Tournament, a longstanding community event entering its seventh year of service. The event provides school supplies, food, and community resources to local families and youth. This year's program is scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 15, from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Belmont Playground, with cleanup beginning at 4:15 PM. A rain date has been established for Saturday, August 22. The initiative aims to serve approximately 1,000 families, building upon last year's outreach to approximately 789 families. The event will feature the distribution of school supplies, a community basketball tournament organized in partnership with Earl Monroe High School and Nike-affiliated programming, and resource tables offering information and services from community organizations. Ms. Brantley requested \$100 in funding to assist with the purchase of school supplies, including notebooks and folders. Ms. Brantley also outlined plans to expand community partnerships through outreach to local Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), businesses, and media outlets, including BronxNet and News 12. She noted that the event has historically been community-led, supported by licensed security personnel, and has maintained strong neighborhood participation and engagement. Following discussion, Laura James made a motion to recommend approval of the \$100 funding request for supplies. The motion was seconded by Gladys Sotomayor and was unanimously adopted by the Committee.

- **Election of Committee Vice Chairperson**

The Youth and Education Committee discussed the need to strengthen its leadership structure and improve overall participation and quorum attendance in order to better support its growing workload. Committee members expressed strong support for increased engagement in youth programming and community-based initiatives. Following this discussion, a motion was made by Brigette Brantley to appoint Gladys Sotomayor as Vice Chairperson of the Committee. The motion was seconded by Carol Robison and was unanimously adopted by the Committee.

- **Discussion of Planned Activities and Initiatives for Fiscal Year 2027**

The Youth and Education Committee discussed several proposed activities and initiatives for Fiscal Year 2027, including the return of the Winter Wonderland Toy Giveaway and the development of a borough-wide Youth Talent Show. The Committee reviewed plans for the Winter Wonderland Toy Giveaway and discussed scheduling the event for the second Saturday in December. Given the anticipated high attendance, members emphasized the importance of securing an appropriately sized venue at no cost well in advance. Potential locations included Grand Slam Banquet Hall, Mount Carmel Church, local schools, senior centers, and church facilities. The Committee also explored opportunities to obtain sponsorships and donations from local businesses, banks, and community partners to support the purchase of toys, refreshments, and event supplies. Additional discussion focused on outreach to food vendors and securing in-kind contributions from local restaurants and partners, such as Chick-fil-A, as well as utilizing existing holiday decorations to help minimize event expenses.

The Committee also discussed organizing a Youth Talent Show as a new borough-wide youth engagement initiative, potentially to be held in the fall. Members proposed a format in which participants would submit short video auditions of approximately three minutes, with selected youth invited to perform in a live showcase. Discussion included organizing performances by age group, recruiting judges from local arts and cultural organizations, and identifying suitable venues, including schools, charter schools, community centers, and organizations such as the Madison Square Boys and Girls Club and Eagle Academy for Young Men. The Committee further reviewed logistical considerations, including staging, sound systems, and technical equipment, while emphasizing the need for early planning, sponsorship development, and media outreach to maximize participation and secure adequate funding.

Additionally, the Committee introduced a proposed Anti-Vaping Initiative focused on youth education and prevention. The initiative would engage local students in the creation of anti-vaping and anti-drug awareness campaigns through videos, skits, and interviews designed to educate their peers about the risks associated with vaping and substance use. Members discussed partnering with community organizations to provide incentives, resources, and support for participating students, with the goal of launching the campaign during the fall season.