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

**Co-location of a new  
D75 program at X027**

**Building X027  
519 St. Ann's Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10455**

**April 14, 2015  
5:30pm**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. YOLANDA TORRES: Okay. Good evening  
3 everyone. [Unintelligible}. This is a joint  
4 public hearing of the Department of Education,  
5 Community Education Council 7, the School  
6 Leadership Team for PS277 and P469S and I am  
7 Yolanda Torres, community superintendent for  
8 district 7. We have asked the district 7  
9 Community Education Council and School  
10 Leadership Teams of PS277 and P469S to  
11 participate in this joint public hearing and I  
12 am joined tonight by Principal Jorge from PS277,  
13 good evening, Principal Tubiolo from P469S as  
14 well as Noemi Lizardi who is a member of the  
15 SLT, right, as well as CEC, Community Education  
16 Council member. Thank you for being here. And  
17 I also want to acknowledge other members of the  
18 Community Education Council. We have John  
19 Fielder, Cynthia Robinson and also Declan Paul.  
20 Thank you for being here. This hearing is being  
21 recorded. The purpose of this hearing is for  
22 you to provide comments about the proposal.  
23 Before I describe the proposal, I want to make  
24 sure that you are aware of the opportunity to  
25 provide your input. All those who wish to speak

1 must sign up in the speaker sign-up area  
2 located just at the back part of our auditorium.  
3 The sign-up list will close in 15 minutes and  
4 speakers will be given the floor in the order  
5 that they have signed up. All comments will be  
6 limited to two minutes. There may be also  
7 elected officials who arrive at different times  
8 throughout this evening or through the meeting  
9 and if they wish to speak they will be given the  
10 opportunity to do so and we will best  
11 accommodate them at the most opportune moment.  
12 If they are here at the start of the public  
13 comment section they will be asked to speak  
14 first. So, all comments will be mentioned in  
15 the analysis of public comment that will be  
16 published and provided to the Panel for  
17 Educational Policy the evening before the panel  
18 holds the vote. The vote will take place on  
19 April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015. In addition, we also welcome  
20 any comments and feedback you may have at any  
21 time before the panel holds on this proposal.  
22 The email address and phone number where you can  
23 send your comments to is  
24 d07proposals@schools.nyc.gov and the number is  
25 (212) 374-5159. I am going to proceed now with

1 the proposal summary. So, this proposal  
2 concerns a new site of an existing district 7  
3 elementary school P469S. Formally, the  
4 Department of Education or DOE had considered a  
5 proposal to site grades five through eight of  
6 the Academic Leadership Charter School in  
7 building X27, this building, alongside PS277.  
8 The Department of Education officially withdrew  
9 this proposal for consideration by the Panel for  
10 Educational Policy and is no longer pursuing the  
11 site of the Academic Leadership Charter School  
12 in this building. The Department of Education  
13 is now proposing to open and co-locate a new  
14 site of existing district 75 school P469S to be  
15 called P469S at X027 in building 027 beginning  
16 next year, school year 2015-16. Building 27 is  
17 located at 519 Saint Ann's Avenue, Bronx, New  
18 York 10455 within community school district 7.  
19 Building X27 currently houses the PS277, a  
20 district elementary school that serves grades  
21 kindergarten through fifth grade and offers also  
22 a pre-kindergarten program. PS277 and all  
23 elementary and K to 8 schools in district 7 are  
24 schools without a home. Families have the  
25 opportunity to rank their preferences among all

1 elementary schools in the district. If this  
2 proposal is approved beginning in the school  
3 year 2015-16 P469S will serve elementary school  
4 students in this building X27 and will be co-  
5 located with PS277. So, a collocation means  
6 that two or more school organizations are  
7 located in the same building and they share  
8 common spaces such as the auditorium, the  
9 gymnasium, the library, cafeteria. If the  
10 proposal is approved beginning next year, 2015-  
11 16, P469S will serve approximately 42 to 84  
12 elementary school students and PS277 will serve  
13 approximately 444 to 504 students in grades  
14 kindergarten through 5 as well as it's pre-  
15 kindergarten program in the building yielding a  
16 total building enrollment of between 486 to 588  
17 students. The projected building utilization  
18 rate for X27 for next year is between 57 and 69%  
19 of utilization. If approved this proposal will  
20 add self-contained seats in X27 for district 75  
21 elementary school students who are classified as  
22 autistic or intellectually disabled on their  
23 Individualized Education Plan or IEPs. These  
24 additional seats are necessary to meet the  
25 increased demand for district 75 self-contained

