

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON APRIL 28, 2009**

**PRESENT**

I. W. Stone  
B. Bender  
P. Friedman  
E. Tossas Tucker  
S. Alexander  
D. Diaz  
K. Green  
R. Norberto  
R. Press  
M. Rosen  
M. Shelton

**AFFILIATION**

Cmte Vice Chair, CB8  
CB 8  
CB 8  
CB 8  
Ed Cmte Member  
Columbia University/Visitation School  
Ed Cmte Member  
PA Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy  
Ed Cmte Member  
Ed Cmte Member  
President, CDEC 10

In the absence of Chairperson Debbie Bowden due to illness, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Bill Stone at 7:30 PM.

1. The minutes of the March 24, 2009 meeting were approved.
2. Chairperson's Report

Bill Stone read the following report prepared by Debbie Bowden:

- Regarding the situation at PS 24 between the parents and the principal, this is an internal matter and should be handled as such without outside interference.
- The other situation at PS 24 on who shall fill the 6 or 7 classrooms at the newly acquired annex; this is also an internal problem and should be left up to the PS 24 Principal and their leadership Committee to decide.
- For many years this Education Committee had supported the concept that every child zoned for this area should be able to attend his or her local schools. When overcrowding conditions occurred this was not possible. However, now that PS 24 has reacquired the annex it is now possible. Originally, I was in favor of a second G&T class going to the underutilized PS 7. However, now that we have reacquired the Whitehall annex, those Gifted and Talented students zoned for PS 24 should attend their local school, be it in the main building or in the annex.

3. Discussion of Mayoral Control of Schools

The Vice Chairman thanked Karen Green for chairing a subcommittee on Mayoral control and distributed the results of her informal survey on the debate over Mayoral control of the schools and Marlene Rosen who distributed a list of criticisms of present Mayoral control and recommendations on school governance. The Committee discussed ideas that ranged from supporting to not supporting Mayoral control to supporting control but limiting it to more oversight and transparency of the Mayor and the policies of the Department of Education.

Robert Press introduced the following resolution:

**Whereas**, before Mayoral Control Community Board No. 8, Bronx, enjoyed success in our public schools and good relationships between those in our school community and community school district; and

**Whereas**, since the inception of Mayoral Control in 2004, parents and the school community have been taken out of the decision making process by the Mayor and Chancellor;

**Be It Resolved**, that Community Board No. 8, Bronx, recommends to the State legislature that Mayoral Control be amended to increase parental and community involvement in community schools and community school districts.

Karen Green offered an amendment to give specific illustrations. The amendment was defeated. The original resolution was passed by a vote of 6 in favor, 3 opposed, and 1 abstention.

**In Favor -**

**CB8:** R. Bender, E. Tossas Tucker, I. W. Stone

**Community Committee Members:** K. Green, R. Press, M. Shelton

**Opposed –**

**Community Committee Members:** S. Alexander, M. Rosen, R. Norberto

**Abstention –**

**CB8:** P. Friedman

4. Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2011

**Capital**

1. Purchase of an ambulance for operation within the district of Bronx Community Board No. 8.
2. Renewal of the lease at the Whitehall annex that is due to expire in 2010.
3. To continue exploring site acquisition opportunities for annexes to our existing educational facilities.
4. The allocation of funds to immediately repair those crumbling schools and infrastructure of the schools.
5. The immediate inspection and reconstruction of all schools in the Community Board No. 8 area to ensure that they are in compliance with ADA or handicapped accessibility.

**Expense**

1. The immediate inspection of all public schools by the School Construction Authority for repairs needed, infrastructural defects and PCB contamination.
2. Funding for after-school educational/recreational arts programs, in particular remediation and enrichment programs for all of the schools in Community Board No. 8, including non-Title No. 1 schools.
3. 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.
4. Allocation of funds to provide for a meaningful reduction of class size in all grades.

Submitted by,

I. William Stone, Vice Chair,  
Education Committee