

**Minutes of the Youth Committee Meeting
Bronx Community Board 8**

Monday, October 21, 2024, 6:30pm

Location: Bronx Community Board 8 Office, 5676 Riverdale Ave Bronx, NY 10471

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYgC2Rk1oB4>

Attendees

Committee	Cesar Tobar- Acosta (Vice Chair), Ramdat Singh (Chair), Kevin Wade, Karen Walker
Bronx Community Board 8	Julie Reyes (Chair, Bronx Community Board 8), Constance Barnes Watson
Community Board 8 Staff	Farrah Kule Rubin, Ardhmir Malziu
Guests	Kevin Melendez, Summer Johnson, Jovon Tra (KHCC), Andy Geagan (KHCC)

The meeting commenced at 6:32 pm

1. **Welcome & Introduction of Committee Members & Guests**
2. **Approval of Committee Minutes – September 16, 2024**
The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **2024 Comeback Kid Achievement Awards**

The committee presented the 2024 Comeback Kid Achievement Awards to recipients Kevin Melendez and Summer Johnson.

4. **Chairperson’s Report**

Thank you to our Vice Chair Cesar for giving a short report at the October Full board meeting. DYCD’s CRED representative will attend our committee meeting either in November or December to give a presentation on the CRED program for older youth. Thank you to Ardy and the Board Office for setting this up. The Fiscal Year 2025 Budget allocations for DYCD’s budget rose from \$1.33 billion in FY 2024 to \$1.39 billion in FY 2025, marking an increase of \$61.2 million. this year’s Adopted Budget increases funding for community development, runaway and homeless youth, and program services, which supports community development and youth services through contracts with community-based organizations (CBOs) across the city including initiatives like the comprehensive after-school system known as **COMPASS**,

youth employment programs, community economic development, and adult literacy and immigration support services.

In contrast, most of the cuts to CUNY proposed earlier this year remained in the FY25 Adopted Budget, with only \$15 million in restorations. CUNY's budget is slated to decrease from \$1.41 billion in FY24 to \$1.36 billion in FY25, reflecting a decline of \$48.8 million. Among the programs saved from the chopping block were CUNY Accelerate, Complete, Engage (ACE) and CUNY Reconnect.

5. High School Summit Event

Board Member Constance Barnes Watson presented on the High School Summit Event, which will be postponed to the Spring. The event is geared towards all Bronx High School, junior, students. There will be translation services in Spanish at the event. Board Member Constance Barnes Watson will return to the committee to present on the new event date.

6. Updates from Kingsbridge Heights Community Center

Kingsbridge Heights Community Center presented on the program and offerings they have coming up. They are working with Seniors on college essays through their College Directions Program.

7. Old Business

Committee Goals and Priorities: The Committee discussed a youth survey to find out the community needs. The Committee would like to have a joint meeting with the Committee on Education, Libraries and Cultural Affairs, where the Administration of Child Services and Department of Education are invited to discuss their initiatives for youth in schools. The Committee would like to continue develop a partnership with the two universities, Manhattan and Mount Saint Vincent, for programs that will benefit the youth and various college programs. The goal of the committee will be to create a handbook and a Spring youth fair.

8. New Business

No New Business was raised during this time.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Minutes Prepared by Vice Chair Cesar Tobar-Acosta
Minutes Reviewed by Chair Ramdat Singh