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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**

**Opening and Co-Location of
New District Middle School
at K335**

**10/7/13
5:30 p.m.**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. EVELYN SANTIAGO: Good afternoon,
3 everyone. Or I should say good evening. My
4 name is Evelyn Santiago, I am the Community
5 School District superintendent. I'd like to
6 thank our hostesses for this evening. We have
7 Principal Dr. Lavern Nimens [phonetic],
8 principal of 335. We also have Ms. Gillian
9 Harboro [phonetic], principal of Middle School
10 584. Raise your hand for those - - . With us
11 also we have the assistant principal of 584, Mr.
12 Mann [phonetic]. Did I see you there? Yes. We
13 also have Wanda James, parent coordinator for
14 584. We also have Yvette Holly, parent
15 coordinator, 335; Mr. Rinaldo Wright [phonetic],
16 deputy network leader for 584. And we have our
17 president from our CC, Felicia Alexander. And I
18 have Shanine Lindsay [phonetic].

19 FEMALE VOICE: Yeah, deputy network leader.

20 MS. SANTIAGO: Oh hello, nice to meet you.
21 Shanine Lindsay from--

22 MS. SHANINE LINDSAY: [interposing] CFN 401.

23 MS. SANTIAGO: Deputy network leader.

24 MS. LINDSAY: Yes.

25 MS. SANTIAGO: Okay, thank you for coming.

1 MS. LINDSAY: Thank you. Sorry - - .

2 MS. SANTIAGO: Did I miss anyone else?

3 Okay, why don't we go around very quickly and
4 just say who we are and our names.

5 MS. LILY HOSKINS: - - I'm Lily Hoskins
6 [phonetic], I work with the office - - .

7 MS. VICKI MARSO: I'm Vicki Marso [phonetic]
8 of - - office - - . If you want to stick around
9 after the formal end of the hearing to ask any
10 questions, feel free to do so.

11 MALE VOICE: - -

12 FEMALE VOICE: There's no such thing as just
13 a parent.

14 MALE VOICE: - -

15 FEMALE VOICE: Amen.

16 MALE VOICE: - -

17 FEMALE VOICE: You are the real deal, sir.

18 MALE VOICE: - - MS 584 - -

19 MARY: Mary - - 584, guidance counselor.

20 MS. SANTIAGO: Everyone looks so...

21 MALE VOICE: Parent - - .

22 MS. SANTIAGO: Okay and...

23 MS. CAMILIA BROCKTON-CRUISE: Camilia
24 Brockton-Cruise [phonetic], I'm the district
25 family advocate for Ward District 16.

1 MS. SANTIAGO: Very good, thank you. And
2 I'm going to read from my notes. I want to make
3 sure that I don't miss anything that is supposed
4 to be heard by you, very important. So good
5 evening again. This is a joint public hearing
6 of the Department of Education Community
7 Education Counsel and school leadership teams,
8 concerning the proposed co-location of a new
9 district middle school, 16K 762, with PS 335,
10 the Granville T. Woods [phonetic] School, and MS
11 584, housed in building K335, beginning year
12 2014, 2015. And again, I'm the superintendent,
13 Evelyn Santiago. We have asked the District 16
14 invocation counsel, and members of the school
15 leadership teams in the buildings 335 and 584 to
16 join us in this public hearing. Tonight, again,
17 I am joined by our CC president, Felicia
18 Alexander. The purpose of this hearing is for
19 you to provide comments about the proposal
20 before I describe the proposal. I want to make
21 sure you are all aware of the opportunity to
22 provide your input. All those who wish to speak
23 must sign up in the speaker sign-up area located
24 just outside the auditorium. The sign-up list
25 will close in 15 minutes, so if you're

1 interested in speaking, please do so now.
2 Speakers will be given the floor in the order
3 they signed up. All comments are limited to two
4 minutes. There may be elected officials who
5 arrive at different times throughout the
6 evening. If they wish to speak, we will do our
7 best to accommodate them at the first
8 opportunity or opportune moment. Those who are
9 here at the start of the public comments segment
10 will be asked to speak first. In addition, we
11 welcome any comments and feedback you may have
12 at any time before the panel votes on this
13 proposal. All comments will be included in the
14 public comment analysis to be published and
15 provided to the Panel for Education Policy the
16 evening before the panel votes. That vote is
17 scheduled for October 15th, 2013 at 6 p.m. at
18 the Prospect Heights Campus School, located at
19 883 Klasson [phonetic] Avenue, Brooklyn, New
20 York 11225. The email address and phone number
21 where comments may be made as well are
22 D16Proposals at schools.nyc.gov, and 212-374-
23 0208. And now I'll read to you the proposal
24 summary. And this hearing is being recorded,
25 correct, Vicki? Okay. The New York City

1 Department of Education is proposing to co-
2 locate a new middle school in building K335,
3 beginning in the 2014-15 school year. Building
4 K335 is located at 130 Rochester Avenue,
5 Brooklyn, New York 11213 in Community School
6 District 16. If this proposal is approved, the
7 new district middle school will open in the
8 2014-2015 school year, serving six grade, and
9 will add one grade per year until it reaches
10 full scale, serving six through eighth grade in
11 2016-2017. The school will be co-located with
12 two other schools in building K335. PS 385, the
13 Granville--335, Granville T. Woods School, and
14 MS 584. The new district school will be a
15 limited unscreened middle school that admits
16 students through the middle school application
17 process. Limited unscreened schools give
18 admissions priority to students who demonstrate
19 interest in the school by attending an
20 information session, attending an open house
21 event, or visiting the school's exhibit at any
22 one of the middle school fairs. The DOE has
23 identified the K335 building as an underutilized
24 building, according to the 2011-2012 enrollment
25 capacity utilization report for the blue book.

