

BEDFORD-STUYVESANT YOUTH IN ACTION COMMUNITY CORPORATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEDFORD-STUYVESANT COALITION COMMITTEE

"I am now calling for a coalition of all leadership groups to look into the question of a Community College and other educational problems that confront the community, including Bedford-Stuyvesant Youth In Action, Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, Central Brooklyn Coordinating Council, Brooklyn CORE, the NAACP, the Urban League, the Ad Hoc Committee for Higher Education in Central Brooklyn and any other bona fide groups whose representatives are with us today." The above speaker was Walter C. Pinkston, moderator for Saturday's Mass Community meeting held at Stephen Decatur J.H.S., 272 McDonough Street. In response to the call the Bedford-Stuyvesant "Coalition on Educational Opportunities and Services" was born.

The birth of the "Coalition" was the highlight of the "Mass Community Meeting" on February 10, 1968, called by Bedford-Stuyvesant Youth In Action, the five (5) Neighborhood Boards, the Central Brooklyn Coordinating Council and the Ad Hoc Committee for Higher Education in Central Brooklyn.

The meeting offered a platform for a wide cross-section of the Brooklyn community concerned about the many unanswered questions pertaining to the proposed "experimental" Community College in Central Brooklyn. Among those present were Julius C.C. Edelstein and Dean

Joseph Shanker, representing the City University system. Also local political leaders, including Assemblywoman Shirley Chisholm and Senator William Thompson and Congressman Emanuel Celler. Also observed in the audience were Horace L. Morancie, Director of Models Cities for Central Brooklyn; Mrs. Almira Coursey of the local school system; Judge Thomas R. Jones, Chairman of the Board for Restoration Corporation; Mrs. Lucille Rose, of YIA; Mrs. Connie McQueen of Central Brooklyn Coordinating Council; Lionel Payne of Central Brooklyn Coordinating Council.

The questions addressed to Messers Edelstein and Shanker by the community people in attendance revolved around at least five (5) crucial issues concerning the Community College. They were:

1. Would the Community College be in Bedford-Stuyvesant?
2. Would the community have a voice in planning the curriculum and in the selection of faculty?
3. Would the community be informed about the money spent for the College "before" it is spent?
4. What did the term "experimental" mean in this particular instance?
5. Would the College be a two (2) year, four (4) year or six (6) year institution?

It became apparent after a time that Mr. Edelstein and Mr. Shanker were unable to answer the questions asked of them from the floor by the community persons present. This development prompted Waldaba Stewart, YIA's Associate Director of Programing, to remark that "Since it is apparent that the representatives (of the Board of Higher Education) are not sufficiently informed to answer our questions, can we, during this meeting today, redirect our energies towards

forming a group that can begin planning for a Community College to suit the needs of this community."

The "Coalition of Educational Opportunities and Services" will meet on Saturday, February 17th, at 10:00 A.M., at the YMCA, 1121 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn. The group plans to find the answers to the questions that the representatives of the Board could not answer to the satisfaction of the community - also to set up an Advisory Board to inform the Board of Higher Education of just what the needs of this community are.

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