



# BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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*SERVING PORT MORRIS • MOTT HAVEN • MELROSE*



**RUBEN DIAZ, JR.**  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**GEORGE L. RODRIQUEZ**  
CHAIRPERSON

**CEDRIC L. LOFTIN**  
DISTRICT MANAGER

## EDUCATION & YOUTH

MINUTES

June 8, 2017

### The Neighborhood Charter School

**Ms. Sherita Smith Director of Operations** said that our rigorous academic program combines intensive direct instruction in math and literacy skills with ample opportunity for independent work, creativity and problem solving. Our Harlem school is the #1 independent charter school in New York State based on the 2016 New York State Tests.

We have a low Teacher to student ratio with two Teachers in each of the classrooms and provide the students with an orderly, predicable environment that gives them a sense of security and pride in their behavior.

We have a specialized program for children with high functioning autism spectrum disorders (ASD) with 8 to 10 seats in each grade set aside for these students and they participate in the same grade level academic curriculum as their classmates and are fully included in all aspects of the program. The Teachers working with these students receive training in strategies and supports designed especially for children with ASD and at least one of the Teachers in each classroom has a certificate in Special Education. ASD students also participate in special classes taught by a Speech Pathologist to help them with social understanding, communication deficits and difficulties with self-regulation that often presents challenges for them.

The students have inquiry-based science every day and participate in over 150 experiments a year. We focus on social and emotional skills which are just as important as academic skills for success in school and life. We provide visual arts, music and drama. We have an after-school program for students until 5:30 PM. We collaborate with families in the belief that the school is an extension of the home and have an active Parents Association focusing on the student's well-being and educational success.

We are planning a new public charter school serving grades K-8 in the South Bronx neighborhood in Community School District 7 and plan to open in the fall of 2019 with Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

### **Questions and Comments**

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**The Chairperson called for a motion to provide the Neighborhood Charter School with a letter of support on their plans to open another school in the Bronx.**

Motion made to provide the Neighborhood Charter School with a letter of support on their plans to open another school in the Bronx. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

**The Chairperson called for a motion to adjourn.**

Motion made to adjourn. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned.**