

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 25TH 2014
AT THE BOARD OFFICE**

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Robert Press
Marvin Goodman
Rita Pochter-Lowe
A. Ben-Merre
Robert Fanuzzi
David Garcia-Rosen

AFFILIATION

Chair, Education Committee
CB8
CB8
CB8
Community Committee Member
CB8, Chair
SSAL

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM.

The minutes of January 28, 2014 were approved as written.

Our guest speaker, David Garcia-Rosen, Administrative Director of Small School Athletic League explained SSAL's mission, to improve student athlete's academic performance, behavioral outcome, and attendance by facilitating interscholastic sports competitions tailored to the unique needs of small high schools. At the present time, the Public School Athletic League (PSAL) is responsible for providing funding to New York City Public High Schools to engage in interscholastic sports teams financed by the Department of Education. The inequitable distribution of PSAL funds, is due to the many small high schools created over the past decade and PSAL's inaction to adjust to the new landscape of public high school education in NYC. The SSAL believes and has been working, for the past 3 years, to include small schools in interscholastic sports opportunities for all students in NYC public high schools through funding from principals of select schools, sometimes in place of a teaching position. PSAL has continued using their formula regardless of the changes occurring with the creation of small high schools and will not deviate from their formula. Studies have shown that sports can cut down in dropout rates, graduation rate increases and a drop in discipline issues and can improve student academics, as well as, curtail obesity through exercise. Mr. Rosen hopes to bring about change through extensive lobbying to the Department of Education, the City Council Education Committee and other elected officials to include small high schools in the PSAL funding. This is a true tale of two cities!

A resolution was passed by the committee, to support the effort of the staff and school community to rename PS 7, "The Milton Fein School". The resolution will be discussed at the Executive Committee and will be brought to the full board on March 11th. Vote was unanimous.

The next meeting will be held on March 25th, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee