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**Family Advisory Board #20**  
**Thursday, December 12, 2019**  
**The Morris Koppelman Center**  
**6:00pm - 8:00pm**

**Attendance**

- 4 UB backbone staff (Kassa Belay, David Harrington, Danielle Augustine, Amelia Thompson)
- 14 FAB members
- Maylene Thurton, Chief of Staff to NY State Senator Roxanne Persaud, representing NY's 19th Senate District

**Objectives**

1. Revisit Shane's Inspiration Playground
2. Discuss FAB Leadership
3. Review Family Ambassador Opportunity
4. Determine Excel Training dates

**Meeting Takeaways**

- UB will follow-up with Shane's Inspiration to pose questions that were raised concerning the current park section of Osborne Park
- UB will establish a selection process for the FAB Fellowship that is consistent with the FAB's views on a fair and equitable process
- FAB members will follow up with Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel to sustain her engagement with UB
- FAB members are invited to take on more co-facilitation roles with UB backbone team, follow up to come

**News and Updates**

- DTB Learning Landscapes: Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (official launch date)
- Family Co-Op will launch a third site: : Riverdale Avenue Community School will have their first gathering on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Books for Brownsville: 9 providers participated in Cohort II. In 2019, 20 providers across the two cohorts have completed both the implicit bias/anti-racism and literacy workshops
  - UB interested in receiving feedback from providers who are using curriculum to think about how to engage families

## FAB Fellowship Opportunity

- One FAB member a year will be selected to help organize professional development opportunities for the FAB
  - UB is interested in someone looking to grow skills in an office environment, however skills experience is not a barrier to selection
  - Fellow may work for 20 hours per week (expected to be mostly in the office rather than a remote role)
- Fair and equitable interview and selection process
  - Interested FAB members are invited to self-nominate
  - FAB will place a premium on those who could benefit the most from filling this position
  - Blind interview process: UB backbone team will administer interview process with criteria and questions proposed by the FAB | FAB reviews written responses without seeing the respondent
    - FAB panel creates [interview questions](#) (questions should not focus on education level or past but be forward looking instead)
    - FAB selects Fellow based on responses (FAB votes and person with most votes is selected. FAB will only see anonymous written responses)

## Shane's Inspiration Playground

- See [Shane's Inspiration Responses to Questions](#)
- Changes in Mayoral leadership may change NYC Department of Parks' expressed commitment to park selection and/or work in future years
- Questions related to Osborne Park selection
  - Is this park choice the best option for the community?
  - How does the location of the park facilitate or impede access to residents throughout Brownsville?
  - Was the park chosen to appease the City's interest in refurbishing this park?
  - Is this park choice only convenient for the City and Shane's Inspiration and/or does it match actual community need and interest?
  - Alternatives to consider regarding high cost and limited options for accessible bathrooms:
    - Could a park adjacent to a NYCHA community center or school with an accessible bathroom work? What about porta potties? Jonathan's Dream in Hartford exclusively uses porta potties, and parks like Prospect Park have them year round.
- Osborn Park concerns:
  - It is not centrally located within Brownsville, and many FAB members don't know where it is. It is not central to any neighborhood but rather on the very southern edge of Brownsville bounded by a mini strip mall to the west and an industrial/non-residential area of Canarsie to the south across Linden Blvd. In terms of transport accessibility, there are bus stops nearby but no subway. And there are concerns about pedestrian safety and air quality because there are 8 lanes of traffic on Linden Blvd there, and the crossings are dangerous.
- Senator Persaud's representative
  - Will look to see what funding has been allocated for parks in Brooklyn slated to be disbursed

- Startup budget offered to help maintain park
- One liaison is not enough to support this project, as suggested in the IMSI Responses document- minimum of two FAB member liaison team for this role.
- Councilwoman Samuel, Councilwoman Barron and Senator Persaud will be helpful allies
- To generate excitement throughout community, consider having students and adults including FAB members serve as advisory board among other community representatives to help inform design and build community awareness about project
- Consider Borough President and Community Board

#### Next Steps:

- UB and the FAB will organize visits to parks in the community
- UB will ask about creative solutions for alternative restroom options
  - Consider porta potties or NYCHA development where public restrooms may be
- UB and FAB will identify the preferred criteria for park selection
  - Easily accessible and centrally located in Brownsville for children to access
- Request list of parks from Parks department that they are willing to consider for this project
- Senator Persaud's representative will see which parks located in Brownsville have been allocated funding (local, city, and state)
- Identify the intergovernmental representative (Greenbook online) to build this relationship

#### **Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel**

- Three FAB members will ask for a follow up meeting with Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel to discuss sustaining her engagement with UB broadly and on the Inclusive Playground project specifically.
  - Ruth
  - Jamar
  - Taurean
- FAB will also keep Councilwoman Inez Barron in mind

#### **Excel Training**

- Professional development training in Excel is being provided by Atiba Edwards of the Brooklyn Children's Museum
- Training and potential dates will be shared via email poll

#### **Co-facilitation Interest**

- A number of FAB members expressed interest in the opportunity to co-facilitate future meetings. UB Backbone team to follow up
  - Ruth
  - Jamar
  - Athenia
  - Naimah
  - David
  - Taurean
  - Bashirah