

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HELD ON FEBRUARY 22, 2011**

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Bob Bender
Robert Press
Aaron Ben Merre
Jennie Soler-McIntosh
Ronald Chaluisan
Miawling Lam

AFFILIATION

CB8, Vice Chair-Education Committee
CB8
CB8
Committee Member
New Visions for Public Schools
New Visions for Public Schools
Riverdale Review

Guest Speakers: Jennie Soler-McIntosh – New Visions for Public Schools
Director of Community Engagement for Charter Schools

Ronald Chaluisan – New Visions for Public Schools
Board of Trustees Member

The meeting was called to order 7:50 pm by Vice-Chair S. Alexander.

The Speakers from New Visions for Public Schools gave a presentation about the two new proposed charter high schools going into the Kennedy campus, eventually replacing the current Kennedy High School as it exists. New Visions currently works the 76 schools citywide, 25 in the Bronx, and a total of 38,000 students. They are a 21 year old non-for-profit that is connected to four of the current five small high schools at the Kennedy Campus. It was said that schools connected to New Visions have out-performed city public schools by up to five percent better. There is a mentor who visits schools under New Visions to meet regularly with the School Leadership Team and Administration on how to correct any problems in the school.

Charter Schools are funded similar to Public Schools but are operated by non DOE organizations. Each school is governed by an independent Board of Trustees. Randi Weingarten - State UFT and Michael Mulgrew - City UFT sit on the Board of Trustees presently.

New Visions was selected by the DOE thru an RFP as were other organizations to aid schools. New Visions has benchmarks of 11 credits for freshman high school students which in turn results in an 80% chance of graduation. This is in counter to many students who achieve only 8 credits in their freshman year where the graduation rate is as low as 50%. There is also college prep and help with financial aid forms for students.

The PEP will vote March 1st to approve the two charter high schools which have already been approved by SUNY. They will be the first charter schools for New Visions, who has five year

targets outlined in the charter application to SUNY. The charter schools will report to SUNY and not to DOE.

There will be 125 students in each school per grade, and if more than 125 apply then there will be a lottery for the seats. Preference for the first year is given to District 10 students, and then any New York City student. Special Education students will be serviced as well as new arrivals.

There will be certified teachers, and New Visions will be working with the New Teacher Project. Teachers from the current Kennedy High School will not have preference, as the first two years the charter schools will be below the threshold of number of students allowing them to be non-union the first two years. Spanish will be the only language offered, and as of now there will be no PSAL sports, but that may change as the schools get larger.

Visit their website [New Visions org/charter](http://NewVisions.org/charter) to see or download the charter school application.

The minutes from last month's meeting were approved as written, and the Vice-Chair thanked the CB8 Board Chairman for running the meeting. The next meeting has been scheduled for March 22nd with board member Bob Bender saying that the meeting was in the board calendar for March 29th. This will be looked into and the committee will have the correct date well before the next meeting.

There will be a presentation at the next meeting by the Budget committee Chairman on the budget priorities process.

The Vice-Chair asked for approval by the committee so the chair could write a letter to DOE on the concerns of any students currently at Kennedy who do not graduate in the four year phase out period and what would then happen to said students.

Committee member Robert Press brought up the fact that this coming September PS24 will have a fifth grade of its Gifted and Talented program, and there has been no mention of either continuing the program into middle school, and what middle school. PS7 also has a gifted and talented program, but that program is two years behind the PS24 program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm

Minutes submitted by Robert Press

Approved by Sylvia Alexander, Vice-Chair
Education Committee