

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2016**

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Rita Pochter-Lowe
Marvin Goodman
Judith Green

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair, CB8
Committee member, CB8
Committee Member-CB8
Community Committee Member

Guests

Jeffrey Dinowitz
A.S. Ben-Merre
Diane Salanto
Priscilla Agbar
Ryan McCabe
Alice McIntosh
Donata Carolna
Bernice Cintron
Dale Wolff
Lisa Herndon
Robert Press

Assemblyman
Community Resident
Co-President- PS 24
Parent- PS 24
Principal-Tech International Charter
Tech International Charter
Tech International Charter
Marble Hill Avenue United Association
Community Resident
The Riverdale Press
Bronx Voice

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM.

Introductions were made of those assembled.

The Chair called upon Ryan McCabe, Principal of Tech International Charter School. Mr. McCabe is the third principal at the school in its 5 year existence. This is the second year that Mr. McCabe is at the school. The school is submitting a renewal application which is required by SUNY to continue operations. The school is a middle school (grades 6, 7, 8) with about 490 students. Mr. McCabe has introduced many positive changes to improve the education the students are receiving on a daily basis. The school graduated 89 students, who then continued their education in the local high schools. Most students attend the International Leadership High School which is located on West 231 Street. Tech International Charter School services 90 Special Education students, most of whom are main streamed. The school has new security deans to monitor students in school and outside of school by accompanying them to their bus stops. The committee wished him continued success in the future.

Assemblyman Dinowitz spoke about the conditions at PS 307 whose lease comes up for renewal in June 2017. Upon a recent visit to the school Assemblyman Dinowitz found the school overcrowded. The school's capacity is 189 students but houses approximately 400 students. The Department of Education does not have an alternate site for this school at this time. The Education Committee passed the following resolution:

Whereas, PS 307, the Luisa Pineiro Fuentes School of Science and Discovery in Kingsbridge Heights is due for a lease renewal in June 2017, and

Whereas, PS 307 is located in a building converted into an inadequate school site lacking a gym, lunchroom and auditorium for the use of the students, and

Whereas, it is imperative to address the overcrowding with a student body of approximately 400 students (while the capacity is 189 students) and therefore presents substandard conditions as a challenge to the students in their daily educational experience,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Education Committee of Bronx Community Board No. 8 calls upon the Department of Education (School Construction Authority) to negotiate the renewal lease in a timely fashion to avoid any hardship to the students of PS 307 and also calls upon the Department of Education (Real Estate Division) to address the overcrowded conditions by locating appropriate space as a priority in the near future.

Vote: 4-In Favor 0-Against 0-Abstentions
Sylvia Alexander, Marvin Goodman, Rita Pochter-Lowe, Judith Green-Community Committee Member

Assembly Dinowitz spoke about the overcrowding in our local schools: PS7, PS24, PS81 and PS95. PS 7 is at 129%, PS 24 is at 122%, PS 81 is at 134%, PS 95 is at 108%. Assemblyman Dinowitz is proposing putting a promised new school in the northwest quadron on the site of the empty Church of the Visitation if the property were to be purchased by the Department of Education. The Education Committee supported this proposal with the following resolution:

Whereas, the overcrowding issue in the northwest portion of School District 10 involving PS 7, PS 24, PS 81 and PS 95 should be addressed immediately, and

Whereas, creating a new school zone of choice would alleviate the overcrowding at all the aforementioned schools by giving parents another school option (K-5) for which their children would be eligible, and

Whereas, the property currently housing the closed Church of the Visitation, which merged with another Church not long ago, at 160 Van Cortlandt Park South, in District 10, could be an excellent place to address a longstanding and increasingly urgent problem facing multiple schools in the area, and

Whereas, the site has ample space for a new school, also has significant amount of outdoor space and is located virtually at the crossroads of all four zones,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Education Committee of Bronx Community Board No.8 supports the proposal to call upon the Department of Education (Real Estate Division) to consider purchasing the property to build the 450 seat school which appears in the Department of Education – Capital Budget 5 year plan, already funded, and only needs a site to be designated.

Vote: 4-In Favor 0-Against 0-Abstentions
Sylvia Alexander, Marvin Goodman, Rita Pochter-Lowe, Judith Green, Community Committee Member

The Parents present from PS 24 discussed the upcoming C30, which is the process by which a permanent principal will be selected. They spoke of the larger classes, many of them containing 37 students in a class due to overcrowding.

Ms. Cintron, Marble Hill Avenue United Association, spoke of the continued concerns with the location of Atmosphere Academy located at 22 Marble Hill Avenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee