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

**Lefferts Garden Charter School  
Permanent Co-Location  
April 10, 2013, 5:30pm**

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[START RECORDING]

MALE VOICE: Good evening, everyone. Thanks for joining us tonight. We're going to go ahead and get started. I'm going to introduce [phonetic] the - - of the meeting this evening, Superintendent Buffy Simmons, who is going to begin - -.

SUPERINTENDENT BUFFY SIMMONS: Good evening, parents, family, and distinguished guests. I would like to begin this joint public hearing of PS 92 and the - - co-location of Lefferts Garden Charter School, 84K796. Good evening. This is a joint public hearing of the Department of Education, community education council, and the school leadership team, for a proposed long-term co-location of Lefferts Garden Charter School in Building K92. Beginning in 2013-2014 school year, we had asked District 17 Community Education Council, and the school leadership teams on PS 92 and on Lefferts Garden, to participate in this joint public hearing. I am pleased that I'm joined tonight by Ms. Glover, PS 92; Ms. Claudette Agard, president of CEC 17; Mr. Wright, CEC 17; Ms. Lakeshia Moffatt from PS

1 92. This hearing is being recorded. The  
2 purpose of this hearing is for you to provide  
3 comments about the proposal. Before I describe  
4 the proposal, I want to make sure you are aware  
5 of the opportunity to provide your input. All  
6 those who wish to speak must sign up in the  
7 speaker sign up area located just outside the  
8 auditorium. The signup lists will close in 15  
9 minutes. Speakers will be given the floor in  
10 the order that they sign up. All comments are  
11 limited to two minutes. There may be elected  
12 officials who arrive at different times  
13 throughout the evening. If they wish to speak,  
14 we'll do our best to accommodate them at the  
15 first opportune moment. Those who are here at  
16 the start of the public comment segment will be  
17 asked to speak first. All comments will be  
18 mentioned in the analysis of public comment, to  
19 be published and provided to the panel for  
20 education policy the evening before the panel  
21 votes. That vote is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>,  
22 2013, at 6:00 p.m. at the Prospect Heights  
23 Campus, which is located at 883 Classon Ave.,  
24 Brooklyn, New York, 11225. In addition, we  
25 welcome any comments and feedback you may have

1 at any time before the panel votes on both  
2 proposals. The e-mail address and phone numbers  
3 where comments may be made are  
4 [d17proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:d17proposals@schools.nyc.gov). This is the  
5 proposal summary: The New York City Department  
6 of Education is proposing a long-term co-  
7 location of Lefferts Garden's kindergarten  
8 through fifth grades in K92, beginning in 2013  
9 and the 2014 school year. Lefferts Garden  
10 Charter School is existing public charter school  
11 that currently serves students in kindergarten  
12 through third grade in Building K92. Lefferts  
13 Garden is co-located with PS 92, an existing  
14 zoned elementary school that serves students in  
15 kindergarten through first grade and offers a  
16 full-day pre-kindergarten program. Eighty-six  
17 percent of Lefferts Garden students are  
18 residents of District 17. In order for Lefferts  
19 Garden to continue to provide an additional  
20 option for District 17 elementary school  
21 students and families, the district--the  
22 Department of Education has determined that K92  
23 is the most appropriate space for a long-term  
24 siting for this school. If the long-term siting  
25 co-location of Lefferts Garden is approved, in

1 2014-2015, once Lefferts Garden is fully phased  
2 in, it is projected to serve 450 to 510 students  
3 and PS 92 is projected to serve 511 to 571  
4 students. The schools' combined enrollment  
5 yields a projective utilization rate of 113  
6 percent to 127 percent. This rate does not  
7 account for the fact that rooms may be  
8 programmed for more efficient or different uses  
9 than the standard assumption in the target  
10 utilization calculation. Both schools will  
11 receive space that meets their instructional  
12 needs, and the building has sufficient space to  
13 accommodate both PS 92 and Lefferts Garden at  
14 full scale. Building K92 also houses a  
15 community based organization, Church Avenue  
16 Merchants Block Association, or CAMBA, which  
17 provide afterschool youth development activities  
18 for PS 92 and Lefferts Garden community. CAMBA  
19 is not expected to lose any space or reduce the  
20 services offered at K92 as a result of this  
21 proposal, and will continue to operate in the  
22 K92 building, subject to interest and demand.  
23 The proposed long-term co-location of Lefferts  
24 Garden is not expected to impact the educational  
25 or extracurricular offerings at PS 92 or

1 Lefferts Garden, nor will it impact - -  
2 community partnerships. The proposal is not  
3 expected to impact the continued provision of  
4 required spaces or services to English language  
5 learner students and students with  
6 individualized education programs at PS 92 and  
7 Lefferts Garden. At this time period I would  
8 like to present...

9 FEMALE VOICE: - -. You want to start first  
10 [phonetic]?

11 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Ms. Glover will  
12 start. Where's Ms. Glover? Okay. So number  
13 one, it's Ms. Glover.

14 FEMALE VOICE: - -.

15 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Ms. Glover, you're  
16 part of the - ---yes, you should sit--come over  
17 here.

18 MS. GLOVER: Thank you. Good evening,  
19 everyone. As a teacher and member of PS 92's  
20 school leadership team, I would like to say a  
21 few words in support of our school, regardless  
22 of the outcome of this meeting. PS 92 is an  
23 institution that has educated generations of  
24 children. My former students, and the former  
25 students of other teachers in this school,

1 always come back to visit, update us on their  
2 progress, share their new experiences, or get a  
3 word of encouragement to continue their academic  
4 careers. I've also met adults and former  
5 teachers of this school who praise it for its  
6 long history of providing quality education.  
7 But that's not all. PS 92 is grounded in the  
8 fabric and framework of this community. It  
9 offers cultural diversity, understanding of the  
10 plight of the families struggling to educate  
11 their children, and it is a home for many  
12 programs that offer services to needy boys and  
13 girls for remediation and enrichment. Our staff  
14 are highly educated and caring professionals who  
15 often go above and beyond the call of duty to  
16 provide the best education we can in a safe  
17 environment, with less or limited resources than  
18 charter schools or other schools get. We  
19 collaborate with parents on many projects and  
20 activities to be a bridge of understanding, and  
21 we foster teamwork where we can work in the best  
22 interests of all of our children, not just a  
23 chosen few. We want them to have hope and be  
24 common core ready to face the challenges of our  
25 21<sup>st</sup> Century world. We want our students to be

1 college and career ready as they continue their  
2 education outside the doors of PS 92. Our  
3 numbers may be decreased due to rezoning and  
4 other circumstances that are no fault of our  
5 own, but our love of teaching and learning has  
6 not decreased. We are still here, eager to  
7 embrace all students who want to be here. PS 92  
8 is not a piece of meat that can be carved up and  
9 fed to those who can grab the best parts. PS 92  
10 is an educational institution; it is a public  
11 school that our tax dollars pay for. All  
12 students are welcome here and we pride ourselves  
13 in that. We are part of the public school  
14 system of education that was founded to educate  
15 students of all backgrounds and all economic  
16 classes. Here is where they learn together, for  
17 the future of New York City, the United States,  
18 and the world. We don't need the permanent co-  
19 location of Leffert Gardens Charter School to  
20 make that happen. We always try to give some  
21 history to our students so they could understand  
22 what's going on in the world, and we know that  
23 in Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896, the Supreme Court  
24 ruled that separate but equal facilities were  
25 acceptable for African Americans and others as

1 long as both ethnic groups had equal or optimal  
2 resources; however, we know that that did not  
3 work. This ruling affected every aspect of  
4 public life, including public schools, that is,  
5 until 1954 when Brown v. Topeka Board of  
6 Education challenged and ultimately overturned  
7 this ruling. No longer is the idea that  
8 separate facilities for different ethnic groups  
9 is acceptable in the public sector. Everyone  
10 must get their fair share. But today, and at  
11 this moment, we still feel the remnants of  
12 separate but equal raising its ugly head, if not  
13 solely by race but you by class. How could we  
14 have two separate schools sharing the same space  
15 and one school is coming in with better and more  
16 resources while the original school survives  
17 with limited resources and a sense of  
18 encroachment upon a space that once felt secure  
19 to all of us?

