



Chairman, Alvin Warshaviak

*The City of New York  
Borough of Queens*

**Community Board 8**

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

**Minutes**

**Youth, Education and Library – June 1, 2015  
Held at Community Board 8, Queens, 197-15 Hillside Avenue**

**Attendance:**

**Committee Members Present:**

Marc A. Haken, Chair, Robert Block, James Gallagher, Jr., Fakrul ‘Delwar’ Islam.

**Board Members:**

Bob Harris and Jennifer Martin.

**Others in Attendance:**

Daniel Rosenthal representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Moses Ojeda, Principal of Thomas Edison High School, Marie Adam-Ovide, District Manager and Jatnna Pimentel, Staff.

Chairperson Marc Haken called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. He asked everyone present to introduce himself/herself. Principal Moses Ojeda is running late; therefore, we will adjust the agenda. He will make his presentation at the end.

**I. Libraries**

**Chairperson Marc Haken** – There are two libraries [Hollis and Kew Gardens Hills] that are either undergoing or will be under construction. There are six libraries within Community Board 8 [Briarwood, Pomonok, Kew Gardens Hills, Hillcrest, Fresh Meadows and Hollis]. Over the last few years considerable work has been done in the Fresh Meadows branch and recently on the Hillcrest branch. Kew Garden Hills has been undergoing a major renovation for about two years now.

**Hollis Branch** – \$1.2 M was allocated to renovate the library by former Borough President Helen Marshall. Prior to that \$600,000 has been allocated for the renovation of the roof. The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) just hired an architect for the Hollis branch library. There is going to be an expansion of the library and interior renovations. There will be a meeting open to the community for any suggestions on what they will like to see renovated or made at this branch. Marc Haken stated that he suggested Wi-Fi access, a dedicated space for Teens and an outdoor seating area. Decisions are yet to be determined.

**Kew Gardens Hills Branch** – Mr. Haken stated that this branch is undergoing a major project. He mentioned that this project was advocated by former Board Member Pat Dolan. She succeeded in obtaining the funds from City Councilman James Gennaro and the Borough President. Mr. Haken was

able to contact DDC and find out the time frame for the completion of this project. It is expected to be completed no later than 2017 [date to be verified by Marc Haken].

**Robert Block** – Is this the library near Vleigh Place?

**Marc Haken** – Yes.

**Robert Block** – I go to a periodontist within walking distance of that library. I have gone to that periodontist forever and it seems to me that for at least two years, that library has been closed. I miss it because I used to stop by, return a book or get a book. There is no one on that building, it is just standing there.

**Marc Haken** – They have a temporary working space for minimal library services. Unfortunately, the work being done at this library is not going at the pace we expected it to be.

**Robert Block** – But how many years will it take?

**Jenifer Martin** – The community is losing patience.

**Marc Haken** – If I contact DDC and asked them to find the contractor in default then you will not have a library for four or five years.

**Jennifer Martin** – To me it just seems ridiculous and I think something should be done.

**Marc Haken** – Rory Lancman has involved himself in it and has gotten different answers.

## **II. Resolution – Schools Safety Agents and parking enforcement in front of schools.**

**Marc Haken** – In your packets on page two there is a resolution. Those of us who have been involved with schools know that this is a major problem at every public school and probably many of non-public schools within Community Board 8. There have been issues with parents dropping off and picking their children from schools, double parking and compromising the safety of the children.

**Robert Block** – What about school buses that do the same thing?

**Marc Haken** – School buses belong there. We are talking about parents opening the doors; letting their kids out; waiting until they go inside and just stand there. I know several of the principals in the area; Jim knows one who stands on the sidewalk and tells parents to leave once they drop off their kids. A board in Staten Island took the first step and drafted a resolution that would give school safety agents the ability to give citations to cars that are illegally standing in front of public schools.

He asked everyone to take a look at an email from Staten Island Community Education Council 31 who took the first step toward giving school safety agents the power to issue traffic violations in front of school, in an effort to rein in parents whose dangerous driving is putting kids at risk. Mr. Haken stated that there was no resolution to vote on this evening. DM Adam-Ovide suggested that suggested a resolution to be created with the information that was provided. Mr. Haken dictated the resolution.

WHEREAS, parents delivering children to school in the morning and picking them up in the afternoon frequently parked in front of the schools creating a safety hazard to the children in the schools,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Community Board 8 urges the City Council to pass a law granting school safety officers the right to issue citations to those illegally parked in a school zone.

### **Moses Ojeda – Principal of Thomas Edison High School**

- Mr. Ojeda apologized for his lateness as there was a conflict with traffic.
- Marc Haken asked Mr. Ojeda if this was a problem in his school. Mr. Ojeda said that this is an ongoing issue and it builds up high traffic when the children are being picked up from school.
- Mr. Haken asked Mr. Ojeda if there was anything he will like to add to this resolution in correcting this problem.

- Mr. Ojeda stated that this is something we should be aware of since parents speed up when leaving the curb and it does cause an issue.

**Marc Haken** - Mr. Haken asked if anyone was opposed to this resolution or had any addition to make. Mr. Haken asked Daniel Rosenthal if he believes that Councilman Rory Lancman would support them.

