

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2008  
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

**PRESENT:** D. Bowden, G. Adames, S. Alexander, M. Borak, J. DeSio,  
G. Encababian, E. Edelman, B. Feinberg, T. Fox, P. Friedman, K. Green,  
M. Gunn, A. Hunter, M. Mashel, C. McShane, R. Norberto, R. Nubuk,  
K. Pastor, R. Press, J. Reyes, M. Rosen, M. Shelton, I. W. Stone,  
N. Velazquez

Guest speaker Melodie Mashel, Principal of PS 81 gave a focus overview of the school, its' various programs and current concerns (overcrowding -115% of capacity). She also discussed its' Saturday enrichment program and afterschool programs and accelerated classes. She said that due to a lack of space in school, she could not consider a Gifted and Talented program.

Parents of Gifted and Talented children spoke about their plight in trying to get their children (37 children who tested above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile) into a Gifted and Talented program, but no seats are available in this area. Chairperson will set up a meeting with Philip Scharper, Principal of PS 24 and parents of the Gifted and Talented children.

The May minutes were accepted as written.

The following resolution was passed unanimously by the Education Committee:

**WHEREAS**, the Education Committee of Community Board No. 8, Bronx, believes in the concept of neighborhood schools, that children residing in the neighborhood are better served by registering and attending their local schools; and

**WHEREAS**, various children residing within Community School District 10 are being denied entrance to their neighborhood schools, PS 24 and PS 81, due to overcrowding conditions and insufficient number of school seats, a result of inadequate planning by the New York City Department of Education who has neglected to consider our neighborhood's recent population growth;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Community Board No. 8, Bronx, calls upon the Department of Education to remedy this problem by immediately returning the building known as the Whitehall Annex, 3223 Independence Avenue, for additional local class space to meet the aforementioned students' needs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we also request a new assessment of our neighborhood's educational needs more in line with the current population growth within our area, so that every child will be able to have a school seat in his/her neighborhood school.

**VOTE:** 11 in Favor, 0 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions

**In Favor**

**CB 8 Members**

D. Bowden  
P. Friedman  
J. Reyes  
I. W. Stone

**Community Committee Members**

G. Adames  
S. Alexander  
G. Encababian  
K. Green  
R. Norberto  
R. Press  
M. Shelton

Chairperson read letter she sent to Chancellor Klein, regarding overcrowding and the need to regain the Whitehall Annex.

Thanks to Sylvia Alexander for taking excellent notes for the minutes of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bowden  
Chairperson  
Education Committee

DB:db (10/22/08)