

## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

### MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 25, 2008 AT THE BOARD OFFICE

#### PRESENT

Debbie Bowden

Bob Bender

Julie Reyes

Gregory Adames

Sylvia Alexander

Aaron S. Ben-Merre

Glenn Encababian

Karen Green

Ray Norberto

Robert Press

The December 2007 Minutes were approved as written.

Chairperson's Report included the following items:

- Dr. Betty A. Rosa, our new NYS Board of Regents appointee has been contacted and invited to speak at the April 29th meeting.
- Chancellor has to cut 5% of the City Education budget.
- New City-wide survey will collect data from special education and charter schools.
- Mayor Bloomberg's controversial 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion plan was passed by the Panel for Educational Policy.
- Albany budget cuts to education wrecks new school construction and infrastructure improvements.
- New "Superprincipals" can earn a bonus of \$50,000 by heading the most difficult schools.
- Department of Education gave a 9% pay hike to a British firm of consultants that perform yearly school evaluations.

A round table of current education issues included a discussion on cell phone rewards, a 40% drop-out rate in high schools, math teaching issues regarding the federal report on math education, budget cut backs, lack of community involvement and parent involvement in current Community District Education Councils MS/HS 141's request for their gym expansion by the Principal to the School Construction Authority, and for the future, a suggestion that each member of the Education Committee be assigned to a school in the Community Board 8 area to report back and update information on the school.

A discussion on the budget priorities for 2010 ensued. \*The Committee felt that the EMS station should be discussed further; that the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct restocking station should be expanded so that all of the ambulances in the Community Board 8 area could use it to restock; and this capital/expense should remain on

our priority list, but further down. Here is a list of the Education budget priorities for FY 2010:

### **CAPITAL**

1. Immediate inspection of all public schools by the School Construction Authority and the allocation of funds to immediately repair these recently reported crumbling schools and infrastructure defects within the Community Board No. 8 area.
2. The reacquisition of the property known as the Whitehall Annex (3223 Independence Avenue) and other sites to serve as full day pre-kindergarten classes for the children within the Community Board No. 8 area.
3. \*See notes above on the acquisition of a site for an EMS station in Community Board No. 8 area / or expansion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct's restocking station, as stated.
4. The immediate inspection and reconstruction of all schools in the Community Board No. 8 area to ensure that they are in compliance with ADA or handicapped accessibility.

### **EXPENSE**

1. Funding for after-school educational/recreational arts programs, in particular remediation and enrichment programs for all of the schools in Community Board No. 8, including non-title No. 1 schools.
2. Complete the staffing of a full-time nurse, librarian, guidance counselor, a computer instructor (with lab technicians for science and computer labs) for every school.
3. Allocation of funds to provide for a meaningful reduction of class size in all grades.

These budget priorities were passed unanimously by a vote of 10 to 0.

By unanimous vote, the Committee nominated the following individuals / organization to receive Community Board No. 8's Community Service Award:

- Herb Barret and Dan Tannen for their continued fight for and reminder to us all of the needed restoration of plaques and stones and continued maintenance of the Veterans Memorial Grove site in Van Cortlandt Park.

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- The Rotary Club volunteers for their Saturday "Reading to Children" program at the Kingsbridge Library.

A resolution on community education councils' makeup was tabled for further discussion and re-write.

The Committee expressed interest in having the new principal of PS 95 and Patrick Sullivan, the Manhattan Borough President's representative to the Panel for Educational Policy, as possible guest speakers.

My thanks to Robert Press for his excellent notes on this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bowden  
Education Chair

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