

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE Held on May 26, 2015 at the Board Office

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Robert Press
Rita Pochter-Lowe

Aaron Ben-Merre
Judith Green

AFFILIATION

Education Comm. Chair
CB8
CB8

Committee Member
Community Resident

The meeting came to order at 7:40pm.

The minutes of the April 28, 2015 were discussed but not voted on because of lack of quorum.

Discussion ensued regarding Mayoral control and its possible 3 year extension. The Mayor wants it extended longer. However, the Senate still has not voted on it and expects there will be more discussion on this issue.

Chair advised that a pilot summer program will involve 65 teachers who will lead classes with a hands-on learning with projects such as robot construction and computer programming. City Education officials developed a curriculum for the program with the NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering. Classes in Science, Engineering and Math will be held all day from Monday to Thursday for 4 weeks for 2nd graders and 5 weeks for the higher grades. Students will apply through Boroughs and applications for the program will be available in Mid-May. Attendance will be considered as well as other factors. Chair does not know if any schools in CB8 will be involved.

Chair reported that Mayor de Blasio has defunded after school programs to give funds to Pre-K programs, therefore the committee has added this item to our Expense Budget Priorities 2017.

Chair highlighted two events that occurred this year that are worth mentioning. First, "Debbie Bowden Way" the renaming of W. 235th Street and Independence Avenue took place on May 17th with the support of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, Riverdale Neighborhood House and Riverdale Community Center, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Councilman Andrew Cohen and Senator Jeff Klein. It was well attended by family, CB8 board members and friends. Debbie was the chair of the Education Committee for 17 years and as such brought about many improvements such as worked toward the restoration of PS24 Annex, fought for full week Library hours (many times), was on the committee to establish the high school at Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy and served as Parents Association of PS24. Senator Jeff Klein has put forth legislation to declare May 17th as "Debbie Bowden Way Day".

The second event was the Chair's involvement in the Parks Committee Bio-Blast in Van Cortlandt Park. Through her efforts approximately 100 students of RKA participated with the support of Principal O'Mara and A.P. Mohan. This event was a large success.

Review of previous Education Committee unfunded Budget Requests were discussed and it was decided to include some of these items in our Capital Budget Priorities 2017. The Budget Priorities were approved by consensus and are attached to this document.

Discussion was entertained in regard to next year's topics to pursue.

- a. Voter registration of students in High School (17 and 18 year olds).
- b. Restore Community Service Awards to promote larger school participation.
- c. Attend Parents Association meetings to promote participation.

There will not be a meeting in June since the schools will be closed.

Enjoy the summer and hope to see you in the Fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee

EDUCATION COMMITTEE BUDGET PRIORITIES 2017

CAPITAL

- A. MS/HS 368-Bronx-Gymnasium Divider (curtain)
Bleachers
Boys & Girls Locker Room upgrade (includes larger & stronger lockers)
- B. PS 7 Bronx- Cafeteria Upgrade-Installation of roof Air Conditioner.
(There is only one wall of windows which does not allow cross ventilation and is not useable when the temperature is about 80 degrees)
- C. PS 37 Bronx-Security System with Cameras and Monitors (for safety of the students)
- D. PS 81 Bronx-Radiator covers, Air Conditioning for the Gymnasium, Lunchroom, Auditorium along with electrical upgrade to support the air conditioning. Window shades, replace floor tiles in main office, outdoor lighting with sensors, replace wood exit doors with metal doors, and door alarms on exit doors for student safety.
- E. The David A. Stein Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy, MS/HS 141 Bronx
Expansion of the Gymnasium to accommodate the growing student body and PSAL HS Sports.
(When the Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy was built all facilities were enlarged to accommodate additional students but not gymnasium).

EXPENSE

- 1. Allocations of funds to provide for a meaningful reduction of class size in all grades.
- 2. Middle School Science Labs in every school in Bronx Community Board No. 8.
- 3. Physical fitness upgrade providing funding for Gymnasium.
- 4. Library upgrade to provide support for curriculum, instruction and specialized efforts geared to improve student literacy.
- 5. Funding for after school educational/recreational programs, in particular remediation and enrichment programs for all schools in Bronx Community Board No. 8, including non-title I schools.