

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD No. 8
MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 AT THE BOARD OFFICE**

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Rita Pochter-Lowe
Marvin Goodman
Judith Green

AFFILIATION

Chair, Education Committee
CB8-Committee member
CB8-Committee member
Community Resident Committee Member

GUESTS

Karen Green
Shirley Silberstein
Robert Press
Hannah Romon
David Gellman
Veronica Almedina
Vashti Racosta
Viviana Pena
Lisa Herndon
Ben Jay

Community Resident
PS 81 Parents Assoc. Rep.
Community Resident
Community Resident
CB8
Amber Charter School, Principal
Amber Charter School, Executive Director
Community Resident
The Riverdale Press
CUNY-School of Journalism

ABSENT

Eric Dinowitz

CB8-Committee Member

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM. Introductions were made of attendees.

The minutes of the June 27, 2017 were passed unanimously by Sylvia Alexander, Rita Pochter-Lowe, Marvin Goodman and Judith Green.

The Chair called upon Amber Charter School to update us as to present. The school opened in September with K-2 grades containing 274 students. The school relocated at the Corlear site from their site in Washington Heights which became too small for their student body. Their MISSION is to provide students an academically rigorous and well rounded education, along with strong character development, that will enable them to prosper in top middle schools and beyond. Some enrichment programs are After-School Program, Art, Spanish, Dance, Carnegie Hall Link-up, Basketball Team, Honors Choir, Student Council, National Elementary Honor Society. The Principal spoke about the lottery process by which students are chosen for the school and mentioned that they now have some children from shelters and would be open to more if they would apply. They want to become a strong presents in the community.

The Chair presented the committee with the question addressed to the committee at the last general meeting by a Board member as to the overcrowding at PS7 and the possibility of shelter children being assigned to the school. The committee felt strongly that if the children were given a choice of schools, there would be seats available in Charter Schools in the area such as Amber Charter School that would welcome the students. It was also strongly felt that if these students attended local schools before entering a shelter they should be given the choice of returning to their school.

The Chair advised that there will be no meeting in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee