



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
**BOROUGH OF THE BRONX**  
**COMMUNITY BOARD 7**



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

JEAN HILL, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

**EDUCATION, YOUTH & LIBRARIES COMMITTEE**

<b>Chair</b>	Myrna Calderon
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	September 5, 2018
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	6:30pm
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Bronx Community Board 7 Office
<b>Minutes Done By:</b>	Myrna Calderon
<b>Members (Check Those In Attendance)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emmanuel Martinez <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yeny Medina <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Denise Relf <input type="checkbox"/> Yini Rodriguez
<b>Minutes Done By:</b>	Myrna Calderon

**Minutes:**

- I. Review of last month’s minutes**
- II. Introductions**
- III. Follow-up from previous month**
- IV. New Business**

- a) Meeting was called to order by Myrna Calderon acting Chair opened up discussion on what this year’s priorities would be. DM Ischia Bravo suggested remote locations for Education committee to increase community involvement, all agreed. Ms. Bravo also mentioned attempts to reach out to local schools and principals. Celia Cruz HS and PS54, Lehman College has responded positively.
- b) Yeny Medina (education director at Kingsbridge Montessori) brought up concern over lack of early intervention For children PreK-3 in CB7; that were also Bi-lingual. She stated many children are eligible for special education vouchers (IFSP) but must obtain services outside their communities. They wind up spending too much time on travel, which is a problem for such young children
- c) Denise Relf suggested obtaining travel vouchers (Agape Car Service) or access a ride where parents could ride back and forth with children.
- d) All agreed to work with Ms. Medina on trying to secure early intervention bi-lingual special education programs for children closer to home.
- e) Motion was made by Myrna Calderon and seconded by Emmanuel Martinez to send a letter to the DOE, Committee on Special Education and our local elected officials to request needed services in our community. All were in favor.



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- f) Myrna Calderon began discussion of concern over the uptake in gang violence in our schools and our neighborhoods. Suggestion was made by Ischia Bravo to have a joint meeting with Public Safety and Quality of life committee. We should invite Parent coordinators from the local high schools and middle schools to begin the discussion. Also to find out progress is being done with NYPD.
- g) Presentation By Blandon Casenave graduate of Brooklyn Technical HS and founding member Harambe Educational Support Foundation
  - 1. Presentation: <https://tinyurl.com/ycyyc269>
  - 2. Notes: <https://tinyurl.com/ybdtbe9k>
- h) Myrna Calderon (also a graduate of Brooklyn Tech HS) invited Mr. Casenave over concern of eliminating test for DOE's specialized high schools. Many former graduates of these schools feel that it is a mistake to eliminate these tests.
- i) The Harambe Scholarship was started by former graduates of Brooklyn technical HS. They identify students with potential and provide scholarships to attend CAS Prep in order to be better prepared to pass test for specialized high schools. This program not only helps with test taking but more importantly; teaches students needed study skills. In 2016 and 2017 they sponsored 10 students in Bed-Sty and are looking to expand.
- j) There is a need for programs like this because the DOE has eliminated gifted and talented programs that better prepared minority students to compete for these schools
- k) Committee members suggested that gifted and talented programs should be brought back.
- l) Lowell Green stated that her daughter graduated from Bronx Science and that preparations for these schools should start from Pre-K.
- m) Ischia Bravo suggested Mr. Casenave collaborate with Gary Smalls from Lehman College (Urban Male Leadership).

**V. Next month's meeting date: Wednesday, October 3**

**VI. Discussion on next month's agenda**

**VII. Adjournment**