

Pending committee approval

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

Minutes of the Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee

Held on February 25, 2025

[Meeting Recording](#)

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander

Johanna Edmundson

Emily Hausman

Adiana Rivera

Geogia Santiago

AFFILIATION

ELCA Committee, Chair

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

ABSENT

Constance Barnes Watson

CB8-Committee Member

Julie Reyes

Chair-Bx Community Board 8

Farrah Kule Rubin

CB8-District Manager

Guest

Carolyn Liv

Wave Hill

Rebecca Brown Barbier

Manager, Riverdale Library

Melissa Koszer

Spuyten Duyvil Branch Library

Maria A. Gomez

Jerome Park Branch Library

Bernadette Anand

Retired Educator

Valerie Kaufman

Retired Educator

The Meeting was called to order at 7:35PM.

The minutes of October 22, 2024, and December 11, 2024, were approved unanimously as written.

The Chair called on Carolyn Liv to inform the committee what is happening at Wave Hill. Wave Hill is one of the community's cultural institutions. Ms. Liv has worked at Wave Hill for 12 years and Wave Hill is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this summer. There will be many events open to the public. June 4 to June 8 there will be family activities. (Please check on Wave Hill's site for

for description of the events). July and first week of August will start the sunset events including a concert performance by Carnegie Hall. (Please check the Wave Hill schedule for date and time). Wave Hill is also interested in contacting members of the community who would be available to volunteer in some capacity. Ms. Liv said she would send the monthly newsletter to inform the community board of any future events.

The Managers of the three branch libraries, the Riverdale Library, Spuyten Duyvil Library and Jerome Park Library reported on programs available for adults, teens and elementary students, as well as toddlers with story time to enjoy. Please use their sites to read what they have to offer. You will be impressed by how much is available to the community.

The discussion about the elimination of the Federal Education Department giving the State jurisdiction over our children's education has caused alarm among teachers and parents. The educators who attended the meeting were concerned as to how this would affect Special Education students, which is now federally funded. The Pell grants at the college level would also be affected. The Educators felt this is being done because Public Schools are not keeping up with the level of teaching necessary, and the Federal government thinks vouchers and charter schools are the way to go. Congress would be involved in this drastic move. Covid has interrupted learning, as expected, and teachers are working hard to help students catch up. It is too early to get the whole dynamics, and we will monitor the situation.

The Chair sent out the budget letters to the principals to learn of their needs for their schools. Responses have been received, and the Chair will contact those who have not responded,

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander
ELCA, Chair