

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 22, 2011**

Attendees

Committee Members: Sylvia Alexander, Vice Chair; Robert Press, Bob Bender, Amy Moore, Julie Reyes, Philip Friedman

Community: Mrs. Edie Davis, Miawling Lim (Riverdale Review)

Agenda

The meeting began at 7:45. The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Vice Chair Alexander reported that she wrote to DOE Chancellor Cathleen Black to ask what will happen to John F. Kennedy high school students who don't graduate before the school converts to charter schools. She has not heard back yet.

Ms. Alexander said that she wanted to write to state legislators in Albany to oppose cuts to state education funding but was advised by Board Chairman Damian McShane that such letters should come from the Board on behalf of all agencies whose funding is being cut and their respective Community Board committees.

The committee discussed its concern about the April 1 state budget deadline being met.

Mrs. Davis complained that the staff at JFK high school is not responding to parents because the administration has discouraged teachers from doing so. She further complained that Title I funding, which by law is set aside for specific purposes, is being used by the school for general operating expenses and is not benefitting Title I students who are supposed to receive additional support from this money.

Committee members advised that the committee is unable to resolve the problems she identified but that Mrs. Davis should bring them to the attention of elected officials, DOE, and DOI.

The committee would like to find out from the DOE why it does not send representatives to the Borough Consultation meetings or to the District Service Cabinet meetings.

Vice Chair Alexander will contact people whose names were supplied by Board Chair McShane in her effort to find out whether a middle-school Gifted and Talented program can be located in Community Board 8, as many in the community hope.

The Committee reviewed its budget priorities from the previous year in preparation for a discussion of the budget priorities for the coming year. Committee member and Budget committee chair Philip Friedman advised that information about the condition of local schools can be found on the School Construction Authority website. (Note: Mr. Friedman subsequently supplied the link to the website to the Community Board office, which forwarded it to board members.) Mr. Friedman recommended submitting one request for each school in the community board rather than grouping the requests into a single item because such multiple requests do not receive consideration.

Committee members then agreed to take responsibility for contacting individual schools to try to determine their needs as follows:

Amy Moore: PS 81, 95, Ampark

Robert Press: PS 24, 7; MS/HS 141

Julie Reyes: MS 244 (former 143), 360

Bob Bender: JFK, 368, 37

There will be a UFT parent leadership training session on Saturday April 2, 10 am- 3 pm at the UFT offices at 2500 Halsey Ave. Nick Cruz is the contact (718-862-6074)

The Borough President is planning a Bronx education summit on October 15. The education committee has been asked, by our chairman, to consider the question, "What kind of topics do you feel would be helpful" keeping in mind that one of the working groups will be a parent to parent forum. The committee will discuss this issue at a later meeting. The summit will also include discussion of SAT preparation and ESL programs, among other topics.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.

The Vice-Chair would like to thank Bob Bender for taking the minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Vice-Chair
Education Committee