

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2009**

Attendees

D. Bowden, Chair
B. Abbott
S. Alexander
B. Bender
B. Feinberg
P. Friedman
M. Khury
B. Maybury
D. McShane
J. Reyes
I.W. Stone
Dr. Jane Bedell

M. Cerro – volunteer Bloomberg
campaign
G. Encababian
K. Green
M. Gunn - Rep. from PS 81
A. Hunter
R. Norberto
R. Press
M. Rosen
M. Shelton
C. Boals - Intern Columbia University
M. Badkar – Intern Columbia University

Minutes from June were accepted as written.

Speaker: Dr. Jane Bedell, M.D.
NYC Department of Health

New York City's Plan for H1N1 (Swine Flu)

Incident Command System reviewed facts about the virus, which is transmitted by coughing, sneezing, wiping parts of the mouth and nose then contacting another person. H1N1 are the proteins that define the virus.

Whereas the regular flu virus normally hits in the winter, there was a Swine Flu outbreak in spring (April 1st – August 1st) – the beginning of June was the highest point. The elderly were not really affected by this outbreak; however school-age children and young adults were affected at most.

The Department of Health obtained information from:

- Monitoring hospitals and emergency rooms
- Random telephone surveys

Estimated that 10-12% of New Yorkers had the flu or flu like symptoms for a day or two. It is believed that 90% of those that died had other health ailments. Concerns about schools being a breeding ground were discussed. Fifty schools were closed but did not slow the Swine Flu.

Preventative measures that worked are:

- Not going to work
- Cover your cough/sneeze
- Wash your hands
- Putting up signs in schools
- Watching attendance
- Flu vaccination – not mandated but optional
 - ❖ Administered by school nurse in Elementary Schools
 - ❖ Administered on weekends for Middle and High School
- SWAT Teams where outbreaks do occur to secure community
- Outreach to health providers
- www.nyc.gov/flu website

Although a time and date was not available for when the vaccine will be made available, no child will be given the shot or spray without signed parental consent form. The expected delivery date to New York City for the vaccine is mid-October.

Chairperson Bowden asked that the speaker come back in a few months (Health & Hospital Committee meeting scheduled for October 27th) to give the results of the flu outbreak.

1. Meryl Tisch, Chairperson of New York State Regents Committee wants “bar raised” for High School Graduation.
2. Schools bonuses for raising Math and Reading scores cost the City \$33 million.
3. Chancellor Klein pressures Principals to hire high priced teachers from a pool of 1,500 who’ve lost their jobs due to budget cuts or school closings.
4. Over crowded classes (40 students), 15 above the official limit at Bronx elementary schools
5. Department of Education axes truant centers
6. Mom sues City on slow removal of school’s PCB’s.

Chairperson(s) Report

Gifted & Talented – 1st Grade

- 99 eligible (29 from PS24, 13 from PS81, 27 from PS7 of which 14 are not zoned for either PS24 or PS 81.
- Of the 27 students from PS7, 22 are placed in PS24; as such the Department of Education has been asked to fill the 6 remaining seats with PS 24 students.
- 19 of 29 incoming students zoned for PS 24 did not get a seat in the G&T program.

Gifted & Talented – Kindergarten

- 88 eligible (14 from PS24, 18 from PS 81)
- 21 were sent to PS7 (1 already from PS7, the remaining 20 from around the Bronx)

District 10 CEC President’s Report

- Marvin Shelton reported no Vacancy Program to fill empty G&T seats.
- AMPARK delayed opening 1 year from 2010 to 2011
- All but 3 Community Board 8 schools are overcrowded by at least 10%.
- State Tests will be given late this year.

PS24 C-30 Committee submitted 1 name for Principal to Chancellor Klein. Additionally, school aides are to be cut at all schools.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bowden
Chairperson
Education Committee