

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 24, 2009**

Attendees

Debbie Bowden, Chair
Bob Bender
Tom Durham
B. Feinberg
M. Rosen
J. DeSio
B. Bowden
S. Alexander
J. Firestone
M. Shelton

R. Press
K. Green
R. Cloutier
L. Lopresti
B. Schaeffer
R. Norberto
G. Adames
M. Hernandez
M. Melendez

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Debbie Bowden at 7:30 PM. The guest speaker was Renee Cloutier, Principal of PS 7 in Kingsbridge. Principal Cloutier brought an assistant principal and the music specialist from PS 7 with her. Picture boards were set up as the principal described the activity related to each picture.

The theme of PS 7 is that everyone is a star, and there is a school uniform policy. The school leadership team set up six core values, achievement, collaboration, equality, integrity, growth and meaningful work. There are also different types of special days for the students. Principal Cloutier added that there are a lot of bi-lingual children, that the school is under capacity, and that the school could host a gifted and talented program.

The principal was not aware of any safety problems concerning children using the after school program when asked. Two hundred students attend September through June up to 6 PM, and are told to go straight home. PS 7 is a school in need of improvement since 2003, and 30% of the students are ELL or students with special needs. This is the third year as principal for Ms. Cloutier who uses Everyday Math, and has a paper and photo club. PS 7 is a school based option school.

The minutes from the previous meeting were amended and approved to include CB8 member Bill Stone in attendance.

The Chair reported that PS 24 will be getting the Whitehall Annex to use next year however said that only one year remains on the lease. On April 2nd there will be a meeting at PS 24 to discuss the school's use of the Whitehall.

Community service awards were discussed as the PA President of MS/HS 141 said that he had one or two RKA students that he wanted to advance.

Budget priorities for fiscal year 2011 - #1 - Acquisition of a site in Bronx Community Board #8 area as identified by the Department of Education (DOE) for a Pre-K to grade 6 school.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 28th where there will be a discussion of mayoral control, with a possible resolution for the full board meeting in May. Also on Thursday May 21st at 7 PM there will be a town hall meeting on mayoral control at the Riverdale Temple hosted by Assemblyman Dinowitz and State Senator Schneiderman.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM.

The minutes were taken and submitted by Robert Press with approval of the Education Committee Chairperson Debbie Bowden.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Press
Approved by Debbie Bowden

RP:db