20 [Applause]

21 Two years ago, this auditorium was filled  
22 with many people who have recently joined this  
23 community or have returned to this community.  
24 They asked us, "Can't you share?" Well, we have  
25 been forced to share something that was for all

1 students, and that's PS 92. We have never  
2 denied any student's entrance into this school  
3 based on tests or other criteria. Our doors are  
4 open to all, but many of these people did not  
5 take advantage of that. They wanted a special  
6 program for their children instead of becoming  
7 part of the institution of PS 92, and they could  
8 advocate for many of the things they wanted that  
9 could benefit all children. Today, parents and  
10 students of PS 92 must be reminded that this is  
11 still their school, they are not interlopers or  
12 underlings who must take a backseat to others,  
13 they are still a viable part of this educational  
14 institution. Even we as educators should not  
15 have to bear strange looks and comments that  
16 question our right to be here. Our students are  
17 facing shrinking personal space, for as long as  
18 they grow into the upper grades, more closet  
19 space, desk space, and personal or free movement  
20 space is becoming limited. The possibility of  
21 increasing class size is imminent as we lose  
22 more classes. Students feel that their school  
23 is being phased out as more charter school  
24 students come in. They ask all the time,  
25 "What's going to happen to PS 92?" I always

1 tell them, "PS 92 will always be here." I  
2 don't want to let them down. Finally, it is our  
3 hope that PS 92 will not be diminished in any  
4 way by the expansion of Lefferts Gardens Charter  
5 School. We hope to be able to grow. Permanent  
6 location of Lefferts Gardens Charter School will  
7 take away from our student body and it will tax  
8 needed resources that we all have to share. All  
9 public schools have a right to exist, but  
10 separate is not equal. Permanent co-location is  
11 not the answer. We love PS 92. Thank you.

12 [Applause]

13 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Thank you, Ms.  
14 Glover. Thank you, Ms. Glover. The next  
15 presenter will be Claudette Agard of the CEC 17.

16 MS. CLAUDETTE AGARD: Good evening,  
17 everyone. I couldn't--thank you. Ms. Glover  
18 was just so articulate and--in explaining and  
19 just basically laying the groundwork, giving the  
20 history, and I think speaks for so many. As a  
21 CEC, our task is to--it's not a task, but what  
22 we're charged to do is advocate on behalf of the  
23 district schools, and so we're faced with the  
24 challenge of is this a right fit, is this the  
25 right decision that the Department of Education

1 is weeding [phonetic]. We're not here to get  
2 into a debate about the quality of education  
3 that Lefferts is offering its parents; that's  
4 not our concern, that's not--no, that's not our  
5 concern. That's not the issue at hand. What it  
6 is is that we were presented with the proposal,  
7 back in 2009, that this was to be a temporary  
8 siting. That is what--

9 [Applause]

10 --was presented. We take issue with the  
11 Department of Ed coming to us--and, Lefferts,  
12 you came to us, you proposed your idea, your  
13 concept, your vision of a school, which we are  
14 not here to argue about or debate about. That  
15 was your vision and you're entitled to open up  
16 your school, but when you want to come in and  
17 co-locate with a district school and say that  
18 it's a temporary siting--and I remember asking,  
19 repeatedly, the representatives, "What is your  
20 long-term vision?", and they said, over and over  
21 again, "This is a--this is temporary. We have a  
22 private developer; we are working with them. We  
23 want to have our own site. We don't want to be  
24 here." So if this has changed, out of respect,  
25 should have come back to us as a CEC and said,

1 "Something has changed," but no one came to us  
2 and said that, so we're not assuming that  
3 anything has changed until we get this proposal  
4 that now the Department of Ed has decided that  
5 this is a better siting long-term. So our  
6 question is what changed. What happened to the  
7 private developer, what happened to having your  
8 own site, what happened to being a green school,  
9 and all the things that was presented to us at  
10 that meeting that made this--all of a sudden,  
11 this building is the place to be? Do you see  
12 what I'm saying? So understand, not the  
13 animosity, but it's offensive to the community,  
14 and although you live here just like we do, the  
15 bottom line is no one came and talked to us, no  
16 one came and said, "Okay. This is what we  
17 thought, this is what we were planning,  
18 something--things happened." But nobody came to  
19 us and said that, so from our position we're not  
20 in agreement with this at all. We want 92 to  
21 grow.

22 [Applause]

23 We are concerned at your--first of all, it's  
24 K through five, but when I read some of your  
25 information, your vision is to send 'em off to

1 high school and college, so what is the plan?  
2 Are you planning to go to K through eight, and  
3 where do you plan to do that, in this building?  
4 What is that going to look like? So these are  
5 the things--we know, as a charter school, you  
6 can put in a revision for your charter and then  
7 increase your grades, and so that conversation  
8 doesn't happen, it doesn't take place. So from  
9 our standpoint, we are not in agreement with it;  
10 we do not think that this is the right thing.  
11 This does not fit with what you originally said,  
12 and if it had changed, then it was up to you, so  
13 you should have come to us and said something,  
14 had that conversation, the Department of Ed  
15 should've come to us and said it, before it was  
16 decided that this is what was proposed, so no,  
17 we're not in support of it, and Mr. Wright--we  
18 all are liaisons to schools, and Mr. Wright  
19 will--when it's his turn to speak, will get into  
20 more nuts and bolts of it, but from our  
21 standpoint as a CEC, we just have to be very  
22 frank and very honest that no, we're not going  
23 to--we are not going to support it at all, it's  
24 just not going to happen.

25 [Applause]

1 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Thank you so  
2 much, Ms. Agard. The next presenter will be  
3 Lakeshia Moffatt from PS 92.

4 MS. LAKESHIA MOFFATT: Good evening to  
5 everyone in their respective places. As an  
6 alumni at PS 92, as Ms. Agard stated, I was here  
7 on that meeting, and when this building was the  
8 best it could be--because I am an alumni, so I  
9 take great pride into being into 92's building.  
10 Our teachers, our students, mean a lot to us,  
11 and our parents mean a lot to us. Now, the time  
12 of spacing you guys asked for--which is Lefferts  
13 Gardens--asked to rent space until you guys had  
14 your building ready, which was okay. I wasn't  
15 happy with the situation because of the comments  
16 were made and the just abrupt--because you're  
17 shoving something down the parents' throats. I  
18 said, "We all should share the building because  
19 that's [phonetic] the same way your children are  
20 in our building, your--our teachers can teach  
21 your children." So it should be on one accord  
22 that the teachers of PS 92 get fair share to  
23 teach and demonstrate what they have proven to  
24 my parents who I am. As a mother of eight in  
25 District 17, and all of my children, my

1 daughters, college, everything, I agree with  
2 PS 92, and I stand firm in what I say that PS 92  
3 is not to be chopped up, it's not to be issued  
4 out as it's an--a commodity that no one wants.  
5 We love our school. This is a safety issues  
6 that are brought upon this school. It peeves  
7 me, as a parent, because of the shame and  
8 neglect that Lefferts Garden has for 92. They  
9 don't respect the staff, they don't respect the  
10 parents, they don't respect the--

11 [Applause]

12 --students, and it leaves a bad taste, and  
13 you guys state that you're bussed in. I know  
14 majority--and I can tell you I know majority of  
15 the children that are in this building which  
16 live in District 17, which come from Empire  
17 [phonetic] coming all the way down towards  
18 Snyder Avenue; I know the children by name and  
19 by number. I greet them all whether they're in  
20 Lefferts Garden or here because these are  
21 prominent people in our community. It's about  
22 the kids, and when the children don't see that  
23 adults agree because everyone walks past and  
24 they're snarling, you know, they're saying  
25 different things about our children, it brings a

1 bad taste in our kids' mouth because you guys  
2 tell the children, "Don't speak to them.  
3 They're not better--you know, we're better." We  
4 don't do that here because these doors are open  
5 to everyone in the District 17 that live in the  
6 surrounding areas. If you are able to be  
7 admitted into this school, we're here to accept  
8 you, but to share a location, which I don't  
9 think it's fair to be shoved down my throat that  
10 bureaucrats are sitting in their office and  
11 saying, "This is the plan for 601 Parkside"--no,  
12 this isn't. Me, as a parent of PS 92, know the  
13 plan for 601 Parkside; we know the - - and we  
14 know what our children need, and Lefferts Garden  
15 is not the spot for PS 92. This is not the fit.  
16 We--as Lefferts Garden grows, PS 92 is  
17 depleting, and most of it tastefully. It's not  
18 as if you want to be in our building with us;  
19 you want us to leave and take over the building.

20 [Applause]

21 And a lot of the things that the officials  
22 cannot say, the teachers cannot say, me, as a  
23 parent of District 17, I can say it. We do not  
24 need a co-location for Lefferts Garden and PS  
25 92, 601 Parkside. We need to let them stand

1 firm because when this building was  
2 antiquated, and the classrooms that our children  
3 are here learning at, no one has given us a  
4 dime. Our parents, me, myself personally, would  
5 pay for things; teachers would pay for things.  
6 No one's given us anything. We're working very  
7 hard, very hard, to keep our adjustment. This  
8 is an open door policy. When I say open door,  
9 not to just leave our doors open so that the  
10 neighborhood riffs can come in and take over  
11 our building--we need--security-wise, you guys  
12 are keeping it totally frustrating for us. You  
13 open the door. We have safety recognitions that  
14 we need to reserve with. You go outside; you  
15 don't care if we say anything. It's like why--  
16 when our children are getting instructional  
17 process, you guys are making noise in the  
18 hallway, you stand in front of Principal  
19 Rahmaan's office and the kids are yelling,  
20 screaming, and your teachers are yelling and  
21 screaming. No one has structure in Lefferts  
22 Garden.

23 [Applause]

24 And if the parents of Lefferts Garden's  
25 children actually came and sat down, they're

1 rude because your children are learning what  
2 you do. Their children--no, no, no, you're  
3 [phonetic]...

4 [Background Noise]

5 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Excuse me. No.  
6 Excuse me. Excuse me. Excuse me. Excuse me.  
7 Excuse me.

8 [Background Noise]

9 Excuse me. Excuse me. Excuse me. Excuse  
10 me.

11 [Background Noise]

12 We'll have order.

13 [Background Noise]

14 Okay. One second. One second. We will  
15 have order. First of all, you do not have the  
16 mic.

17 [Background Noise]

18 We will have order. Excuse me. Excuse me.  
19 Excuse me. Excuse me. We will have order.

20 Okay. Excuse me. We'll have order. This is  
21 not a two-minute public comment. The members of  
22 the - - have their own time. When we have  
23 public comment, it will be reserved for two  
24 minutes.

25 [Background Noise]

1           Okay? Now, if the--excuse me. If you  
2 cannot have order, then you need to step out.  
3 We want to hear from you.

4           [Background Noise]

5           We want to hear from you. I'll give you a  
6 few more seconds. We'll give you order. Okay.  
7 Then you may want to escort her out for a  
8 second, okay? Okay. Excuse me. We have a mic  
9 and we're going to hold this meeting in a  
10 professional way. The - - has the floor at this  
11 moment. We will have public comments, and those  
12 public comments will be reserved for two  
13 minutes, but I want to hear from each and every  
14 one of you. This is being recorded and we want  
15 to make sure that everyone has a voice at this  
16 particular meeting, but we will not cut anyone  
17 off at this point 'cause we have a - -, and  
18 there afterwards we have a public comment, okay?  
19 Okay.

20           MS. MOFFATT: Thank you, Superintendent  
21 Simmons. Let me clarify when I said rirraffs.  
22 No, no, no, I--it [phonetic] was a parent. The  
23 teachers are the ones that leave the door open,  
24 not the parents. I'm not saying the parents, so  
25 when--it's a clarification. If you heard my

1 words clearly, the parents are not in the  
2 building, but, as I stated, PS 92, 601 Parkside,  
3 needs to only exist with the parents of District  
4 17. Any student that would like, or any parent  
5 that would like to welcome their children into  
6 our building, we will, but not to share as a co-  
7 location. We're--it's not for us. We can see  
8 it as--it's distasteful already, so this is what  
9 we deal with on the norm. Not all the parents  
10 are in the building all day, but this is what we  
11 deal with on the norm, and this is what our  
12 children deal with, the ridicule, the way  
13 everything is brought across. It's to see the  
14 things that happen during the course of the day,  
15 you would have to really be in it. That's why  
16 parental involvement is very important, in any  
17 aspect, whatever school your child goes to. My  
18 thing is PS 92 is a great school, we are great  
19 people in the community no matter who we--where  
20 we live, all children, because it's all about  
21 the kids. Once the children see us get along  
22 properly in the correct mannerism, the children  
23 will get along, the children will not call  
24 names, the children will not be uncomfortable in  
25 their setting. But I do thank everyone for

1 taking the time to come out.

2 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Thank you, Ms.  
3 Moffatt. Last, but not least, a member of the -  
4 -, we will have Mr. Wright from the CEC 17.

5 MR. KENNETH WRIGHT: Thank you, - -. Good  
6 evening, parents of PS 92, and to those who are  
7 here from Lefferts Charter School. Excuse me.  
8 My name is Kenneth Wright; I'm from community  
9 education council for District 17. I also serve  
10 as the liaison from the CEC to this school. I  
11 have met with Principal Rahmaan twice during  
12 this school year to discuss this school, so I've  
13 also looked at this situation with the co-  
14 location of Lefferts Charter School. The first  
15 thing I want to say is that I truly support what  
16 comments and what was said by the parents of 92,  
17 and there's some reasons that I support what  
18 they say. I've spoken to a few parents, and  
19 I've also spoken to your PTA president. The co-  
20 location seems to be an issue because of the  
21 respect between the Lefferts Charter School, or  
22 the perceived respect of the Lefferts Charter  
23 School, and the parents and the administration  
24 of 92. One of the early comments that were made  
25 to me in January was that the Lefferts--the

1 coexistence of Lefferts Charter School has  
2 been strenuous, however, under certain control.  
3 The charter school students are instructed not  
4 to speak to students of 92, okay. The charter  
5 school teachers--and this is supposedly a shared  
6 environment, we are supposed to be sharing. Ms.  
7 Simmons alluded to that 86 percent of Lefferts  
8 Charter School children are from this district,  
9 so it's not like they come from out; they're  
10 from this district. So now we have two sets of  
11 district students sharing one floor, or sharing  
12 portion of the building. The charter school  
13 teachers tell the students from 92 they cannot  
14 use the same bathroom as the students from 92.

15 [Applause]

16 Just a point to bring out. The charter  
17 school's parents escort their children. We all  
18 know this, about the flow inside the building.  
19 How is it that Lefferts Charter School, sharing  
20 this space with 92, has not come to the  
21 administration of 92 and said, "Hey, we  
22 understand that this is a safety issue."? We  
23 are not against those parents of Lefferts  
24 Charter School. They made the choice to put  
25 their children in the charter school. I don't

1 have a problem with that choice. The problem  
2 is your coexistence with the district school,  
3 the respect level that goes between that, so  
4 when you have an air of a charter school telling  
5 their students, "Don't speak to those kids from  
6 92," you know what that's saying, you know  
7 exactly what's that saying. I don't think it's  
8 the parents saying, "Oh, you don't talk to them  
9 kids that you run around in the same park and  
10 neighborhood with," 'cause that's not the case.  
11 This is the environment that the charter school  
12 brings. They bring that separation environment,  
13 we have new this, we have new that; the public  
14 school is a failing school, the public school is  
15 not a good school.

16 [Applause]

17 This is the comment that always comes from  
18 the charter school, that "We're a better  
19 school." Well, you're sharing a space with a  
20 district school. How is that conversation going  
21 to look? The other issue I have is really with  
22 the Department of Education in their planning  
23 the co-location of Lefferts Charter School in  
24 this building. Ms. Agard already alluded to the  
25 fact that they said it was going to be

1 temporary, okay, they said they had a plan to  
2 construct a new building. Now, you know if I  
3 come to stay in your apartment, in your house,  
4 all right, okay, and I have three children, I'm  
5 a single parent father, so I'm not always going  
6 to be home, but I say, "Listen, can I stay at  
7 your house for a couple of months? I got a new  
8 house being built right now. The plan's already  
9 set," so that means you understand that I've  
10 already taken out the mortgage, I've already  
11 went to the bank, I got the loan all set up,  
12 they're getting ready to dig the foundation,  
13 okay, I got my furniture coming, I'm only going  
14 to be here temporary, you don't have to worry  
15 about it. Now, while I'm here we might bump  
16 heads a little bit 'cause my kids stay up late,  
17 they're going to run over your head, I'm going  
18 to run over you, you might run over me, but it's  
19 only temporary. Now I come to you, at the end  
20 of that, and I say, "Yo, check this out. That  
21 was all a lie. That was a lie because, see, my  
22 whole thing to get into your apartment was to  
23 say I had something going on and I didn't really  
24 need you but for a temporary time. Now I'm  
25 saying, 'You know what? Let me just get--just

1 split your house with me, and the time that we  
2 have spent together hasn't been a beautiful  
3 time, it hasn't been real good.'" When I hear  
4 two sides of the parents arguing, I'm saying,  
5 "Hey. Wait. That's another issue that we need  
6 to discuss." It's not only the co-location;  
7 that's another issue that we need to discuss  
8 because the parents of Lefferts Charter School,  
9 I think they have to be told, "Hey, listen,  
10 there's a certain atmosphere coming from you.  
11 That's why when you walk in the building you're  
12 treated this way." Come on. We all came from  
13 the same neighborhood, and we know how this  
14 neighborhood is changing, so we should be  
15 prepared to deal with that, not be separated.  
16 You make a choice to pick a different school. I  
17 understand that, but still, it's still a school  
18 in our building, it's still a school that our  
19 children go to, so we must learn to share not  
20 only that building, but we need to also share  
21 what we want for our children. That goes for  
22 Lefferts Charter School as well as 92.

23 [Applause]

24 Now, realize too, Lefferts Charter School,  
25 they're not a district school, they have no

1 rules to play by, so let's take it for these  
2 numbers now that the DOC--the DOE says they put  
3 out. They said, "Hey, listen, Lefferts Charter  
4 School is going to get three more grades, 75  
5 more students next year, and the year after  
6 that." They expect their numbers to grow by  
7 another--by 500, okay, so you're looking at  
8 another 150 students coming into the building,  
9 maybe 200. There's also the possibility, as Ms.  
10 Agard said, "Well, yes, you know, we say we're K  
11 through five now, and we can change our charter  
12 and become K through eight next week." Now, 92  
13 was not afforded that opportunity to grow from a  
14 K through eight, but the charter school can do  
15 whatever they--you know, they can change their  
16 charter. But how does that affect the school?  
17 So now the DOE says, "Well, if you look at the  
18 full number, the school will be occupied 113 to  
19 127 percent wholly." Look at the issues you  
20 have right now. Now, the DOE is, like, throwing  
21 you together, portfolio planning is throwing you  
22 together, they're saying also, "Well, you know  
23 what? I know you use certain rooms for your L's  
24 [phonetic], you use certain rooms for your  
25 specials," and then there are people that has

1 said about this school--this school has a  
2 homeless population, they have a population--and  
3 that has to be understood and dealt with. You  
4 have a population that come from Middle Eastern,  
5 Haitian, and as Latin, so you have some things  
6 in this building that you use other than a  
7 instructional classroom for, so what the DOE  
8 says is, "No, we're going to pack you all in  
9 there and then y'all figure it out. By miracle,  
10 y'all figure out how you're going to coexist in  
11 that space," but there's no--there's really no  
12 coexistence in that space when you're  
13 disrespected as a parent or a student of 92 or  
14 you're disrespected as a parent of Lefferts  
15 Charter School because of what the charter  
16 school presents itself as. You say you're going  
17 to be here temporary and you're not; you say  
18 you're going to coexist, but you're not; you say  
19 you're going to share the space. Well, that  
20 whole lunchroom thing, 10:00 in the morning for-

21 -

22 [Applause]

23 --kindergarten kids to eat lunch, you know,  
24 come on, I'm a parent; I got to be honest with  
25 you, sometimes that cornflakes don't make it in

1 the morning, so I don't have a problem with  
2 them eating lunch at 10:00, but you know what,  
3 there is free lunch in the school, so you mean  
4 they're going to come in, eat free lunch at  
5 8:00, eat lunch at--I mean eat breakfast at  
6 8:00, eat lunch at 10:15? Why? Because you  
7 know what? The Lefferts Charter School said,  
8 "No, you want to--we don't want to share our--we  
9 don't want our kids eating lunch with them."  
10 Who is--now we have somebody coming into our  
11 school, segregating us, is that the reality?

12 [Applause]

13 I support the parents of 92. Our--I  
14 strongly support the parents of 92 'cause I  
15 don't think you should be railroaded like that;  
16 I don't think that--you know, I don't really  
17 appreciate the jack move of coming in your  
18 school. But if you're going to be here, the  
19 Lefferts Charter School and its parents should  
20 make a effort of coexisting in the building.  
21 But come on, DOE, really? You're going to bring  
22 this school to over 100 percent capacity, over  
23 110 percent, knowing that the--knowing what  
24 exists rights now? And then also, here's  
25 another thing too, charter schools--and this is

1       what I've heard--you know, my son went to--he  
2       was in a district office, he was in 390, and  
3       when the charter school came in, they blocked  
4       off a certain portion of the school, you see, so  
5       you really couldn't, like, peep in there and see  
6       what they had going on, but then when I got the  
7       opportunity, I was like, "Wow. You got new  
8       paintjob. Okay. You're new. You got a new  
9       paint job. Got new furniture." Stuff was kind  
10      of nice; got air conditioning in every room.  
11      Meanwhile, the public school, y'all sweating it  
12      out here come summertime, you're sweating it  
13      out.

14                [Applause]

15              Okay. And this is the--you know, I have to  
16      be honest with you; this is the reality the D--  
17      that the DOE puts in front of us, okay. Good  
18      enough. About a hundred people want to speak.  
19      We're going to be here all night I bet. So this  
20      is the reality that the DOE puts in front of  
21      you, okay, this is the reality that the DOE puts  
22      in front of you, but now when you share that  
23      gym, who's paying for that gym? Ain't that gym  
24      coming out of 92 budget?

25                [Background Noise]

1           That cafeteria, you want to add another  
2 300 kids or you want to add another - ---who  
3 going to pay for those extra seats? Ninety-two.

4           [Background Noise]

5           The library... I've seen where charter  
6 schools are co-located with district school,  
7 they get more time in the library, and that  
8 school is a school that needs more library time.  
9 It's going to be taken away. But where's  
10 Lefferts Charter School money for the books and  
11 the furniture? You say you want to share the  
12 space, okay. And, parents of Lefferts Charter  
13 School, this is not an indictment against you.  
14 Let's be clear. Let's be clear on where I'm  
15 coming from. It's not an indictment against  
16 you; however, when Lefferts Charter School says  
17 that they want to expand and they want to use  
18 more space, can you give us a little bit of  
19 money for that? Where's your money? Because,  
20 see, Ms. Rahmaan is saying she's getting killed  
21 on her budget, she's getting killed on her  
22 funding, they're taking away programs. Your  
23 afterschool can only but for so much because of  
24 funding, your specials can only get but so much  
25 because of funding, your school can only do but

1 so much because of funding, but now you want  
2 to increase the size of the charter school; that  
3 means you're going to be eating some more of our  
4 funding. I think we have to talk about this a  
5 little bit more, and I'm not really in agreement  
6 how it's going to go down right now.

7 [Applause]

8 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr.  
9 Kenneth Wright. Our next presenter will be Mark  
10 Ditkes from Lefferts Garden.

11 [Applause]

12 [Background Noise]

13 MR. MARK DITKES: So let's mark [phonetic].

14 [Background Noise]

15 Thank you. Good evening, everybody. Thank  
16 you for--PS 92, thank you for hosting this  
17 meeting. I'm going to keep it short and sweet.  
18 This hearing is about the public, it's about  
19 hearing from you. We've heard from members of  
20 the community education council, who said, in  
21 their own words, that they support district  
22 schools. We've heard from representatives from  
23 PS 92 about how they don't want to share their  
24 resources. We love our kids. PS 92 is a public  
25 school; Lefferts Gardens Charter School is a

1 public school; this is a public building.

2 [Applause]

3 We're not better, we're just another option,  
4 we're just another flavor of ice cream. You  
5 like strawberry; I like pistachio.

6 [Applause]

7 I have one more thing to say. Lefferts  
8 Gardens Charter School is a community school.  
9 We serve the students of District 17. You heard  
10 that over 86 percent of our students come from  
11 District 17. On top of that, 73 percent of our  
12 students come from the zip codes 11225 and  
13 11226.

14 [Applause]

15 Our kids can walk to school. We are serving  
16 this community. Thank you for coming out  
17 tonight, and I look forward to hearing from each  
18 and every one of you.

19 [Applause]

20 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Thank you, Mark  
21 Ditkes from Lefferts Garden. Before public  
22 comment, we would want to know that--we want you  
23 to know that we have Spanish interpretation, and  
24 we're just about to call speakers one through  
25 five, so please come forward and have a seat in

1 the front row, speakers one through five.

2 Just move over. Speaker one, Ms. Jacob from PS  
3 92, M. Dewar from Lefferts Garden, Mc Ardle from  
4 Lefferts Garden. All public comment speakers  
5 were given the floor in the order that they  
6 signed up. All comments are limited to two  
7 minutes.

8 MS. V. JACOB: Good afternoon, evening,  
9 everyone. My name is Ms. Jacob. I'm a art  
10 teacher at Public School 92. I come before you  
11 not just as a teacher, I come before you as an  
12 alumni and a long-term resident of District 17  
13 and Lefferts Gardens, as they call us now, and I  
14 want to tell you that the changes I've seen us  
15 go through, it's not necessary. PS 92 has come  
16 a long way under the supervision of Ms. Rahmaan  
17 as our principal. We have gone from a charter  
18 school--no, from a chancellor's district school  
19 to a Ace [phonetic] school to now a coexistent  
20 school. It's unfair, and I want to just state  
21 that I am against coexistence in PS 92, and I  
22 want to tell you why. The first thing is  
23 there's right and there's wrong. You came into  
24 the building under false pretenses. I don't  
25 know how long you're going to be here because

1 now I think when you're ready you're going to  
2 say, "Oh, we want to go into a K through eight  
3 school," and what's going to happen to PS 92?  
4 So because you didn't come in fairly, I don't  
5 know if I could take what you're saying now as  
6 truth. And other--what the representative from  
7 the charter school stated, oh, he likes  
8 pistachios and he likes strawberries; I like it  
9 all, and because I like it all,--

10 [Applause]

11 --I know I'm very happy where I am, and  
12 because I'm happy where I am, I don't need any  
13 coexistence, and stick to the right and the  
14 wrong. It was wrong the way you came in. I  
15 believed you when you said, "Oh, we're going to  
16 get our own school. It's only going to be for a  
17 minute. Oh, just bear with us," and look at  
18 where we are today. I don't know where we going  
19 to be tomorrow, but I do know I trust and  
20 believe in PS 92. I've seen it grow, and it's  
21 going to continue to grow.

22 [Applause]

23 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Thank you. Number  
24 two?

25 MS. MARIA DEWAR. Good afternoon, everyone.

1 My name is Maria, and I see this school is so  
2 awesome to me, as a grandparent, and I go with  
3 them all the way and I support them 100 percent.

4 [Background Noise]

5 And Lefferts Garden Charter School.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. MEREDITH MCARDLE: Oh, sorry. Hi. I'm  
8 Meredith McArdle and I'm a teacher at Lefferts  
9 Gardens, and I have to say I'm really actually  
10 shocked to hear the animosity toward our school.  
11 I've been greeted, and think that I've also been  
12 greeting the teachers at 92, and the children  
13 and everyone, the same way, and I was unaware of  
14 these feelings, so I guess thank you for being  
15 welcoming to us, even if it's not how you feel,  
16 but I've purely enjoyed sharing a building with  
17 you and I support the fact to keep doing that.  
18 Thank you.

19 [Applause]

20 MALE VOICE: - -.

21 MS. CAROL LECCESE: Hi. I'm Carol Leccese.  
22 Hi, PS 92. Hi, LGCS. I too was unaware of such  
23 animosity, and it really hurts my heart, but I  
24 am in total support of coexisting with PS 92.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. K. LEVOY: Hi. I'm Ms. Levoy from  
2 Leffert Garden Charter School and I support the  
3 co-location with PS 92.

4 [Applause]

5 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: At this time,  
6 speakers 6 through 10, can you please come  
7 forward? Speakers 6 through 10...

8 MS. SARA POLLARD: Good evening. My name is  
9 Sara Pollard and I'm a proud teacher at Lefferts  
10 Gardens Charter School, and I am very happy to  
11 support the co-location of Lefferts Gardens and  
12 92, and I'd just like to add that I know myself  
13 and no other teacher has ever, ever told our  
14 students not to talk to the students at 92.

15 [Applause]

16 MALE VOICE: - -. Thanks.

17 FEMALE VOICE: Good afternoon, everyone.  
18 I'm a grandma. My two grandson attend Lefferts,  
19 and I'm in full support of them because at my  
20 age my 7-year-old grandson is teaching me  
21 science. Thank you.

22 [Applause]

23 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: One moment. One  
24 moment. Can speakers 11 through 20, can you  
25 please line up in this aisle right here, please?

1 MS. ALLISON GREENE: Thanks. Hi. I'm  
2 Allison Greene. I'm also a teacher at Lefferts  
3 Gardens. I want to just say thank you to PS 92  
4 'cause I also felt really welcome. I do think  
5 Lefferts Gardens has a really unique science  
6 program, and I fully support co-location.

7 [Applause]

8 MALE VOICE: Thanks. Just put it in  
9 [phonetic].

10 MALE VOICE: Yes. Good evening, parents,  
11 teachers, and any elected officials who are in  
12 here. I'm a proud parent of two children in  
13 Lefferts Garden Charter School, and I support  
14 the proposed long-term co-location of Lefferts  
15 Gardens with PS 92. I grew up in this  
16 community; I--I'm actually--I went to school at  
17 PS 91, went to school, the IS [phonetic] Mahalia  
18 Jackson, and I'm an environmental project  
19 manager, so naturally, when I heard about an  
20 environmental, ecologically based school that  
21 stemmed down to children at such a young age, I  
22 was all for that, and I--thanks to the principal  
23 of this school for opening the doors and sharing  
24 the space with us. Thank you.

25 MS. SHAWN FARRAR: Hi. I'm Shawn Farrar and

1 I'm a teacher at Lefferts Gardens. I've been  
2 here since the first year, and I wasn't quite  
3 aware of such--I guess animosity is the word  
4 we're using tonight, but I was not aware that  
5 that was such an issue. I interact with  
6 children from both schools almost every day  
7 because I'm at the front door in the morning,  
8 and I support that we continue co-locating here  
9 so that we can continue doing everything that we  
10 do together.

11 [Applause]

12 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Eleven, M. Jacob?

13 MS. MIMI JACOB: Hi. I'm Ms. Jacob. I'm a  
14 proud teacher at Lefferts Garden Charter School.  
15 It was good to hear so much because we are so  
16 busy with work that we do not really get the  
17 chance to really know how everyone else is  
18 feeling. I'm sorry that maybe being  
19 preoccupied, walking maybe without eye contact  
20 was perceived as animosity. I really don't--I  
21 try to smile sometimes when I remember, but for  
22 the most part I'm just trying to--

23 [Background Noise]

24 --do my work, so it's just--I'm sorry it was  
25 perceived that way. I do remember having one

1 time where we all had a snack or something, so  
2 I think there should be more opportunities where  
3 we can actually come together, like once in  
4 three months or so, because we did not intend to  
5 come that way. I was a second grade teacher  
6 last year, and if there were times if I told my  
7 students not to interact, it's because if  
8 someone came and said that "This one said  
9 something to me," there's no way for me to go  
10 back and find out which student from which  
11 classroom and which teacher should I go and  
12 contact and who was wrong. So just to keep the  
13 peace and just to continue life as usual, we  
14 would say, "You need to go to the bathrooms.  
15 Use it and come back. Do not interact with  
16 other students from even other classrooms in our  
17 own school," so I'm sorry it came across that  
18 way, so didn't mean to...

19 [Applause]

20 I fully support the co-location. I  
21 understand that change is difficult for you, but  
22 just so you understand, we deal with change a  
23 lot more every day, and the last thing we would  
24 like to deal with is a big change of changing  
25 the location, so thank you for understanding

1 that.

2 [Applause]

3 MS. CHARLENE MURRAY: Good evening,  
4 everyone. My name is Charlene [phonetic]  
5 Murray. I grew up in the neighborhood, born and  
6 raised on Winthrop. - ---

7 [Applause]

8 And I'm in full support of LGCS here at PS  
9 92.

10 [Applause]

11 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Speakers 21 to 30,  
12 please line up.

13 [Background Noise]

14 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening, everyone. I'm  
15 a parent of twin girls at the Lefferts Garden  
16 Charter School. I'd like to thank PS 92 for  
17 having us here. I too was shocked at the  
18 comments that we are asking our children not to  
19 speak to your children. My daughters are  
20 friends with children in both schools. We live  
21 on Lenox Road. When the adults say things like  
22 this, it's teaching our children to feel  
23 different towards their own neighbor. I am in  
24 full support of Lefferts Garden Charter School  
25 co-locating with PS 92, and before I step down I

1 also want to say that initially I did want my  
2 children to attend PS 92, but I was turned away  
3 so many times, so when the opportunity came that  
4 we can be in this building, I was very thrilled.  
5 Thank you for having us.

6 [Applause]

7 MR. JEREMY SIEG: Good evening. My name is  
8 Jeremy Sieg. I'm a proud parent of a  
9 kindergarten student at Lefferts Garden Charter  
10 School, and just want to say that I  
11 wholeheartedly support the co-location of LGCS  
12 at PS 92.

13 [Applause]

14 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening, everyone. My  
15 son goes to Lefferts Garden Charter School, my  
16 family lives in zip code 11226, and I  
17 wholeheartedly support the co-location of  
18 Lefferts Garden Charter School.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. JEANNINE COOK: Good evening. My name  
21 is Jeannine Cook. I have a third grader in  
22 LGCS. We've been here from the beginning.  
23 Also, I would like to say my son speaks to  
24 everyone, he's--he has friends in 92 and also  
25 LGCS. I speak to everyone, and so does my

1 mother, so the fact that they came out that  
2 we're rude and disrespectful is not true. We  
3 say hi to everyone, we allow everyone, and we're  
4 never mean or turn away everyone, and yes, I am  
5 in support of LGCS.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. CARIN ROUMELL: Hi. My name is Carin  
8 Roumell. I'm a mother of two, at PS 92, of  
9 course, and I want to sit there and say that  
10 basically you guys are talking about us sharing  
11 everything with you guys, well, we're sharing  
12 everything. Tell me what you all guys are  
13 sharing with us. I don't see anything that  
14 you're giving us, I don't see your teachers  
15 helping us, and me, as a parent, there's many of  
16 times where I even helped your teachers, even  
17 though my kid goes to PS 92, with your kids. So  
18 I'm not even understanding, and I'm not in  
19 support, and never will be, of this LGS,  
20 whatever this thing is, at the end of the day.  
21 PS 92 is where this school was, and it should be  
22 and always be 'til--from now 'til forever. If I  
23 even have another child, I want it here, PS 92.  
24 So that whole sharing bit, y'all need to know  
25 what sharing--or know the definition of sharing

1 'cause y'all don't, period.

