

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2014
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Robert Press
Rita Pochter Lowe
Marvin Goodman
Mary Copeland
Karen Green
Robert Ackerman
Esther Nelson

AFFILIATION

Education Committee Chair
CB 8
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Amalgamated Nursery
Community Resident
Community Resident
Speaker, Granny Press

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM.

The minutes of June 24, 2014 were approved as written.

Our focus at our first meeting of the Education Committee of the school year 2014-2015 was early childhood education by inviting Esther Nelson of Granny Press as our speaker. Esther Nelson and her partner Davida Hirsch are dedicated to the development of children's early childhood learning through creative experiences. They have published books and recorded CD's demonstrating different approaches to learning. Their unique focus centers on providing those who teach, work with and care for children the tools needed to incorporate the magic, joy importance and value of music and movement in their programs. Music and movement help children develop language skills, inductive and deductive thinking ability, internalize concepts, promote literacy, develop large and small motor skills and enhance rhyming and memory ability. Children learn best by doing. Esther demonstrated her program by showing a DVD recorded at Marble Hill Nursery School with 4 year olds. The children were engaged and enjoyed the music and movement.

Mary Copeland of the Amalgamated Nursery is a teacher who attended the meeting and uses dance in her classes as well. Although agendas were sent to many other early childhood and head start programs, she was the only participant of the targeted audience this topic was intended, for which we thank her.

The Chair reported the Universal Pre-K is in place for this school year. The extra year of education that pre-k offers will teach skills like sharing and interest in a group environment, establishes tools for learning in Kindergarten and onward. For students in middle school after-school programs offer academic, social and physical activities that have shown to have a positive effect. It teaches students to handle conflicts better, were more cooperative and had better social skills.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

The next meeting will be held on October 28, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee