

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE BOARD OFFICE ON JANUARY 31, 2012

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander
Patricia Mullen
Robert Press
Bob Bender
Irving Ladimer
Andy Cohen
Marvin Goodman
Rita Pochter Lowe
Dianne Kirskey-Floyd
Maria Khury
A. S. Ben-Merre
Alec Diacou
Miawling Lam
Shelley Olson
Bill Scribner

AFFILIATION

CB8, Chair, Education Committee
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Committee Member
Guest Speaker
Riverdale Review

Bronx Art Ensemble

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.

1. Our guest speaker, Alec Diacou presented his proposal for the establishment of an elementary Charter School in School District 10, Bronx. The name of the school will be Roslyn S. Yalow Charter School and will have Roslyn Yalow's son on the Board of Trustees. The school will report to the Board of Regents. The anticipated date for the opening will be September 2013. It will start with a K-2 model with 244 students, with one additional grade each succeeding year of the charter school's 5 year term. The school anticipates expanding to 448 students to include 6th grade by the 2017-2018 school year. The school day will be 8AM-6PM and there is a strong desire to expand to include Saturday in the school week. As to the funding, they will receive \$500,000 from the state as start-up money, and \$13,500 per student. The students will be selected by a lottery and it will also service Special Needs students. Beside core curriculum, fencing, chess and Bronx Arts Ensemble programs will be offered.
Bill Scribner, Bronx Arts Ensemble, informed the Education committee that they are now operating programs in 60 schools in New York City and they are popular and successful.
The Charter School has not yet been approved nor has an appropriate location been sited. Mr. Diacou made this presentation to inform CB8 of his intention.
2. Irving Ladimer spoke about the Civic Education he is working on with the American Bar Association. He is hoping to set up a Civic Academy in the new Kingsbridge Library. He was seeking interest of the Education Committee to let

the American Bar Association know Civic Education is important in CB8. Suggestions were made to involve this topic in enrichment classes and after school classes in local schools. A member of the Education committee informed the group that New York State Bar Association already has such programs in the schools and perhaps the American Bar Association should team up so that duplication does not occur.

3. Minutes of November 22, 2011 were approved as written.
4. Debbie Bowden's passing was mentioned. A statement was presented and read into the minutes as follows:

The Education Committee pays tribute to the memory of Debbie Bowden. She served as a member of Bronx Community Board 8 for 27 years and participated in many endeavors to enhance the quality of life in our community. Her volunteerism, dedication and commitment to help others exemplify the principles by which she lived. Debbie served as the Chair of the Education Committee for 14 years and worked tirelessly on behalf of the students and the schools. She advocated on behalf of education in all schools including fighting for additional funding for education, acquiring additional seats for overcrowded schools and fought for programs that would enrich, educate and develop the well being of our children. Debbie always had the interests of children in the forefront of her undertakings. She was a very self-effacing person who preferred to remain in the background. She will long be remembered for her strength of character, kindness and her friendship to all that knew her. We are saddened by her passing and her many friends and colleagues in Bronx Community Board 8 will greatly miss her. Our condolences go out to the family.

It was suggested that the statement be brought to the Executive Board for approval for adoption by Community Board 8 at the general meeting on February 14, 2012. It was also suggested that a permanent tribute be designated to honor her complete commitment to educating all children by naming the Library at PS 24, "The Debbie Bowden Library". Other tribute options are also being considered.

The next meeting will be held on February 28, 2012.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair
Education Committee