

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
Minutes of the
Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee
Meeting held on January 23, 2024

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander

Jillian Baez

Sebastian Chittilappilly

Emily Hausman

AFFILIATION

Chair, ELCA Committee

CB8, Committee Member

CB8, Committee Member

CB8, Committee Member

Extraordinary Circumstances

Constance Barnes-Watson

Rita Pochter-Lowe

Geogia Santiago

CB8, Committee Member

CB8, Committee Member

CB8, Committee Member

ABSENT

Judith Green

CCM

GUESTS

Julie Reyes

Martha Gonzales

Aga Chan

Melissa Koszar

Stepheny Goggins

Chair, Bronx Community Board 8

Manager, Kingsbridge Library

Manager, Spuyten Duyvil Library

Children's Librarian, Spuyten Duyvil Library

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

The minutes of December 28, 2023, were approved as written.

The Chair presented her report. Emily Hausman thanked the Chair for her explanation of Mayoral Control of public schools at last month's meeting. The Chair added that the last public hearing on this issue will be on 1-29-24 in Staten Island. After the report is available, the state legislators will decide whether Mayor Adams will be in control for 4 years, as he has requested. The deadline is June 30, 2024.

Literacy is, once again, the focus of the Department of Education called “Science of Reading”, to begin next school year. It is rumored that phonics will play a role in teaching reading to students in pre-k, elementary, and secondary levels.

As tensions flare over Israel-Hamas war, NYC to train educators on having: “difficult conversation”. The city is updating its diversity training to delve more deeply into antisemitism and Islamophobia. Principals will be trained so they will have more leeway to crack down on bullying and other bigoted behavior.

Preliminary discussion ensued to prepare the budget priorities for FY26 Capitol Budget and FY26 Express Budget for Community Board 8 public schools.

The librarians of our local branches will contact NYPL for their budget needs since their funding is again in jeopardy. Although our branches did not have Sunday hours, the Sunday hours have been restored in New York City.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs

MEETING RECORDING LINK: <https://youtu.be/RtZWvlfJrE0>