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

**Co-Location Expansion of Mott Hall
Charter School at X063**

October 8, 2013

5:30pm

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. LAURIE PRICE: Good evening, everyone.
3 Good evening. Thank you for coming tonight. My
4 name is Laurie Price, and I will be acting as
5 tonight's facilitator for this joint public
6 hearing.

7 This is a joint public hearing of the
8 Department of Education, Community Education
9 Council 9, and the school leadership teams for
10 the - - the following proposal. The proposed
11 expansion and extension of the co-location of
12 the Mott Hall Charter School X177 with PS 63
13 Author's Academy at 63 in building X063 and X862
14 beginning in 2014/15 school year. Tonight's
15 proceeding will be transcribed and recorded.

16 MALE VOICE 1: - - proposal.

17 MS. PRICE: - - . Before we begin the
18 hearing, if there is anyone who wishes to speak
19 during the public comment portion of the
20 evening, sign up at the - - in the back. Sign
21 up for public comment will end in 15 minutes.
22 Only the people who sign up to speak will be
23 able to participate in the public comment.

24 There may be elected officials who arrive at
25 different times tonight throughout the evening,

1 and, if they wish to speak, we will make our
2 best effort to accommodate them at the first
3 opportune moment. Those who are here at the
4 start of the public comment will be asked to
5 speak first.

6 Tonight's format will include a
7 representation of the proposal and - - by the
8 school leadership representatives. Following
9 the presentation by the Community Education
10 Council, followed by public comment. Speakers,
11 again, should have signed up at the tables in
12 the lobby. If you have not signed up, again,
13 there are 15 minutes remaining.

14 Public comments will going on - - this
15 evening - - the time of the - - the speakers
16 will be informed when the time designated has
17 ended. Other than that, I will introduce you to
18 the Panel who has been assembled at this
19 evening's joint public hearing.

20 MS. SUSAN MEAGHEN: Good evening. I'm Susan
21 Meaghen, and I'm from the New York State
22 Education Department.

23 MS. VANESSA GIBSON: Good evening, ladies
24 and gentlemen. My name is Vanessa Gibson, and
25 I'm - - Vanessa Gibson. I represent 77 District

1 in the South Bronx. Thank you for being here -
2 - .

3 MR. AUSTIN ROSA: Good evening. My name is
4 Austin Rosa. I represent the SLT for PS - - .

5 MS. MARILYN ESPADA: Good evening, everyone.
6 My name is Marilyn Espada, and I represent the
7 CEC, and I'm here to advocate with the parents.

8 MS. DOLORES ESPOSITO: Good evening.
9 Dolores Esposito, and I'm Superintendent at - -
10 High for - - . Welcome, everyone, and thank you
11 for being here.

12 MR. DIAZ-LENS: Good evening. My name is
13 Rinaldo Diaz-Lens, and this is - - . [Applause]
14 - - .

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. My name is - -
16 Williams. I'm in - - .

17 MS. PRICE: I will now turn the program over
18 to our - - Community School District 9
19 Superintendent, Doris Esposito, who will present
20 the proposal.

21 MS. ESPOSITO: Good evening. I want to
22 welcome everyone, once again, and thank you for
23 your participation in this very important joint
24 public hearing. We are here, and this is - - ,
25 and it was just passed, but - - so that your

1 voices can be heard. So thank you.

2 The proposal summary: The New York City
3 Department of Education, or DOE, is proposing to
4 expand and extend the co-location of Mott Hall
5 Charter School in buildings X063 and its annex
6 of PS [background noise] beginning in the
7 2014/2015. - - once again ask the Department to
8 please give us an opportunity to - - , and we
9 want to hear from everyone who wants to show - -
10 for this process. Thank you.

11 PS 063 building and its annex are located at
12 1260 Franklin Avenue, Bronx, New York, 10456, in
13 Community School District 9. A co-location
14 means that two or more school organizations are
15 located in the same building, and they share
16 common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums, and
17 cafeterias.

18 Mott Hall is an - - public charter school
19 serving grades six and seven, but which is
20 authorized by the State Education Department, or
21 SED, to grow to serve the needs of six through
22 eight, which Mott Hall claims to do in 2014 into
23 2015.

24 In accordance with this charter, the Mott
25 Hall admits students through the charter lottery

1 - - who said they could attend Mott Hall - -
2 students who reside in District 9.

3 PS 63 is a noncommissioned elementary school
4 that serves the needs of grades kindergarten
5 through five and - - kindergarten program. Mott
6 Hall is approved to be co-located in the
7 building X 63 and its annex - - additional
8 policy on April 26, 2012. As a temporary co-
9 location for X 63, this co-location was
10 identified as a temporary because of Mott Hall
11 planned to move to a permanent location in
12 private-sector space after the 2013/2014 school
13 year. Those plans, which were underway when the
14 first Educational Impact Statement for - - was
15 published, unfortunately fell through. If this
16 proposal is approved, Mott Hall will continue to
17 be co-located - - and - - . The proposed
18 expansion and extension of the co-location of
19 grades six through eight - - X063 and - -
20 intended to ensure that the school has
21 sufficient long-term space to allow Mott Hall
22 resident students the opportunities to complete
23 their middle school education in District 9 at
24 Mott Hall.

25 In the 2014/2015, if this proposal is

1 approved, Mott Hall will serve 230 to 295
2 students in grades six through eight in X063 and
3 its annex; however, if schools enrollment do not
4 - - to increase - - until 2016 and 2017 when
5 it's growth will stabilize and 235 to 360 - - .
6 According to the 2011/2012 - - enrollment, the
7 class - - utilization report, or - - , - - X063
8 and X862 have a combined target capacity to
9 serve 190 students. During the 2013/2014 school
10 year, the buildings serve a total of
11 approximately 780 - - students, yielding a
12 building utilization rate of 88%. In 2016/2017,
13 the Mott Hall - - serving students in grades six
14 through eight - - are projected to serve
15 approximately 891 to 1,016 students, but not for
16 - - and PS 63 yielding a building utilization
17 rate of 100% to 114%.

18 Although the projected utilization rate
19 above 100% may suggest that a building will be
20 over utilized or overcrowded in a given year,
21 this rate does not account for the fact that
22 rooms may be programmed for more efficient or
23 different uses than the standard assumptions in
24 the utilization calculation. In addition,
25 charter school enrollment plans are frequently

1 based on larger class sizes or a different use
2 than administrative - - safe, contributing to
3 building utilization rates above 100% while not
4 impacting the utilization of the space allocated
5 to the traditional public schools in the
6 building. For further - - and state allocation,
7 we see that - - utilization - - . This proposal
8 is not anticipated to impact the instructional
9 programming admissions processes,
10 extracurricular activities, or - - , nor - - PS
11 63 prekindergarten program will continue subject
12 to continued funding and demand.

13 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Superintendent
14 Esposito. The State Education Department - - is
15 a little easier to receive feedback on the
16 proposal of relocation of Mott Hall PS 63. This
17 joint public hearing will also serve as that
18 facilities hearing. There is a representative
19 from the State Education Department in
20 attendance. If you have any questions or
21 comments on the charter itself, Susan Meaghen at
22 the SEP will now tell you how to submit those
23 questions and comments.

24 MS. MEAGHEN: Thank you. I'm Susan Meaghen,
25 and I am the new school's coordinator for the

1 charter school - - State Education Department.
2 We, as in - - arm of the Board of Regents. The
3 Board of Regents is responsible for the general
4 supervision of all educational activities within
5 the state. The Board is made up of 17 members
6 elected by the State Legislature for five-year
7 terms, one for each of the state's 13 judicial
8 districts, and four members who serve at large.
9 The Regents are on salary and - - for travel
10 related expenses and commissions in their
11 additional duties.

12 The authority for the Regents to issue
13 charters - - trustees to establish charter
14 schools comes from - - through the State
15 Education Law, along with some regional - -
16 passed in 1996 and was amended in 2010. The law
17 requires that the Board of Regents conduct
18 public hearings to discuss co-location of
19 charter schools in existing public school
20 buildings.

21 The section of the law that I'm discussing -
22 - is 2853.3A, which says, "A charter school may
23 be located in part in an existing public school
24 building. The space provided on a private work
25 siting in a public building or any other

1 suitable location, provided, however, before
2 any charter school may be located - - the
3 charter entity shall provide notice to the
4 parents of - - of students then enrolled in an
5 existing school building. They shall hold a
6 public hearing for the purposes of assessing the
7 location of the charter school. The charter
8 school may own, lease, or be granted space.

9 Tonight's hearing is to discuss the proposed
10 co-location of the Mott Hall Charter School.
11 The Board of Regents sets educational policy and
12 State Education - - , neither the Board of
13 Regents nor the State Education Department has
14 any authority over the placement of charter
15 schools within facilities owned by the
16 Department of Education. Nonetheless, we - -
17 pertaining to a co-location of Regents'
18 authorizing charter schools.

19 This evening, I will be gathering comments
20 from the school community pertaining to this co-
21 location. I'll be taking notes as the speakers
22 speak, testimony to - - . These comments will
23 be summarized and shared with the Board of
24 Regents. The State Education Department will
25 continue to do what they said and review

1 comments until the date of the PEP meeting,
 2 which is October 15. - - statements may be
 3 submitted and - - is here - - State Education -
 4 - Charter School office, 89 Washington Avenue,
 5 Albany, New York, 12234, or may be faxed to 518-
 6 474-3209, or e-mailed to charterschools@ - -
 7 .nys - - .gov. Thank you.

8 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Ms. Meaghen. Our
 9 next presenter will be Ms. Marilyn Espada for
 10 the District 9 Community Education Council.

11 MS. ESPADA: Good evening, everyone. First
 12 of all, I want to - - by reading a little part
 13 of the proposal that was - - over the - - . - -
 14 . I - - by the - - to the Bronx for the eight
 15 years.

16 And I'm about to say that - - represents
 17 District 9 teachers, - - , students, and
 18 administrators. - - , and I wish to - -
 19 constantly outperform - - and citywide - - . So
 20 I hope - - . - - he is. - - ? The leader we
 21 chose which is - - . The proposal - - honest -
 22 - guaranteed that and the parents and the
 23 community. Also, that we know we have a
 24 proposal to locate - - 75 sex education class,
 25 not a charter school. The parents in the

1 community - - agree to - - , not - -
2 Constitution, but this District 75 proposal has
3 - - case with a plan to remove - - . This
4 proposal and - - we have all the plans in the
5 community is unacceptable. The parents - - show
6 you CEC - - . The difference between a charter
7 school and a public school, one reason will be
8 that they don't have that - - and charter
9 schools come up with an abundance of - - . This
10 is - - . They see different--

11 [Background Noise]

12 MS. ESPADA: Okay. Do you want to - - ? I
13 will ask that - - . Soon, I, too, will be - -
14 over - - or be on the road of being phased out.
15 Charter schools - - students. Rest assured, we
16 will not have students with the same emotional
17 and social issues that I was raised at. I was -
18 - . I was - - are equal. We - - three or four
19 on the state tests. The reason why parents and
20 the community oppose putting their child in - -
21 at - - is safety concerns. PS 63 has pre-K and
22 kindergarten through fifth grade. The - - at
23 the same - - level as - - . [Applause]. It is
24 not safe to have four and five-year-olds - -
25 with the teenagers that are already 14 years old

1 sharing the same space. We do not believe
2 that it is in our children's best interest. The
3 parents of the community - - . A district - -
4 charter school. We have many children in our -
5 - . We need - - school - - . The parent - -
6 Association at PS 63 has over 700 signatures
7 that they have sent out to - - so they can take
8 a look at the parents' signatures and the
9 community that oppose this proposal. All we ask
10 is that the DOE to stop making promises they
11 can't keep. This is our [applause].

12 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Ms. Espada. The next
13 speaker - - .

14 MR. DIAZ-LENS: Good evening, once again,
15 everyone. I say - - before you this evening
16 that it is in support of our community to - -
17 all our students - - , you know, options - - .
18 - - and has ruled in this community the signing
19 of the - - . I am - - process once or twice
20 before, and I - - . I am going through the
21 process twice before - - signing, and it - -
22 future, and, at this point, I am very concerned
23 about what people will be able to do as a school
24 if opportunities - - to arise in terms of, you
25 know, - - , the SLT, and some other people that

1 - - have raised in terms of extending our - -
2 early childhood program, which won a - -
3 citywide. At this time, - - mathematics, and we
4 worked very close - - of early childhood, and I
5 believe - - , and so - - not yet ready to embark
6 on, but, you know, we - - future - - under those
7 circumstances. And, you know, those - - . You
8 know, - - not so much in the future, but, you
9 know, for the - - . Thank you and have a good
10 evening.

11 MS. PRICE: Thank you. - - the - - of the
12 SLT - - .

13 MR. ROSA: Good evening, hi, everyone
14 involved in - - . The only reason Ms. Espada -
15 - is our children. This is really all - - . I
16 - - best thing - - . We now the well-being of
17 our children and - - , it would be - - . We are
18 - - in a school that we - - , and we - - . We
19 are proud of it. We - - . We will stay useful,
20 and we will - - our children - - . But - - what
21 happening here is - - with all children - - .
22 We will work together with - - children - -
23 later on.

24 Behind the - - , I see the DOE and our
25 neighbors going forward with some situation

1 which is no good for the community. I would
2 like to - - our community. We are - - co-
3 location - - . - - I - - , but the situation -
4 - this - - school - - because - - a lot of
5 physical issues for - - . And the first job we
6 have - - school, and we say, no, to the charter
7 school. No to the charter school - - this
8 location - - school. We are not a - -
9 education. We are not - - which is going to be
10 involved in the education for our children. We
11 say no. We fight for the things we have to, but
12 the situation we have is - - . We - - out - -
13 one school. No, we are looking at the - - on
14 the DOE which is - - really - - . - - we - -
15 two petitions that - - where the - - , and we
16 say we don't want the charter school in here
17 because they are going to stay forever. And
18 create other problems. They say, no, we will
19 agree on the co-location for two years, and - -
20 . And we say, well, what are they doing here?
21 - - . We - - no problem, and look what
22 happened. Our school now facing the co-location
23 - - . - - co-location - - which is going to
24 create - - .

25 Now, this is going to - - . The - - of our

1 children and think about how the situation
2 going to be handling in a - - issue which - - we
3 - - the same building as four-year-old children
4 with the 13 or 14 - - persons which is really -
5 - . I don't say this is bad, but it can be so
6 difficult issue as - - . But the situation - -
7 . We have the same that - - will - - . The
8 children - - .

9 Now, we are going to - - ? No. We want to
10 fight. No - - . No, - - our children - - . -
11 - . And we are say no to the DEP, no. Okay?
12 Thank you.

13 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Rosa. The next
14 presenter will be Mr. Williams of Mott Hall - -
15 .

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening, everyone. Can
17 everyone hear me? First, I want to commend PS
18 63 for your nine years of excellence and your -
19 - record - - servicing students in the District
20 9 community. That's something that should be
21 celebrated. That's something that everyone gets
22 to be proud of. But we are talking about
23 educating children. You know, we all can share
24 - - PS 63 for the Mott Hall Charter School the
25 importance of our students receiving quality

1 education, to reach their goals, to realize
2 their dreams, to be the very best that they can
3 be.

4 So my point--

5 [Applause]

6 MR. WILLIAMS: So Mott Hall Charter School
7 is in its second year of - - . We are very
8 proud of what we have built. I do know that
9 there are several of you out there that are not
10 familiar with the Mott Hall Charter School, but
11 - - and what we do, so I just want to share with
12 you tonight a little bit about who we are to - -
13 of this - - the mystery surrounding who we are.
14 I - - .

15 We are a--we actually signed the - - a six
16 through eighth grade school. We now have sixth
17 graders and seventh graders at Mott Hall Charter
18 School. Our mission is to provide an excellent
19 education to all of our students, providing
20 support to those who need it, to - -
21 academically, socially, and emotionally, to gain
22 entrance to the top high schools, top performing
23 high schools, in New York City. And that's a
24 challenge. That's a challenge that I would say
25 is not easy for any child from any walk of life.

1 But, certainly, here in the middle school, we
2 - - that any of you have - - children or have
3 had - - adolescent age - - . That's why a
4 school like Mott Hall Charter School is really,
5 really, we know, special in the sense that we
6 understand middle school students very well by
7 understanding how to communicate with them, how
8 to motivate them, and how to get them to really
9 focus on the academics - - . We go from A to
10 four. We have an enrichment program afterwards
11 that offers the activities, like - - , jazz
12 ensemble, chess, basketball, - - . We have a
13 social club with over 20 students in it. So we
14 are really building something special here. But
15 the one thing that I want you to really
16 understand is our commitment to our core values,
17 responsibility, integrity, - - , and excellence,
18 and we - - four. We really, really know that
19 our students show responsibility in their
20 schoolwork, as well as their character.
21 Integrity, doing the right thing even though - -
22 . - - . Thank you. - - that, that we share
23 the same space. You know, that as you see us
24 every day, that we are - - Mott Hall Charter
25 School - - PS 63. We are [applause].

1 Understand that being a District 9 school
2 that, even though there is a lottery, that if a
3 child gain entrance, that we do have a sibling
4 policy, which means that if a child is in our
5 school, and your younger sibling will
6 automatically gain preference in joining us as
7 well. I work closely with Principal Diaz to let
8 him know that we are here to be a partner in
9 educating children. We are not adversaries.
10 And we - - for listening and thank you for your
11 time. Thank you.

12 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Principal Williams.
13 The next speaker will be - - Bob Lesser, a Mott
14 Hall student.

15 MR. LESSER: Thank you, - - . Good evening
16 to the - - to the State Ed Department, - - , to
17 CEC Marilyn Espada, to Superintendent - - , - -
18 Rosa, Principal Diaz, parents, and the students,
19 the young people who are involved - - . I just
20 want to say to you guys this is an example of
21 democracy - - process right here, and it's
22 wonderful that people can come and speak their
23 minds and be able to - - what's in their hearts.

24 And so what I really just want to say to
25 everyone here tonight is that, as all of you

1 know, we worked to move into our own building
2 next year. And, also, as all of you know, the
3 last few years the - - we've all been through
4 the - - to secure financing for the - -
5 structures. And so the developer we've been
6 working with has been unable to secure financing
7 for this building, and that situation,
8 essentially, leaves us without a home for next
9 year. That is why we are asking to stay here on
10 this - - campus until the time comes where we
11 are able to find a home for ourselves.

12 And as Principal Williams told you, our
13 mission is to provide the world-class - -
14 education to parents and students in this
15 community. And the fact that - - goes to a lot
16 of things in this neighborhood, but there is one
17 right outside - - and your back door - - asked
18 you to [applause]. So with that, thank you,
19 thanks for listening - - .

20 MS. PRICE: Thank you. We are pleased to
21 have with us this evening Vanessa Gibson from
22 the New York State Assembly who will be our next
23 speaker.

24 MS. GIBSON: Thank you. Good evening,
25 everyone. I want to thank each and everyone of

1 you tonight for your presence here for
2 realizing that these types of forums are
3 extremely important to get your message across.
4 I want to thank all of the community residents,
5 our parents, our students, all of our - -
6 educators, Principal Diaz, Principal Williams,
7 the Department of Education State Ed, our
8 superintendent, Ms. Delores Esposito, as well as
9 all of our UFT representatives, as well as the
10 CEC District 9 who - - always members advocates
11 - - .

12 I have a very brief statement I want to
13 read, and I just want to say to everyone of you,
14 again, for being here and for realizing that
15 this proposal is something we need to speak
16 about. I am writing on behalf of the parents
17 and all of the students at PS 63 in the Bronx in
18 District 9 to express my strong opposition to
19 the proposed [applause]. - - . I oppose - -
20 Mott Hall Charter School.

21 As many of you know the co-location of
22 public and district charter schools is extremely
23 contentious issue that raises many questions
24 about the equitable - - access to - -
25 educational resources. The specifics of this

1 proposed extension and expansion raises
2 additional concerns and goes well beyond what
3 was originally envisioned where the PEP approved
4 a location of these buildings in April of 2012.

5 The subsequent failure of the Mott Hall
6 school to find an alternative location, which -
7 - , should not be allowed to impinge upon the
8 ability of PS 63 to provide the type of positive
9 academic environment that is needed to maintain
10 a - - elementary school. During that year, the
11 - - may you will remember the members of the
12 Panel took a close - - to place additions upon
13 the approval of this application as a - - . The
14 interest of the students attending - - 63, as
15 well as Mott Hall. This proposed extension and
16 expansion will upset that delicate and sensitive
17 balance and flies in the face of the
18 Department's own primary commitment to the
19 community of PS 63.

20 Now, while many of us, residents, advocates,
21 and parents, are supportive of the old charter
22 and district schools, it is extremely important
23 to emphasize that, in this particular case, the
24 Department of Ed made a commitment to the
25 students and the parents that as staying in the

1 co-location would not occur at this location.
2 So it is extremely unfair to return to the same
3 community a year later with the intention of
4 breaking that commitment at a time when District
5 9 and PS 63 continues to show tremendous
6 progress. It is - - . Thank you.

7 Unfortunately, it appears that this is a
8 pattern the Department continues to do in
9 pushing co-location extensions as we approach
10 the - - days of this - - administration. It is
11 disappointing. It is disappointing to me, and
12 I'm sad that Mott Hall was not given additional
13 time to identify a private space to allow them
14 to grow into enrollment and to - - capacity, so
15 it will still continue to serve - - in District
16 9.

17 Furthermore, after speaking with so many
18 parents that contacted my office whose children
19 attend 63, I believe that this proposal will
20 have a substantially negative impact on the
21 students that are enrolled at 63. Indeed, I - -
22 procedures outlined in the Charter for Mott Hall
23 and for the - - Charter, and, as Principal
24 Williams said, students are enabled a lot of - -
25 middle school students whose siblings already

1 attend Mott Hall and reside in District 9.
2 When that - - is completed, and the students
3 have nowhere to go, where is it that they're
4 going? They go to District 9, and they stay
5 here in this community, and they attend PS 63.

6 Therefore, this proposed expansion will not
7 do anything to address any potential
8 overcrowding in District 9, and it will
9 ultimately add to the - - utilization rate,
10 which the Department admits may go beyond 100%.
11 They are - - . And - - of space in this
12 community, in - - . How are we expected to
13 allow PS 63 to continue its excellent record in
14 District 9 of academic access with a utilization
15 rate beyond 100%, with possibly less space
16 available for siblings, at the same time while
17 saying that this proposal will not adversely
18 affect the resources - - at this space in this
19 community?

20 While I appreciate the Department's ability
21 to justify this proposal with standard
22 assumptions, too many times our community is
23 forced to accept broken promises and commitments
24 that are made. But, now, in District 9, they
25 say we are extremely unique and not have the

1 standard assumption fix our needs. This
2 proposal is on the fast track, and we need to
3 slow it down.

4 I am extremely troubled and disappointed
5 that we're getting asked to accept that a - -
6 was made to PS 63 on a temporary location in
7 2012, and, now, a year later, we are being asked
8 to accept a proposal that we know is a permanent
9 change. It is my sincere hope that the
10 Department and everyone assembled here listens
11 to the voices tonight and respects our
12 community, and our voices, and our concerns.

13 The Department broke its commitment, and PS
14 63 and the families here deserve better. Thank
15 you.

16 MS. PRICE: Thank you, [applause]. We have
17 now come to the - - by the school leadership
18 team, and we will begin public comments. I just
19 want to remind everybody that public comments
20 must be limited to two minutes. I will - - your
21 time - - . - - as - - be called join us for the
22 second and the third - - . But first I - - .
23 Number two is - - . Number three, Shane - - ,
24 number four, - - , and number five, - - .

25 FEMALE VOICE 1: Good evening, everybody.

1 My name is - - . I am a parent of Mott Hall,
2 and the parent community - - , also. But my son
3 has graduated from elementary school from here
4 to - - , and I want him to go to a school that
5 will - - , and he will be--get a good education
6 - - . I also - - was open - - my child to a
7 safe and - - environment in a small school for -
8 - . Mott Hall provides a basic opportunity for
9 my son. They - - his future, and so I say,
10 parents of - - , Mott Hall Charter School and -
11 - neighborhood. As far as I'm concerned, PS 63
12 and Mott Hall Charter School - - parents - - our
13 children to see - - in his life. And in our
14 community, let us work hard for our children,
15 our children's future, by working together. And
16 after they graduate, where do they go? I - -
17 for - - here - - the possibility - - and
18 harassment. The greatest hope is for our
19 children. Thank you.