1 programming in the Bronx. Approximately 69% of  
2 district 7 elementary students who require  
3 district 75 services currently leave the  
4 district in order to receive such services.  
5 This proposal will help to address the need for  
6 additional seats. P469S at X27 will admit  
7 future students in a manner consistent with  
8 current district 75 enrollment procedures.  
9 Students will be placed in district 75 school  
10 based on individual student needs, recommended  
11 special education services and other variables.  
12 P469S at X27 is expected to serve students in  
13 classes that may range from six to one to one,  
14 eight to one to one or twelve to one to one  
15 settings. If the proposal is approved it is not  
16 expected to impact admissions, current or future  
17 student enrollment, instructional programming or  
18 the extracurricular programs or the community  
19 partnerships currently offered at PS277. But,  
20 the way the programs are configured within the  
21 building may be subject to change. So, that is  
22 the summary that I have just presented to you.  
23 And I want to give you, once again, my thanks  
24 for listening to the opening and the summary and  
25 I am hoping to ask if our CEC representative,

1 Ms. Lizardi, would like to say some words.

2 MS. NOEMI LIZARDI: Good evening, everyone.  
3 I'm very happy because I've known what P277 is  
4 and this is one thing that piece that our  
5 community can take advantage because I know some  
6 kids from the past in PS277 have support. I  
7 think this is one of the best part of the  
8 program. Thank you.

9 MS. TORRES: So, I as I said she sits on the  
10 SLT team of PS277, but also is a member of the  
11 CEC in district 7 Community Education Council  
12 for district 7. Ms. Jorge, would you like to  
13 say some words?

14 PRINCIPAL JORGE: Welcome. One of the  
15 things I first wanted to say is I'm glad we have  
16 so many parents at the table support us when it  
17 came to making the decision about the  
18 collocation of the charter school. I'm also  
19 excited to announce that our SLT parents are  
20 also on board with this particular collocation.  
21 I think it's a great partnership for our school  
22 and I think that the school community can grow  
23 in terms of making our school mature, but also  
24 in terms of professional development that will  
25 be provided to the teachers and I think this

1 will be an asset to our school and I think both  
2 schools will be able to benefit from being in  
3 the same building and learning and growing  
4 together.

5 MS. TORRES: Thank you, Ms. Jorge. And now  
6 we will have Ms. Tubiolo, principal of X469, a  
7 lot of numbers.

8 MS. TUBIOLLO: Good evening everyone. First  
9 things first I do want to thank all of your for  
10 joining us from both schools, from 277 and from  
11 469 this evening. And I want you to know that  
12 it is very important for us as 469 to share that  
13 we are here for all of our children. Our  
14 children who are part of district 7 never mind  
15 district 7 for district 77 and district 7 for  
16 district 75, we are here to work as a whole.  
17 And we are really excited. I know that word  
18 gets used a lot but it's true. We're very  
19 excited to be able to collaborate with you, your  
20 team and our families together because we're  
21 very big on making things work and not just  
22 work, but work to really benefit our children.  
23 So, we thank you for welcoming us. We welcome  
24 you and we truly look forward to this  
25 opportunity to learn and grow from one another.

1 So, thank you.

2 MS. TORRES: Thank you so much. I believe  
3 we do have any one on the speaker list? This  
4 person? No one? So, I want to reiterate also  
5 what the ladies have said here. It's about  
6 really coming together and working for the  
7 benefit of our students and moving forward  
8 through this opportunity. We have now concluded  
9 the formal presentations. Once again, we have  
10 no one that is, you want to speak? This is not  
11 a question and answer.

12 MALE VOICE 1: I'm sorry.

13 MS. TORRES: That's why we have the comments  
14 area where you can share your concerns. So, we  
15 do have not any one signed up so I want to then  
16 welcome any comments and feedback that any may  
17 have for the Panel of Educational Policy. Is  
18 there someone on the sign?

