



The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Three

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HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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CHAIRWOMAN EMERITUS

JOETTA BROWN
CHAIRPERSON

ETTA F. RITTER
DISTRICT MANAGER

EDUCATION & CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES
 Thursday, September 19, 2024
 9:00 AM
 1426 Boston Road /Hybrid Virtual Meeting

Staff Present

Courtland Hankins
 Etta Ritter

Members Present

Francis Dsouza, Joetta Brown, Adriano Joseph, Linda Kemp, Victor Latimer, Jasmine Uribe

Guests Present

Kimberly Downer, Phipps Neighborhoods
 Sandra Horne, Abbott House
 Silvia Hernandez, School District 8
 Rosalinda Alvira, Fannie Lou Hamer

All other guests names are on file

Call to Order

Mr. Francis Dsouza, chairperson of the Education/Consumer Affairs Outreach Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

Announcements

Ms. Siliva Hernandez, Family Support Coordinator at NYC Schools District 8, shared that School District 8 will host a Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Hernandez also announced that as of school year 2024-2025 all District 8 schools follow one curriculum.

Ms. Sandra Horne, Foster Parent Recruiter at Abbott House, stated that there is a need for more foster parents in the community. Ms. Horne gave an overview of Abbott House program services. Ms. Horne can be reached by phone at 917.786.0008 and via email at shorne@abbotthouse.net.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Kolaco Acqui
 1st Vice-Chairperson

Kathy Morris
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At that this time questions and comments were entertained, not limited to the following:

Informational meetings or orientations to become a foster parent can be scheduled via ZOOM or in-person.

Love is the most important criteria when becoming a foster parent, however there are guidelines that must be adhered to when becoming a foster parent.

Ms. Horne stated that Abbott House provides training for potential foster parents. There are 10 mandatory training sessions that are scheduled for 3 hours each session. There is also ongoing mandatory training administered at FosterCareCollege.com. These trainings help to ensure that potential foster homes do not have environments that could trigger the existing traumas of the foster children.

Ms. Rosalinda Alvira attended the meeting virtually with a classroom full of students from the Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom School, located at 1021 Jennings Street within Bronx District Three. Ms. Alvira stated that the purpose was so the students could witness civics in action.

Ms. Etta Ritter, District Manager of Bronx Community Board Three, gave the students an overview of civic responsibilities and how students can advocate on behalf of their community.

Old Business/New Business

Education Committee Goals and Objectives 2024-2025:

- Increase involvement in education.
- Initiate outreach to Bronx Community District Three schools to determine how best to support teachers.
- Contact representatives from the Bard High School early college located at 1619 Boston Road to attend meetings.
- Host SAT training class for the community.

Consumer Affairs Goals and Objectives 2024-2025:

It was stated that presentations regarding consumer affairs can focus on consumer rights and protections, tax preparation, scams and fraud prevention, financial literacy, identity theft, credit repair, predatory lending, and tenant rights.

The meeting was interrupted due to technical issues.

Adjournment

Mr. Dsouza adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

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