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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION – DIVISION OF  
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**  
**Truncation of PS 96 from  
a K-6 to a K-5  
November 14, 2011**

1 [START AUDIO]

2 MS. MICHELLE LLOYD-BEY: As people are  
3 coming in and having a seat, thank you for being  
4 here. Okay, so good evening. Tonight is a--  
5 this is a joint public hearing of the Department  
6 of Education, Community Education Council and  
7 the School Leadership Team for the truncation of  
8 PS 96 from what is now a K to 6 school to a K to  
9 5 school. I am Michelle Lloyd-Bey,  
10 Superintendent, District 27. We have asked the  
11 District 27 Community Education Council and the  
12 school leadership team of PS 96 to participate  
13 in this joint public meeting, or hearing. I am  
14 joined tonight by Principal Joyce Barrett-  
15 Walker. Okay, - - the District 27 CEC member,  
16 Mr. Ray McNamara. And we just wanted you to  
17 know that the hearing is being recorded.

18 The purpose of this hearing tonight is to  
19 provide you an opportunity to make comments  
20 about the proposal. And before I describe the  
21 proposal, I want to make sure that you are all  
22 aware of the opportunity to provide your input.  
23 All of those who wish to speak must sign in,  
24 which the sign-in period is over now. Okay, but  
25 we will extend it so if you want to make a

1 comment, you can go right in the lobby right by  
2 the door, there is a sign-in sheet and you can  
3 make your, sign in there. Okay, Ms. Nott  
4 [phonetic], she is walking this way and maybe  
5 you can see her if you want to make a comment.  
6 There may be elected officials--let's go back to  
7 the sign in. The sign in list is going to  
8 close, really, in a minute, and um, you are  
9 going to have a couple of minutes to speak if  
10 you decide to do so.

11 There may be elected officials who may join  
12 us this evening at different times throughout  
13 the night. Um, if they wish to speak, because  
14 we'd like to accommodate their schedule, we  
15 would like to give them an opportunity to do  
16 that when they get here. Comments will be  
17 mentioned, any comments that are made here this  
18 evening, in the Analysis of Public Comment to be  
19 published and provided to the Panel for  
20 Educational Policy the evening before the panel  
21 votes. That is, um, really, a part of the  
22 Department of Education, a panel of Educational  
23 Policy. And that vote is scheduled, those of  
24 you who are taking notes, for November 17<sup>th</sup>,  
25 2011. In addition, we welcome any comments--

1 good evening, ma'am--and feedback you may have  
2 at this time before the panel votes on both  
3 proposals. The e-mail, and I'm going to say the  
4 e-mail addresses and telephone numbers twice,  
5 the email address and phone number where  
6 comments may be made are at the following:  
7 d27proposals@schools.nyc.gov. Repeat:  
8 d27proposals@schools.nyc.gov. And the telephone  
9 number is 212-374-7621.

10 And so, the proposal summary. PS 96 is an  
11 existing zoned elementary school and the school  
12 is located in a building at Cube 96 in a  
13 transportable classroom unit also known as a TCU  
14 also commonly known as a trailer. Cube 96 at  
15 130-01 Rockaway Boulevard, Queens, New York,  
16 11420 in Community School District 27. And it  
17 currently serves students in kindergarten  
18 through sixth grade and offers a pre-  
19 kindergarten program. This is a proposal to  
20 implement a grade truncation, meaning the school  
21 would no longer enroll sixth grade students  
22 after the current 2011-2012 school year. If  
23 this proposal is approved, at the close of the  
24 2011-2012 school year, all fifth and sixth grade  
25 students who meet promotional standards, they

1 would graduate from PS 96 and would enter  
2 middle school as sixth and seventh graders,  
3 respectively, in the 2012-2013 school year.  
4 Beginning in September 2012, PS 96 would only  
5 serve students in kindergarten through fifth  
6 grade and would continue to offer a pre-  
7 kindergarten program which, of course, is  
8 subject to funding and demand. Students in  
9 District 27 currently attend their zoned middle  
10 schools or they apply to choice middle schools  
11 on a school by school basis. A student's zoned  
12 school is determined by his or her home address.  
13 The New York City Department of Education, also  
14 known as DOE, and the District 27 City Education  
15 Council are currently, excuse me, are currently  
16 discussing the possibility of implementing a  
17 middle school choice for District 27. If the  
18 CEC were to vote to adopt middle school choice  
19 for District 27, zoned students would still have  
20 priority for admission to their zoned middle  
21 schools. Students would also be eligible to  
22 attend a zoned school outside of the zone in  
23 which they reside after students within the zone  
24 in which the school is located have been  
25 admitted. Students would continue to be able to

1 apply to both middle schools that have borough  
2 wide and city wide admission policies.

