

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 28, 2006  
AT RIVERDALE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

**PRESENT**

Anthony P. Cassino

I. William Stone

Bert Feinberg

Robert Bender

Philip Friedman

Bradford Trebach

Marvin Shelton

Robert Press

Gregory Adames

Glenn Encababian

Karen Green

Mark Botnick

Tiffany Carlo Correa

John DeSio

Nicole LaRosa

Sylvia Alexander

Community Resident attendees: Julie Prince, Alexa Lee, Florence Byrne, Unjoo Trebach,

Anthony Rivieccio, A. Carlo, Linda Lefson, Nina Blauner, John Congda,

Dawn Valez, Amy Moore, Claire Johnson-Harris, Elizabeth Glass Rich, Evgeniy Leyvi,

Ricky Martinez, Tracy Shelton, Laura Cassino, Nina Velazquez, Courtney White,

Tory P. Cassin.

**AFFILIATION**

CB#8, Chairman

CB#8

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CB#8

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

Mayor's Office

Region 1

Riverdale Review

Riverdale Press

CB#8 Clerical Associate

Meeting began at 7:50 PM. I. William Stone in the Chair.

Chairman invited Tiffany Carlo Correa, Director of Gifted & Talented Programs for Region 1, to make a presentation.

Ms. Correa explained that although Gifted & Talented programs exist in other parts of the City, it's the first time that such a program will be housed in Region 1.

In response to audience questions, Ms. Correa explained that the sites for the self-contained programs in Region 1 were selected by the Department of Education, not by Region 1.

Currently, there have been about 280 applications received in Region 1, with about 140 applications in District 10. She discussed why the program was publicized with ads in some Bronx newspapers and explained that the lack of ads in the 2 Riverdale papers was an inadvertent oversight. Ms. Correa discussed possibilities for how the program might evolve but said that no decision has yet been made about that process. Ms. Correa said the Gifted & Talented program will not necessarily harm the feeder school whose students are diverted into the host schools.

Various audience members disagreed and said that logically the feeder schools must be harmed if their best students are sent elsewhere.

The Committee discussed the fact that PS 24, a host school in District 10, has 3 times more children receiving special education services than PS 81, and that their grades are factored into PS 24's scores. In terms of assigning sites, Ms. Correa said the top 28 performers will be sent to their parent's first choice of school location.

Board Chairman Cassino expressed concern that to locate the Gifted & Talented program in only one or two schools will turn those host schools into prestigious Magnets that everyone will want their kids to get into. He expressed concern that this will eventually disadvantage the non-host schools, which will not be viewed as attractive alternatives. He predicted that this would create a serious imbalance between the community's schools.

Ms. Correa discussed the fact that non-English speaking students may take the Gifted & Talented test in their own language if they make it into the program. They will receive special ESL programming.

Discussion ensued about whether Gifted & Talented students can return to their old zoned schools if they leave the program. Ms. Correa said that depends on whether the principal will take them back. Either they will go back, stay where they are or be assigned somewhere else.

The question remained unanswered as to whether PS 24 will have 28 fewer seats for general population students as a result of being a host school.

The minutes of the October 24, 2006 meeting were accepted subject to a possible discussion at the next meeting of the Education Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM to a date and time to be fixed by the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradford Trebach  
Education Committee

BT:sa