

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MARCH 19, 2013 AT THE  
BOARD OFFICE**

**PRESENT**

Sylvia Alexander  
Robert Fanuzzi  
Marvin Goodman  
Tricia Mullen  
Rita Pochter-Lowe  
Robert Press  
A. S. Ben-Merre  
Karen Green  
America Rosario  
Robert Ackerson

**AFFILIATION**

Chair, Education Committee  
CB 8  
CB 8  
CB 8  
CB 8  
CB 8  
Community Member  
Community Member  
PS 81  
Community Resident

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.

Mr. Fanuzzi was leaving early and therefore discussion began and was very active regarding the Community Service Survey which was conducted by committee members of public middle and high schools, as well as private and parochial schools in Community Board 8. The format for a May forum was discussed. A site will be investigated by the Chair.

The minutes of the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

**Chairman's Report:**

The Chancellor has stated that he is hoping principals will work more closely with parents, after a city panel shut down 22 low performance schools with parents shocked. He suggested that principals should do a better job of engaging parents and not have families left in the dark about harder academic standards introduced this year.

Chair has again been contacted regarding after school teens' excessive noise in the Spuyten Duyvil Library.

Bob Press reported on the Chancellor's Town Hall meeting at Walton High School that he attended for the Education Committee. He noted that due to the poor outreach in organizing the event there were few parents in attendance which included DOE staffers, teachers and principals. Some of the issues discussed included ELL-immigrant learners, chronic overcrowding, budget cuts and IEPs. The Chancellor advised that a 665 seat school would be opening on Webster Avenue in 2014, and made mention of the failure to reach an agreement with the teachers union. In 2001 there were 1250 schools and now there are 1750 schools because DOE closed larger schools and broke them down into smaller schools where the common areas are assigned by the school enrollment and worked out by each principal. Chancellor Walcott believes in schools of choice and told of his own experience of taking 2-3 buses to attend JHS and 3 buses to attend HS. He does not believe in limiting students to local schools. The committee thanked Bob Press for attending the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair  
Education Committee