

Bronx Community Board No. 8
Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting
Held on May 25, 2010

Attendees

Sylvia Alexander
Bob Bender
Bridget Maybury
Andrew Cohen
Maria Khury
Bert Feinberg
Julio I. Cotto

Ray Norberto
Robert Press
Karen Green
Gregory Adames
Dr. Jane Bedell

Affiliation

Vice-Chair, Education Committee
CB8
CB8
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CB8
Kingsbridge Innovative Design Charter
School
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
NYC Department of Health

The meeting began at 7:40 PM.

The guest speaker was Dr. Jane Bedell, NYC Department of Health. She delivered a presentation on Childhood Obesity. She presented statistics gathered by the Department of Health which indicated the Bronx had the highest percentage of obese children. Dr. Bedell highlighted measures under consideration to combat childhood obesity in streamlining streamlining foods served in school lunch rooms and eliminating soda in vending machines in high schools. Also introducing salad bars as an alternative choice in high schools. The Principal has the final word on the changes.

Elementary Schools have physical education three times a week and 120 minutes a week is the New York Standard required. High School students need physical education credits to graduate but since graduation rates are very low, students do not take physical education classes seriously. Children do not get enough exercise outside of school because of concentration on video games and use of computers for fun after completing their homework.

The minutes of the meeting of April 27, 2010 were corrected and then approved.

The Vice Chair's report:

Bronx Community Board 8 was mentioned favorably in The Riverdale Press for initiating the Community Collaboration Program between Horace Mann School and Marble Hill Community Center's Arts and Science Workshops.

The NY Public Library is encouraging everyone to write to their City Council representative encouraging restoration of the funding for the branch libraries who are in danger of being reduced to being open only four days a week. The Education Committee will send a letter on behalf of the students who utilize the libraries after school to lobby the City Council as to the importance for the funding to remain the same as it is presently.

One of the topics on the agenda was an update of the Gifted and Talented programs at PS 24 and

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PS 7.

However, the PS 24 representatives who agreed to come to the meeting did not attend. The PS 7 representatives declined to accept the request to come to the meeting.

Several members of the education committee agreed to make a trip to PS 7 in order to observe the program first hand.

The meeting ended at 9:00 PM.

Thank you to Karen Green for taking the minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bowden, Chair
Education Committee