

PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 28, 2015

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Robert Press
Marvin Goodman
Rita Pochter-Lowe
Judith Green
Scott Bittman
Tricia Mullen

AFFILIATION

Education Committee, Chair
CB8
CB8
CB8
Community Resident
Community Resident
Riverdale Neighborhood House

The meeting came to order at 7:40 PM.

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

The committee addressed the Budget Priorities/Capital & Expense for 2017.

In answer to the letter sent by the committee to the schools, only two schools responded.

The suggestion was made to look at previous requests to also include them if not already fulfilled. The Chair will check into this and contact schools whether these requests are still valid. The Participatory Budget of Councilman Cohen's results are not yet in and some of those school items could be included in our budget priorities.

The committee discussed the controversy regarding standardized tests in reading and math regarding parents "opted-out" of allowing their children from participating. They contend that teaching is toward tests because of results being used for teacher evaluations. This action may lead to cuts in federal funding for education to the detriment of students. The committee will monitor this major potential problem.

Robert Press advised the committee that Assemblywoman Nolan has proposed legislation to change the wording of "Failing schools to Struggling schools" in the Education law. He will keep us apprised of this issue going forward.

The topic of Small High School Athletic League was brought up. This league is now under the PSAL after DOE received extra money to create teams in largely minority small high schools. The use of the funds does not seem to be helping the small high schools at present.

Thanks to Rosemary Ginty for the ongoing updates on legislation. This month's update included two pieces of legislation pertaining to schools. One called for the requirement of NYPD to assign safety to public and non-public schools if requested. The other called for community engagement in Percent for Art, which involves use of art in school buildings. Both were laid-over and the chair will monitor for any updates in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

The next meeting will be held on May 26, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee