

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MAY 22, 2012 AT THE BOARD OFFICE**

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Marvin Goodman
Robert Press
Bob Bender
Robert Fanuzzi
Rita Pochter-Lowe
Karen Green
Gregory Adames
Teri Colon
Donna Connelly
Manny Verdi
Tracey Shelton
Adel Assal
Miawling Lam

AFFILIATION

CB8-Education Committee Chair
CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
Committee Member
Committee Member
Rep. Assemblyman Dinowitz
PS 24, Principal
PS 24, I.A. Assistant Principal
PS 24, Executive Board
Community Resident
Riverdale Review

The meeting began at 7:40 PM.

The invited guest speaker Donna Connelly, PS 24 Principal attended along with Manny Verdi, I. A. Assistant Principal and Tracey Shelton, Executive Board member. The number of students that attend PS 24 is 888, and class size is about 28. The progress report was B this year. The school has District wide Gifted and Talented classes through 5th grade, also ELL classes and special education classes. New York Historical Society, New York Philharmonic, MOMA, and Lincoln Center represent some of the cultural organizations the school is involved with. Ms. Connelly shared particulars of the lunch clubs which include chess, Spanish, art, band, drama, gardening, photography, guided reading room, running and intramural sports. The lower grades use Everyday math and the 3rd to 5th grades use Envision math. The school is very fortunate to have a full time librarian, many school aides, 2 playgrounds, outdoor mural and gardening area, 2 art classes with two art teachers, science lab with teacher, smart boards from Councilman Koppell, and a planetarium.

The committee was informed that the Network was changed because the leader, Bob Cohen, was retiring. PS 24 applied to Fordham but were rejected. The administration has decided to go with Children First Network 103. The new alliance could lead to enhanced curriculum support and more effective classroom instruction through professional development for teachers, and better oversight of school administrators.

Recently the Parents Association organized a middle school fair and invited schools to give the parents a wide variety of options for their children. The schools invited included Manhattan and Westchester private schools and Middle School 141. A parent in the school wrote a very positive article in "The Sounding Board" in support of the middle school available in our community, namely Middle School 141. The Parents Association is very active and engages in fundraising ventures that are very successful and this makes it possible for the students to receive additional supplies and additional enrichment activities.

The Education committee extended additional time to submit Budget Priorities for 2014 since PS 24 had not responded on time.

An invitation was extended to the Education Committee to take a tour of PS 24 on June 20.

After 3 years of reaching out to PS 24's Principal by the Education committee without a response, it was interesting to see such cooperation and open dialog during the discussion of the school with those present. It is the hope of the Education committee, since the door has been opened, that the communication will be forthcoming in the future.

Chairman's Report

The Chair spoke about the Capital Budget Priorities for 2014 and presented two schools that had responded to our request. The chair offered to go to the other schools to see if it was just an oversight for their not having responded to our request. On the Expense Budget Priorities for 2014, the Chair suggested a new request to ask for updated equipment in school gyms in Community Board 8 to try to address student obesity prevalent in our schools. This was approved by the committee.

The minutes of the April 24th Education committee meeting were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee