

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2007
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

D. Bowden
J. Reyes
R. Press
K. Green
A. Ben-Merre
R. Bender
P. Friedman
M. Maher
K. Worchel
C. Prentice
U. Trebach
M. Shelton
I. W. Stone
S. Alexander

AFFILIATION

CB#8, Committee Chairperson
CB#8
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
CB#8
CB#8
Guest
Guest Speaker
CB#8
Committee Member
Committee Member
CB#8
CB#8, Clerical Associate

Karen Worchel , our guest speaker, who is the Director of the Marble Hill Nursery School, spoke about pre Kindergarten programs in general and specifically at her school. This was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson's report covered the following issues:

- Department of Education's Quality Review Reports rated 4 schools (PS24, PS81, PS/MS95 and MS/HS368) as "well developed" and MS/HS141 as "proficient".
- 15 new schools will open in the Bronx- 2 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, 2 MS/HS and 2 HS.
- Cell phones in the schools controversy continues.
- Although new funds (\$60 million) were placed into pre Kindergarten programs but Department of Education is negligent in opening needed classrooms; program is still limited to half-day programs of 2 1/2 hours.
- Comptroller claims violence in New York City High Schools are under reported.
- PS7 will receive a donation of 30 lap-top computers from PER SCHOLAS, a non-profit group, replacing those stolen this summer.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. Robert Press stated he wished to change his vote on the EMS station from “abstention” to “in favor”.

Discussion ensued on the new location for the EMS supply station, from CB#8 area to the Woodlawn area. The committee felt we should pursue this, enlisting the help of educators and local politicians.

Unjoo Trebach reported that a parent at her school could not engage in all PA and school activities because she is in a wheel chair and the school is not entirely handicap accessible. The committee will request handicap access for schools as one of its priorities in the next education budget.

Robert Press reported on the DOE’s HS drop-out rate and results of grades 3 thru 8’s ELA and Math tests.

Schedule of future Education Committee meetings and guest speakers:

October 23-new principal of PS24, Phillip Sayer Scharper

November 27-new principal of MS/HS141, Lori O’Mara

December 18-new principal of MS/HS37, Ken Petriccone

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bowden, Chairperson
Education Committee

DB:sa