

MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2007
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE

PRESENT

AFFILIATION

D. Bowden	CB#8 Education Committee Chairperson
B. Bender	CB #8
B. Feinberg	CB #8
P. Friedman	CB #8
J. Reyes	CB #8
I. William Stone	CB #8
D. Bay	Community Associate
R. Press	Committee Member
M. Shelton	Committee Member
G. Encababian	Committee Member
K. Green	Committee Member
B. Bowden	Croton-Harmon High School Teacher

Meeting started at 7:45 PM.

Minutes of October 24, 2006 and November 28, 2006 were accepted as written.

Chairperson's report included the following items:

- Mayor's new Education shakeup "from centralization to decentralization to re-centralization,"
- Nearly 3 out of 4 NYC students in failing schools who were eligible for free tutoring this year, did **not** sign up;
- Failing schools list is up by 12 schools this year, based on tests taken in 2005-2006 school years;
- Emergency procedures in school (re asthma attack and needed medication) not the same in each school – Department of Education policy is to call 911, not wait for Principal's approval (possible topic with Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee);
- Needed overhaul of middle schools – students less prepared for High School;
- What's happening at Bronx High School of Science? – (invitation to Principal to attend future Education Committee Meeting).

Marvin Shelton, President of Community Education Council of District 10 reported on speaker from Finance Department of Department of Education and formula for assessing need for more school seats, which is done on a boro-wide basis. He also stated that 27 out of 32 districts need improvement; the failure of our present regional structure and discussed failing schools in the district (District #10).

Our guest speaker, Brett Bowden, Croton-Harmon High School teacher spoke about his recent visit to schools in China, "From the Bronx to Beijing," and the opportunity to learn about the Chinese education system and why it is successful. It is important that we broaden our knowledge and understanding of Chinese culture and embrace globalization so that our students are fully prepared for the future.

The following issues were discussed:

- No Education Committee meeting in February (winter recess); future meetings will begin at 7:30 PM.
- There will be a follow-up letter to Mayor Bloomberg regarding J.F.K. High School.
- Objections to the possible merger of the Education and Libraries Committees. The following motion was passed unanimously:

“The residents of CB 8 recognize the value of education and believe that the merger of the Education Committee with the Libraries Committee would be detrimental to the mission of the Education Committee.”

**Community Board
Members**

Vote In Favor - 6
Philip Friedman
Julie Reyes
I. William Stone
Robert Bender
Bert Feinberg
Debbie Bowden

**Community Committee
Members**

Vote In Favor - 3
Marvin Shelton
Glenn Encababian
Robert Press

**Community Committee
Members**

Abstentions – 1
Karen Green

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bowden
Chairperson
Education Committee

DB:db