19 [Crosstalk]

20 FEMALE VOICE 1: I think we want to hear  
21 what he would have to say.

22 FEMALE VOICE 2: I would like to.

23 MS. TORRES: But, in order to do so they  
24 have to sign up, right.

25 [Crosstalk]

1 MALE VOICE 1: - - share your concern.

2 MS. TORRES: He's bringing the sign up  
3 sheet, right?

4 FEMALE VOICE 3: Yes.

5 FEMALE VOICE 2: Did you want to see?

6 MALE VOICE 1: Yeah.

7 FEMALE VOICE 4: So, anyone on the CEC or  
8 SLT can speak? Is there anyone else in your SLT  
9 that wants to speak?

10 FEMALE VOICE 5: We have all SLTs all right  
11 now.

12 FEMALE VOICE 4: Okay.

13 MS. TORRES: Anyone else on the SLT from  
14 PS277 would like to then you could sign up?  
15 Please?

16 FEMALE VOICE 2: We did.

17 MS. TORRES: You did. Thank you.

18 [Crosstalk]

19 MS. TORRES: Okay. They signed over here.  
20 Okay, got it.

21 FEMALE VOICE 2: And then we have these too.

22 MS. TORRES: Okay. Thank you.

23 FEMALE VOICE 2: Thank you.

24 MS. TORRES: Okay. Ms. Diaz? Okay. Since  
25 you're standing, please, will you?

1 MS. BERNICE DIAZ: This question is  
2 particularly for you. I believe if I'm correct  
3 I met with you a couple of months ago with a  
4 couple of parents in the library and I was going  
5 to the parents, the first one to be here and we  
6 were waiting for the rest of them and I really  
7 wasn't in the library at that time. I believe  
8 they gave me a wrong time. And I was looking  
9 around and I said wow, this library is very  
10 small with all these children in here. And I  
11 remember the comment that came back from you  
12 well, we have to do the best we can with what we  
13 have. So, if we realize that this school is  
14 small and the community is growing why are we  
15 going to add more kids into the school  
16 especially little classes? I have three  
17 grandkids that's in here from the age of 4 to 6  
18 and 11. And I will not feel comfortable having  
19 my kids here at rest knowing that there's older  
20 kids here and there's a potential for an  
21 accident; safety issue if anything was to happen  
22 to them. I'm asking you as a parent, as a  
23 grandparent when ya'll make this decision please  
24 think about our children and think they just--  
25 our children are catching thank God for the

1 teachers and the principal that we have here.  
2 And we don't want to pull them back with - - .  
3 We really want ya'll to consider that when you  
4 make this decision on our children.

5 MS. TORRES: Okay. So, I'm really not  
6 supposed to respond but I'll just since you came  
7 in a little later. This is not for the charter  
8 school. The charter school that has been  
9 withdrawn.

10 MS. DIAZ: Okay.

11 MS. TORRES: Okay. This is district 75 and  
12 they're bringing five students that are coming  
13 if the proposal is approved.

14 MS. DIAZ: Okay.

15 MS. TORRES: Thank you. You're welcome.

16 FEMALE VOICE 2: Thank you, Ms. Diaz.

17 MS. TORRES: Thank you. Mr. Fielder.

18 MR. GENEAL CHALOX: I don't have to go to  
19 the mike do I? Do I need to go to the mike?

20 [Crosstalk]

21 MR. CHALOX: Thank you. My concern was the  
22 fact that that's a lot of steps. We're talking  
23 about district 75 kids. Where are they going to  
24 be housed? Are they going to be housed on the  
25 lower floors? I'm thinking about the teachers

1 on the top floor, that's a lot of steps  
2 especially with kids with special needs that to  
3 have to be worried about this. So, how are you  
4 going to do that? Are you putting an elevator  
5 in here or something? I don't think so.

6 [Crosstalk]

7 PRINCIPAL TUBIOLO: Thank you very much for  
8 thinking about that. Thanks for that because  
9 that's something that rarely gets focused on.  
10 The plan that we have is for district 75  
11 children to be on the third floor of the  
12 building. Yes, we will have to work with the  
13 stairs. But, it's something that we have to  
14 work with in many of our sites. As you know or  
15 may not know district 75 schools always have one  
16 main site and many different off sites in  
17 various districts. So, for example right now we  
18 are geographically located in districts 10, 9  
19 and 7 and now for September we will have our 4<sup>th</sup>  
20 site in district 7 as well. And we do deal with  
21 the stairs, too. Right now the plan is for us  
22 to be on the third floor and our children have  
23 to work on their related services, goals and  
24 skills as well so with their physical therapy  
25 and occupational therapy instruction, but on

1       behalf of our children and families I want to  
2       say thank you for thinking about that and for  
3       sharing it with the entire group.  It's really a  
4       compliment.  I hope that answered your concern.

5               MS. TORRES:  Thank you so much.  Anyone  
6       else?

7               [Crosstalk]

8               MR. JOHN FIELDER:  Hi, everybody.  So, I  
9       just as a parent for the parent's committee I  
10      have to talk about it, sorry, but I do.  I have  
11      to talk about--I welcome you guys first of all.  
12      I do.  I do welcome them with open arms.  I did  
13      not welcome the collocation of the previous  
14      charter school, hence the reason of the mix up  
15      because I feared as a parent we are being left  
16      behind the scenes.  That is why we're so  
17      confused right now.  If we were given the proper  
18      space and time and it's not being rushed and is  
19      being explained I think the parents as well will  
20      get enough time to welcome you where we have  
21      reached right now as SLT and the administration  
22      and the other people that welcome you.  The  
23      parents didn't get that chance to feel the way  
24      we do.  Because at the time that they were given  
25      for the information, they need to be informed

1 about what is D75. I feel like as a parent  
2 leader I have to do that. Ms. Jorge, the  
3 principal, have to do that. We were stuck with  
4 that job in such a limited time. Here, give it  
5 to your parents. That's not fair. And that's  
6 not how we work knowing that we're a community  
7 school. So, when we had a meeting which was  
8 limited time with the D75 superintendent, he  
9 spoke of great things that they're willing to  
10 bring for our kids. And as a parent leader my  
11 parents here I say now that I welcome them  
12 because of what he said yesterday. I truly  
13 believe that our kids will be in a better place,  
14 better than what the charter school was  
15 promising which was nothing. He made promises  
16 and I truly believe them because I looked eye to  
17 eye with him. So, not me if it goes down. But,  
18 you know if he does not back up his word I will  
19 be there through thick and thin with you guys.  
20 So, that's why I welcome D75.

21 MS. TORRES: Thank you. And I have to say  
22 that my colleague, he is a good listener, but  
23 he's also a person that keeps his word, so  
24 welcome, okay? And you can also tell us, he's  
25 your boss.

1           PRINCIPAL TUBIOLO: I spoke with  
2 Superintendent Hecht this morning because we  
3 have very clear communication and are very  
4 transparent with everything that is taking place  
5 and going on and I can also say evidence-based,  
6 anything and everything that was shared with you  
7 at yesterday's meeting is definitely from his  
8 heart and he says what he means and he means  
9 what he says and I'm not just saying that to  
10 pump up the whole statement that just took  
11 place. But, also I think it's important to  
12 share with you, too, that we're always looking  
13 for opportunities for our children to grow and  
14 to learn. And district 75 is not a permanent  
15 spot for our children. As much as we want to  
16 keep them because we love our kids to pieces,  
17 everybody has to move on because they're  
18 growing. And being a part of 277 provides us  
19 with an opportunity to really collaborate when  
20 it comes to integrating, co-teaching classes and  
21 partnerships and professional learning  
22 opportunities are helpful things as it benefits  
23 277's children as well. These are the things  
24 that we truly look forward to, Principal Jorge  
25 and myself, for seeing where it can move and can

1 develop and there are definitely a lot more  
2 positives than anything else on the table right  
3 now. So, we're really looking forward to it.

4 MS. TORRES: Thank you.

5 PRINCIPAL TUBIOLO: You're welcome. As you  
6 see this joint public hearing has become more of  
7 a community meeting, okay? I think it's the  
8 best way to do it. Okay? For informational  
9 purposes. The last speaker will be Jennifer  
10 Villacis, SLT. And this is - - ? Okay. She  
11 didn't put anything there. SLT teacher and UFT,  
12 right?

13 MS. JENNIFER VILLACIS: Yes. I would - - .  
14 All right. So, I walked in a little late so I  
15 don't know if I missed some thing's that were  
16 said. But, as a special education teacher I'm  
17 going to say that I think I see this as an  
18 opportunity for us to work together because we  
19 have a lot of kids with special needs in our  
20 building. We have kids who walk in who I think  
21 might be a little more help than some of us are  
22 trained in giving. So, this for me is an  
23 opportunity for us to work together. So, if  
24 there is an opportunity from us to learn from  
25 each other, teachers to work together just to

1 see how we can help the kids that are, I mean,  
2 all the kids are from our community so this is  
3 something that I'm actually looking forward to.  
4 So, that's what I wanted to say. Thank you.