**Daniel Rosenthal** – Mr. Rosenthal stated that he doesn’t think Councilmembers have the authority to do this. It will be up to NYPD to support them. Mr. Haken asked Mr. Rosenthal to look into this.

A motion was made by Bob Harris seconded by Jim Gallagher to accept the resolution as discussed.

**Count in Favor      6                      Opposed:      0                      Abstained:      0**

**Marc Haken** – Mr. Haken mentioned that he was involved with Thomas Edison High School three years ago with DM Adam-Ovide. They were invited to join the principal’s Advisory Board. They both went to the first few meetings. While DM Adam-Ovide could not commit due to time constraints, he remained involved. He invited everyone who did not have the opportunity to visit Thomas Edison High School to do so. It is a successful New York City public school and he assures those that do go visit will enjoy it.

If anyone is having a difficulty with your automobile as to if you need a piece replaced or any mechanical issues, they will do it for you at Thomas Edison High School. Each one of their auto shops one of the body shops are taught by individuals that have their own service station.

### **III. Moses Ojeda, Principal – Thomas Edison CPE High School**

#### **Moses Ojeda – Principal of Thomas Edison High School**

- Mr. Ojeda stated that Thomas Edison High School has 12 different career and technical education programs. Many of these programs are taught in college and they are free. All of Thomas Edison High School students have the opportunity in their senior year to obtain a state recognized industry certification in their CTE course of study.
- He also stated that he is an alumnus of the school. He graduated from Thomas Edison High School in June of 1993 with a C.T.E Endorsed Diploma in Information Technology.
- He also mentioned that NY1 did a story about him. He was a Technology Instructor for 10 years and then he became the assistant principal of all the career technical education programs.
- Mr. Ojeda distributed a brochure of all the services provided at Thomas Edison High School (Medical Assisting, Robotics/S.T.E.M., Visual Arts, Information Technology, Collision Repair and Refinishing Technology, Automotive Program, Computer Aided Design & Drafting, Electrical Installation Technologies).
- Mr. Ojeda stated that they are very cautious not to take businesses away from the community. They only serve students, teachers and friends of Thomas Edison High School.
- He also mentioned that their most recent program they have is Computer Forensics. They feel that they need to start a workforce on preventing people from stealing credit cards information. Thomas Edison High School is an ongoing C.T.E school that is always re-inventing itself, whatever it needs, it gets.
- He was also proud to announce that they now offer College Now and AP courses not many C.T.E schools do both. Thomas Edison High School really defines the true meaning of college and career ready.
- Mr. Ojeda stated that they are looking to find a way to make it a five year school. They trying to find a way to get students in Associate’s degrees. That is really the vision for Thomas Edison High School and what they are mainly focused on.

- Marc Haken mentioned that what he finds interesting about these programs is that once students graduate they are able to immediately secure jobs.
- Mr. Ojeda mentioned that each one of the programs depending on the college is associated and they will give articulated credit or some sort of entry to make it easier transition to the college.
- He also mentioned that the booklet provided was design by their graphic arts department.
- Marc Haken mentioned that the class that he adopted at Thomas Edison High School is a self directed class. A senior social studies class and it is run by the students. There are two teachers in the classroom because half of the class is special ed. He also mentioned that he was a New York City public school teacher for 30 years.
- Mr. Haken asked Mr. Ojeda what kind of test a youngster must take to enter Thomas Edison High School. Mr. Ojeda stated that there is no test requirement to enter Thomas Edison High School. There is no entry exam at this point.
- Robert Block asked Mr. Ojeda to what degree are you overlapping with your neighbor Jamaica High?
- Mr. Ojeda stated that Jamaica High School is broken down into small schools. What they collaborate on is on summer schools they will be housed together. They have a partnership with Jamaica High School.
- Robert Block asked, are they able to take courses at the other schools? Mr. Ojeda said no.

**Marc Haken** – Mr. Haken open the floor for questions anyone had.

**James Gallagher** – Mr. Gallagher stated that he works for DEP and a number of managers and directors are graduates from Thomas Edison High School. He asked if they have gone away with the plumbing program. Mr. Ojeda stated that hasn't been on for years but he is trying to bring it back. Mr. Gallagher also asked about the Installation Technology program. Are you guys incorporating anything with Local 3?

**Moses Ojeda** - Mr. Ojeda stated that as of now the Installation Technology program is one of the programs that he is trying to revamped. He is trying to go solar. He is looking for someone who would help him do that, and Local 3 may be a good option for a partnership.

**Marc Haken** – Do we still have Board Members that are Local 3 officials? We will find someone, and I am sure that Rory Lancman will assist us on that since he has gotten their support for a number of years also.

Marc Haken stated that he tried to get a representative from the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) but was not able to. He asked everyone to take a look at the DYCD Funded Programs in Queens for Fiscal Year 2015, which show all the out of school time programs that exist in Queens all Community Boards. Within Community Board 8 there are two beacon programs, JHS 216 and JHS 168 which is now called the Parsons Complex. There are many other programs which are administered by Queens Community House formerly known as Forest Hills House. All of these funds are from DYCD.

A motion was made by Jennifer Martin seconded by Jim Gallagher to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jatnna Pimentel, Community Board 8 Staff  
 June 4, 2015

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*After the meeting Jatnna Pimentel found the original resolution from CEC 31 online. This resolution has been submitted to the Executive Board.*