3         The Department of Education strives to  
4 assure that all students in New York City have  
5 access to high quality schools at every stage of  
6 their education. The proposed grade truncation  
7 offers significant benefits to the students  
8 currently in fifth grade at PS 96. Middle  
9 schools typically enroll students beginning in  
10 the sixth grade and PS 96 students already have  
11 the option to apply to choice middle schools as  
12 fifth graders. However, PS 96 students who wait  
13 until the sixth grade to apply to choice middle  
14 schools, they are limited to those schools that  
15 still have available seventh grade seats. In  
16 particular, there are several unzoned choice,  
17 excuse me, unzoned seats because seats become  
18 available only if sixth graders, students, leave  
19 the school. And I'm going to say that again so  
20 that the parents are really, really clear about  
21 this piece. There are several unzoned middle  
22 schools in District 27 that rarely have open  
23 seventh grade seats because those seats become  
24 available only if sixth grade students have - -  
25 they leave the school. So if they leave, you

1 have an opportunity to send your child. As a  
2 result, students who remain in PS 96 through the  
3 sixth grade and wish to attend a choice middle  
4 school would have fewer options than their peers  
5 who start middle school a year earlier. This  
6 proposed grade truncation will provide PS 96  
7 students access to the same range of middle  
8 school options as their peers throughout  
9 District 27.

10 In addition, it addresses problems that  
11 exist for middle school students and the middle  
12 school as a whole when students start middle  
13 school through multiple entry grades, meaning  
14 sixth and grade seven. Further, the proposal  
15 addresses some advantages that students may be  
16 experiencing while they remain at PS 96 for  
17 sixth grade after their grade size has been  
18 reduced by the number of students who exercise  
19 the option to enter middle school in the sixth  
20 grade. Also, by entering middle school in the  
21 sixth grade rather than the seventh grade,  
22 students at PS 96 would have more opportunities  
23 earlier on to take advantage of the enriching  
24 high school preparatory experiences offered at  
25 middle schools.

1           And finally, changing PS 96's grade span  
2 from K to 6 to K to 5 would reduce the school's  
3 enrollment by approximately 44 students,  
4 reducing the building utilization rate and also  
5 alleviating the overcrowding in the building.  
6 The reduction in enrollment could free up  
7 additional class space at PS 96 that can be used  
8 to accommodate additional lower grade students  
9 or to meet other schools' needs.

10           So, at this time, what I'm going to do, is  
11 I'm going to open up the floor and I'm going to  
12 first give the CEC member an opportunity if he  
13 would like to make a statement. Okay, here's  
14 Ray McNamara.

15           MR. RAYMOND MCNAMARA: Good evening, ladies  
16 and gentlemen, Raymond McNamara, Senior  
17 Community Education Council District 27. I'm  
18 simply here as a representative to the Council  
19 tonight, seeing what all of you have to say.  
20 Thank you.

21           MS. LLOYD-BEY: Thank you. Okay, I'd like  
22 to now offer an opportunity to the SLT  
23 representative.

24           MR. JUNIOR LEWIS: Good evening. My name is  
25 Junior Lewis. I am the president of - - .

1 MS. LLOYD-BEY: Would you like to make any  
2 comment, sir?

3 MR. LEWIS: Um, not at this time.

4 MS. LLOYD-BEY: Okay. And so, at this time,  
5 we have concluded, well, I've concluded, really,  
6 my comments. And so, what I'd like to do is to  
7 give any speakers--do we have any speakers?

8 MS. JOYCE BARRETT-WALKER: I just wanted to--  
9 -good evening, I'm Joyce Barrett-Walker,  
10 Principal. Um, Mrs.--Superintendent Lloyd-Bey  
11 has basically covered all the salient points and  
12 we are all in agreement of truncating grade six.  
13 It will be an advantage to them as they  
14 transition to middle school.

15 MS. LLOYD-BEY: Thank you. I didn't want to  
16 miss your principal. [Laughter] So, at this  
17 time, if there are no speakers, and my full  
18 proposal has been read, I'd like to conclude  
19 this meeting by wishing everyone a good night  
20 and thanking everyone who came out to hear the  
21 presentation. Thank you.

22 [END AUDIO]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

The prior proceedings were transcribed from audio files and have been transcribed to the best of my ability.

Signature

: Amr. Baker

Date November 15, 2011