

**Community Board #3**  
655 Rossville Avenue  
Staten Island, N. Y. 10309  
**Youth and Education Committee Minutes**

February 11, 2009

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

\* denotes Committee members

Harold Kozak, Chairman Youth & Education\*

Dan Ajello\*

James Mahaney\*

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Kasey Gaeta

Verna Lauria

**GUESTS:**

Amy Schaub, NY Public Library (Tottenville)

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Meeting began at 7:40 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Committee members contacted their assigned schools to recruit students as Ambassadors to the Youth & Education Committee of Community Board #3; to date response has been poor. Several Committee members are awaiting responses.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Harold Kozak read a memo from Marie Bodnar, District Manager pertaining to the controversy relating to P.S. 53's proposed conversion to K-8. The Committee discussed the advantages of a K-8 program, as well as the opposition by Bay Terrace residents. Given the fact that the current trend is in support of K-8 schools, it was suggested that the buildings currently used as intermediate schools be converted to K-8. The Bay Terrace Citizens could suggest to the Department of Education that the P.S. 53 building (or a new building) and the I.S.24 building both be converted to K-8, thereby creating 2 new K-8 schools. Although Committee members may agree with the conversion, at this time the Committee will not intervene in this controversy.

Also discussed were, Mayoral control of NYC schools, how the Mayor could overhaul the Department of Education and its Administrators, and attracting more qualified teachers, especially math and science. The Committee would like to see the Chancellor mandate students at every level to read library books, and be required to answer questions. Amy Schaub, Librarian at the Tottenville Library reports that many students use the library for required reading assignments only.

Dan Ajello will do a presentation on "School Law and Special Education" at the March 4, 2009 meeting. Dan will contact Parent Coordinators, and email special-needs schools.

Amy Schaub distributed flyers announcing future programs offered by the Library.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Kozak  
Chairman Youth & Education Committee