

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8, BRONX

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HELD ON DECEMBER 18, 2007
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

D. Bowden
B. Bender
C. Prentice
J. Reyes
I. W. Stone
Sylvia Alexander
G. Encababian
K. Green
R. Press
M. Shelton
J. DeSio
R. Feinerman
K. Petriccione
R. Schwartz
M. Villani-York

AFFILIATION

CB 8, Committee Chair
CB 8
CB 8
CB 8
CB 8
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Riverdale Review
Professor, Lehman College
Principal, PS/MS 37
PS 81 Parent
Riverdale Press

Chairperson opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. She apologized to the members at the Education Committee who received an unauthorized E-Mail about the Educational Priorities Meeting held the previous night at MS/HS 368. Unfortunately, not all members received the notice which gave those, who did, only 55 minutes to attend.

Guest Speaker, Ken Petriccione, the new Principal of PS/MS 37 was then introduced; he covered the following items:

- PS/MS 37 is a Kindergarten through 8th grade school, with 572 students; most students are from Marble Hill plus 6 Special Education self-contained classes.
- the school just passed its quality review ("Proficient") and received an A in school progress scores.
- went up from 46.9% to 64.9% level in 3rd and 4th grade Math; 46% in Literacy.
- has after school and Saturday morning remedial program plus dance festivals, chess club and intramurals.
- they concentrate on the 3 R's, professional development of the Staff; have AIS (academic intervention sources)-small groups.
- they have a new Science Lab and specialists for Special Education classes (like O.T., P.T. S.& L.)
- other than raising Math and English scores, Parent Involvement is their biggest challenge.

Next Guest Speaker was Professor Robert Feinerman, Chairman of the Math Department at Lehman College. He spoke about "fuzzy math", and the Math Wars that have been going on since the 1980s:

- “Everyday Math”, is skills vs. concepts where students discover math on their own.
- CUNY Colleges complaining that NYC public schools students are not coming in prepared; have to offer remedial courses in Math.

The meeting resumed with a discussion on the two proposals to extend facilities at MS/HS 141 RKA by Fern LaDue and Principal Lori O’Mara. The following resolution was passed:

Community Board No. 8’s Education Committee is opposed to the taking of parkland for educational or other purposes.

Education Committee Vote:

In Favor: 6

Community Board No. 8 Members

B. Bender
I. W. Stone
C. Prentice
J. Reyes
D. Bowden

Community Committee Members

G. Encababian

Opposed: 2

Community Members

R. Press
M. Shelton

Discussion on extending or adding to the gymnasium at MS/HS 141 was tabled to a future meeting.

Minutes of the November 27th meeting were accepted with one correction to the attendance list.

Thank you to Bill Stone for his excellent notes on the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bowden, Chair
Education Committee

DB:sa