

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 28, 2014
AT THE BOARD OFFICE**

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sylvia Alexander, Education Committee Chair, CB8
Tricia Mullen CB8
Robert Press CB8
Marvin Goodman CB8
Rita Pochter-Lowe CB8
Amy Moore CB8

BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert Fanuzzi, Chair CB8
Maria Khury, Vice Chair CB8

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Karen Green

GUESTS:

America Rosario Vice-President, Parents Assoc. PS81
Andrew Sandler Rep. Councilman Andrew Cohen
Andrew Gooden IN-TECH MS/HS 368
Alec Diacou Yalow Charter School
Patrick Collins Parent-PS81
Elaine Rodriguez Parent-PS81
Joe Shortell College Board–Parent PS81
Maria Flores Parent-PS81
Yvette Allen Principal-IN-TECH MS/HS 368
Marvin Shelton Community Education Council-District 10

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM and attendees introduced themselves.

The minutes of the October 22, 2013 meeting were approved as written.

The minutes of the November 26, 2013 meeting were approved as written.

Alec Diacou representing the proposed Yalow Charter School gave an update since his last attendance at the Education Committee meeting. He is still applying to the state to open the Yalow Charter School hopefully by 2015. There have been additions to the Board of Trustees and now have 11 members. In demonstrating community outreach required by the state, he has contacted head-start programs and churches, Community Board 7 and Community Board 8. Space has been sought but not confirmed since the application has not yet been approved. The Letter of Intent is due by February 3 and then the process will begin for certification in early spring. The school will begin with 200 students and grow to 537 students adding a grade a year.

Marvin Shelton, President of Community Education Council-District 10 was the guest speaker. Mr. Shelton gave a brief overview regarding the function of CEC 10. Discussion followed on several topics: Co-Location of Public School Buildings, 5yr. Capitol Plan, District 75 Special Education, Pre-K proposal of Mayor De Blasio and the need for additional space for it in school buildings, and the new Chancellor. Chancellor Farina is old school and would like to eliminate Networks and return to tried and true methods used previously. She would like to encourage parent engagement which would increase parent involvement in their children's education as it use to be.

The most concern was from attending parents regarding Common Core curriculum required by the State Education Department, its affect on students, teachers and parents. The parents feel that the amount of work asked of the students and families is excessive and many times creates friction at home and causes students to delay bedtime in order to complete homework assignments given by teachers. The overall concern is that the way the state mandated the switch over to Common Core curriculum was too abrupt and did not prepare anyone for the stress. Materials ordered by principals and teachers were delayed forcing educators to improvise and required extensive staff development on the part of principals. More information can be found at **engageNY.org**.

Discussion of the audio-taping of committee meetings concluded that this would tend to stifle participation and the feeling was generally against this method and stick to written minutes that should be as complete as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee