

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 20, 2008 AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE

PRESENT: R. Bender, D. Bowden, D. Radin-Contreras, I. W. Stone, S. Alexander, M. Cisneros, J. DeSio, K. Green, J. Lopez, M. Lopez, K. McNeil, R. Norberto, R. Press, M. Shelton

Dan Contreras, Bronx Coordinator for the Public Advocate spoke about a four year follow-up survey on New York City student's access to Physical Education in the schools. The State Department of Education requires that all children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade participate in Physical Education classes everyday and children in fourth through sixth grade participate in Physical Education classes a minimum of three times per week for a total of at least 120 minutes in each calendar week. The vast majority of the schools surveyed are in violation of the New York State regulations for Physical Education in schools.

Chairperson's report included the following items:

- State Aid for class size reduction; half of the schools did not reduce class size;
- Many schools do not have Gifted and Talented classes for students who passed the exam. Problems are worse in the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island.
- Department of Education will inspect cracks in buildings found by school custodians for possible PCB exposure.
- Students who did not get into first three choice High School's may not be able to go to nearby school.
- 328 schools are on a State honor roll for improved test results.
- Thirteen New York City elementary schools are expanding instructional time – longer day or longer year.

Chairperson went over Capital and Expense Budget priorities for FY 2010 as listed in April 29, 2008 minutes.

- Re: Capital Priorities, the vote was 7 in favor (M. Shelton, K. Green, S. Alexander, D. Bowden, R. Bender, R. Norberto and I. W. Stone), 1 opposed (R. Press)
- Re: Expense priorities, the vote was unanimous

Chairperson then went school by school to check enrollment and capacity. In essence, PS 24 and PS 81 were filled to capacity, PS7 and PS 37 were under capacity, MS/HS 368 was overcrowded and it was difficult to determine MS/HS 141 because capacity differs from middle school to high school. Discussion ensued about the lack of information concerning the schools capacity and enrollment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM. My thanks to Robert Press and Bob Bender for their excellent notes on the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bowden
Chairperson
Education Committee

DB:db (6/6/2008)