

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
Minutes of the Education, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee
Held on November 27, 2018

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Marvin Goodman
Rita Pochter-Lowe
Tricia Mullen
Martin Wolpoff

AFFILIATION

Chair, ELCA Committee
CB8-Committee member
CB8-Committee Member
CB8-Committee Member
CB8-Committee Member

ABSENT

Sharon Paige
Judith Green

CB8-Committee Member
Community Committee Member

GUESTS

Karen Worchel
Cynthia Carrion
Gene Binder
I.C. Levenberg
Dan Wertz
Paul Hogan

Director-Marble Hill Nursery School
Parent-Marble Hill Nursery School
Resident
Resident
Resident
Resident

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM.

The minutes of the meeting of October 23, were approved as written.

Chair called on Karen Worchel and Cynthia Carrion from Marble Hill Nursery School to discuss their interest in the possibility of having Pre-K-3year old's program in District 10. Some of the other districts have an all-day program (District 6 in Washington Heights). The premise is that early childhood is very much needed to foster children to be exposed to education earlier. The Universal Pre-K program for 4 year olds has been very popular and successful. They are just beginning to explore the concept which would be contracted out in the same way as Universal Pre-K. Marble Hill Nursery has 1 class of 14 students of the 3 year olds that is successful. Other areas in District 10 would benefit from such a program districtwide.

Discussion was had regarding our overcrowded schools and the new construction in the neighborhood. DOE and School Construction Authority usually try to solve situations as they arise. Since it is too soon to estimate how many new students would occupy space in the new construction, it is not yet time to lobby for more school space. The person who requested this issue be put on the agenda did not attend the meeting.

Tricia Mullen spoke to the item on Library Report since no Library Managers were present. As a result of her speaking to Riverdale Library Manager at the last meeting, she is now working with the Jerome Park Branch. Tricia is the Director of a Literacy program at Lehman and they have signed up 800 students with library cards and has scheduled additional future programs. She is

very excited to have made this connection for her students through the Education, Libraries and Cultural Affairs committee. Hopefully there will be more successes of this type in the future. Tricia also suggested having the Debate Team of the Afterschool program at HS368 attend our next meeting. The Chair will reach out to their teacher and see if they are available for our next meeting.

I.C. Levenberg brought in an article regarding the test removal for Specialized High School which the Mayor and Chancellor have introduced and caused much controversy with parents and students in the city. They propose taking the top 7% of students in middle schools coupled with attendance records and grades as a measure of acceptance into the special high schools and eliminating the present test. Many meetings have been held so far and there are many more scheduled.

The Education, Libraries and Cultural Affairs next meeting will be held on January 29, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education, Libraries and Cultural Affairs