

Pending committee approval  
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8  
Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee  
Meeting Held on February 28, 2023

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander  
Sebastian Chittilappilly  
Margaret Della  
Margaret Donato  
Moses Esema  
Myra Joyce  
Georgia Santiago  
Ramdat Singh  
Judith Green

AFFILIATION

ELCA Chair  
CB8-Committee member  
CB8-Committee Member  
CB8-Committee Member  
CB8-Committee Member  
CB8-Committee Member  
CB8-Committee Member  
CB8-Committee Member  
CCM

ABSENT

Constance Barnes Watson  
Rita Pochter-Lowe

CB8-Committee Member  
CB8-Committee Member

GUESTS

Aga Chen  
Rebecca Brown Barbier  
Peter Pamphile  
David Gellman  
Araceli F  
Shajada Brown  
Adele Crowe  
Ray Bromly

Manager-Spuyten Duyvil Library  
Manager-Riverdale Library  
Manager-Van Cortlandt Library  
CB8

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

The minutes of ELCA meeting held on January 24, 2023, were approved as written.

Parents of children who attend St, Gabriel Catholic School are very upset that the school is merging with St. Margaret Catholic school in North Riverdale. This is happening all over the city as the Archdiocese is closing schools.

CUNY reports that more than 70% of incoming students need remedial classes in reading and math.

Chair's Report:

Indigenous Studies teaching certificate to be introduced in NYC.

International Charter High School on the corner of West 231 Street is building a middle school on West 232 Street and Tibbett Avenue. Residents and elected officials sent a letter to SUNY that expresses their negative feelings as to the location chosen. It is next to a residential area and next to an active driveway which could be dangerous for the students attending that school.

Nothing new with SCA proposed school on the Visitation site.

Teaching reading is supposed to change to teaching phonics but Chancellor Banks is still talking about it but does not appear to be implemented yet.

Charter schools and public schools have lower numbers of students attending. The pandemic has made absenteeism higher than before.

Letters have been sent out to Public School Principals. Unfortunately, only two schools have responded. A reminder was sent out extending the due date, to March 10.

Managers of the Riverdale branch, the Spuyten Duyvil branch and the Van Cortlandt branch advised the committee of a proposed cut in the Mayor's Executive budget of \$36.2M. This would affect the programs and staffing the community now enjoys at all our libraries.

Under Cultural Affairs, Myra informed us about the Riverdale Art Society exhibit. Now at Christ Church, 5040 Henry Hudson Parkway. from 10:00am to noon daily until March 31.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander. Chair-ELCA Committee