

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO.8-BRONX
MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2011
BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10471**

PRESENT

Community Board 8 Members: Sylvia Alexander, Chair Education Committee,
B. Bender, M. Goodman, R. Press, M. Ginsberg, B. Abbott, A. Moore
Community Member: G. Adames, K. Green
Guest: Laura Carmona-PA 8I, Miawling Lam-Riverdale Review

The meeting began at 7:30 PM.

The minutes of the meeting of October 25, 2011 were approved as written.

Robert Abbott, Chair of the Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee was the invited speaker. The Education Committee and the Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee will sponsor a presentation of the New York Public Library resources available to schools. Lynda Kennedy, NYPL, Director for Literacy & Outreach will make this presentation at the Kingsbridge Library on January 10, 2011 at 10:00 AM. Letters will be sent to Principals to attend with School Librarians, Parent Coordinators to make them aware of current and planned resources available through NYPL. At present, teachers can obtain a library card which permits them to sign out books for an entire class for up to two months. Non-fiction books are emphasized to enable students to do research.

There is a pilot program to merge school library catalogues with the NYPL catalogue which would provide students expanded access to research material. Search can be by Title, Author or Subject and materials can be sent to the school. The pilot program began in August 2011 in 50 schools citywide.

Bronx High School of Science is one of the schools in the project. However, there are no schools involved in the Community Board 8 area. Although Bronx High School of Science is not in CB8 it is one of the schools in the project. This was mentioned because Jerome Park branch library works with the school and is in the CB8 area.

Chair's Report:

There is concern regarding cheating on SAT's.

Meryl Tisch, the NYS Chancellor of the Board of Regents, visited a high school in Brooklyn where 86% of the students graduated but only 1% were college ready. The college bound students go to community colleges where they are put into remedial classes to prepare them for further education.

There is a current increase in class size in grades Kindergarten to Third Grade. A group called "Class Size Matters" which includes teachers and parents is working to try to remedy this since these grades are so important for a strong foundation in a child's education.

The process used in regard to the 5 year Capital plan of the Department of Education for 2010-2015 which incorporates a review in November each year, when it is sent to the Community Education Council (CEC) which holds hearings and makes recommendations to DOE, and then it is sent to the Panel for Education Policy (PEP) for review and revisions. These are sent to the Mayor in January and then sent to the City Council for passage in their budget in June. It is our hope that some of our budget priorities we submit for the participating schools in CB8 will be included in the City Council budget in June.

Other issues were raised:

1. The need to increase parental involvement in their children's education and a need for students to be taught respect for teachers and adults in schools.
2. Is there too much teaching-to-the-test? Some schools will start in January to prepare the children for tests given later in 2012.
3. Parent Coordinators should not stand in for parents. There needs to be a clearer definition of the Parent Coordinators role in the schools.
4. Kevin Degidon of Youth USA has contacted CB8 to present his civic curriculum for schools. Irving Ladimer who is working with the Bar Association on this issue will be contacted by the Chair as to the timing of this information.

There will not be a meeting in December. The next meeting will be on January 24, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Thanks to Marvin Goodman for taking the minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee