

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 3-28-17 MEETING
Held at Board Office, 5676 Riverdale Avenue

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Rita Pochter-Lowe
Judith Green

AFFILIATION

Chair, Education Committee
CB8-Committee Member
Community Committee Member

GUEST

Vashti R. Acosta
Veronica Almedina
Rose Castillo
Faye Landsman
Elizabeth Thompson
Robert Press
Lisa Herndon

Amber Charter School, Ex. Director
Amber Charter School, Principle
Amber Charter School, Staff
Community Resident
Kingsbridge Neighborhood
Community Resident
The Riverdale Press

ABSENT

Marvin Goodman

CB8-Committee Member

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:45PM.

The Chair welcomed the attendees from Amber Charter School who came unannounced and therefore were not on the agenda, but nevertheless, were encouraged to discuss their relocation of their existing K-2 from Washington Heights into the space on Corlear Avenue which will be vacant because Tech International Charter School is closing at the end of the school year.

Amber Charter School has two other sites already operating as elementary schools. One in East Harlem and one in Washington Heights which will relocate to this new site in September. Their goal is to grow into a 400 seat school increasing a grade a year, to include grade 5.

The school plans to give District 10 students priority in its admissions process. The Amber Charter School team wants to work with elected officials and community members to become an area resource.

The Chair led a discussion of the following issues:

1. NY Teachers union push for opting out of standardized tests.
2. NYC to spend \$14.5M to fix online system for special needs kids.
3. NYC charter school tuition to cost up to \$136M more than expected.
4. State must release \$69M in frozen aid for struggling NY schools.

The Chair reported that Mayor de Blasio has closed 3 schools in the Bronx and 2 in Brooklyn.

1. Bronx Leadership Institute
2. Bronx Monroe Academy for Visual Art and Design
3. Bronx JHS 145

The Chair will send out the letter to Principals to ask for their budget priorities for FY 2019.

Judith Green spoke about the Participatory Budget for the community funded by Councilman Cohen. The election was held and results will be forthcoming soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee**