

**Education Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 20, 2018**  
**Cedric McClester-Education Chairman**

The meeting of the Education Committee of Bronx Community Board 2 was held in the offices of the Community Board at 1029 E. 163<sup>rd</sup> Street, Bronx NY 10459.

A quorum of the members of the committee was noted by the District Manager, who was present at the meeting along with the Chairman of the Community Board.

Representatives from Achieve/Brick were on the agenda seeking a Letter of Support from the Community Board. They spoke of a proposed Charter School that they hope to open in the 2019/2020 school year.

The Education Committee did not vote on a Letter of Support because the intent was to open a Charter School in a neighboring Community Board district ( Bx. CB1). It was felt that that District should be the one to initiate a Support letter before others are sought. The Board did invite the representatives to look for a site in our CB district if they did not succeed in location one in BxCB1.

The Charter School would be a K through 8 school, initially starting with K through 1. The speakers spoke of their intent to look for a site first in the Melrose section of the Bronx. They were not interested in co-locating in an established school, but wanted their own premises.

The school has its roots in Newark, New Jersey . The literature handed out to Committee members states that it uses an instructional model with a foundation rooted in individualized college prep curriculum and instruction, innovation and computer science, a values driven school culture, trauma information practices, school-community partnerships, family supports, and uses student data for personalized learning.

Ben Goodman of the School Construction Authority updated the Education Committee on the city's capital plan concerning the public school system.

According to a handout, "The mission of the SCA is to design and construct safe, attractive and environmentally sound public schools for children throughout the many communities of NYC." The SCA states that it is dedicated to building and modernizing schools in a responsible cost- effective manner while achieving the highest standards of excellence in safety, quality and integrity.

The proposed city budget (Nov. 2017) dealing with public schools is \$16.5 Billion. This includes \$ 6.6 Billion for Capital Investment; \$6.5 Billion for Capacity Projects ; and \$3.4 Billion for Mandated Programs.

The Capacity Programs proposal is \$4.8 Billion for new projects ( funding over 44,700 seats); \$872 Million for new Pre-K seats; \$490 Million for Class Size Reduction; and \$ 287 Million for facility replacement.

In the five boroughs of NYC, the proposed funding is for a total of 44,727 seats; this includes 80 PS or PS/IS school buildings and 6 IS/HS school buildings.

Capital Improvement Program (\$4.0 Billion ) deals with upgrading exterior and Interior building conditions including athletic field upgrades, removal of transportable classroom units, fire alarm and public address upgrades,e.g.).

Mandated Programs (\$3.4 Billion)( include PCB Lighting replacements, boiler conversions, wrap up insurance, and prior plan project completion.

Funds are also secured through The Resolution A Program. These are individual grants from the Borough President or members of the New York City Council for school- specific funding through thr NYC budget. These funds are for education enhancements, recreational improvements, and security projects.

Once a grant is allocated by City Council or Borough President, the SCA is responsible for scoping the project and overseeing its design and construction. Eligibility: All grants must be a minimum of \$35,000, must provide a permanent enhancement to the facility, all equipment must have a minimum lifespan of 5 years, and technology grants must be used to purchase desktop computers, laptops, and or Smart Boards that access the facilities LAN System.

Members of the Committee impressed upon Mr. Goodman (718-472-8026, [bgoodman@nycsca.org](mailto:bgoodman@nycsca.org)) the need for new schools to handle the expected increase in school population when the Peninsula housing project is completed as well as other housing projects being constructed. Currently a new school or enlargements to existing facilities are not being thought of.

Projects completed in our District : IS 424- Defective retaining wall; PS 130- an exterior masonry/Flood Elimination /Parapet s/Roof.

Projects Currently In Construction in Our District: PS 48 – Full Program Accessibility; PS 62- Exterior Masonry/Parapets and Bathroom Upgrade; Longwood Prep Academy- Bathroom Upgrade; PS 75- Fire Damage; and Bronx Regional HS- Toilets- Students

Projects that are currently in design in our district: IS 424- Electrical Work for a/C Initiative and LSP Vacuum Pump System replacement; PS 75-Electrical work for A/C Initiative; IS 302- Flood Elimination and FY 18 Reso A Playgrounds; The Longwood Academy of Discovery- FY18 Reso A Playground; PS 150- FY18 Reso A Supplemental Cooling; Longwood Prep Academy- Flood Elimination and IPDVS Camera Installation; PS 48 – Roofs; Holcombe Rucker School of Community Research- FY16 Reso A Auditorium Upgrade.

Sydney Renwick, the Manhattan and Bronx Borough Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs answered questions about security guards and scanners in the schools.

Community Board concerned about the recent shootings taking place in the nation's schools wanted to know about the numbers of police or security personnel stationed in the school buildings, and the number of security scanners that students had to pass through to enter each building. The Borough Director will get back to us with the numbers requested.

Weapons taken from students are vouchered by the NYPD. Students are spoken to when the weapon is taken. Further action may or may not be taken.

Emergency procedures may include a Soft Lock Down where students remain in classroom. A Hard Lock Down is when students are sheltered in place.

A school safety officer will contact a central command within minutes of a disturbance within a school.

Lloyd Donders, Esq is a special education law attorney. [www.specialedlegalinfo.com](http://www.specialedlegalinfo.com)  
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He will help parents get their child the services needed starting from NYC Department of Health services from birth to 2 years; Pre School Special Education services from 3 to 5 years old; Special education Services from age 5 to 21 or graduation from High School. If necessary, he will ask for an independent educational evaluation for your child.

Richard P. Sherman  
Member of Education Committee  
Recorder