

Pending committee approval
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO.8
Minutes of the Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee
Held on March 28, 2023 on Zoom

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander

Constance Barnes-Watson

Moses Esema

Myra Joyce

Georgia Santiago

Judith Green

AFFILIATION

Chair, ELCA Committee

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CCM

ABSENT

Sebastain Chittilappilly

Margaret Della

Margaret Donato

Rita Pochter-Lowe

Ramdat Singh

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

GUESTS

Rebecca Brown

Aga Chen

Martha Gonzalez-Buitrago

J. Young

Araceli F

Manager, Riverdale Branch Library

Manager, Spuyten Duyvil Branch Library

Manager, Kingsbridge Library

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM.

The minutes could not be approved since there was not a quorum present.

The Chair gave her report as follows:

The Mayor is creating a new office in City Hall for early childhood and child care.

DOE and Department of Administration for Children Service failed to pay providers on time. The mayor shelved his plan to further expand pre-school for 3 year olds as some programs have gone unfilled or oversubscribed.

Summer Rising Program will give priority to students who attend DYCD after school programs of which there are hundreds instead of first come/first served.

NYCHA buildings are getting broadband installed which will be great for student residents. This was a long time coming.

The state tests will be given to the 3rd grade and 8th grade in April.

Columbia University will no longer require undergraduate applicants to submit their SAT and ACT standardized test scores becoming the first Ivy League school to permanently go test optional. This was started in 2020-21 and extended to 2023-24.

Discussion of Budget FY25: School Safety Officers maintain safe margins to combat increasing violence in the schools. It is important to have them in each school. Libraries budget is to be cut \$36 million in the Mayor's budget which might mean that libraries could have Saturday closings and shorter hours during the week. They also are well used for after-school activities and serve as a safe place for students. The staff of the libraries have created many programs over the years and now might lose them for adults and children. Two schools have also submitted their budget requests.

Four librarians attended the meeting and spoke about their programs. The Kingsbridge Library will celebrate its anniversary on June 28th.

Myra shared some Cultural affairs events such as a concert performed by the Riverdale Choral Society at Christ Church on Henry Hudson Pkwy. on May 7th at 3:00 PM. The Riverdale Art Association has artist's work at Gallery 18 at the Riverdale Y and at the Gallery 505 on West 235 Street.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Alexander, Chair
ELCA Committee