

Community Board #3

655 Rossville Avenue
Staten Island, N. Y. 10309

Youth and Education Committee Minutes

November 4, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Harold Kozak, Chairman Youth & Education
Verna Lauria
James Mahaney
Kasey Gaeta
Daniel Ajello

GUESTS:

Kellie Phelan, HOUR Children
Martha Deephanphongi, New York Public Library

Harold Kozak commenced the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

The committee discussed the advantageous and disadvantages of the concept of Charter Schools. Casey requested more speakers to make presentations on the subject so members have more information to base their judgment. Harold stated he believes smaller class size and more academic freedom are good aspects of charter schools; however, he is opposed to merit pay for teachers. Dan felt that too much time is spent on preparing for tests. James objects to the changes in math every year. Verna stated there is more parent involvement at a charter school and this may be why students do better.

Martha Deephanphongi reported the Todt Hill Library branch is open Monday – Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m... Friday and Saturday 9-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m.

Kellie Phelan, a mentor with the HOUR Children program, discussed the program and its history. This program helps unite formerly incarcerated women with their children. Ms. Phelan gave birth to her daughter while incarcerated in prison for drug use. HOUR Children supervises the nursery on Riker's Island. She distributed brochures to committee members. The program is seeking mentors to work with children offering support, friendship, guidance, homework help for an hour or two weekly. Volunteers are mentors who serve as role models, not caretakers, for children who are matched to them within their areas of interest as well as gender.

Casey suggested that Community Board 3 members organize to donate food, clothes, furniture etc. at the December General Board Meeting.

The next Youth and Education Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Kozak, Chairman
Chairman of Youth & Education