

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 29, 2008 AT THE BOARD OFFICE 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE

PRESENT: R. Bender, D. Bowden, B. Feinberg J. Reyes, I. W. Stone,
S. Alexander, M. Cuevas, J. DeSio, G. Encababian, K. Green,
R. Martos, R. Norberto, R. Press, R. Perez, B. A. Rosa, M. Shelton

Chairperson introduced Dr. Betty A. Rosa, Borough Representative on the NY State Board of Regents, who discussed the following:

- Board of Regents is an education policy making body where the curriculum is the same for all state schools;
- she believes there is some validity in teaching for the test however wants more depth in education and likes the concept of team teaching, starting in elementary schools;
- regarding bilingual education, she believes that if literacy is present in the child's primary language, it can be transferred to a second language;
- she believes that integrating the curriculum, including all subject matter is important, especially in elementary school;
- she firmly believes in neighborhood schools and feels there should be more than three specialized schools;
- she believes that computers are an empowerment tool.

The minutes of the previous meeting on March 25th were accepted as written.

Budget priorities for FY 2010 were then discussed at length, and the order was voted upon. The Chairperson spoke to the District Manager who advised that the item regarding the inspection of schools and repairs of same were two separate items, one under Capital and the other under Expense.

CAPITAL

1. The acquisition of a site for an EMS station in the Community Board No. 8 area in the Bronx.
2. The allocation of funds to immediately repair those crumbling schools and infrastructure defects that were reported by the School Construction Authority after its inspection of same.

3. The immediate inspection and reconstruction of all the schools in the Community Board No. 8 area to ensure that they are in compliance with ADA or handicapped accessibility.
4. 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.

EXPENSE

1. The immediate inspection of all public schools by the School Construction Authority for repairs needed, infrastructural defects and PCB contamination.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Allocation of funds to provide for a meaningful reduction of class size in all grades.

The next subject was overcrowding in the local schools. The committee members volunteered to contact these schools and report back at the next committee meeting:

PS 24	Marvin Shelton
PS 81	Bob Bender
PS 37	Marvin Shelton
MS/HS 141	Ray Norberto and Robert Press
PS 95	Julie Reyes
MS/HS 368	Karen Green
PS 7	Sylvia Alexander

Chairperson then passed out an article from the Wall Street Journal dated December 17, 1996, and titled "Why Our Kids Can't Do Math." (enclosed)

The next meeting will be on Tuesday evening, May 20th at 7:30 PM in the Board Office.

Thanks to Sylvia Alexander for her excellent notes on this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bowden, Chairperson
Education Committee