



Home of the Warriors

Luisa Dessus Cruz, Middle School 302

681 Kelly Street, Bronx, New York 10455

Telephone: 718-901-3520/ Fax: 718-901-3529

<https://ms302x.echalksites.com/>

*If you can **imagine** it, then you can **achieve** it. If you can **dream** it, you can **become** it...*

DR. LIZA ORTIZ, PRINCIPAL

MR. MIKE MERCEDES, PARENT COORDINATOR

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

BERNADETTE PIZARRO

ROSNY JEAN-LOUIS

CLARIBEL PAYANO

School Leadership Team Meeting

November 20, 2025

In Attendance:

SLT Role	Name	SLT Role	Name
Member		Timekeeper	*Marie Lewis, UFT Designee
Member		Member	
Member	Jose Dennis, DC37 (excused)	Chairperson	Lisa Singletary, UFT
Member		Member	
Member	*Dr. Liza Ortiz, Principal	On call (Zoom)	0 people on Zoom
Member	Rev LaTicia Thompson, Parent	In person	A. Robinson, S. Taveras, R. Jean-Louis, T. Neverova, M. Mercedes,
Secretary	Jahania Pizzini, UFT (excused)		

The meeting, called to order at 4:36pm. Roll call conducted; No quorum . Meeting conducted as an Informational Session

Review of Previous meeting notes, which was an information session.

Opening Remarks

- Dr. Liza Ortiz requested to invite one CBO representative and one Title I Vendor to give their presentations.
- The school is in the process of changing its community organization.
- Question Raised: Did the school apply to become a CBO school or is this only for after-school programs?

Answer: This is for after-school programs only, not the full CBO model.

2025-2026

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- Previous concerns with New York Edge noted:
 - Quality of services provided to students.
- Vendors will periodically present proposals for after-school programs.
- Current After-School Landscape: Serving approximately 130 students, mostly lower grades.
- SEL Curriculum/Framework: Discussion on alignment with school-wide SEL initiatives.
- Elite Learners will complement existing programs and serve additional students, maintaining a unified school model.
 - Has been used in our school for different functions

CBO Presentation 1: Elite Learners (Each One, Teach One)

Presenter: Kimara Jackson, Founder & Executive Director

Applied for Compass After-School Grant through DYCD; school is eligible.

- Program Details:
 - Serves up to 132 students (focus on older grades).
 - 5 days/week, 3 hours/day.
 - Activities: Academic enrichment, leadership, STEM, physical activity, arts (dance, drama, visual arts), literacy.
 - Attendance incentives included.
- Meets all partnership requirements; can write the grant.
- Grant submission deadline: Next week; program starts in September if awarded.
- Agreements will be between DYCD, the school, and the CBO.
- DOE data and research gathered.
- Additional Highlights:
 - 15:1 student ratio in class support
 - 10:1 trip ratio
 - Adult staff only; younger staff serve as assistants.
 - Full-time support during the day to prepare for after-school and engage with students.
 - Violence prevention and mentorship programs included.
 - Same staff for day events and after-school activities.
- Provide Parent Engagement:
 - Orientation (virtual and in-person).
 - Attendance-focused meetings.
- Hands-On Approach:
 - The Executive Director personally oversees programs.
 - High standards for staff professionalism and safety.

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- Structured enrichment activities (e.g., DJ program, dance uniforms).
- Transparency:
 - Principal included in all emails.
 - Open reporting on payments and operations.
- Difference from Larger CBOs:
 - A smaller scale allows personalized oversight.
 - Strong focus on quality and accountability.

Title I Vendor Presentation 2: Prominence NYC

- Staff members lead their own departments and work in the industry.
- Programs Offered:
 - Podcasting: History, camera etiquette, group projects.
 - DJ/Mixing: Music production, blending genres, exploring music history.
 - Drones: Safety, camera angles, operations; certificate upon completion.
 - Audio Engineering: Hands-on with equipment, effects, production.
 - Songwriting & Instruments: Guidelines for creating music, teamwork, emotional expression.
- Additional Services:
 - Credit repair workshops.
 - Parent workshops (virtual and in-person).
 - Juvenile detention center partnerships.
- Logistics:
 - 55 sessions, 45 min–2 hrs each.
 - Cost: \$24,999 for 3 selected programs.
 - Equipment provided; staff are industry-certified.

Discussion & Q&A

- Questions on program structure, equipment needs, and scheduling.
- Emphasis on parent engagement and safe dismissal procedures.
- Literacy support and staff qualifications (many are former educators).

CEP (Comprehensive Educational Plan) Review

Progress Monitoring of CEP Goals:

- ELA: 8th grade on track; 7th grade needs focus.
- Math: 6th and 7th grades improving; 8th grade requires intervention.
- Science: Currently at 30% proficiency; goal is 50%.
- Behavior: Level 3 infractions on track for reduction.

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- Parent Engagement: Jupiter Grades access increased from 22% to 54%.
- Financial Literacy: EverFi program introduced; goal is 25% completion.
 - Trips: Planning Albany and Washington, D.C. visits.

Title I and School Budget Overview

- **Budget reviewed**
 - Current Vacancies:
 - Four paraprofessional positions.
 - One Foreign Language teacher vacancy.
 - One Guidance Counselor currently on leave.
 - Action Steps:
 - Substitute teachers have been placed through SubCentral.
 - Interested candidates should send resumes to Lortiz19@schools.nyc.gov.
 - Additional Support:
 - Purchased services from Practice to provide tutorial support for MLL (Multilingual Learner) classes.
 - Exploring additional service purchases from Practice to expand support.
 - Staffing Adjustment:
 - An ATR (Absent Teacher Reserve) has been placed at the school.
 - After-School Enrichment:
 - Programs have begun, including Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, and Swimming (starting December 13).
- **Title I Reviewed**
 - Purchases: Amplify Science, tutoring services, art integration.
 - Swag items requested by students (jackets, fanny packs, cardigans).
 - Parent requests for gym/dance uniforms.
 - Upcoming events: Open Safety meeting (Dec 18), PA meeting (Nov 25), DIY workshops.
 - Professional Development: Purchased services from Amplify Science to provide training for science and math teachers.
 - Tutoring Support: Purchased *Practice* tutoring services for 8th-grade classes with MLL (Multilingual Learner) students.
 - Arts Integration: Purchased services to incorporate art into the school environment through mural creation.
 - School Supplies: Continued procurement of essential classroom and office supplies.
 - Incentives: Purchased SWAG items for student and staff motivation.

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- Educational Trips: Organized school trips to the Capital Area, including Albany, NY, and Washington, D.C.
- Team Building: Scheduled team-building trips to Holiday Hills and Ramapo.

Parent Updates:

- UFT Homework Help- Dial-A-Teacher (212)777-3380
- UFT Tutoring and Education Support- (212) NEW-YORK (212)-639-9675
- Special Parent Meeting on 11/25/25

Next Steps and Action Items

- Determine whether to replace New York Edge.
- Complete Q&A for Elite Learners grant submission.
- Increase parent registration on Jupiter and NYCSA systems.
- Motion on floor to determine if SLT parent body needs to be removed due to attendance
- Motion to approve September through November's meeting minutes
- Bylaws need to be reviewed and approved once quorum is reached

Adjournment: 6:10pm

Next Meeting December 18, 2025 at 4:30pm in Room 112

