

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HELD ON NOVEMBER 27, 2007
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

D. Bowden
A. P. Cassino
B. Feinberg
P. Friedman
M. Khury
I. W. Stone
S. Alexander
S. Acevedo Bracena
C. Cabo
Carol Cook
J. DeSio
J. Kuzniar
R. Martos
Dinowitz
R. Norberto
L. O'Mara
R. Press
J. Prince
Robin Schwartz
M. Shelton
C. White

AFFILIATION

CB 8, Committee Chair
Chair, CB 8
CB 8
CB 8
CB 8
CB 8
CB8
PA PS 81
PA PS 81
RKA PA
Riverdale Review
RKA PA
Rep. Assemblyman

RKA PA
MS141/RKA Principal
Committee Member
Parent Coordinator
Parent PS 81
Committee Member
PA PS 81

Chairperson introduced Lori O'Mara, new Principal of MS/HS 141 who announced upcoming events at 141. (50th Anniversary on June 7th). She spoke about the following items and responded to various questions by committee members:

- The High School has 8 AP classes, up from 5 last year.
- Middle School-new development of 8th grade math to align more with the state.
- Setting up Advisory role to SLT (School Leadership Team) to address school issues.
- 1240 students (575 High School and 665 Middle School).
- 4 lunch periods and the need for more sports programs and fields.
- Only Spanish language offered at school as opposed to 3 languages in the past. It is difficult for language programs to be shared by the Middle School and High School, so you need 2 teachers. She did not know about the Latin language offering by previous Principal.

- High School has 89.2% graduation rate (179-9th graders this year); No Ivy League Colleges had accepted 141 students this year.
- 30-34 students per class; AP classes have under 20 students.
- It was brought out that the school has dismal SAT scores, averaging 885 this year out of 1600 (447 in Math).
- 6th grade Honors Program: use essay, math test and 4th grade scores to determine placement.
- 141 is a safe school (no vandalism, just some graffiti on walls).
- Concerning AP classes which are 2 periods a day:
 - 16 out of 17 passed AP language last year
 - 80% passed US History
 - 30% passed AP Math, asked about plans to improve math & SAT scores, replied "working on it".
- PS 24's Gifted & Talented program will go on to some middle school.

The Minutes from the October 23 meeting were accepted as is. Chairperson then covered the following items.

- Published new school grades for schools in our area.
- School bonus pay for teachers for school wide students' gains.
- Regents push for more all-day pre-Kindergarten.
- Department of Education raises the bar for classes for gifted program.
- Reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind law this year. Congress promised to make important changes this year.
- Excellent program that Montefiore Hospital shares with local college students.
- Department of Education hiring 1300 new teachers to reduce class size in schools with large number of low performers.

Under new business, a proposal to expand the facilities of the High School at 141 and the Riverdale Community Center was sent to the Chairperson, who will mail it out to the members of the Committee for their review and comments.

Thanks to Robert Press for his excellent notes on this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bowden, Chair
Education Committee

DB:sa