

**(Pending Committee Approval)**

**Minutes of the Youth Committee Meeting**

**Bronx Community Board 8**

Monday, March 17, 2025, 6:30pm

**Location:** Bronx Community Board 8 Office, 5676 Riverdale Ave Bronx, NY 10471

YouTube Recording: <https://youtu.be/wuTozkgDkuY?si=6u4jEAr4HOELJYOL>

**Attendees**

Committee	<b><u>Present:</u></b> (2) Ramdat Singh (Chair) Caesar Tobar Acosta (Vice Chair) <b><u>Absent:</u></b> (2) Karen Walker (Zoom), Kevin Wade
Community Board 8	Sylvia Alexander
Guests	Senator Robert Jackson, Johanna Garcia (Senator Jackson’s Office), Dario Quinsac (Senator Jackson’s Office), Osvaly Jimenez, Arisbel Villa (LINC NYC), Alexander Betancourt (NYC DYCD)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

1 Introduction of Committee Members and Guests

2. Approval of December 2024 and February 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes

A quorum was not present, so the minutes could not be approved. The minutes will be tabled for the March meeting.

3. Chairperson’s Report

Welcome everyone to tonight’s youth committee meeting. [Summer Rising applications](#) deadline is March 28th. Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) application deadline has been extended to March 14th.

4. Presentation by NYS Senator Robert Jackson on S134/A118- “Solutions, not Suspensions”

Senator Robert Jackson, with his Chief of Staff Johanna Garcia and Senior Advisor Dario Quinsac, presented on the [“Solutions, not Suspensions” bill](#) (A118/S134). S134 amends the NYS School Conduct code to make suspensions a last resort, not a first response to disciplinary infractions, to include the usage of restorative practices such as peer-to-peer mediation, counseling, and parent conferences. The bill will reduce the maximum length of a suspension and will require that students who are suspended receive academic instruction and the opportunity to earn credit, complete assignments, and take exams. The bill will prohibit suspensions for minor infractions, such as tardiness, dress code violations, or insubordination. Senator Jackson and his team asked the committee for support from the committee, the

committee will explore a resolution for this bill.

5. Presentation by NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) on DYCD Programs in Community District 8

DYCD presented on the various programs in Community District 8. Some of DYCD's partners include the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center (MMCC), Good Shephard Services, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center (KHCC) and providers in the district schools.

6. New York Yankees 2025 Youth Leadership Award

The committee reviewed the applications and selected 5 nominees to recommend to the New York Yankees Award Committee.

7. Discussion of FY 2027 Priorities

The committee will finalize its budget priorities at the April meeting.

8. Old Business

No Old Business was raised during this time.

9. New Business

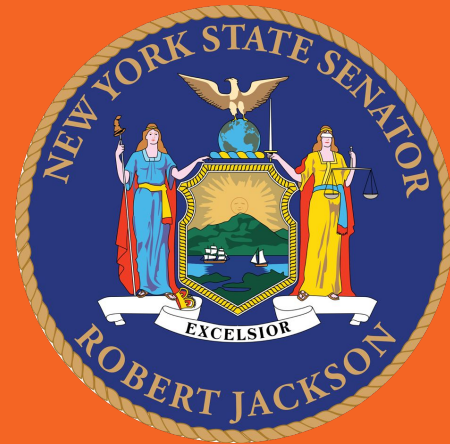
No new business was raised during this time.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

---

# Solutions Not Suspensions: Bill s134



# **NYS Senate Bill 2025- S134 (Senator Robert Jackson)**

# **NYS Assembly Bill 2025- A118 (Assemblymember Michaelle Solages)**

## **Education Bill**

**Reduces the over reliance on suspensions in disciplinary practices for students**

- In NYS public schools, Black and Brown students are suspended, removed or expelled at five times the rate of their white peers
  - Students with disabilities are suspended at a higher rate than their peers
  - Racial disparities in schools disciplinary action has resulted in students losing an estimated 686,686 days of school a year
  - Once students are suspended they are twice as likely to dropout and come into contact with juvenile justice systems
-

---

# Student Perspectives

*“One mistake like this should not take away and take advantage of my education, my social life, and who I am, but it did, and it has impacted me. By the time I could go back to school I didn’t even want to. I didn’t talk to my friends, I didn’t understand anything being taught, I didn’t wanna talk to the counselors, and I didn’t wanna be in the building. I’ve lost encouragement, I’ve lost my sense of stability, and I’ve lost me through all of this.” – Oriya Brown*

*“There were times when I would wake up from the sound of me gasping air. I wasn’t sure if punishment for the text was my illness. I wasn’t sure what was the point of my suspension.” – Alpha Diallo*

---

---

## **S134** What does the bill do?

Amends the NYS School Conduct Code to:

- **Make suspensions a last resort, not a first response to disciplinary infractions.**
  - **Include the usage of restorative practices such as peer-to-peer mediation, counseling, and parent conferences.**
  - **Reduce the maximum length of a suspension of 180 days (a whole school year!)**
  - **Require charter schools to follow state education laws on student behavior and school discipline**
  - **Require that students who are suspended receive academic instruction, and the opportunity to earn credit, complete assignments, and take exams.**
  - **Limit suspensions for children in the ages of Pre-K through 3rd grade to only the most serious behavior**
  - **Prohibit suspensions for minor infractions, such as tardiness, dress code violations, or insubordination**
-

# What is the Importance of State Senate Bill 2025 S134?

Allows students the opportunity to be held accountable, learn from their mistakes, and limit loss of learning instruction.

Provide age appropriate responses and measures to students' inappropriate behavior that are effective, holistic, and trauma informed.

---

---

# How can Community Boards help?

Community boards can play a pivotal role in the implementation of the Solutions Not Suspensions bill by fostering collaboration between schools, families, and local organizations. **We ask Community Boards to pass a resolution calling on the Senate and Assembly to pass S134/A118 aimed at solution and restorative based disciplinary actions for students.**

---

**School Solutions**  
**Not Suspensions**  
**has broad support**  
**from a coalition of**  
**partners and**  
**growing**

- Advocates for Children of New York
  - Alliance for Quality Education
  - Brooklyn Defender Services
  - The Bronx Defenders
  - The Center for Family Representation
  - The Children's Agenda
  - Children's Defense Fund-NY
  - Citizen Action of New York
  - Committee for Hispanic Children and Families
  - Families Together
  - Girls for Gender Equity
  - The Legal Aid Society
  - Mobilization for Justice
  - NAACP
  - The New York Civil Liberties Union
  - New York State Psychological Association
  - Urban Youth Collaborative
  - Future of Tomorrow
  - Make The Road New York
  - Sistas and Brothas United
  - We the Parents - Buffalo
  - Westchester Children's Association
  - The Wright Group
  - YWCA Brooklyn
-