1 Building K335 has the capacity to serve 1,036
2 students. In the current 2013-14 school year,
3 the two schools on the campus are serving
4 combined approximately 503 students. This
5 yields a utilization rate of approximately 49
6 percent, which indicates that the building is
7 underutilized, and has space to accommodate
8 additional students. If this proposal is
9 approved in 2016-2017, once the new middle
10 school has fully phased in, the new middle
11 school is projected to serve approximately 255
12 to 285 students in sixth through eighth grades.
13 At that time PS 335 is expected to serve
14 approximately 353 to 413 students, while MS 584
15 is expected to serve approximately 75 to 105
16 students. In all, the three schools are
17 projected to serve a total of 683 to 803
18 students, yielding a building utilization rate
19 of approximately 66 percent to 78 percent. So
20 thank you, that's the end of the proposal. And
21 at this point I'd like to ask if anyone from the
22 CC would like to make a comment. Oh, okay,
23 she's going to be presenting as part of the
24 speakers on the list, okay. So at that point
25 we'll begin with public comments. We have now

1 concluded the formal presentation. We will
2 open the floor for public comments. Speakers
3 will be given the floor in the order that they
4 signed up. All comments are limited to two
5 minutes. However, because right now we only
6 have two people that are commenting, we are
7 saying that we will allow you to speak as long
8 as you need to. Let me call up Natalie, Natalie
9 Cooper. Why don't you sit here?

10 MS. NATALIE COOPER: Thank you. Hi, I'm
11 Natalie, I am a parent of an eighth grader on
12 584. My main thing is, why bring another junior
13 high school in the building when there's one in
14 here already? Those scholars could come to 584.
15 My daughter has been here since the sixth grade,
16 she's in the eighth grade now. I see nothing
17 but a great learning environment, love, and
18 support from every teacher in this school. I
19 have nothing but good words to say about them.
20 A third school in here means three different
21 bell schedules, three different lunch schedules,
22 gym schedules, smaller class sizes. And we need
23 the rooms, we need the class houses to have less
24 children for a better learning experience in the
25 classrooms. And that's basically what I--it

1 doesn't make any sense to bring in a second
2 junior high school when there's one in here
3 already. It doesn't make sense at all. And
4 this is a great junior high school, no problems
5 at all. That's it.

6 MS. SANTIAGO: Thank you so much, Ms.
7 Cooper. And now we have Felicia Alexander.

8 MS. FELICIA ALEXANDER: Good evening, my
9 name is Felicia Alexander, and I am the
10 president of Community Education Counsel for
11 District 16. What do we think of the co-
12 location? We think it's bull. You're taking an
13 established top performing school in that
14 district, with an incredibly dedicated
15 principal, and rewarding them by taking away
16 resources that have helped this school to
17 succeed. Space is an utmost important resource.
18 Co-locations are a bad idea because you will now
19 have three schools in this one building. Guess
20 what will happen? One school will now have gym
21 in their classroom. Guess which school it will
22 be doing stretches at their desks instead of
23 using their gym? Students will be eating lunch
24 at 10 a.m. Bathrooms, stairwells will have to
25 be assigned, bell schedules. This is craziness

1 to put onto children to have to learn, oh, I
2 can't go in that stairwell now because that's
3 the other school. DOE has done whatever they
4 wanted with this district because we as parents
5 have been complacent. And for this one reason
6 DOE now looks at our children as pawns to do
7 whatever they so choose to. And I'm here to say
8 that we need to, as parents, say no more. I
9 don't believe anybody in this room does not
10 believe that their child is worth something. I
11 guarantee all of us believe our children are
12 worth something. No one will advocate for your
13 child better than you. I am getting as much
14 information as I can so that I can educate our
15 parents, and let them know we have a voice. We
16 have a strong and powerful voice if we unite.
17 We don't see this happening in our fluent
18 neighborhoods, because both parents work
19 together. We need to tell our local politicians
20 and get involved, and tell them this is
21 unacceptable, no more. We need to make our
22 children our top priority, and we need to stop
23 with the, I don't have time to do this or attend
24 that. Right now I intend school full time. I
25 have four children, I am the president of the

1 counsel, and I'm on almost any committee that
2 has education in it--NAACP, I joined the - - ,
3 the Community Board 3 Youth and Education
4 Counsel. I make no less than 12 meetings a
5 month. So, parents, we need to start trying to
6 make at least one meeting. Find out what's
7 going on with your children, find out what's
8 going on in your district and in your community.
9 These meetings are open to the public, and you
10 need to start attending. Our meetings are the
11 third Tuesday of each month. And I will have
12 all the information from all the other meetings
13 that I've gone to available at that time. So
14 please, if you can't make any other meetings,
15 then try to come to your education counsel
16 meeting, where we'll have all the information we
17 gathered to inform you. And hopefully we can
18 work better so that DOE won't keep coming and
19 doing this to our schools. Thank you.

20 MS. SANTIAGO: Thank you, Ms. Alexander.
21 Just before we end this or adjourn, I'd like to
22 just repeat where you could forward your
23 comments. Again, we welcome any comments and
24 feedback you may have at any time before the
25 Panel for Education Policy votes on this

1 proposal at the October 15th, 2013 meeting,
2 which is next week. The email address and phone
3 number where comments may be made are again
4 D16Proposals at schools.nyc.gov, and the phone
5 number is 212-374-0208. Thank you for your
6 participation, thank you for coming out. And
7 this joint public hearing is now closed.

8 [END RECORDING]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

5
6 Walter Baker

7 Date: October 10, 2013
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