

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 28, 2008
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT: D. Bowden, B. Bender, B. Feinberg, D. McShane, J. Reyes, I. W. Stone, S. Alexander, A. Ben-Mere, A. Cohen, J. DeSio, J. Dinowitz, K. Green, M. Gunn, A. Hunter, R. Martos, R. Norberto, R. Press, M. Shelton

Meeting called to order at 7:29 PM. Minutes of the September 23, 2008 meeting was accepted as written.

Chairperson's report covered the following items:

- Meeting of parents of Gifted and Talented with Principal of P.S. 24, Phillip Sharper (reported by D. McShane). Discussed use of the Whitehall Annex for Gifted and Talented.
- M. Shelton reported that the Early Learning School at the annex will continue through 2010.

Guest speaker, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz spoke on Community control vs. Mayoral control of the Department of Education, the Gifted and Talented programs or lack of, possibility of local public schools to relieve overcrowding. Assemblyman Dinowitz claimed less accountability under Mayoral control. He said that Mayoral control will probably continue with a few changes.

Chairperson's report continued with the following items:

- New York City is still failing to provide students with Arts Education they are entitled to by law.
- Some pre-kindergarten slots (1/2 day and full day) available for 4 year olds (call 311).
- Department of Education Gifted and Talented classes in outer boroughs. Information forums on Gifted and Talented for the Bronx will be held on October 28th and 29th at P.S. 54.
- Some parents object to test reading and math skills as young as 5 year olds to "better identify kids learning gaps".

- More school diversity caused by the economic crisis and public school overcrowding caused by wealthy parents sending their private school children back to local public schools.

Thanks to Robert Press for his excellent notes on this meeting.

Date of next Education Committee meeting is on November 25th with special celebrity guest speaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bowden
Chairperson
Education Committee

DB:db (11/03/08)