5 MS. TORRES: Thank you so much.

6 MS. VILLACIS: Okay. All right.

7 MS. TORRES: Cathy, you have to - - ?

8 MS. KATITIA RIVERA: I also would say I love  
9 you as well. I share the same concerns as a  
10 parent and as SLT because I just the other day  
11 learned what a D75 school was and that's because  
12 I'm part of SLT. That was the first time I'd  
13 heard of it. So, I say it's more of an  
14 education thing and I would like to moving  
15 forward actually whether I have this or not, I  
16 think we need to educate our parents better.  
17 So, if this collocation does happen I think we  
18 need to bring all our parents together to get  
19 this. You're going for September for most of  
20 those. I - - , like I said, just I hope that  
21 this collocation works out and that it is true  
22 that we will work. I know we will work as a  
23 team because we are a team. I just hope you  
24 share the same beliefs that we do and that we  
25 can get to what we wanted as well. Your

1 students, I'm not sure what type of services  
2 do they need? Do they need skills or anything  
3 like that? Because the gym is on the fifth  
4 floor, I'm not sure, I can only - - . Is there  
5 any additions to that particular area that you  
6 guys would adjust or any changes or anything to  
7 be done for your gym periods or recesses or  
8 anything like that that would benefit as well  
9 from you.

10 PRINCIPAL TUBIOLO: Yeah. All right, so I  
11 heard every piece of what you just said.

12 MS. RIVERA: Okay. Thank you.

13 PRINCIPAL TUBIOLO: I agree. Regarding the  
14 actual physical facility of the gym on the fifth  
15 floor, again, as a district 75 school we're very  
16 used to being--finding creative ways to make  
17 things work. As for adjustments and  
18 accommodations and additions to the physical  
19 space of the fifth floor gym those are things  
20 that can be discussed together or looked upon  
21 even if the proposal goes through SLTs together  
22 or CEC. Those are things to look because right  
23 now at this point it has not been something that  
24 we've thought about on our end and we haven't  
25 discussed either. So, TBD for that one, to be

1 determined with that and I also share with  
2 Principal Jorge, too, that we are more than open  
3 and would absolutely love to be able to share  
4 more about not only district 75 and who district  
5 75 is as a district, but also who 469 is as part  
6 of the district. And those are opportunities  
7 that we can look at once the PEP meeting all  
8 that takes place. Absolutely for sure, please.  
9 We'll have a meeting start at noon and I'll keep  
10 talking until midnight because I just love to  
11 give that information out. Our children will be  
12 coming in and as far as - - our children are in  
13 early childhood, mostly turning 5 children, 5  
14 years old, children with autism and intellectual  
15 disabilities. We don't have any more specifics  
16 just yet as to who our children will be for our  
17 newest. That comes with time. The entire  
18 placement process happens over time as a cycle.  
19 But again, that's all information that we would  
20 love to share because we are in this together  
21 and we really mean that when we say that.  
22 That's one thing with 469; they can all say that  
23 too. We always say what we mean and we mean  
24 what we say. And we're here to work together.  
25 So, that's the bottom line.

1 MS. RIVERA: - - happens to then? I guess  
2 I will - - but looking forward to you guys  
3 decisions like especially you guys need to  
4 educate our parents better.

5 PRINCIPAL TUBIOLO: I agree definitely. So,  
6 I took down - - .

7 [Crosstalk]

8 PRINCIPAL TUBIOLO: And something I also  
9 wanted to share very quick is that 469 is  
10 actually starting for the first time in district  
11 75 a dual language program, a self-contained  
12 special ed dual language program and we're  
13 expanding our transitional bilingual program in  
14 September so we'll have at least one class at  
15 each site. Don't ask me what it will look like  
16 and sound like just yet, planning is happening  
17 right now. So, that's on deck. Thank you.

18 MS. TORRES: Thank you. I'm excited,  
19 thanks. So, we thank you for your questions and  
20 I thank you for your flexibility in terms of  
21 answering and making--giving comments and  
22 feedback. So, we do welcome any other comments  
23 or any feedback you may have any time before the  
24 Panel for Educational Policy votes on this  
25 proposal at its April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting which

1 will be held at 6:00 p.m. at MS131 which is  
2 located at 100 Hester Street in Manhattan. The  
3 email address as I stated before and phone  
4 number where comments may be made are  
5 d07proposals@schools.nyc.gov and the number is  
6 (212) 374-5159. I thank you for being here.  
7 Have a good evening and this joint public  
8 hearing is now closed.

9 [END RECORDING]

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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. I further certify that I am not connected by blood, marriage or employment with any of the parties herein nor interested directly or indirectly in the matter transcribed.

Signature R. Jones

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 4/16/15 \_\_\_\_\_