20 ANDREA: Good evening, everyone. My name is
21 Andrea - - , and I am the parent of a child - -
22 . The - - I - - because what they are offering
23 the Mott Hall Charter School - - offering our
24 children who live in the community. They are
25 offering to educate at the top--I'm sorry. We

1 have, you know, we have the top teachers.
2 They have all kinds of academic everything that
3 children - - . They learn something.

4 Me, personally, as a parent, I have a son
5 that has - - , and he also has other special
6 needs. Mott Hall welcomed my son. They bent
7 over backwards to accommodate him just so he'd
8 be safe to get an education. They - - what's
9 needed - - that very strong. They are very
10 strong - - my son's education. That's why I
11 can't understand, for the life of me, how
12 parents can fight to not let a child get an
13 education. If it was my - - , I'd - - a child -
14 - for my son's - - where he was getting the same
15 good, excellent education, let that child - - .
16 This is a school that's - - for a - - . We have
17 five through eight. Why not make the school - -
18 ? Why not - - ? Let them belong, that child.
19 Let Mott Hall stay, please, because of the - -
20 the parents that, you know, had to - - , also.
21 I would want either one - - a nursery school and
22 - - school. Keep - - . Let these children
23 learn, and let them learn right.

24 TRACY: Good evening. My name is Tracy - -
25 for the - - here at the sanctuary. I

1 [applause]. First, I want to say, Mott Hall,
2 it's not personal. Let's go back to what
3 Principal Diaz said. We have been here before.
4 We have been - - before with PS 2. Our - - is
5 with co-location. It is not personal.

6 Our issue is - - immediate children, the
7 children who need providers. Those providers
8 who are giving services to our students in the
9 hallways and, further, they have to - - on a
10 daily basis to service our neediest children.
11 There was a classroom between the boys bathroom
12 and the exit doors downstairs, and - - . Our
13 school is not being able to perform at their
14 best because they are not given their best.
15 Okay?

16 We need the space in order to keep
17 performing at the level we have been performing,
18 which has been excellent for nine years. - - is
19 - - , and I challenge the parents - - your
20 children. [Applause] Mott Hall - - and - -
21 their needs. So we don't know - - to stop the
22 co-location. We vote to keep PS 63 - - PS 63,
23 and we hope that Mott Hall gets a place - - ,
24 but not here.

25 MR. JOSE VARGAS: Hello, folks, my name is

1 Jose Vargas. I'm - - that we should take - -
2 . But, you know what, I'm not talking to the -
3 - . I'm talking to all of us. Right? And its
4 specific to all of this community. I'm ashamed
5 of what we allowed the Department of Ed of - -
6 to the - - . You parents in this room - -
7 trying to - - . Really? Why do you need the
8 space that they promised that they are going to
9 provide you? Mott Hall - - space. But - - we
10 deserve what they have failed to provide over
11 and over again. It's about - - to - - in this
12 room. I can't - - . This is not about allowing
13 them - - parent against parent, kid against kid.
14 I am a teacher that has worked in this - - 25
15 years. I belong in this neighborhood, 119 just
16 around the block from here. Okay? We cannot
17 allow the Department of Ed to continue to do
18 what they do to us. And, then, we find
19 ourselves for a measly dangling of some space,
20 depending on how the wind blows, and the little
21 man at City Hall steals that - - . It's a
22 policy - - . Don't allow it. Mott Hall
23 deserves their space, but so does PS 63.

24 MS. PRICE: Thank you. The next five
25 speakers are Antonio Vargas, Yolanda - - ,

1 Ricardo Ramos, - - Walter, and Ms. - -
2 Williams.

3 FEMALE VOICE 2: Good evening, everyone.
4 I'm not going to be. I don't believe I'll take
5 over my two minutes, but thank you very much.
6 My colleagues said it best, but I have two
7 messages for you to take back to the little man
8 downtown. One, - - adults do not - - the
9 children. [Applause], at PS 63 and Mott Hall.
10 The other thing I'd like you to take back and
11 tell them is - - 12/31/13 is coming up faster.

12 FEMALE VOICE 2: Hi, my name is Ricardo
13 Ramos. I'm - - Mott Hall - - . We have been -
14 - since our first - - . - - and a crisis. She
15 had a great time and met - - . This year she
16 remains - - . I would like to thank all - -
17 teachers that did take the time and work with -
18 - . As - - said, I love my girls. They are
19 teaching - - Mott Hall - - school. Our children
20 get - - ourselves.

21 MR. RICARDO RAMOS: Good evening. I'm
22 Ricardo Ramos, - - PS 63. I - - . This is - -
23 through - - . This is from their proposal.
24 Please - - proposal - - 2013 - - in this school
25 year. We - - school relocated in this long-term

1 lease - - where it's located in District 9
2 that this school - - ? Why - - ? What are you
3 saying that proposal - - ? So I caught you
4 lying. - - . So - - . We deserve - - .

5 CHILD: I want to say that maybe they might
6 have - - . We don't know - - , and they might
7 hurt somebody. We are little kids - - . So
8 (crosstalk).

9 MR. RAMOS: Okay. Thank you.

10 MS. PRICE: I'm going to move on to the next
11 - - . I'd like to emphasize to everybody that
12 we need to have - - .

13 FEMALE VOICE 3: - - .

14 MS. PRICE: Speaking, excuse me.

15 MALE VOICE: Excuse me, excuse me, - - .

16 [Crosstalk]

17 MS. ESPADA: - - .

18 MS. PRICE: Okay. - - reminder - - respect
19 for each--okay, for each speaker we cannot speak
20 - - . We have--everyone - - speak and make
21 public comments. We positively support
22 speakers, especially when a child is speaking
23 [applause].

24 MS. ESPOSITO: I want to really thank
25 everyone for being here, and if you think that

1 you have a say - - , and I want - - he
2 certainly wanted to make sure that we are
3 respectful of everyone. I - - is here taking
4 their time, and, again, everyone's voice needs
5 to be heard. I just ask that we set a good
6 example, and we show - - respectful that all
7 voices are heard. Thank you.

8 MS. PRICE: Thank you. We are going to take
9 the next five speakers. Their numbers are 11
10 through 15, Dana - - , the - - , and I apologize
11 if I am missing any names, Mike Coffman, Marcus
12 - - , the next five speakers.

13 FEMALE VOICE 3 (THROUGH INTERPRETER): Good
14 evening. My name is - - . This is not one of
15 the things you don't want to happen - - .
16 [Applause]. We want children - - . If anything
17 happened to my girls, they are so small, - -
18 support - - , and I'll - - . This is what you
19 have to say to PS 63. We are all the same here.
20 [Applause].

21 MS. LATRIA FRIEDMAN: Good evening,
22 everyone. My name is Latria Friedman - - Mott
23 Hall Charter School. I understand that, you
24 know, the parents - - PS 63 because - - had a
25 child at PS 63, I probably would have the same

1 feelings. But you have to give Mott Hall a
2 chance, and - - said it. We strive for
3 excellence and - - the right thing even when no
4 one is looking. And the PTA president of 63
5 said, he's concerned about--you know, he's
6 concerned about his daughter's safety at the
7 school, and that he doesn't want them to - - .
8 Mott Hall hasn't gone on any record - - very
9 excellent - - . Nothing has happened to the
10 children at PS 63, so - - . [Applause]. Thank
11 you.

12 MR. FALCON: Good evening. My name is - -
13 Falcon, and I'm one of the parents, and I want
14 to say thank you for giving me a chance to
15 speak. This is a very - - . You have also
16 because we have the freedom to say what we want,
17 and we need to see this - - . And a little girl
18 stepped up here, and she was allowed to say what
19 she wanted, freedom of speech. I know that the
20 - - Mott Hall and PS 63 - - , and - - 2014,
21 we're going to have to - - . And if you read
22 the papers, and if you listen to the - - .
23 Okay? It's time for us to - - . It's all - -
24 want. But guess what, education is education.
25 We talk a lot about it, but, you know what, you

1 don't have to take sides, just teach. Just if
2 you really want to teach, you teach. Go get - -
3 , or you want to keep 63, you guys - - . There
4 goes your music classes, your science class, - -
5 . All right? So - - .

6 FEMALE VOICE 4: So we are talking about
7 excellence. Mott Hall has talked about
8 excellence - - . So Mott Hall is here talking
9 about excellence and how - - excellence. Well,
10 if you look at - -63's history, we are all about
11 excellence, and let want it for all our
12 children. But I think it's so far to say that's
13 - - . Look at what we're letting - - our
14 children, and we are turning them against each
15 other. Look at what just happened here tonight
16 amongst parents, parents fighting together. And
17 what is it we all want? We all want the same
18 thing, space. We want the best for our
19 children. When I first started here seven years
20 ago, I saw children sitting by the bathroom.
21 Can you imagine children trying to learn how to
22 read and write, and they are sitting by the
23 bathroom absorbing that smell? Our children
24 deserve more, and that's what we're here for.
25 We're not here - - . We have nothing against

1 you, and we believe that you are about
2 excellence, and you want the best for your kids,
3 and so do we. But, guess what, it's not going
4 to happen here. It's not going to happen - - .
5 Tonight, we have to come together, and,
6 together, we say no. We can't say no separate
7 and apart because, if you say no separate and
8 apart, no one is going to listen. So, together,
9 - - come together and say no - - chance - - .

10 MS. PRICE: Thank you. And, now, - -
11 numbers 16 through 20, the numbers 16 to 20 - -
12 . Number 17 is Alina - - . Number 18 is - - ,
13 and number 19 Iris - - , and number 20, Carmen -
14 - .

