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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**
**Brooklyn Success Academy 4 @ K050 -
1/17/12**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MR. RAYMON ROUHANIFARD: - - . This is a -
3 - meeting - - council and the school leadership
4 team for the purpose of - - of Brooklyn Success
5 Academy Charter School 4 - - with existing - -
6 3:50 beginning in 2012 - - . My name's Raymon
7 Anifard, and I'm an Executive Director at the
8 Office of - - Management at the Department - -
9 petition. We - - District 14 - - education
10 council and the school leadership teams in the
11 building participate in this public hearing. -
12 - to the left, - - to the left of his left.
13 We're also joined by Tom - - who is - -
14 University of New York, where he serves - - .

15 To my immediate right, - - principle of the
16 - - . To my left is Allan - - who serves on the
17 citywide council of special education, and she's
18 - - her colleague Louis Roge [phonetic] also on
19 the - - , and then we have two representatives
20 from the - - SLT to - - left is Joel Garcia and
21 to Joel's left is - - .

22 The purpose of this hearing is for you to
23 provide comments about the proposal. We want to
24 make sure that you are all aware of the
25 opportunity to provide - - . All those who wish

1 to speak must sign up in the speaker sign up
2 area located just outside the auditorium. The
3 sign up lists will close in 15 minutes.
4 Speakers will be given floor in the order that
5 they signed up. All comments are limited to two
6 minutes. There may be elected officials who
7 show up at different times throughout the
8 evening. If they wish to speak, we will do our
9 best to accommodate them at the first
10 opportunity - - will be asked to speak first.

11 - - proposal, I want to make a quick
12 announcement. The DOE - - proactive in a
13 logistical problem - - distribution of
14 educational - - . Therefore, to assure - - time
15 for additional public comment, we will - -
16 proposal by scheduling an additional public
17 hearing. We anticipate that the panel for
18 Educational Policy - - proposal - - first
19 meeting currently expected to take place at 6:00
20 p.m. at Brooklyn Technical High School located
21 at - - place. All comments at the - - and the
22 subsequent public hearing will be mentioned in
23 the - - public comment to be published and made
24 available as a - - educational policy - - formal
25 handouts. In addition, we - - may have at any

1 time before the panel votes - - . The e-mail
2 address to where comments may be made are
3 D14proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and the phone
4 number is (212) 374-020 - - . I'm now going to
5 read over the summary of the public hearing.

6 The New York City Department of Education is
7 proposing the site of Brooklyn Success Academy
8 Charter School 4, Success Academy - - , a new
9 public charter school that will service students
10 in Kindergarten to fourth grade in this
11 building, K050 located here at 183 South 3rd
12 Street - - beginning in 2012 - - . Success
13 Academy - - collocated at K050 with the existing
14 middle school, JS50, John D. Wells [phonetic],
15 which serves students - - . JS50 admits
16 students in 6th grade through the District 14
17 middle school application process - -
18 application process. The collocation reads that
19 two or more school organizations are open in the
20 same building, and share large common spaces
21 such as auditorium - - .

22 Success Academy - - charter - - public
23 charter schools, including this one. Although
24 this proposal has not yet been approved by the
25 Council for Educational Policy, assuming - - the

1 facilities here - - proposed collocation of
2 Success Academy - - with JS50. As such, the
3 joint public hearing will also serve as a
4 facility hearing. There's no - - representative
5 here tonight, Tom - - .

6 Currently, in addition to JS50, K050 houses
7 a high school, the Academy for Young Writers,
8 14K404 [phonetic]. In a separate educational
9 impact statement, posted on December 2, 2011,
10 the DOE's proposing - - Academy for Young
11 Writers to build a K422 in District 19 beginning
12 in 2012/13 school year. If that proposal and
13 this proposal are both approved, Academy of
14 Young Writers will no longer be housed in K050
15 starting in the 2012/13 school year. Also, the
16 Office of Adult and Continuing Education hold -
17 - classes in K050 on Monday and Wednesday
18 evenings, and K050 houses a community-based
19 organization - - .

20 According to the 2010/2011 enrollment
21 capacity utilization report, otherwise known as
22 - - , K050 has the capacity to serve 1,200 - -
23 students. If this proposal's approved, at
24 scale, Success Academy - - will serve
25 approximately 525 to 625 students in

1 Kindergarten to the 4th grade by 2015/16 school
2 year. At that time, K050 is projected to serve
3 approximately 870 to 1,000 students enrolled in
4 JH50 Success Academy - - estimated - -
5 utilization rate of 71 to 81%. That's - -
6 utilization.

7 The DOE believes in Success Charter
8 Network's record of success and supports - -
9 this charter school operated by Success Charter
10 Network and - - in order to continue to provide
11 educational opportunities for students - - .
12 We're now going to hear short presentations from
13 each of the hearing participants. I'll begin
14 again by just starting to my far right in
15 allowing our participants to speak. At that
16 point we will then transition into the public
17 commentary, and then I will provide some final
18 commentary - - . So I'll start with Tessa
19 Wilson. Or, Juan Marone, sorry.

20 MR. JUAN MARONE: [Speaking foreign
21 language]

22 [Applause]

23 MR. MARONE: [Speaking foreign language]

24 [Applause]

25 MR. MARONE: - - I want to say, I've been a

1 part of this neighborhood 39 years. I have
2 served on the Community Education Council for
3 the past seven years, giving of my time
4 voluntarily being a liaison to the Department of
5 Education to ensure the quality of education for
6 all of our children and to ensure our parents
7 have a voice.

8 I am not against charter schools, and I am
9 not against - - education. I am against any
10 process and any school that will not allow the
11 community and its - - to participate in the
12 decision making process.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. MARONE: - - and I have been a part for
15 17, and I'm the Executive Director of one of the
16 largest organizations in this community, and I
17 believe I have a basis to know what my community
18 needs and what my community wants. There are -
19 - when my children are going to start school,
20 and I want them to go to a quality school. And
21 I agree, I believe that any child deserves a
22 quality education. But - - those that are
23 coming into the school system. We also have to
24 wonder what's going to happen to those that are
25 already in the school system. What's going to

1 happen to them? - - middle school, we need
2 more quality middle schools in our communities
3 to ensure the quality of education for all.
4 This - - birthday, and it is shameful that we
5 are talking about those that have and those that
6 have not. We want to ensure a process and we
7 want to ensure quality education for all. Thank
8 you very much.

9 [Applause]

10 MS. MARIA AGUILA: [Speaking foreign
11 language]

12 [Applause]

13 MS. AGUILA: This is why I want to say to
14 all of you I'm not against charter schools. I
15 have a family member who's a charter school
16 teacher and has a kid in a district school.
17 Everybody has a choice. I understand that.
18 What I don't understand is they say that we are
19 - - , but then yet, they want to - - . In our
20 elementary school under - - , why are you adding
21 another K to 4 school to - - ?

22 [Applause]

23 MS. AGUILA: We've been asking for more
24 middle schools in this District, and I feel
25 they're not listening. That's the impression I

1 get. This is not a - - . What I'm saying is
2 that I feel that they need to communicate with
3 us better, and I think our relationship will - -
4 harmony that we can agree to something, but not
5 the way they're doing it. I don't like - - . I
6 really don't. That's not the way we do it. We
7 got to - - . We got to - - , and then maybe we
8 can talk and agree to something, but not the way
9 they're doing it. Thank you.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. TESSA WILSON: Thank you. My name is
12 Tessa Wilson, and I'm the President of Community
13 Educational Council District 14. Just like my
14 colleague, Ramon - - had - - , I stand here the
15 daughter of parents who went to a segregated
16 school in the south. They went to a one room
17 school house where they were not given the same
18 books or the same quality education just because
19 of the color of their skin. And I have to say
20 that in light of this whole process, we are once
21 again seeing separate and unequal.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. WILSON: - - education for all, not for
24 some. We want to see the same thing for every
25 child. We're asking for more middle schools and

1 more quality high school in this district, and
2 the DOE has turned a deaf ear to us. That is
3 why from now on the Community Education Council
4 will no longer take part in these hearings. We
5 will boycott.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. WILSON: It is time for - - to speak and
8 use their voice. We are empowered when we use
9 our voice. When I look out into this community,
10 I see people of every color and every - - coming
11 together on the same issues. We will no longer
12 allow the 1% to dictate to the 99.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. WILSON: When the CEO of a charter
15 school makes over \$300,000 and can tell me that
16 she knows more about what happens in my
17 community, I think she's wrong. I - - . I've
18 been a member of this community since the early
19 '80s, and I want - - . Do not put in jeopardy
20 the programs that we have here. Strengthen
21 what's already here. We have a strong
22 community. We know what we need. We've all
23 educated our children. We do not need someone
24 coming from the outside and invading us for what
25 they think we need. We do not - -

1 [Applause]

2 MS. WILSON: --telling us what we need. We
3 know what we need. Understand - - . Thank you.

4 MS. ELLEN MCHUGH: As you can tell, I'm not
5 from the neighborhood. So to say that I'm a
6 neighborhood person for this neighborhood would
7 be really stretching it. However, I lived in my
8 neighborhood, and that neighborhood is a
9 neighborhood made up of people who have children
10 with disabilities. My son is deaf, married to a
11 deaf girl from - - . I am trying desperately to
12 learn Spanish, but I wouldn't dare do it tonight
13 because I think it would insult people in this
14 room. One of the notices that went out included
15 the fact that over 26% of the students in this
16 building are students with IEPs. It is rare
17 that schools are - - for individuals with
18 disabilities, as this school seems to be, and
19 one of those rarities is in the charter school
20 they serve less than 3% of their students with
21 IEPs.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. MCHUGH: I could take the high road and
24 tell you that I'm not against charter schools,
25 but I was raised a Catholic, and that would be a

1 lie. What I'm against is charter schools in
2 public school buildings. They should have their
3 own buildings.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. MCHUGH: They make it difficult for us
6 as parents who have children in public school
7 systems to watch the comparison. The DOE has
8 said that any improvement to the building that's
9 over \$5,000 would also be met by their public
10 school assistance. Having been doing this for a
11 long time, despite my youthful appearance, I
12 have to tell you that they would put your--this
13 is my opinion. That they would put your
14 upgrades on a list, and that list takes forever.
15 I am working in a school now that got ballerina
16 barres, B-A-R-R-E, seven years ago. Today,
17 they're putting them in. I am concerned that
18 any improvement that the charter school might
19 bring here and that this school - - would not be
20 shared by all - - .

21 [Applause]

22 MS. MCHUGH: - - students with disabilities
23 who are or might be coming here, and I am
24 concerned because as a community, it makes your
25 - - very powerfully evident, and yet there are

1 other - - that have more power than this
2 community. I can't tell you that I can come
3 here and change the world, but I can tell you,
4 but I can tell you that together it does make a
5 difference how people look at our skin color or
6 our age or our neighborhood. That we can be
7 together in this - - .

8 [Applause]

9 MS. ALISE HOVE: My name is Alise Hove
10 [phonetic], and like Ellen, I'm here for the
11 Citywide Council for Special Education. I have
12 four children who attend city schools, three
13 have IEPs. I have a range of self contained,
14 requires a paraprofessional, medical
15 necessities, and my concern always is students
16 with disabilities are barely mentioned in what's
17 called this educational impact statement, which
18 is not an educational impact statement. It is a
19 building statement. It does not discuss how
20 this charter school would recruit children with
21 disabilities. It does not discuss who children
22 with disabilities often require more square
23 footage just to receive proper therapies.

24 We've heard stories of students having
25 therapies now behind curtains in auditoriums

1 because utilization of the building says that
2 that's okay. So we are here to support a
3 community who clearly loves their school, loves
4 their children, and who are not - - .

5 [Applause]

6 MR. JOEL GARCIA: Hello, I'm going to be
7 brief. My name is Joel Garcia. I represent the
8 Teachers at Middle School 050, and I'm a UFT
9 representative.

10 [Applause]

11 MR. GARCIA: I want to say that - - middle
12 school, myself, we are not in favor of the
13 introduction of the charter school - - .

14 [Applause]

15 MR. PHIL WHITEMAN: Hello, I'm Phil
16 Whiteman. I'm the SLT chair and it's a pleasure
17 to see so many of you come out and express your
18 voices at this forum because I think that's
19 important of this community having everyone come
20 out and that's all I have to say. So kudos to
21 you. Thank you.

22 MR. ROUHANIFARD: All right. So we're now
23 going to move forward to the public commentary
24 portion of this evening. I'd like to say that
25 we look forward to hearing - - testimonies.

1 Thank you - - you should be advocates, but not
2 adversaries, so I really urge everyone here to
3 be as respectful as we can. We're going to
4 begin with the elected officials who have signed
5 up to speak. We're going to start with someone
6 from Community Board 1, followed by Council
7 Member - - if she's here, followed by Jason from
8 the Brooklyn Borough President's Office. So
9 Seban [phonetic], feel free to come on up.

10 SEBAN: Good evening. It's great to see - -
11 . It's great to see - - community members,
12 neither elected officials because we are here to
13 let the Department of Education know that we do
14 not allow for them to take over our schools - -
15 .

16 [Applause]

17 SEBAN: We have the - - . We demand to be
18 heard. We demand to have our demands met in our
19 community because this is our community. So I
20 want to let you know that just last week at the
21 Community Board, last Tuesday, we passed a
22 resolution that called on the Department of
23 Education to reject this proposal for
24 collocation - - .

25 [Applause]

1 SEBAN: I - - this school that they're
2 proposing is going to be a K through 4, but we
3 have four other elementary schools within a few
4 blocks over here. We have PS16, we have 17, we
5 have - - PS84, - - . You know, we have - -

6 [Applause]

7 SEBAN: I know we also have other - -
8 schools like PS31, PS132, - - we are - - and
9 that's what we need to focus on, not on bringing
10 a new charter schools. We also want to let you
11 know that this school, K050, has been
12 overburdened with a high amount of English
13 Language Learners. So why are we going to start
14 putting another school in here that doesn't even
15 address out community's needs? That's
16 unacceptable. We will not allow - - .

17 [Applause]

18 SEBAN: So we reject this proposal, and we
19 want a community plan that's put together with
20 community partners having a seat at the table to
21 - - on how we're going to - - our schools before
22 we just let somebody come in and do what they
23 want to do. We will not accept that. We won't
24 accept that, and I also wanted to start by - -
25 worked out. - - please stand up, you all. We -

1 - .

2 [Applause]

3 SEBAN: - - 49, they pushed the schools in
4 there, and now what's happening to the one
5 school - - ? It's - - . This is why we need to
6 listen to the community when it comes to - - our
7 community needs, listening to our demands
8 because - - our community, and you've done it
9 for too long, and we will not accept it. So
10 thank you for - - . [Speaking foreign language]

11 [Applause]

12 SEBAN: [Speaking foreign language] And I
13 want to hear folks say it. Success is a mess.
14 Success is a mess. Success is a mess. - - .

15 [Chanting]

16 MALE VOICE: - - .

17 MR. JASON UTANO: Good evening. Good
18 evening. - - good evening. All right. My name
19 is Jason Utano. I am the Special Assistant from
20 Legal Affairs to the Brooklyn Borough President.
21 More importantly, I am a resident of the South
22 Side Community.

23 [Applause]

24 MR. UTANO: First of all, for those of you
25 who aren't from this neighborhood, [Speaking

1 foreign language]. - - and despite major - -
2 in population, it remains to be one of our
3 predominant Latino neighborhoods, adding to the
4 eclectic diversity that makes Williamsberg, much
5 like all of Brooklyn, a beautiful place to work,
6 live, learn and play. As we look for new ways
7 to improve upon the education and development of
8 our - - , it is vital that the community
9 participate in - - changes to schools servicing
10 our children. Over the past several weeks, our
11 - - has very much regarding the collocation and
12 it's hearing several concerns with the
13 community. The first and most alarming is that
14 community outreach and marketing that has been
15 used to advertise this school today. There are
16 a couple questions and concerns that the Borough
17 President would like addressed.

18 The first, why is it that the advertisements
19 for Success Academy Williamsberg were only
20 rolled out on the north side of Williamsberg
21 despite the fact that the site of the
22 collocation is in Losutas [phonetic], the south
23 side of Williamsberg? Why has there been no
24 such advertising in the immediate area? Which
25 with such a population surrounding the site of

1 this collocation, why have we not seen any
2 advertisements in Spanish? There are concerns
3 as to who it is the Success Academy will serve.
4 If in fact the Success Academy does mean to
5 serve the immediate surrounding area, will they
6 be a - - presence for our local children? For
7 people outside the local area, how will they get
8 to the school?

9 Currently, it is our understanding that
10 almost a third of the students enrolled at this
11 school right now are English Language Learners,
12 a rate that is much higher than the city's
13 average. How does the Success Academy plan to
14 serve the ESL - - population here?

15 [Applause]

16 MR. UTANO: There is no question that the
17 borough president and this community wants
18 what's best for our children. Notwithstanding,
19 it is vital that those new choices for education
20 in this community be developed in conjunction
21 with the community. Choices should be available
22 to all members of the community, not just those
23 who predominate a certain sector of
24 Williamsberg. With this, we call upon the DOE
25 and the Success Academy to address the concerns

1 I have expressed as well as - - the very real
2 concerns that will be addressed by the members
3 of our community here tonight. Thank you
4 everyone for you attention and your time.

5 [Applause]

6 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Council Member - - ? She
7 - - ? All right. So until she gets here, Rob
8 from the community board.

9 MR. ESTEBAN DURAN: Good evening, everyone.
10 I said, good evening, everyone. Now, when I was
11 in church, I said to you - - I didn't learn
12 Spanish till I was 12. The only time that I - -
13 was my mother screaming at me when I was a kid.
14 But I learned it in school. I learned it at
15 MS50, and I learned - - viva. Everyone know
16 that word? It means to live, right? So I'm
17 going to say for one brief moment, I'm going to
18 say viva MS50. And you guys have to - - viva.
19 Okay. So viva MS50.

20 [Cheering]

21 MR. DURAN: Viva MS50.

22 [Cheering]

23 MR. DURAN: Now, I know the statistics say
24 that if you come out of here, you're not going
25 to be successful. You're not going to do well

1 in life. I come from MS50. I'm the Executive
2 Director of a not for profit - - . I went to
3 PS17 after I - - I take - - . And they'd say,
4 you got to go to public school, son, and see
5 what happens there. And when they had to close
6 for many, many reasons, not because of me, but
7 because PS17 embraced me, and they said this is
8 a kid that we're going to make sure he's
9 successful. We want to keep MS50 when we had a
10 - - where we had - - from house to the school in
11 three minutes flat because it was - - after
12 dark, you know you were going to get into
13 trouble in South Side. You had to make sure you
14 were home, but MS50 was our church. MS50 was
15 where I learned about - - , where I learned
16 about incredible things about life. So I - -
17 that we're looking to do better, and I'm
18 imploring that you have a board here that
19 recognizes the people. But instead of bringing
20 in a new school like Success, and I think they
21 recognize this tonight, how about we just help
22 MS50? How about we - - ?

23 [Applause]

24 MR. DURAN: And I'll leave you with this
25 note. Whenever there's something wrong with

1 development, no matter how bad it is, no
2 matter how - - is and all those kind of--they
3 don't decide to destroy the government. They
4 don't shut the government down. They hire new
5 elected officials. They put a Democrat, then a
6 Republican. You try harder. You work with the
7 system. I'm not here - - I'm not saying the
8 system I perfect, but work with the system we
9 have. Let's work with the school we have.
10 Let's make it better. I'm here to tell you
11 today that I'm proud of MS50. It's as
12 successful as - - and I thank you all, and I
13 thank - - .

14 [Applause]

15 1: - - Rob Solano. He is a representative
16 of the 50th Assembly District - - .

17 [Applause]

18 MR. ROS SOLANO: Good evening, [Speaking
19 foreign language]. I'd firstly like to thank
20 the members of CEC 14. Can we give them a round
21 of applause?

22 [Applause]

23 MR. SOLANO: They're dedicated group of
24 volunteers who have worked tirelessly to improve
25 our local schools. You know, there is one

1 common thread that unites us all here tonight.
2 That is a deep commitment, a deep commitment to
3 the - - . Our parents, our incredible
4 advocates, - - advocates for what's in the best
5 interest of their own kids. Our teachers, our
6 principles work--

7 [Crosstalk]

8 [Applause]

9 MR. SOLANO: - - the best possible - - .
10 Our elected officials, our community leaders, we
11 all want what's in the best interest of our
12 youth, our future, our community. You know,
13 sometimes I read an article in the newspaper,
14 and it really will stick out in my mind. Last
15 summer, I was reading an article in the New York
16 Times by Michael Winter [phonetic], who writes
17 about education. And he told the story about a
18 young boy named Matthew - - . Matthew was just
19 five when he joined Success Academy, and within
20 12 days, 12 days, he had been genuinely
21 encouraged to leave.

22 [Applause]

23 MR. SOLANO: Three years later, he is
24 excelling at the local public school, but it
25 begs a good question. Why did this school not

1 do whatever it could to serve that child? Our
2 neighborhood public schools, our expectation of
3 every school is that they are going to serve our
4 entire community, right?

5 [Applause]

6 MR. SOLANO: So - - for Success, today it's
7 clear. One Success school has 2% English
8 Language Learners. Another Success school has
9 3% English Language Learners. Another Success
10 school 4% English Language Learners, and yet
11 another 4% English Language Learners at a Success
12 Academy. Now, this is the South Side, right? I
13 think we got a little bit more than 4% English
14 Language Learners over here. You know what I
15 mean?

16 [Applause]

17 MR. SOLANO: Success Academy is not serving
18 our special need students. They're not serving
19 our English Language Learners. They're not
20 serving our whole community. So the message to
21 the Department of Education is clear. They need
22 to do what Success failed to do - - . We need
23 to serve the whole community. We're not kicking
24 anybody out. The time is to invest in Junior
25 High School 50 today. We're going to - - our

1 school - - collocation to be successful, the
2 school needs to be welcomed, and I think we have
3 a loud and clear message from the community
4 tonight. Thank you very much.

5 [Applause]

6 MR. ROUHANIFARD: I believe that - - is
7 still not here, correct? So during the
8 executive remarks, we inadvertently skipped over
9 Tom Francis. Tom, excuse me. He's going to
10 give some quick remarks before we jump to public
11 commentary.

12 MR. TOM FRANCIS: Thank you, and as formerly
13 mentioned, the school we're discussing today,
14 Brooklyn Success Academy Charter School 4 is
15 authorized by the city Board of Trustees. The
16 Education Law requires that SUNY hold a public
17 hearing to discuss the collocation of a charter
18 school when one of the schools - - authorizes -
19 - this year - - is to receive comments of the
20 nature of the proposed location of the charter
21 school that - - . SUNY is conducting this
22 hearing now at the same time as the DOE, as we
23 rely on the DOE to help us notify parents and
24 guardians, and to arrange a better location.
25 However, SUNY has to make its own determination

1 regarding the school needs - - . SUNY will
2 not make its final determination until after
3 this - - which is now - - March 1st. Brooklyn
4 Success Academy Charter School 4, as mentioned
5 in the Educational Impact Statement, has
6 submitted a request to change its corporate name
7 to Success Academy Charter School of
8 Williamsberg, and has also submitted a request
9 to modify its - - . Sometimes these are
10 referred to as - - . I will take note of all
11 the comments made tonight. In addition, if
12 anyone has written comments, please feel free to
13 hand them to me, or they can be sent to the
14 following address. And if you don't have a pen
15 handy, the address and information is posted on
16 each of the four doors in the back. They can be
17 mailed to the Charter Schools Institute, 41
18 Saint Street, Suite 700 in Albany, New York,
19 12307. Via fax to (518) 427-6510, or via e-mail
20 to charters@SUNY.edu. Thank you.

21 [Applause]

22 MR. ROUHANIFARD: We're going to go ahead
23 and begin public commentary. As soon as the
24 councilmember arrives, we'll allow her to speak.
25 A couple housekeeping notes. For general

1 commentary, I want to remind you guys that
2 there's a two minute time limit. My colleague -
3 - here in the front will hold up a sign to let
4 you know when you have 30 seconds left, and when
5 your time is up. So please be mindful of the
6 time limit. We get quite a number of people
7 signed up, so we want to be respectful of those
8 that are waiting in the back of the line. My
9 colleague - - right here will be holding the
10 microphone for those of you who come up.

11 I'm going to call your numbers, and I'm
12 going to call them five at a time. When your
13 number is called, go ahead and line up - - and
14 we can--we're just going to call the number and
15 not the names. So we're going to begin with
16 numbers one through five. One through five.

17 [Applause]

18 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Numbers two, three, four
19 and five should be lined up to my left, to your
20 left. - - . If Council Member - - is here - -
21 she is, could she please come to the front of
22 the room? Francis - - , and then - - we're
23 going to work on them. So Francis, if you want
24 to go ahead and begin, - - . Thank you.

25 MS. FRANCES LUCERNA: Good evening,

1 [Speaking foreign language]. - - I am a
2 lifelong resident of Williamsberg. I was born
3 and raised here. I went to school here. I have
4 spent the last four years of my adult life, and
5 - - dedicated to this community, to its young
6 people, to its educational system, and also to
7 its leadership. I wanted to say this. I am not
8 only an educator, but I am also a parent. I
9 have a 13 year old daughter. She is here - -
10 students of the - - charter school in this
11 community, so I am not against charter schools.
12 Beginning With Children is a charter school that
13 came out of the consensus of this community, the
14 cooperation of this community and the leadership
15 of this community, so I am really clear, this is
16 not about a divisive stance against charter
17 school. This is a clear objection to the Eva
18 Moskowitz Success Charter School. - - here,
19 which we are seeing divisiveness in our
20 community. Let me say this. What is really,
21 really outrageous to me as a 30 years, 40 years
22 in this community of advocacy is that there has
23 been a systematic exclusion of the leadership of
24 this community. - -

25 [Applause]

1 MS. LUCERNA: Our school - - and I dare
2 say school creation that has been nationally
3 recognized. And also, modeling practices that
4 have been incorporated and have been
5 institutionalized by the Department of Education
6 itself. I think it's important for history.
7 This community, in 1988, waged a 30-year boycott
8 in PS16 against the - - their children. - - a
9 boycott - - District high school - - school, and
10 we said no, and we - - that school. In 1993, we
11 started a public high school, - - .

12 [Applause]

13 MS. LUCERNA: 18 years later, it is an A-
14 rated school by the Department of Education. -
15 - education community - - across the country. I
16 say tonight, in the face of the outrageous
17 insult to this community, this is what a
18 people's movement looks like, and this people's
19 movement will stand tall and - - we will take -
20 - and the leadership of this community will - -
21 make every school in District 14 an A school, a
22 - - school for all children.

23 [Applause]

24 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Thank you. - - .

25 MS. SERRANO: [Speaking foreign language]

1 MR. ROUHANIFARD: - - .

2 COUNCILWOMAN DIANA REYNA: My name is
3 Council Member Diana Reyna. I represent you.
4 Today I stand before you, and I stand before
5 this Department of Education, our
6 representatives of the CEC, to reject the
7 current proposal to collocate Success Academy
8 charter school at Junior High School 50. I urge
9 you to stop this process, which has polarized
10 our community. We want quality education that
11 is responsive to the needs of our district and
12 the families it - - to serve. As a
13 representative of this community, I have had
14 countless conversations challenging the
15 Department of Education to assess all of our
16 schools in District 14 for comprehensive
17 planning, working toward success in partnership.
18 Our school - - exploding. Leave us--we need - -
19 hosting the most charter school collocations. A
20 school does not underperform overnight, nor does
21 it become under enrolled in a few years. The
22 trend has been obvious - - .

23 [Applause]

24 COUNCILWOMAN REYNA: Our schools serving
25 children from K to 5 are starving for dual

1 language programs - - the Department of
2 Education - - of a thorough evaluation of our
3 District, District 14, has led to the failure of
4 recognizing the need for a quality middle
5 school. Instead, the Department of Education
6 unilaterally has decided to pack four elementary
7 schools in one mile block. This is the so-
8 called solution prescribed to fix our ailing
9 school district. No parent, including myself,
10 accepts the current conditions of our schools.

11 However, tonight's presentation of choice is
12 flawed. The process you are allowing this
13 community to participate in has already been
14 implemented. I am all too familiar with
15 political decisions made to benefit you at the
16 cost of many. In the - - Success Academy
17 Charter School will further perpetuate the
18 social inequalities our community has struggled
19 against for decades.

20 [Applause]

21 COUNCILWOMAN REYNA: [Speaking foreign
22 language]

23 MR. ROUHANIFARD: - - .

24 [Chanting]

25 DEBORAH: Good evening, everyone. [Speaking

1 foreign language] My name is Deborah - - .
2 I'm here representing Congresswoman Velazquez.
3 - - .

4 [Applause]

5 DEBORAH: I'm here to say that we're
6 fighting for justice, we're fighting for
7 fairness, and we're fighting for our children.
8 Congresswoman Velazquez is in Washington D.C.,
9 and that's why I'm here. But I want to make
10 sure that you know that there's no doubt that
11 we're going to fight a Success Charter School
12 Corporation in our community. Have no doubt.

13 Congresswoman Velazquez knows that as - -
14 goes, everyone succeeds, no exceptions, no - - .
15 That is the model of - - .

16 [Applause]

17 DEBORAH: As an advocate for education,
18 Congresswoman Velazquez recognizes the urgent
19 need to provide quality education for all our
20 children, not only those who are lucky enough to
21 get selected via a lottery - - that we know,
22 across the city, Success Charter Schools serve
23 only a small percentage of minority and
24 disadvantaged children. The children left
25 behind are the ones that we're standing here for

1 today. Congresswoman Velazquez--

2 [Applause]

3 DEBORAH: Congresswoman Velazquez is
4 committed to working with DOE along with Council
5 Member Reyna, along with the South Side
6 Coalition to initiate a community led effective
7 solution to improve the quality of education
8 throughout the entire district as we have been
9 doing. As we know, there are already four
10 elementary schools within walking distance. The
11 community needs a quality middle school, not
12 another elementary school.

13 [Applause]

14 DEBORAH: - - another profit elementary
15 school, DOE should be investing in our schools,
16 providing - - support and - - so they can
17 succeed here at MS50 and go on to high school
18 and college.

19 The sad thing about this process is that
20 once again, our community was left out in the
21 cold. We were informed about this process,
22 about this hearing, right before Christmas.
23 Christmas when we're all either out of school or
24 visiting, celebrating our holiday. We were
25 informed of this, why? Because we were

1 considered out of the process, and like
2 everything else, they think that our community -
3 - doesn't think or value education, and they
4 were wrong because you are here this evening. -
5 - .

6 [Applause]

7 DEBORAH: The - - again was announced right
8 before Christmas, as I stated. Such a move,
9 according to the Congresswoman is at best
10 exclusionary, and at worst, undemocratic. To
11 ensure a fair process, DOE needs to scratch this
12 deal, reissue another - - as requested by the
13 South Side Community Coalition - - . We can - -
14 .

15 In addition to this, in addition to an
16 unfair process, the long reaching strategy
17 employed by the Success Charter School has
18 focused on the north side, an area outside the
19 school's location. Again, here - - pitting one
20 community against another. This is not right.
21 This is not just, and we need to fight it
22 together. North Side and South Side. If our
23 children fail, if our community fails, that
24 means the North Side and the South Side will be
25 - - what happens here.

1 No one is safe. No one is safe from - -
2 education - - .

3 [Applause]

4 DEBORAH: The Congresswoman is urging the
5 Department of Education to reexamine this
6 questionable practice of - - and marketing
7 outside of our community. Every child in these
8 United States has a right for quality education.
9 That is the law of the land. - - effort are
10 excluding certain New Yorkers or a certain class
11 of people intentionally or unintentionally, it
12 is a serious federal issue, and the Department
13 needs to look at it carefully. If not, we at
14 Congress shall. It's just not - - .

15 [Applause]

16 DEBORAH: So again, - - , I'm here to say on
17 behalf of Congresswoman Velazquez that we urge
18 DOE to scratch this ill conceived - - to work
19 with the South Side Coalition, with the
20 stakeholders of this community to develop a plan
21 that is inclusive, regardless of their ability
22 to pay or not to pay, to ensure that every child
23 gets a fair education. The Congresswoman will
24 not stand for - - anyone in this room for a
25 separate by equal school system. So - - .

1 [Applause]

2 DEBORAH: [Speaking foreign language]

3 MR. ROUHANIFARD: All right. We're going to
4 go back to our public commentary portion. We're
5 - - three, four and five waiting. A couple
6 housekeeping items. - - . Again, remember, we
7 have translators in the audience. If you need a
8 device, you can get it at the front. Again,
9 please be mindful - - public commentary portion
10 to the two minute rule.

11 Speaker number three.

12 MR. JUAN MARTINEZ: [Speaking foreign
13 language] My name is Juan Martinez, president
14 of Progress City, and founder of Progress High
15 School at the Grand Street Campus.

16 [Applause]

17 MR. MARTINEZ: You're talking about a
18 community that's about educational success, and
19 fighting for education, just look back to what
20 Francis spoke about. This community fought for
21 change at Eastern District. This community
22 brought about the change, and we took - - ,
23 turned around that campus, and today you have
24 three successful schools at the Grand Street
25 Campus, started through a community process that

1 respected out community. So we are here
2 today, and I'm happy to be back at 50. I came
3 to many graduations as president of School
4 District 14. Let's hear it for our school
5 district and - - .

6 [Applause]

7 MR. MARTINEZ: As a former graduate of
8 District 14, of public school 23 and IS318 and a
9 former teacher in District 14, and then
10 president of the school district, I stand with
11 our community and the South Side Community
12 Coalition to send a message today that we say no
13 to the Success Academy.

14 [Applause]

15 MR. MARTINEZ: - - for the right reasons. I
16 have in my hand over 1,000 signatures, which we
17 want to give to both SUNY and to the DOE. - -
18 students. Has the state ever turned down--SUNY.
19 Has the state ever turned down the - - after the
20 - - ?

21 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Your time is up. This is
22 not a question and answer. This is - - .

23 [Booing, jeering]

24 MR. MARTINEZ: - - .

25 MR. ROUHANIFARD: - - .

1 MR. MARTINEZ: That's why - - here today -
2 - respect. Respect. Respect us.

3 [Chanting]

4 MR. ROUHANIFARD: - - .

5 MR. MARTINEZ: This is what - - about - -
6 the state of our community. - - respect it.
7 The only way you're going to be respected is to
8 continue - - tonight when we come together from
9 the north side, from the south side, [Speaking
10 foreign language].

11 [Applause]

12 MR. ROUHANIFARD: - - number four.

13 MR. JOSE COLON: [Speaking foreign
14 language]. And we are the oldest Latino
15 congregation - - here on the South Side.

16 [Applause]

17 MR. COLON: - - turning their backs to
18 Spanish-speaking Latinos, there was a church
19 right in our south - - that said yes 87 years
20 ago.

21 [Applause]

22 MR. COLON: And - - the name of the school
23 is John D. Wells. - - Latinos, my - - at the -
24 - church. He - - public education was
25 determined - - into the city, and they realized

1 that the - - had no business because they
2 weren't interested. They had no money, that's
3 what they always say. The - - no money to
4 educate - - young children. Well, you know
5 what, he was an advocate for the public to take
6 responsibility for the - - of children that
7 needed an education. - -

8 [Applause]

9 MR. COLON: - - District - - something
10 rotten in their - - ? I smell something rotten
11 in the South Side.

12 [Applause]

13 MR. COLON: When they give you facts, when
14 they give you facts, when they call it facts,
15 it's distorted numbers. You cannot allow a
16 private charter to come in here that has no
17 credibility to you. There's no money - -
18 private equity funds. That the money that
19 they're being - - going into private pockets.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. COLON: [Speaking foreign language] And
22 I have to say one thing. When - - distort the
23 facts. When children were poor, - - , that's
24 their - - . I call it - - markets, they use an
25 advertising campaign to fill up the whole south

1 side, they forgot to tell us little leaflets
2 that say - - to you. - - . You know what?
3 They got to go because this smells. [Speaking
4 foreign language]

5 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Thank you. - - .

6 MR. COLON: - - .

7 MR. ROUHANIFARD: - - .

8 MS. STEPHANIE ANDERSON: - - and I want to
9 apologize for the - - seven years. It's - -
10 speaking to you tonight - - English. It's a
11 little nerve wracking standing up here, but I
12 thought I'd come forward - - speaker list - - as
13 a north side - - I'm not for this school.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. ANDERSON: - - they came and sought out
16 people on the street with small children. They
17 went to large condo buildings here with their
18 marketing and their sales material and scared
19 them and said, you can't go to these public
20 schools. They're not good enough.

21 [Booing]

22 MS. ANDERSON: - - with my daughter as well
23 as - - and I'm proud to say she's a first grader
24 at PS84.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. ANDERSON: - - and the ones they're
2 talking about down the road, PS84 has plenty of
3 room for all your children.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. ANDERSON: - - . My daughter sits at a
6 table of four children where the little girl
7 next to her moved here - - Dominican Republic,
8 and - - .

9 [Applause]

10 MS. ANDERSON: - - by not filling out their
11 form. You all - - by joining with all of us to
12 unify ourselves, and that's what we've done
13 today through the awesome leadership of
14 Principal Rodriguez - - .

15 [Applause]

16 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Thank you very much.
17 Speaker - - . Speaker - - .

18 MR. DAVID DABORZ: Good evening. I'm like -
19 - we're all - - , but I just think this needs to
20 be repeated anyway. The Department of Education
21 shamefully abdicated its responsibility to
22 District 14. - - for decades. Now I can see
23 clearly the intention behind this shameful
24 neglect of our schools. To create a crisis that
25 allows them to bring in their solution, a

1 corporate charter who pretends to care about
2 the education of our children when they only
3 value the expansion of their brand. - - this
4 school is a whole pack of wolves in sheep's
5 clothing.

6 [Applause]

7 MR. DABORZ: - - the privatization of - - a
8 foundation of our democracy, for here in
9 Williamsberg, Success Academy is also serving
10 the interests of real estate with the - - intent
11 of misplacing this already vulnerable community.
12 The - - . The DOE is--all right. Success
13 Academy will - - we will not allow the DOE to
14 divide and dismantle our community with this - -
15 plan. We have been forced to solve our own
16 problems for decades. We are united. We demand
17 participation, and we will succeed without
18 Success Academy.

19 [Applause]

20 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Thank you - - the
21 microphone - - .

22 MR. LUIS ACOSTA: [Speaking foreign
23 language] Good evening brothers and sisters of
24 Williamsberg, parents, students, family,
25 [Speaking foreign language [Speaking foreign

1 language], and yes, the north side also.

2 [Applause]

3 MR. ACOSTA: - - church, only one of three
4 historically black congregations left in this
5 neighborhood, but that's a story for another
6 time. Our congregation is now a proud member of
7 Churches United for Fair Housing, and we
8 together with - - Community Schools Coalition
9 are working for justice in this community. We
10 have always worked together in this community as
11 a multicultural entity. Let me tell you this.
12 I've been here since '63, and back then, we made
13 a pact, that - - Metropolitan avenue, of all - -
14 together and said there would be no turf wars in
15 our multicultural community, and we're not going
16 to let one start now. - - .

17 [Applause]

18 MR. ACOSTA: As you can see, I'm white. I'm
19 - - and German ancestry. We are part of the
20 mosaic of this community. And we are not going
21 to let that mosaic get ripped and torn apart by
22 someone who wants to come in and dismember our
23 community.

24 [Applause]

25 MR. ACOSTA: We have always been an

1 immigrant community, and still are. And we
2 cannot tolerate somebody walking in and claiming
3 to be a public school and not engage with the
4 leaders of this community, the families of this
5 community, the - - of this community.

6 [Applause]

7 MR. ACOSTA: - - in our history, but the - -
8 education, shame on you. It's - - and using
9 something they call a public school to turn us
10 out and turn us away from the unity we have
11 always experienced here. The implications that
12 District 14 can't take care of its students.
13 How absurd. You heard Rob Solano speak. You
14 heard Juan Martinez speak. You know about El
15 Fuente [phonetic]. How dare you.

16 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Thank you.

17 [Applause]

18 MR. ROUHANIFARD: - - .

19 MR. ACOSTA: We've already heard. How dare
20 - - recruit on the north side to create this
21 turf war and not recruit in Spanish on this
22 side. That does not sound like democracy to me.
23 The English speaking folks on the north side are
24 desperate for - - , but they're not here. We
25 need dual language middle schools immediately.

1 That is - - . And so we are going to work
2 together and not give up the fight because we're
3 not going to let our community be destroyed.

4 Thank you.

5 [Applause]

6 MS. DENISE MENDOZA: [Chanting] [Speaking
7 foreign language]

8 [Applause]

9 MS. MENDOZA: What does it take when you
10 have a Congresswoman, when you have a
11 Councilwoman, when you have every church in this
12 community, when you have every school in this
13 community, when you have every organization
14 community, everyone's saying the same thing. We
15 do not want - - coming in. We want to build our
16 own schools, our own quality schools - - and
17 justice. - -

18 [Applause]

19 MS. MENDOZA: We can do it. - - see our
20 representatives are saying no. If everyone is
21 saying no, what does it take? What does it
22 take? - - Department of Education, we will do
23 what we have to do. If need be, we will go to
24 jail. We will go on hunger strikes. We will -
25 - .

1 [Applause]

2 MS. MENDOZA: The people united will never
3 be defeated.

4 [Chanting]

5 MS. MENDOZA: [Speaking foreign language]

6 [Chanting]

7 [Applause]

8 MALE VOICE: Good evening, everyone. Hi, -
9 - all the teachers. All I want to say, I want
10 to reiterate basically what everyone said here.
11 I'm not against charter, but I am against a
12 person who thinks she has a "better" school than
13 the ones we have right here. As a product of
14 PS17, Junior High School - - who goes to PS17
15 with an average of 90 and better on the - - your
16 academy has nothing over our schools here. - -
17 .

18 [Applause]

19 MR. ROUHANIFARD: - - could come up,
20 speakers 11 through 15 could come up now.

21 MR. WENDY ACOSTA: Good evening, my name is
22 Wendy. I'm a parent of four children an a
23 mother of an IEP student, and I'm a graduate
24 from 1994 from John D. Wells. - - school. Back
25 then when I went to school here at 50, it was

1 nothing compared to what it is now. So now
2 that we got out, we can't let it go. So what
3 I'm saying is we don't need another school here.
4 We just need more - - to improve our - - .

5 [Applause]

6 MR. ROUHANIFARD: - - 11. Again, speakers,
7 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, please come up to my
8 left, your right, of the stage. Speaker number
9 11. If we don't have speaker 11, we'll go to
10 12.

11 [Applause]

12 MR. ROS SALON: We come equipped with love
13 like this in our - - . Responsibilities - -
14 aware of the fact that one exists. This is for
15 our - - that we can excel for the teachers in
16 our community as the students as well. They - -
17 facing discrimination. The love in this place
18 motivates determination. - - they still kept
19 their culture alive. This is - - [Speaking
20 foreign language] who did more to survive. - -
21 are wealthy and stuff. Cultural - - but still
22 had more than enough. For mothers who gave - -
23 taught us how it should be, and education that
24 surpasses any kind of degree. For fathers who -
25 - this is for those who gave it all, sweat,

1 blood and their tears. So - - on the rise and
2 our growing population. After that, we have - -
3 and start behaving. That's - - society that
4 makes our children complacent. - -
5 ramifications. The revolution starts here in
6 the hearts of the youth. Growing out of our
7 roots for those - - of truth.

8 [Applause]

9 MR. ROUHANIFARD: - - .

10 MR. RAMON PEGRENO: Good evening, [Speaking
11 foreign language]. My name is - - and it - -
12 for the last 15 years. My children went to PS84
13 and - - . They got a quality education. I - -
14 .

15 [Applause]

16 MR. PEGRENO: - - and - - what I want to - -
17 by you now, you may not like. You - - keeps us
18 - - we already know that you all. We - - and
19 not respected. Why don't you tell Eva to go
20 back and put her - - in her own neighborhood?

21 [Applause]

22 MR. PEGRENO: We at District 14 will not
23 allow this school to come to our - - .

24 [Crosstalk]

25 MR. PEGRENO: Make - - understand that. We

1 don't like to be disrespected and not - - .

2 [Crosstalk]

3 [Applause]

4 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Speaker number 15? While
5 speaker number 15 comes up, can we have speaker
6 16 through 20 - - ? 16 through 20.

7 MS. ROSANGEL PEREZ: [Speaking foreign
8 language] good evening. I'm Rosangel Perez, and
9 I was raised - - .

10 [Applause]

11 MS. PEREZ: And in 1990, I'm proud to say
12 that I - - .

13 [Applause]

14 MS. PEREZ: And I am proof, just like - -
15 mentioned, that when you invest in a child, you
16 invest in their dreams. Nelson Mandela has been
17 quoted as saying that education's the most
18 powerful weapon which you can use the change the
19 world, and the education that I received here
20 from the teachers and the principal at - - back
21 then changed my world. I've got to say that I
22 grew up, and I spread my roots, and I attended -
23 - University where I got - - , and I'm proud to
24 say that it was this school that gave me the
25 foundation so that I can do that. When I told

1 you that I am so grateful because I was able
2 to move on and seek other opportunities, and - -
3 for 11 years. - - tell you that - - and I'm
4 proof, I'm living proof - - .

5 [Applause]

6 MS. PEREZ: [Speaking foreign language] And
7 I'm going to tell you, I moved back to the
8 community to support in this - - not going down
9 without a fight.

10 [Applause]

11 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Speaker number 16.
12 Speaker number 16.

13 MR. EMUNT JONES: Okay. So I'm - - a couple
14 of young kids who are talking about - - but
15 we're a part of the community, too. - - what we
16 believe in, and we believe that we don't need an
17 elementary school. We have four of them. Why -
18 - ? What we want to do is take an active part
19 of our community to help improve our middle
20 schools. That's what we need to improve. This
21 school is - - better. That's - - . Why not?

22 - - I feel like you're all making decisions
23 for us about - - but where are the kids? But
24 what about the kids? I believe we have a right,
25 too. - - our education. We're the ones

1 learning. We're the ones in the classrooms
2 sitting down. We're the ones that have to deal
3 with the teachers. - - we want to learn. We
4 all have the opportunity. This is America,
5 right? We - - , we all have opportunities. We
6 all should have the right to learn the way we
7 want to learn.

8 [Applause]

9 MR. JONES: - - we're all - - . We are all
10 a community. Don't tell us what we need. Ask
11 us what we need.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. ALICIA BANE GAS: I actually go to the
14 school, - - High School for Young Writers. I
15 attend that school, and this is my sophomore
16 year, and I heard about this, and I felt like I
17 had a right to spread my opinion on the
18 situation that's happening in this community.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. BANE GAS: - - this community - - here,
21 all my family, so - - support my community,
22 right?

23 [Applause]

24 MS. BANE GAS: So I am here, me, I'm from the
25 - - on the corner of - - .

1 [Crosstalk]

2 [Applause]

3 MS. BANEGAS: - - we came together as a
4 community, as it should be. We came together,
5 and - - and someone, a reporter, came and asked
6 us if we were from the KKK.

7 As you can see, we are not all--we're all
8 different races. If we're the KKK, it's very -
9 - , and the reason why we're wearing these dunce
10 hats is to show that we are smart enough to make
11 the choices in our community to - - .

12 [Applause]

13 MS. BANEGAS: You know the - - Williamsberg
14 Charter School? It's - - probation, and they
15 had, like, rooms. So what they - - put another
16 charter school, Success Academy here, - - why
17 don't we just - - the community to help the
18 students of - - .

19 [Applause]

20 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Thank you.

21 MS. BANEGAS: - - .

22 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Thank you. - - .

23 MS. CRYSTAL RUIZ: - - my name is - - me and
24 my mom came here from Puerto Rico right here to
25 MS50. This is the first school that we landed

1 in. And if you ask any Puerto Rican, we know
2 what - - looks like. - - and how it feels, and
3 - - in our community.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. RUIZ: - - and we talked about it. She
6 said, no, not in my school because my mom feels
7 like this is our school because the community
8 opened their doors to her, and she got her
9 degree here through [Speaking foreign language].
10 So she knows and I know that if the Success
11 school comes here, it will not be her school.
12 She won't be able to say this is my school
13 anymore. I have - - attend - - currently. In
14 the - - PS16, me and my family - - hand in hand
15 and went around with PS16 and said [Speaking
16 foreign language] and today we stand with our
17 family and say [Speaking foreign language].

18 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Thank you. Speaker 19?
19 Speakers 21 to 25 please come up.

20 MS. INGRID GERALDO: [Speaking foreign
21 language]

22 MALE VOICE: Most of the people who have
23 spoken already here are from the community, have
24 lived here in the community.

25 MS. GERALDO: [Speaking foreign language]

1 MALE VOICE: Me and my - - we lived here
2 for a little over a year. When we were looking
3 for a school to place our child, we were looking
4 to find a place for him - - he wasn't speaking
5 any English at all. Now he does.

6 MS. GERALDO: [Speaking foreign language]

7 MALE VOICE: My child wouldn't have been
8 admitted into Success Academy because he didn't
9 speak any English. - - children who don't speak
10 English or have this ability are not entitled to
11 - - Success Academy either.

12 MS. GERALDO: [Speaking foreign language]

13 [Applause]

14 MALE VOICE: - - the school here, what we
15 think is that the school - - up to fourth grade.

16 MS. GERALDO: [Speaking foreign language]

17 [Applause]

18 MR. PEDRO VALDEZ: [Speaking foreign
19 language] Good evening. For those of you that
20 don't know me, my name's Pedro Valdez. - -
21 since June 2006. - - strongly oppose a new
22 elementary school coming to South Side. Since
23 1995, I've seen a major - - going on in
24 Williamsberg, and it feels like--I felt there's
25 a - - identification, and this is - - for

1 decades, for decades. So if you add a Success
2 Academy - - , there would be consequences, real
3 consequences. First of all, there would be - -
4 discrimination, and we are not - - because at
5 the - - one of our principles is creating a
6 community.

7 [Applause]

8 MR. VALDEZ: And we together as
9 Williamsberg, it doesn't matter where you are.
10 - - no matter where you come from, you must be -
11 - one community. - - you know what I mean? - -
12 . - - for all the Latino community, it's also
13 leads to consequences, - - our neighborhoods
14 because we're sick and tired of all this--
15 everything that gets around me. So - - . Thank
16 you so much. And say no to Success Academy - -
17 .

18 [Speaking foreign language]

19 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Thank you. - - . 23?

20 MR. ANTONIO REYNOSO: Hello, everyone. - -
21 I'm the Chief of Staff to Council Member - - ,
22 but I think more important than that is that I
23 was born and raised in South Side, and I went to
24 PS19 and to junior High School 50.

25 [Applause]

1 MR. REYNOSO: I'm a direct product of this
2 education system. I'm a direct product of my
3 community, all of which I'm proud of. I want to
4 thank the DOE for giving me my public education,
5 for allowing me to be who I am now. So I want
6 to thank you, first of all. First and foremost.
7 I also want to thank my community for being so
8 strong and so powerful. You make me very proud
9 to have you here. - - that you recognize and
10 that we all recognize it's not only about
11 Success. This is about our community. We're
12 talking about wanting to be engaged, wanting to
13 be involved. That's exactly what the DOE's - -
14 . They're asking for people to get involved.
15 This is us getting involved, and are you going
16 to listen or are you going to react to that? If
17 you don't, then we're going to have to get more
18 involved - - .

19 [Applause]

20 MR. REYNOSO: I never think it's too late.
21 That's extremely important. - - and I work - -
22 . It's never too late, though. It is never
23 too late. You can work quickly. You're
24 extremely bright. You have great leaders here,
25 and we want to work with you. We want to extend

1 our hand to the Department of Education and
2 let them know we got a better plan. We know
3 what we want. Work with us and we'll make it
4 happen. But this is not the way. This is not
5 the way, and we're not going to have it this
6 way.

7 Once again, my name's Antonio Reynoso for
8 Council Member Dan Merino's [phonetic] office.
9 - - students, and thank you for listening to me,
10 and I - - .

11 MS. VOBANVY ARORTE: Is Eva here tonight? I
12 think it's really interesting that the community
13 that she wants to move into is here speaking of
14 concerns about their own neighborhood schools,
15 and she's not even here to listen.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. ARORTE: - - and I feel honored to have
18 lived and worked in this neighborhood for - -
19 first at - - High School and now in this
20 building at Young Writers. Next year, Young
21 Writers is being pushed out into East New York
22 because Eva wants this building.

23 MS. ARORTE: But the main reason I'm opposed
24 to this colocation is because the Success
25 Charter School has not been approved by the

1 community. This is obvious from the
2 outpouring of concerns this evening, and members
3 of the community should decide - - public
4 schools and their public spaces, and I think we
5 can all agree that healthy relationships are
6 based on consensus and trust.

7 If Success moves into this building, it's
8 without consensus. My question to Success
9 Charter and to Eva, if she had even showed up
10 tonight, is why would you force yourself into a
11 community when you're not wanted?

12 [Applause]

13 MS. MARIA BAVTISTA: Good evening, everyone.
14 I am number 25. My name is Maria. I am Latina.
15 I am an immigrant. I am an ELL. My parents
16 were forced to put me in an ELL program, and
17 they advocated strongly against it, and their
18 voices were silenced because the Department of
19 Education knew better. It is time for the
20 Department of Education to stop silencing my
21 people. The people that know - - . I am very,
22 very happy to see that everyone is here, and I'm
23 happy to see that students spoke, that teachers
24 spoke, that parents spoke, and I really want the
25 community - - . You cannot do things without

1 community input.

2 [Applause]

3 MS. BAVTISTA: I have a dream that everyone,
4 everyone has an equal opportunity for a quality
5 education. Let's live up to that, Department of
6 Education.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. LEANN PETTY: Hey, everyone. My name is
9 Leann, and I'm from - - . And I have a
10 question, which is why is the CEO of Success
11 Academy, Eva Moskowitz, not here?

12 [Crosstalk]

13 MS. PETTY: I think you're right. I think
14 that she's greedy, and that she - - is that - -
15 and in this community do not want her to
16 continue to - - the schools on the South Side.
17 So - - have left - - the consensus is clear.
18 That people don't want her here. So I think
19 anyway, we should still just take a vote to let
20 the DOE know what the majority of people in this
21 room and this community want. So - - here, I
22 want everyone to take out their phones, take a
23 picture. Who here does not want Success Academy
24 in this school? And who wants it? - - . I
25 think - - . I think the vote is in. That's two

1 against the hundreds - - . And so I think if
2 the DOE does not listen to this vote, - -
3 because - - .

4 [Applause]

5 MS. PETTY: I think if the DOE doesn't
6 listen, we got to stop - - DOE.

7 [Applause]

8 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Speaker 27. 27? 28? 29?
9 30? Can 31 through 35 people come up. 31
10 through 35.

11 [Chanting]

12 MR. ROUHANIFARD: - - .

13 MS. ROSANNE MINAYA: - - and I'm in the
14 minority this evening, as I support the charter
15 school. I went and I saw the Success Charter
16 School on the Upper East Side, and it made a
17 huge impression on me. I've heard a lot of
18 people tonight speak about the right to choose
19 what school they go to. I would like the right
20 to choose to send my kid to the Success school.

21 [Yelling]

22 MS. MINAYA: I understand that there are a
23 variety of reasons that people do not support
24 the charter school, and rather than block
25 everyone from having that opportunity, I would

1 recommend you - - enroll your children in that
2 school, and - - community--

3 [Crosstalk]

4 [Yelling]

5 [Crosstalk]

6 MS. MINAYA: - - give the school a chance.

7 I think there's a lot of misinformation - - .

8 [Crosstalk]

9 MS. MINAYA: There's a lot of misinformation
10 that's going around - - enroll in Success
11 Charter School, but they seed 20% English
12 Language Learners - - that are not being spread
13 properly, and - - .

14 [Yelling]

15 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Guys, guys. - - been
16 respectful and listen to everybody who's spoken.
17 And if you need to be advocates, but not
18 adversaries of this - - one another. When
19 someone - - respect them.

20 [Crosstalk]

21 MR. FELIX MINAYA: - - you're wrong.
22 Charter school does not need to be in this
23 school, and - - fine. All we need to do is fix
24 it. That's all. And - - making such a big
25 deal. Charter school is wrong. - - has been

1 around for years, and now you are - - charter
2 school in this school? - - for this community.

3 [Applause]

4 MR. MINAYA: My education and my kids'
5 education is not a choice. It is not something
6 to play around with. We need quality education.
7 Everybody's education deserves to be the same.
8 - - a girl's basketball team. - - a junior high
9 school - - my mom graduated from this school,
10 and I'm sure - - graduated from MS50, and I'm -
11 - .

12 MR. TARAEZ RATZELA: Hi, my name is - - . I
13 graduated from 84, graduated from 50, graduated
14 from - - high school, - - in my community as a
15 facilitator at - - does not need Eva to - - in
16 my community, I want to be able to say - - I can
17 be a teacher, I can help out my community - - .

18 [Applause]

19 MR. RATZELA: And let them know that - - so
20 what does - - we are success. We made this
21 community. - - we're the ones that - - come up
22 in here and take it over. No, - - .

23 [Applause]

24 MR. RATZELA: - - that you're not - - , we
25 know you're listening to us because - -

1 [Applause]

2 MR. RATZELA: - - this is our school, our
3 rules, our community - - .

4 [Applause]

5 MR. ROUHANIFARD: We'll now take speakers 35
6 through 40. 36, 37, 38. Okay.

7 MR. BENJAMIN MCKELAHEN: [Speaking foreign
8 language] My name is Benjamin McKelahan, and
9 I'm a Lutheran pastor coordinating ministry
10 between Lutheran churches in Williamsberg and
11 Greek ones. And it seems to me the question
12 tonight is about authority. Does authority come
13 from the hierarchies of power, or does it come
14 from mutual respect and trust in a community?

15 [Applause]

16 MR. MCKELAHEN: As a Christian, I think it
17 comes from mutual respect and trust because - -
18 based on Christ, who lived with, who ate with,
19 who slumbered with the people He served. As I
20 look around this room tonight, I'm not feeling a
21 whole of trust and respect for the proposed
22 Success Academy. And so in my mind, such a
23 proposal has no authority.

24 [Applause]

25 MR. MCKELAHEN: - - the Department of

1 Education, please, stop the proposed Success
2 Academy and instead start building the
3 relationship of trust and respect with this
4 community so that the authority for the people,
5 for the schools, for this community to reside
6 with this community.

7 [Applause]

8 MR. MCKELAHEN: - - .

9 [Applause]

10 MR. NORMAN SCOTT: My name is Norman Scott.
11 I'm with the - - . I want - - I see her in
12 almost every meeting. She has the might to hire
13 people to fill every, single event. She - -
14 advertising - - the neighborhood - - the local
15 community. They - - a very wide net - - shown
16 up yet, but you - - school. - - coming from
17 around here. The State Ed Department, pathetic,
18 pathetic, pathetic. They act like - - . We
19 know this is a done deal. We know that they get
20 what they want. You know - - . You know the
21 answer. You know - - so it's all a little play
22 and a little dance. So don't tell us - - .

23 [Applause]

24 MR. SCOTT: - - this microphone. Take this
25 back. What we should do in your school, the

1 State Ed department, when she wants grade
2 five, they will say yes. When she wants grade
3 six, you will say yes. When she wants grade
4 seven, you will say yes. When she wants grade
5 eight, you will say yes - - will - - the answer
6 will be no. - - the answer will be no because
7 the people who - - in there - - these people are
8 pathetic - - , and I'm going to tell you right
9 now, what Eva will do to this school, she will
10 take every room you have, every - - you have,
11 and they will squeeze the kids, the - - into
12 narrow little hallways until you've ran out of
13 room, and that's what this game is about. - -
14 high school to make room for her. She wants
15 this building. She will - - and eventually she
16 will own this building. That's the end game,
17 and people got to understand that. This is not
18 a fair game. Thank you.

19 [Applause]

20 MR. ROUHANIFARD: - - 38, 39 and 40. If
21 not, then 41 through 45, please come up.
22 Speakers 41 through 45. If there's nobody,
23 we'll go to 46 through 50.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. SANDRA OCAMP Hi, how are you guys

1 doing? - - I was - - member of the school
2 board for nine years. I graduated from 50. My
3 brother graduated from 50, and I serve on the
4 school board - - . One of the things that you
5 guys got to understand about charter schools,
6 charter schools when they - - there's a law that
7 those - - first rank. So the second group will
8 - - . All they got to do is come in, and - -
9 completely. - - all they got to do is - - and
10 there is no school for their children.

11 And our - - because - - that's what it is.
12 This is just a process. We need to fight, but
13 to fight, you got to do a little fighting, and
14 we did it - - and walk out - - that's the way
15 it's going to be. The other thing you got to
16 know is that before you came here, there was
17 meetings already happening. People - -
18 meetings, and then they come here and they want
19 to say, we are - - . Where were you when they
20 were organizing? Where were you - - ? Because
21 Eva's going to come to our community and take
22 over. - - already. Some people - - minds.
23 That's not the way community works. This is who
24 we answer to. The only way is to fight, but the
25 fight has to be real. It can't be a fight, just

1 conversation. This - - . Thank you.

2 [Applause]

3 MS. ALIZE COYER: Hello, my name is Jessica
4 Sunderland [phonetic]. I moved to this
5 community over 13 years ago. I came to this
6 community because it had open minds for artists
7 and musicians to do what we wanted, to express
8 ourselves, and to live our lives fully. I did
9 not ever feel that this community did not
10 embrace me or accept me, and I did not come into
11 this community hoping to bring sterilization
12 along with me.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. COYER: My child - - 132. - - parent in
15 this community is middle schools.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. COYER: We do not need more elementary
18 schools. Now, I'd like to speak as the daughter
19 of one of the ground floor founding people of a
20 charter school called Edison Schools that
21 started this whole business prospect. So I know
22 from the ground up how evil and underhanded this
23 idea of taking public money from our taxes to
24 build a profit based on turning away children
25 and families that do not meet your

1 specifications. - - not let my child - -
2 sterilize - - controlled environment. I want
3 him to experience - - . I cannot - - and
4 cultural backgrounds and abilities. Without
5 that, his education means nothing in today's
6 world, and that is the reason I raised him in
7 this community, and that is the reason I am
8 raising him as a New Yorker. Thank you very
9 much.

10 [Applause]

11 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Thank you very much. - -
12 . Come on up.

13 MR. RAFAEL ALCONTORO: [Speaking foreign
14 language] Good evening. My name is Rafael - -
15 and we are in need of a school that serves us,
16 the community. The Success - - and we are - -
17 and Success Charter School is literally pushing
18 students out like me, a Latino of - - American
19 decent. This is like - - without representation
20 US History. [Speaking foreign language] This
21 is genocide, I believe, for us. Enough is
22 enough. [Speaking foreign language]

23 [Applause]

24 MS. MAYA VARGAS: [Speaking foreign
25 language]

1 MS. SARAH PORTER: - - . Hi, my name is
2 Sarah Porter. I'm a resident of the North Side,
3 and I'm a proud parent of two boys at PS132, and
4 I want to say we stand with you to say no to the
5 Success Academy - - but obviously - - 132 and
6 other surrounding schools, parents and teachers
7 that are here tonight, and we do not want this
8 collocated at an existing public school. You
9 know, I'd actually like to know who is here who
10 is going to be making some decisions based on
11 tonight's hearing? Who is here? Can somebody
12 answer that because I didn't get all the names
13 and - - .

14 MR. ROUHANIFARD: The Panel for Educational
15 Policy.

16 MS. PORTER: And who is here from the PEP
17 tonight?

18 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Nobody from the panel is
19 here tonight - - . The comments will be
20 collected, analyzed and sent - - .

21 MS. PORTER: But there is actually no one
22 here from the PEP tonight?

23 [Yelling]

24 MS. PORTER: - - . Can DOE members please
25 raise their hand? Thank you. Anybody else?

1 You're from DOE? From Facility Planning? I'm
2 curious. I'm sorry, I don't know.

3 MR. ROUHANIFARD: I'm with the portfolio
4 team.

5 MS. PORTER: Portfolio team. Well, I would
6 like to know because I come from a school where
7 we have 802 students, and we're bursting at the
8 seams. We're considered underutilized. Well, I
9 don't know what that means. I guess that means
10 for Mayor Bloomberg, fire half the teachers so
11 we would have classes of 60 and then we would be
12 overutilized - - ? That's ridiculous. Okay?
13 If you want to know how to best utilize the
14 schools, go to the - - and go to the teachers at
15 those schools, and in District 14. How much
16 time did you spend sitting down with District 14
17 schools, including parents - - with the PEP and
18 hear what they have to say about what's best for
19 our district? How much time? In fact, the last
20 time I went to a PEP meeting, guess who was
21 there? Success Charter Academy for their
22 proposed collocation at PS59. Oh my goodness.
23 They got approved by the PEP. I can't believe
24 it. And you know what, - - came out of that
25 meeting? The criticism came out that they had

1 1,000 signatures for that collocation. Well,
2 they're not from our neighborhood. They're not
3 from District 14. So lo and behold, what
4 happened at the subway on Ventor Avenue
5 recently? Like back in November? All you saw
6 were - - paid consultants, paid people going up
7 and asking people to sign their petition. You
8 know, as an organizer in this neighborhood since
9 '96, we got over 500 parents at our school
10 signing our petition to - - the - - schools - -
11 . We don't need people to pay us to do our
12 job, and advocate for our children. It's
13 disgusting. It's disgusting. How much have
14 they spent on advertising on - - ? \$600,000 of
15 our money, tax payer money? It's gross. I
16 understood that the purpose of education is
17 education. The purpose of - - Success Academy
18 and other schools, the purpose of education is
19 to make a profit.

20 And now you know, - - .

21 MR. ROUHANIFARD: - - .

22 MS. PORTER: One more thing. All right?

23 Well, two more things. In 2000--I can't
24 remember. We - - was looming over the North
25 Side - - , all sorts of communities came

1 together. South Side, [Speaking foreign
2 language], - -

3 [Applause]

4 MS. PORTER: - - all came together - - oh,
5 we - - on the East Coast. How stupid is that?
6 Well, finally we had a state hearing, and it was
7 only when the state - - and listened to the
8 people, the thousands of people that were in
9 that auditorium down on - - , only then did the
10 state say no, we agree with the community. We
11 would appreciate it if the DOE would sometimes
12 listen to the community. We have good ideas.
13 We want to make education better. Believe me, -
14 - and people here want to fix them. We want to
15 be - - . All we see is top down mentality, and
16 it is wrong.

17 [Applause]

18 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Thank you.

19 MR. GIL NELSON: Good evening, my name is -
20 - , and I'm a resident of Williamsburg, born and
21 raised. I was born on December 14, 1956, all
22 right? And when I want for my community is the
23 best things for our kids that are from here.
24 Not from the outside. Not from the outside,
25 right? We have - - here. I'm - - . I haven't

1 used drugs in 20 years, and - - . I work with
2 the community - - those drugs which are no
3 longer here, and this is a free - - , a - - that
4 the outside wants to come in here and invade us,
5 right?

6 And it's a shame that you guys want to come
7 in here - - all of us - - , right? Like, I
8 didn't graduate from junior high school. My
9 education was out on the streets, and I educate
10 today my youth because they are the future.
11 Mine's already done, but my experience, I help
12 them. There - - years that I - - to come out on
13 the street, and I lived out on the street, but
14 I'm crying inside. I'm crying inside. - - why
15 you guys want to invade us, huh? Please, let us
16 be. Please let us be.

17 [Applause]

18 MR. GIL NELSON: - - on Sunday. And two
19 guys helped me out of my chair, and when I came
20 into the school, I came in - - like everybody
21 else. But - - our youth. - - out there on the
22 streets. - - right now. But as long as I can
23 turn around, - - that we have, and when you - -
24 Brooklyn, I'm coming. And - - out here to the
25 board meeting - - tell you about me. - - . So

1 please, take it from myself, let me - -
2 whoever has ears, - - back to - - background.
3 Thank you.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. CALONA CHRISTIAN: The one thing that
6 nobody say is in your school, they don't accept
7 bilingual. I'm bilingual. For me, the new kids
8 who come, where are they going? It's - - we
9 don't accept them, and that's discrimination
10 because we have another language. So if you
11 don't accept them, where are they going. So - -
12 school, we have a lot, and - - you cannot do it
13 because - - bilingual kids to come - - say no,
14 but you don't accept them in your school, so - -
15 .

16 [Applause]

17 MR. ROUHANIFARD: Thank you. The speaker
18 list is now exhausted. Again, we do welcome any
19 other comments and feedback you might have
20 before the Panel for Educational Policy votes on
21 this at their March 1st panel meeting. Just to
22 quickly read off the e-mail address and - - the
23 e-mail address is D14proposals@schools.nyc.gov.
24 The phone number is (212) 374-0208. We
25 appreciate all your feedback and commentary this

1 evening. This joint public hearing is now
2 closed.

3 [Applause]

4 MALE VOICE: This is a farce.

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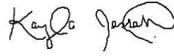
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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 The prior proceedings were transcribed from
3 audio files and have been transcribed to the
4 best of my ability.

5
6 Signature



7 Date January 20, 2012

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