

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON MAY 22, 2007
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

D. Bowden
J. Reyes
R. Press
K. Green
G. Adames
P. Friedman
A. Ben-Merre
R. Bender
G. Encababian
U. Trebach

AFFILIATION

CB#8 Committee Chairperson
CB#8
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
CB#8
Committee Member
CB#8
Committee Member
Parent-PS 24

Minutes of the April 25, 2007 meeting were accepted as is, without correction.

Chairperson's Report: the following issues were covered:

- Majority of City 8th graders failed American History, NY State social studies exam.
- Still no response from 2 letters to Sonia Hernandez, Community Superintendent District 10, requesting her to be a guest speaker at a Education Committee meeting.
- Letter to Chancellor regarding resignation of 3 Principals in CB#8 area; his response was a copy of C30 regulations of how new principals will be chosen.

Guest Speaker, Daniella Phillips, current Principal of MS/HS 141 discussed the following items:

- Girls Softball Team in play-offs with an 18-0 record of wins;
- Ranking of MS/HS 141 as the third best school in the Bronx (behind PS 24 (first) and PS 81 (second));
- 141 selected as empowerment school has selected the same learning network as PS 24 and PS 81;
- This year 28 students were accepted into Specialized High Schools, 35 were accepted last year; 40% Honor Students got into special H. S.; last year 8 students returned to 141;
- Dr. Charlene Jordon is the manager of C30 process at 141; no current AP's are interested in the Principal's position;
- Department of Education lists 141 at 82% capacity; 1,260 students; need to redefine the formula for the High School and get rid of the old lottery system which has outlived its purpose;
- Breakdown of students: 20% are not from our area and needs a change in feeder school patterns;
- She agreed that the orientation to Middle School 141 should start in the earlier grades, not only the 5th grade;
- Answering a question as to what type of Principal she would like to see for 141, she stressed that the person should be a part of the community and familiar with the schools organizations; etc., should absolutely Love young adolescents, needs to know the college process, as well as younger children;
- Starting on September 2007, everyone in the 6th grade will study Latin; in the 7th grade students can continue with Latin or switch to French or Spanish.

Chairperson thanked Ms. Phillips for her many years of service to the 141 students, parents and community. She and Julie Reyes then reviewed the history of the need for an EMS station in CB#8. After much discussion, the following resolution was passed:

The Education Committee of CB#8, Bronx, reaffirms its' commitment to place an EMS Station/Garage within the CB#8 area.

Vote was 8 in favor, 1 abstention and 1 abstention with cause.

IN FAVOR, Board members: D. Bowden, J. Reyes, P. Friedman, R. Bender;
Committee Members: K. Green, G. Adames, A. Ben-Merre,
U. Trebach.

Abstention: R. Press

Abstention with cause: G. Encababian

It was suggested that Chairperson with the aid of J. Reyes and P. Friedman, write to local schools hoping they, too, will write to Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta about the need for an EMS station in CB#8.

U. Trebach spoke about the need for a traffic safety person at each school at arrival and dismissal times.

The Education Budget Priorities for FY 2009 were then approved.

- CAPITAL:
1. Acquisition of site for an EMS station in the CB#8 area.
 2. Allocation of funds to immediately repair crumbling schools in CB#8 area, as identified from recent school report cards on infrastructure of the schools.
 3. Acquisition of sites for construction of additional schools and school seats to relieve overcrowded school conditions in CB#8.
 4. Acquisition of sites and/or construction of a full day pre-Kindergarten classes for the children within the CB#8 area.

- EXPENSE:
1. Allocation of funds to provide for meaningful reduction of class size in all grades.
 2. Complete the staffing of a full-time nurse, librarian, guidance counselor, a computer instructor (with lab technicians for science and computer labs) for every school.
 3. Funding for after-school educational/recreational arts programs, in particular, remediation and enrichment.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bowden, Chair
Education Committee