

PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

Minutes of the Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee

Held on November 22, 2022 on Zoom

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Constance Barnes
Myra Joyce
Ramdat Singh
Georgia Santiago
Judith Green

AFFILIATION

ELCA Committee, Chair
CB8, Committee Member
CB8, Committee Member
CB8, Committee Member
CB8, Committee Member

ABSENT

Sebastain Chittilappilly
Margret Della
Margret Donato
Rita Pochter-Lowe

CB8, Committee Member
CB8, Committee Member
CB8, Committee Member
CB8, Committee Member

GUESTS

Martin Wolpoff
Rebecca Brown- Barbieri
Areceli F

CB8
Manager, Riverdale Branch Library

The meeting came to order at 7:40 PM.

The minutes of the May 24, 2022 were approved as written.

The Chair reported that homeless children are largely an invisible population since National conversations focus on single adults who are visible. It is not focused on children, youth, families or education. Some districts do not report having one homeless student despite levels of financial need. But a Center for Public Integrity analyses of district level federal education data suggests roughly 300,000 students entitled estimated right reserved for homeless students have slipped through the cracks unidentified by school districts mandated to help them.

The Chair reported to the committee where the proposed project for the elementary school on the Visitation site at 160 Van Cortland Park South site. The Board had received the Environmental Assessment Study and the Negative Declaration which was shared with the Board. Traffic & Transportation Committee Chair Kelli Buford & Dan Padernacht met with a representative from Tishman Speyer to express their concerns regarding increased Traffic and concerns about entering and exits from the site pertaining to the 344 apartments in their proposed development. SCA were not available to meet with us before the issue was approved by the City Council. However, SCA agreed to a zoom meeting with the Chair, Laura Spalter, Charles Moedler, Land Use Chair and ELCA Committee Chair. After discussion of our concerns SCA agreed to a zoom meeting on December 9th. Since that time there has been litigation filed against SCA and were advised by their attorney that they will not meet with the residents. Some residents of 180 Van Cortland South have communicated with the Board expressing their concerns. These letters were forwarded to SCA for responses. The issue of the school will continue into the middle of 2023 when the school plan will be ready and SCA will again meet with the Board.

Although not in CB8, it is of interest that the Alfred E Smith Technical High School is going to receive old electric cars and trucks as teaching resources for their automotive program. School buses fully electrified in NYC alone would be equivalent of taking 650,000 gas powered passenger vehicles off the road and the goal is to ensure that state school bus fleet is zero emissions by 2027. The students will be trained to be technicians as electrical vehicles become the wave of the future.

Myra Joyce gave a report on the Riverdale Art Association.com website with new art displays. The Christ Church has several holiday events. Check their website for specifics.

Rebecca Brown-Barbieri, Manager of The Riverdale Branch Library reported what is happening at the branch and can be found on their website.

Unfortunately, our guest speaker, Councilman Eric Dinowitz, was unable to attend our meeting because he was delayed at his previous meeting. We will reach out to him again in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sylvia Alexander, Chair ELCA