2 [Applause]

3 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening, everyone. My--  
4 I have a 6--7-year old who goes to Lefferts  
5 Gardens Charter School. I love the school. My  
6 daughter speaks sign languages. She goes on  
7 trips. She's able to explain everything that  
8 she sees on the trips. Every morning she has to  
9 give dictation, she has to give her homework,  
10 and, trust me, it is lovely. Apart from that,  
11 when I move into the neighborhood and my  
12 daughter was already in Lefferts Gardens Charter  
13 School, we--I tried to get her into PS 92, and  
14 because my daughter attends the charter school,  
15 we were told we cannot visit one of the class.  
16 How sad is that? And I have someone from the  
17 Department of Education to prove that, her  
18 vision teacher. Thank you. That is sad.

19 [Applause]

20 MALE VOICE: - - are you taking - -?

21 Thanks.

22 FEMALE VOICE: Hello. I'm a parent of  
23 Lefferts Gardens Charter School. I just want to  
24 say that, like you said, this is a public  
25 building, they're both public schools. When we

1 came here, the building was not at full  
2 occupancy, so we just kind of wanted to share  
3 the building. As far as not being nice to other  
4 children, just like my son's teacher, Mr.  
5 O'Hickey [phonetic], you have to stay on your  
6 line, like don't talk to the other kids, even if  
7 they're in Lefferts Gardens; they're trying to  
8 be on top of things just like you guys are. I'm  
9 totally in full of support of Lefferts Gardens.

10 MR. DAVID HABERER: My name's David Haberer.  
11 My grandson goes to Lefferts Gardens Charter  
12 School and I support the co-use of this  
13 building. This building was built when big was  
14 better. We've learned now in education that  
15 small schools work better. No one likes  
16 competition, but competition always improves  
17 everybody's education.

18 [Applause]

19 And we tell our children when they're small  
20 to share; it sounds like the adults need to get  
21 together so that we can teach our children what  
22 it means to share a space together.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. CANDICE FLORES: Hi. My name is Candice  
25 Flores; I am a parent of an LGCS student. I

1 have been living in this community my whole  
2 life; I'm actually third generation to 11225. I  
3 agree with having the co-location. I do not  
4 agree with the way that the DOE is setting  
5 everything up for our school system, whether  
6 it's charter, public, private. I think that  
7 they need to reconsider the way that they are  
8 allocating money because we--everybody in here  
9 wants the best for their child. Every single  
10 person in here wants the best for their child,--

11 [Applause]

12 --but if the DOE is not going to allocate  
13 the funds in such a way where we can get the  
14 best, we're going to feel like we have to make a  
15 choice, we're going to have to make a decision,  
16 so I completely agree that the DOE needs to  
17 reconsider the way they're setting our education  
18 system up for our children.

19 [Applause]

20 Thank you.

21 MALE VOICE: - -.

22 MS. KATHRYN POPE: Hi. I'm Kathryn Pope. I  
23 am a Lefferts Gardens Charter School parent and  
24 I support the co-location of LGCS at PS 92, but  
25 I do want to say I agree with the previous

1 speaker that this kind of meeting where  
2 parents, everyone who's trying to get the best  
3 for their children, have to argue and yell at  
4 each other, it's not great. We all want good  
5 things for our kids, and I hope we can all make  
6 a better education system for our kids. Thank  
7 you.

8 [Applause]

9 FEMALE VOICE: Hi. I'm a parent of a third  
10 grader at Lefferts Garden Charter School. I'm  
11 in support of the co-location. We really--we  
12 are a part of this community, it's a community  
13 building, and I think it should be treated that  
14 way. Thank you.

15 [Applause]

16 MALE VOICE: - -. Thanks.

17 MS. SIOBHAN O'NEIL: Hi. Siobhan O'Neil. I  
18 have a third grader. This is our third year at  
19 Lefferts Garden Charter School. I wanted to say  
20 that I also was shocked that there's a  
21 perception of we're better than you or whatever,  
22 and I think a lot of the teachers tonight have  
23 told you that that's not their experience. I  
24 really came tonight with--just to say thank you  
25 for being such gracious hosts, PS 92. We have

1 felt nothing but welcomed, and we have felt  
2 that, yes, it's hard to share, it is a daunting  
3 task, but what I would like to say to you, that  
4 probably, if we don't continue to be here in  
5 2015, the DOE will put another school on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
6 and 5<sup>th</sup> Floor or 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, and what I  
7 would like you to think about is that we're  
8 here; if we're allowed to stay here, even if  
9 it's for another five years, we very much do  
10 want our own building, but we are a startup  
11 company. Like a startup, we need to gather our  
12 resources to find our own space, so if we are  
13 given the opportunity to stay, we will work very  
14 hard to get resources--if we know we're here,  
15 we're going to be here, we're going to get  
16 funding, things that we can do to help the  
17 maintenance department,...

18 [Applause]

19 ...maybe work on the library resourcing  
20 together. I think this is an opportunity to  
21 work together. I hear you. If I was you, I'd  
22 be upset to say, you know, sharing the cafeteria  
23 and all that is tough, but I promise you that  
24 another school would be relocated if we do not  
25 get to stay, and I support to the co-location.

1 [Applause]

2 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Speakers 30 to 40...

3 MR. ROBERT ADLER: - -. Hi. I'm Robert  
4 Adler. I'm a parent of a child in Leffert  
5 Garden Charter School and I support the  
6 coexistence and co-sharing of the space in this  
7 building. I, as a parent, really love what the  
8 school is doing for my son in this building. I  
9 actually come almost every day to pick him up; I  
10 drop him off at the steps. I see parents of  
11 both schools in this building. I don't think  
12 I'm, like, the most social person, but I  
13 identify who is important to my kid, and that's  
14 the security person, the maintenance person, the  
15 people that are frontline educators. And on  
16 both sides of the set of issues, I work in this  
17 district as a social worker; I work in 17 and  
18 live in 17. I see buildings that are co-  
19 utilized successfully from Crown Heights, here,  
20 to Flatbush. I work on kids' IPs, I work on  
21 both sides of the fence, in regular and special  
22 ed, and I think that, as parents, as it was said  
23 just a few minutes ago, we need to work  
24 together, yes, we need to share resources, but,  
25 yes, we're a new school trying to find a home,

1 and this doesn't have to be a permanent home,  
2 but I think there are benefits that could aid  
3 both 92 and the Leffert Garden Charter School,  
4 and I want to be part of that, as a parent, for  
5 both schools, so I'm putting--

6 [Applause]

7 --that out there, okay? I think we need to  
8 identify that we share more than the DOE may  
9 lead us to believe, because I think there's a  
10 definite division that is propelled in the  
11 number of charter schools that have been put out  
12 recent years and the number of startup schools  
13 that have had to share spaces, and I think it's  
14 difficult, but it can get better if we want it  
15 to, so thank you.

