

(pending committee approval)

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO.8
Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting
Held on May 27, 2018 at the Board Office

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Rita Pochter-Lowe
Judith Green

AFFILIATION

Chair, Education Committee
CB8, committee Member
Community Committee Member

GUESTS

Andrew Cohen
Faye Landesman
Douglas Tappen
Robert Press

Councilman
Community Resident
Parent, PS24
Community Resident

ABSENT

Eric Dinowitz
Marvin Goodman

CB8, Committee Member
CB8, Committee Member

The meeting was called to order at 7:4PM.

The minutes of April 24, 2018 were presented but could not be voted on because of the lack of a quorum.

The Chair introduced the committee to the Legislative Follow Up prepared by Rosemary Ginty, Chair of Community Board No. 8. The items highlighted are before the City Council.

1. Require FDNY to educate children & families re fire safety (BxBP) (Mayor to sign bill)
2. Create a school siting task force. (referred to Public Safety Committee)
3. School security task force to review PD, DOE rules on emergency preparedness. (Public Safety Committee).
4. School security task force to review evacuation plans at schools. (Public Safety Committee)
5. Security cameras in public schools. (Education Committee).
6. School security task force to review optimum security preparedness. (Public Safety Committee).
7. School security task force to review emergency preparedness training. (Public Safety Committee).
8. Create a school security task force. (Public Safety Committee).
9. School security task force to review emergency preparedness in non-public schools, Public Safety Committee).

Councilman Cohen explained that because these legislations have been introduced so close to the

end of the fiscal year, they will have to be reintroduced in September and he will keep the committee informed since he agrees that safety in the schools should be a top priority. The discussion was continued to include overcrowded schools in our district and the need to find a site for the new school of 450 seats which has been spoken about by School Construction Authority.

At the last meeting the committee discussed the Mayor's proposal to eliminate the test for specialized high schools so that a new entrance method could be introduced to diversify the population attending the specialized schools.

Faye Landsman was a teacher at MS141 before she retired. She attended the committee meeting to inform us about a program she is involved in at MS118 called Dream (The Specialized High School Institute). This program prepares the students who might be in danger of missing acceptance by a small margin. The tutoring starts in 6th grade and continues until 8th grade when this test is given. To be eligible, a student must be a current NYC resident, be a current sixth grade student in a public school or charter, must meet income requirements of the federal guidelines and have scored 3.0 on the 5th grade NYS ELA and Math Test.

Students are randomly selected. Those not accepted will be put on a wait list

This program has proven that all students who wish to attend a specialized high school can obtain entrance whether it be through the specialized high school test or through several programs available to the students other than expensive private tutorial options. The guidance counselor would be the person to turn to for more information.

The students of the Dream program have gotten into many specialized high schools including Stuyvesant High School.

The discussion regarding the topics for next year were laid over to the next meeting since we were running late.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee