

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON February 24, 2015  
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 Riverdale Avenue**

**PRESENT**

Sylvia Alexander  
Marvin Goodman  
Robert Press  
Rita Pochter-Lowe

**Guests:**

Judith Green  
Tricia Mullen  
Robert Fanuzzi  
Robyn Spiegel

**AFFILIATION**

Education Committee, Chair  
CB 8 Committee member  
CB 8 Committee member  
CB 8 Committee member

Community Resident  
Riverdale Neighborhood House @In-Tech  
CB 8  
Amalgamated Nursery School

The meeting came to order at 7:40PM.

The minutes of the meeting held on October 28, 2014 were approved.

The Amalgamated Nursery School presented their request for the street activity permit for an event to be held on May 17, 2015 and calls for the street closing at Gales Place between Orloff Avenue and Van Cortlandt Park South. This event has previously been held. After some discussion the committee approved the request.

Vote: 4-In Favor: Sylvia Alexander, Marvin Goodman, Robert Press, Rita Pochter-Lowe,  
0 - against, 0 - abstentions.

Chair led a discussion on graduation rates in our high schools being low compared to students continuing their education by attending colleges.

Chancellor Farina is addressing student suspensions by installing more lenient measures. Some parents of middle school and high school students would like school days to begin later so teens could have more sleep.

Blended learning method, classroom teacher and computer (on line) teaching being used in some schools. Teachers are against this because of the extensive prep necessary and poor tech among teacher training. In this method students are required to complete assignments, (at home) and attend classroom only 2 days a week. Some states have adopted this method of teaching with limited success.

Spoke about the Education committee working with the Parks committee in contacting our high schools to involve students as volunteer and biology teachers in participating in the Bio-Blitz to be held on May 3, 2015 in Van Cortlandt Park.

City Councilman Drumm, who is the Education Committee Chair in the City Council, is troubled by the lack of transparency and accountability of Charter Schools.

NJ Kids and Families issue-Parents and educators feel there is too much testing. In fall there are the benchmark assessments and students growth objectives. In spring there are final exams

and all the tests in between. High school students have annual state assessment tests and quizzes in classroom. Hours of instructional time sacrificed, in favor, of testing and test prep. New York City parents are not complaining!

Under New Business, Robert Press informed the committee that the Public Advocate is having a meeting at Lehman College, 6:00 to 8:00 PM on March 5, 2015. The topic will be Mayoral Control of Public Schools in New York City.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM.

The next meeting will be held on March 24, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair  
Education Committee