

pending committee approval
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee Minutes
of Meeting Held on May 23,2023 on Zoom

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander

Constance Barnes-Watson

Sebastian Chittilappilly

Margaret Donato

Moses Esema

Rita Pochter-Lowe

Georgia Santiago

Judith Green

AFFILIATION

Chair, ELCA Committee

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CB8-Committee Member

CCM

GUESTS

David Gellman

CB8

Margaret Della

CB8

Nick Dembowski

Kingsbridge Historical Society

Rebecca Brown

Manager, Riverdale Library

Martha Gonzalez

Manager, Kingsbridge Library

Rose McTigue

Aracelli F

Bristel Villa

Jody Colon

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM.

The minutes of April 25,2023 were approved as written.

Nick Dembowski, President of the Kingsbridge Historical Society, started his presentation of the acquisition of Edgehill Church, 2570 Independence Avenue, Bronx. He shared the history of the church as well as the beautiful stained-glass windows by noted Louis Tiffany. Edgehill Church was completed in 1889. It cost over \$7,500.00. The land was given to build a church by the wife of David Cox, a business associate of I. G. Johnson who owned and operated the foundry which was on the site of J. F. K. High School next to the Kings Bridge on site of U-Haul. Nick Dembowski showed slides of Riverdale with the new Edgehill Church when it

was newly built, before all the large buildings were built. It was breathtaking. The church is a Landmark building and when it is restored will be a community facility. Kingsbridge Historical Society will establish their headquarters in the church. We are so fortunate to have Edgehill Church in Riverdale.

Martha Gonzalez, Manager of Kingsbridge Library discussed the June 28, 2023 SAPO application "Summer at the Library-Hip Hop Celebration" to be held on West 231 Street, between Corlear Avenue and Tibbett Avenue from 10:00am to 5:00pm. The committee approved the resolution on the condition that 50th Precinct approves the event.

Chairperson's Report

NYC draft plans to shrink class sizes. UFT wants to know where the additional classrooms will be found. Changes will not go into effect until next school year. The Department of Education estimates spending \$1.3 million when fully implemented.

55% of the 12th grade students in NYC are chronically absent post COVID. Suspensions climbed during the first half of 2022-23 school year compared to the same line the year previous.

Libraries to receive \$36 million budget cuts. This will hamper vacant positions from being filled. Migrant children are being serviced with I.D.'s and Spanish books. The libraries are very welcoming.

A motion was offered to adjourn at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
ELCA Committee