15 MALE VOICE 3: My name is - - . I'm an
16 exchange student - - organization - - . I'm
17 trying to reform the school system. I - - model
18 students. These are the - - with excellence,
19 with - - , with - - , and that the city has the
20 financing to do it. But, instead, they - -
21 fighting each other - - renovating for the - -
22 primary schools and - - model school is. You
23 don't mix middle school - - schools - - . But I
24 am concerned if we have to make a choice. The
25 charter schools are well-financed - -

1 corporations. They have - - facilities to pay
2 for their operations, but, of course, the - - in
3 the form of free speech in a public school - - .
4 We each have - - , we need money - -
5 corporations make 4, 6, \$700,000 a year. They
6 make more than the Chancellor and what they are
7 claiming they don't give money to pay for the
8 operations. There are dozens of - - schools,
9 parochial schools, - - school that's available
10 now. We have to - - our schools.

11 ALINA: Good evening, parents. My name is
12 Alina - - . I have - - . My daughter lives - -
13 public school at PS 110, which - - because my
14 daughter is so always fighting and stuff. What
15 is she - - ? And, trust me, it's - - . She
16 just - - . And she can be allowed - - by
17 herself. I don't know how to say it - - . My
18 daughter is - - do everything by herself. So
19 why don't you let - - ? Please give my child a
20 chance. Our children, they are the best. - -
21 our children - - our children. All of them
22 deserve the best. So please give them a chance
23 because they deserve it. Thank you.

24 MALE VOICE 4: Good evening. - - public
25 speaker - - Mott Hall Charter School. I'm here

1 to talk about what Mott Hall - - . Mott Hall
2 is - - and my son - - . From the very
3 beginning, he was in - - given an opportunity to
4 shine. He - - need the encouragement for
5 ongoing support, such as - - , open-door policy,
6 - - for improvement. He is recognized when he
7 is - - . He is being mentored - - , and he is
8 allowed to - - activities, like the ones from
9 the enrichment program - - and the chess club,
10 which he participates in, and he looks very
11 much. It is said it takes a village to raise a
12 child. Villages provide - - , - - , and - -
13 support. Mott Hall and PS 63, for the time
14 being, provides the children with stability
15 through their programs, especially now in this -
16 - of time when they are transitioning of a small
17 child into the adolescent years. So this is all
18 - - challenging and difficult period in their
19 lives. Mott Hall is the village that is helping
20 me to raise my child, and, because of it, - - .
21 Thank you.

22 IRIS: Good evening, everyone. I am a
23 teacher here at PS 63. I came here for a number
24 of years in different capacities, and I must
25 tell you that we have - - a variety of changes

1 throughout the years. Yes, as several
2 speakers have said, we are not against Mott Hall
3 being - - . We want some of that money, and we
4 want some of that--all of those wonderful things
5 in our building, too, because we know that
6 children need a quality education, but - - our
7 children, and - - working hard at educating our
8 children, and teaching - - . Why now, we want
9 to say, we want to make all these permanent
10 changes to our quality learning environment?
11 You - - . You don't need to - - Mott Hall a
12 quality building so they can continue the
13 wonderful things they have going on here - - ,
14 and we can continue to nurture and educate our
15 children here at - - . Thank you.

16 CARMEN: We are told to - - 10 years - - .
17 This is due to the fabrication and - - SLT. We
18 know the solution for the overcrowded
19 classrooms. If this proposal is approved, - -
20 our community. The reason why we parents are - -
21 - tonight is due to the Department of Education
22 lying to us two years ago, and - - Department of
23 Education. And they just confirmed with Mott
24 Hall - - .

25 MS. PRICE: The last speaker - - , number

1 21.

2 MALE VOICE 4: Good evening, everyone, - - .
3 We are here today because we want better for our
4 children. If we want something better for our
5 children, we have to - - . I see all the
6 parents - - we have to set an example for them.
7 One - - of our children would be a bad example -
8 - . It's worth more than - - the example for
9 the children. If you want to set a good
10 example, if you want to - - example, you set the
11 example first. If you want our children to have
12 a - - , we have to use our example and give them
13 the right example. Thank you for - - . I - -
14 that we have a good example for our children and
15 for - - the future. Thank you very much.

16 MS. PRICE: Thank you very much. We - -
17 everyone - - back tonight and contribution by
18 this hearing. The information tonight will be
19 shared with the Panel for Educational Policy,
20 which will have its meeting on October 15, 2013,
21 at 6:00 p.m. at Prespect Heights Campus, which
22 is located at 883 Classon Avenue, in Brooklyn,
23 when this proposal will be voted on. The e-mail
24 and phone number where comments may be made are -
25 -you can e-mail - - and the fax number - - write

1 that down. It's d09proposals@schools.nyc.gov,
2 and the fax number--I'm sorry, phone number, is
3 212-374-5159. Thank you all very much for
4 coming this night. This joint public hearing is
5 officially adjourned.

6 [END RECORDING]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela S. Hart". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Signature: _____

Date: October 11, 2013