

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 2-23-16
Held at Board Office, 5676 Riverdale Avenue

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Marvin Goodman
Rita Pochter-Lowe

AFFILIATION

Chair, Education Committee
CB8-Committee Member
CB8-Committee Member

GUESTS

Judith Green
Tricia Mullen
Stephen Seltzer

Community Resident
Community Resident
Principal-In Tech Academy

ABSENT

Manuel Felix
David Toledo

CB8-Committee Member
CB8-Committee Member

The Chair began the meeting at 7:35 PM. The Chair welcomed our guest speaker, Mr. Seltzer, Principal of In Tech Academy. The schools mission statement is, “We are committed to becoming self-reliant learners who are prepared through technology and academic rigor to become productive and responsible citizens of our local and global community.

Some of the topics discussed were: academically rigorous curriculum, State of the Art Building boasts a high tech environment, college preparations (including A.P. classes), Middle School sports (Girls’ Volleyball, Boys Basketball, Coed Track.) The school has WNBC “Weatherbug” weather station (which broadcasts every morning), multimedia auditorium (Theater performances), College Regulation Gym, Track and Field, Spacious Art Studios equipped with Firing Kilns and Pottery Wheels, Orchestra Room with Recording Studio, State of the Art Science Labs and Tennis Courts. Some of the extra-curricular activities include Student Government, Cheerleading Squad, Riverdale Neighborhood House after-school program and summer camp, Debate Team, Robotics, Community Service program, Engineering, Media Club, Virtual Enterprise/Junior Ventures to mention a few highlights.

Some collaborating partners are: Manhattan College, Columbia, Lehman College, College of Mount St. Vincent, Math-Science partnership, Urban Advantage, City University of NY, St. John’s and CBI(College Bound Initiative). Last year the graduation rate was 85% and are hoping to do as well this year.

Mr. Seltzer is the new Principal (1 year), and it was the feeling of the committee that the students are very fortunate to have such a dedicated educator, in tune, with the school.

The minutes of the November 24, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

Vote-3 approved, 0 against 0 abstentions

Sylvia Alexander, Marvin Goodman, Rita Pochter-Lowe

Old Business

The Chair discussed the space situation at PS24 and shared correspondence from the PA of PS24, a joint letter from Senator Klein, Assemblyman Dinowitz and Councilman Cohen sent to the Parents Association of PS24, PS81 and MS/HS 141 in response to their letter, and the response from DOE to the Parents Associations. The fifth grade will remain in the Whitehall annex until June arranged by School Construction Authority .

Judith Green mentioned that the In Tech Academy lockers appears in the Councilman Cohen's Participatory Budget and has been told there is funding through the School Construction Authority. This item was in our Budget 2017 and OMB responded that there were no funds available. This made the Education Committee feel that our budget process is flawed.

New Business

The Chair discussed the news that DOE has set seats aside to diversify 7 schools in Brooklyn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee