

pending committee approval

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

Minutes of the Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee

Held on January 24, 2023 via Zoom

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander

Constance Barnes-Watson

Margret Della

Margret Donato

Moses Esema

Myra Joyce

Rita Pochter-Lowe

Georgia Santiago

Ramdat Singh

AFFILIATION

Chair, ELCA Committee

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

ABSENT

Sebastian Chittilappilly

Judith Green

CB8-Committee Member

Community Committee Member

GUESTS

Martha Gonzalez Buitrago

Peter Pamphile

Sergio Villiverde

David Gellman

Shajada Brown

Manager, Kingsbridge Library

Manager, Van Cortlandt Library

CB8

CB8

The minutes of November were corrected as follows:

Moses Esema was present in November, Constance Barnes-Watson was present in November and Judith Green was present but CCM was omitted next to her name. The minutes were passed noting the corrections.

The Chair reported that that the Chancellor is introducing deep breathing to help students with issues to cope. There is a problem hiring needed teachers because the supply is much less than previous years. There is more violence in the schools than in the past. English Language Learners got a reprieve from the English Regents in 2021-22 school year and only class grades were used which increased the graduation rate. However, Regents have returned in 2022-23.

The Chair shared the results of OMB on the FY2024 Budget Priorities response. PS 24Bx had their request for their 16 bathrooms rehab is being taken care of through the funding received from Councilman Eric Dinowitz. As always happens, many of our requests are not funded by OMB but elected officials pick up some of our requests. We will send out the letter to Principals again this year and hope for the best.

Martha Gonzalez, Manager at the Kingsbridge Library, gave a report on what is happening at her branch. They have a tutorial program for students with 4 Tutors and 3 Ambassadors. The Ambassadors are students from HS141 and HS368 to work with students who need help on any subject. The Debate Team from HS368 use the library for their research at the library on Saturdays. The Team has won several awards and are exceptional students. The libraries continue to go to schools to teach the students how to use the library for research and fun reading. Peter Pamphile, Manager of Van Cortlandt Branch Library, shared their College and Career Pathways Program which is so important since students need help with such an important time in their lives. They have a teen center and help adults learn to use devices they received as gifts. They have many other programs you can find on their site on the computer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
ELCA Committee