

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO.8-BRONX
MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE HELD ON APRIL 26, 2012
BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10471

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Bob Bender
Andy Cohen
Robert Fanuzzi
Marvin Goodman
Rita Pochter-Lowe
Tricia Mullen
A. S. Ben Merre
Teri Colon
Jennifer Firestone
Kirsten Larson
Damans Nunez
Janet Price
Joseph Suarez

AFFILIATION

CB8 Education Committee, Chair
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Committee Member
Rep. Assemblyman Dinowitz
PS 24 Parents Assoc.
Principal, Marble Hill School
Teacher, Marble Hill School
New Visions, Director of Instruction
PTA President, Marble Hill School

The meeting came to order at 7:40 P.M.

A presentation was presented by the Marble Hill School for International Studies attendees. Kirsten Larson, Principal, Joseph Suarez, PTA President and Damans Nunez, Teacher. The school day begins at 9:00 AM and ends at 3:40 PM. There is an extended School Day from 3:40 PM-4:40 PM and includes Physical Education, Tutoring and Clubs. There is also a Saturday Academy 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Special Wednesday schedule includes Advisory, Dream Yard which includes Film, Drama, Arts, Dance, Health, Science Labs, and Community Service. The number of students attending the school is 460+. These students represent these categories: 89% Title I, 32% English Learners, 7% Special Education. It is interesting to note that 30 languages and 46 countries are represented. The origin of students is 43% born in NYC, 22% in Caribbean, 11% in Asia, 8% in Africa, 3% in Europe, and 2% in Middle East. The attendance rate is 91%, the graduation rate is 88%, college acceptance rate is 91%, and since 2006 scholarships have been received in the amount \$2,142,000. Each student studies a foreign language for two years and the school offers Japanese, Chinese, Spanish, Italian and of course English. The educational exchange program has taken students to China, Senegal, Mali, Malawi, Nicaragua, England, Costa Rica, France, Turkey and Japan. The school offers Clubs, Sports and Partners with Lehman College Now, Dream Yard, Lincoln Center, Human Rights Commission and Theater Development Fund, to enrich the quality of the student's school experience. The schools success attributes to the dedication of the Principal and Staff. The Marble Hill Schools' reputation attracts students from throughout the city as far away as Staten Island.

The second speaker, Janet Price, the Director of Instruction, New Visions presented a project the students at the two New Vision Charter Schools within JFK are involved in

called "The Greening of JFK". The students (in teams) observed the space outside of the school and developed ways in which solutions could be implemented to make the surroundings eco friendly. They had to do a formal presentation in class, as well as, having written their proposals and judging was done to pick a winning team of students.

The minutes of the March 27, 2012 meeting were approved as written.

Chair spoke about having sent letters to solicit budget priorities from local schools, and since the response has been slow, asked members of the committee to make some phone calls to the schools that have not responded.

Response to G & T seats has been larger than usual, and therefore, it was felt that one of the budget priorities should be for additional school seats that will be necessary in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

The next meeting will be held on May 22, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee