

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 23RD, 2010**

Attendees

Affiliation

Sylvia Alexander	Acting Committee Chair
Bob Bender	CB #8
Andrew Cohen	CB #8
Philip Friedman	CB #8
Maria Khury	CB #8
Bridget Maybury	CB #8
I. William Stone	CB #8
Gregory Adames	Member
A. S. Ben-Merre	Member
Karen Green	Member
Michael Gunn	Member
Ray Norberto	Member
Robert Press	Member
Andrew Sandler	Rep. Councilman Koppell
Joan Tretta, RN	DOHMH

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

The minutes of November 24, 2009 were approved.

Joan Tretta, RN from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Health was the speaker. The topic was "Asthma in School Students". Her presentation was both informational and enlightening. She spoke on the causes of asthma and the role school nurses serve to help the students during an attack and aid the students so they can resume their school day to enjoy their school experience. She emphasized the importance of parents informing the Principal and school nurse of the special needs for their child so that the proper response will be given in case of an emergency. A question and answer period followed the presentation.

It was reported that New York State has been chosen as a finalist in President Obama's "Race to the Top" initiative. It is the hope that much needed funds from the Federal Government will be forthcoming to offset proposed cuts for education from the state.

The topic brought to the Health Committee by Community Board No. 7 in Queens regarding Tobacco advertisements and displays being 3 ft. above the eyes of children and 6 inches from candy displays was brought up for discussion. If the Health Committee seeks to do a survey, the Education Committee agreed to participate.

Chair, Debbie Bowden has written a letter to the Chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to ask that the student discount Metro Cards be removed from the proposal to make up the deficit of the MTA.

A resolution was introduced and passed unanimously by the committee on the same issue.

Whereas, the MTA has proposed discontinuing full-fare student discount Metro Cards beginning September 2010 and proposed charging half-fare for all trips of students, and

Whereas, the MTA has proposed that beginning September 2011, the remaining half-fare discount Metro Card would be eliminated and students would be charged full-fare for all trips, and

Whereas, given the policy of the Department of Education, which encourages open enrollment throughout the city, students will be faced with the inability to attend the school of their choice due to the loss of the full-fare student discount Metro Cards, and

Whereas, parents who are already under financial hardship because of economic difficulties would be under additional stress, and

Whereas, our children are our future,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Education Committee of Bronx Community Board No. 8 strongly urges the MTA to find other means to obtain funds for their future projects and to allow continued use of full-fare discount Metro Cards to enable students to continue their education.

For: 13 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

In Favor:

Board Members: S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Cohen, P. Friedman, M. Khury, B. Maybury, I. W. Stone

Committee Members: G. Adames, A. S. Ben-Merre, Karen Green, Michael Gunn, Ray Norberto, Robert Press

Member, Michael Gunn from Parents Association 81 spoke about bullying in the playground having improved because the PA has hired 2 students from College of Mt. St. Vincent and with funds from Councilman Koppell there have been significant improvements made in the playground.

Karen Green reported on a "Green Curriculum" she delivered at a symposium on 2-27-10 at Medger Evers College which involves appreciation of nature and enjoying the process of studying about it.

The meeting ended at 8:30 PM.

Thank you to Karen Green for taking the minutes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Bowden, Chairperson
Education Committee