



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



PAUL FOSTER, CHAIRMAN

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

EDUCATION, LIBRARIES, & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, April 13, 2011 @ 6:30PM

- I. Ms. Walker submitted an outline re: Educational Forum for Academic Excellence
 - A. Action: The Education Committee consensus is rather than hosting the Educational Forum we will host an information gathering forum at our May 2011 Committee meeting. We are inviting Principals, Assistant Principals, Guidance Counselors, Parent Coordinators, and Parent Teacher Association leaders to attend.
- II. Report from Ms. Walker
 - A. Shared feedback on schools concerns re: budget cuts
 1. Principals have been informed as to mandatory number of teachers they must layoff
 2. Parents want Supplemental Educational Services to continue
 3. Parent Coordinators are in threat of being cut
 - B. Updates on Budget cuts parental concerns & latest statistics on kindergarten & HS students
 1. 6,000 Teachers are predicted to be cut city-wide
 2. MS 80 has been informed that they must cut 5 teachers with the policy of "Last hired, first fired".
 3. Students in three of our schools are being taught in the halls & stairs
 4. Parents are fed up with: school closings, harmful charter co-locations, rampant overcrowding, frequent budget cuts, rising class sizes, excessive test prep, and stagnant achievement levels.
 5. 25% of all elementary schools city-wide have waiting lists for kindergarten next year, with over 3,000 children who cannot get into their neighborhood zoned school. 10% of all 8th graders city-wide did not get into any of their top ten HS choices.
- III. Letter of Opposition to the Capital Budget Plan for fiscal years 2011-2014
 - i. Action: See enclosed letter
- IV. The Youth Committee Chairman requested support from the Education Committee on the following initiatives:
 - A. Collaboration with the CET program and proposed recording of General Board meetings
 - B. Seeking internships with corporations for our Youth
- V. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM



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PAUL FOSTER, CHAIRMAN

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

April 18, 2011

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

As concerned Community Board 10 leaders and members we are writing to express our concerns over the proposed budget cuts to our schools, specifically within District 10. Any further budget cuts will not benefit but rather harm our children's already fragile possibilities of obtaining the best education possible. We are requesting that these severe budget cuts be seriously reconsidered. Members of the community, educators, parents and our youth have identified several areas of critical need. We urgently request your action and support on the following:

Request # 1: Eliminate Proposed Teacher Cuts to Our Community

Rationale: As stated by Ex-Chancellor C. Black, at the recent Bronx Borough Presidents' - Principals Consortium, the Bronx has the highest number of newly hired teachers of all the boroughs of New York City and as a result would experience the greatest negative impact.

Request # 2: Forego the "Last Hired, First Fired" policy

Rationale: District 10 is the largest and most populated district within New York City and therefore has the majority of newly hired teachers. Instituting this policy would potentially further devastate an already dire situation within our community. If layoffs of our vital teachers are inevitable, we are asking that our Principals be permitted to retain the most qualified teachers regardless to date of hire.

Request # 3: Ability to Select the Most Qualified Replacement Teachers

Rationale: Subsequent to the termination of teachers school principals are mandated to hire from the ATR pool of accessed and most times, tenured teachers some of which have unsatisfactory ratings. We are requesting that principals be allowed to hire only those who are most qualified.

Request # 4: Construction of additional schools

Rationale: As previously mentioned, District 10 is the most overcrowd district in the entire city. The severity of this situation has forced some of the district schools, PS 8, PS 56 and Clinton High School, to use hallways and staircases as make-shift classrooms.

We are hopeful that you will sensitive and reconsider in light of the evident harmful impact that these proposed budgetary cuts will have on an already heavily burdened school system. We earnestly request that you to reconsider what will undoubtedly to be a detriment to our children.

Respectfully,

Paul Foster, Chair
Bronx Community Board 7

Yvette Page, Chair
Education, Libraries and Cultural Affairs

cc: Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz
Marvin Shelton, President – District 10 Community Education Council