16 MALE VOICE: Twenty-eight.

17 MS. LIAT OLENICK: Hi. My name is Liat  
18 Olenick. I'm a first grade teacher at LGCS. I  
19 love my students. I think we're here because we  
20 all want what's best for our kids. My students  
21 have friends in PS 92; some of my students have  
22 siblings in PS 92. If they can get along, I  
23 think we can also.

24 [Applause]

25 MALE VOICE: Twenty-nine.

1 MS. KATHERINE MAZZULLO: Hi. My name is  
2 Katherine Mazzullo. My second year at Lefferts  
3 Garden; I'm a first grade teacher this year. I  
4 think a lot of our goals are the same, we want  
5 students to learn, and that's--I do support co-  
6 location.

7 [Applause]

8 MALE VOICE: Thirty.

9 MS. ELAINE CECONE: Hi. My name is Elaine  
10 Cecone. I'm a grandparent of the a third grader  
11 at Lefferts Gardens Charter School, for  
12 environmental science, and that's the reason we  
13 chose Lefferts Garden, for the environmental  
14 science program. I did want to talk about  
15 something that was mentioned earlier about how  
16 students are chosen, just to remind everyone  
17 that all charter school students must be chosen  
18 by lottery, and the lottery is supervised by the  
19 DOE, so we do not choose our students by another  
20 criteria. You apply, you get a lottery number,  
21 the lottery is done with supervision, so we're  
22 not taking students away from anybody. I do  
23 support the co-location of Lefferts Gardens  
24 Charter School at PS 92, and I would like to  
25 very much thank Ms. Rahmaan for the professional

1 way she has handled the charter school co-  
2 location.

3 [Applause]

4 MR. CHARLIE HANGER: Hello. My name is  
5 Charlie Hanger. My son, Sam [phonetic], is a  
6 kindergartener at Lefferts Garden. We signed up  
7 'cause we also were excited about the  
8 environmental science program, and just  
9 personally--I can't speak for what everybody  
10 does. I've never seen any real conflict coming  
11 into or out of the school. I drop him off every  
12 day. I say hi to everybody I see. I don't--no  
13 matter what color pants they're wearing,  
14 answered I've been involved in some very intense  
15 afterschool freeze tag games in the playground  
16 with kids from both schools, big games, lots of  
17 kids. I know the sharing's not perfect, but I  
18 think you've heard from the parents here tonight  
19 that certainly on our side we're willing to try  
20 and work on that if that is--if that seems to be  
21 an issue, and also, PS 92, we realize that we  
22 kind of all came in, and we do appreciate the  
23 hospitality.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. BECKY HANGER: I'm Becky Hanger and I'm

1 the other parent of Sam Hanger in the  
2 kindergarten, and I also support the co-location  
3 of Lefferts Garden at PS 92.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. ANNE MARIE WILLIAMS: Hi. Good evening,  
6 everyone. I'm Anne Marie Williams from District  
7 17 President's Council. I'm here in support of  
8 my PTA president. I remember July of 2009, I  
9 met the founder at the CEC meeting and they was  
10 presenting the school to our community, and when  
11 the school was presented to us, it was told that  
12 they're looking for temporary housing in  
13 District 17 because they're going to build a  
14 brand new school, a green school, so when I had  
15 gotten notification that they're trying to have  
16 permanent residence here at PS 92, I was kind of  
17 thrown back a bit because the original plan was  
18 to have your green building. However, I think  
19 the communication between Lefferts Garden  
20 Charter and the DOE has broken down someplace  
21 because we, as the community, you needed to come  
22 back to us and say you want to revisit this, and  
23 we should have--speak and have a conversation  
24 before you guys come and bring parents from  
25 different schools to go at it--each other. We

1 have to be mindful of our district. Yes, as  
2 parents we want great choices, we want to have  
3 choices, but the Department of Education should  
4 revisit the way they hold this hearings and they  
5 put parents against each other. It's we are  
6 fighting each other.

7 [Applause]

8 We don't need to fight. We want great  
9 choices, we want great schools in District 17,  
10 so, Department of Education, please, it's going  
11 to be a fight because we going to show you how  
12 to respect us as parents, respect us as a  
13 community. Don't just push us in the fire; come  
14 to us, explain. We will understand better,  
15 we'll have a better mindset. And also, the  
16 Lefferts Charter School, you should--you're a  
17 campus school. You should meet with the  
18 principal on a weekly basis, monthly basis, and  
19 figure what's not working and coexist properly.  
20 This is our children no matter what type--you  
21 guys talking about ice cream and pistachio. No,  
22 they are our precious joy. Come on, let's get  
23 it real, let's keep it real. Thank you.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. AUDREY LANCASTER: My name is Audrey

1 Lancaster. I have two grandchildren that go  
2 to PS 92. My son is 28 years old; he graduated  
3 from PS 92. I've lived in the neighborhood for  
4 36 years. This school should still be here. No  
5 one has the right to come in and take it away  
6 from this community. Now I have a couple of  
7 statements that I'd like to make. I'd like to  
8 know--on the paper it says that we don't have as  
9 many children in here as Leffert Garden does.  
10 You take children zoned from different places.  
11 We can only come to our school because we live  
12 in this zone. And I also would like to know why  
13 is it all of a sudden that we have two rezones?  
14 Why? So that Leffert Gardens children can come  
15 in and take over all the space for our kids?  
16 And I would like to know, when you do get all  
17 the space in PS 92, what is going to happen to  
18 the staff that's here now? Where are they going  
19 to be? Where are the teachers going to be? You  
20 people are talking about not speaking to each  
21 other, walking past each other. That's not the  
22 issue. The issue is you lied when you came.  
23 You're supposed to be gone. I don't want to  
24 share this school with you.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. NIECA PRINCE: - -. Oh, okay. Good  
2 afternoon, everyone. My name is Nieca Prince  
3 and I would like to share this school with you,  
4 PS 92. My two children are--attend the Lefferts  
5 Garden Charter School, and I fully support the  
6 co-location. Thank you.

7 [Applause]

8 MALE VOICE: We're up to number 40. - - 28  
9 first, - -.

10 FEMALE VOICE: - -, sorry.

11 MALE VOICE: - -.

12 FEMALE VOICE: I'm sorry. I have a daughter  
13 here at Lefferts Gardens Charter School. I've  
14 been here from the beginning; I was at the first  
15 hearing. I totally understand parents of PS  
16 92's frustration with some of the issues that  
17 they have shared; however, I think that we have  
18 been good neighbors. We have shared this space.  
19 Yes, there may be some issues, but I think that  
20 if we come together, that we can discuss those  
21 issues. I believe that there is a committee  
22 that meets about the sharing of space at this  
23 school, so that is happening. Perhaps we just  
24 need to do a better job of communicating what  
25 the issues are. I fully support this school

1 staying here. It is another option for our  
2 community, and we all want the best for our  
3 children, so I think that that is the goal at  
4 hand and the other issues need to sort of be  
5 worked out. I think that we're all grownups and  
6 we can do that, we can work on those things.

7 [Applause]

8 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Speakers 40 to 50,  
9 please come forward. Forty to 50...

10 MALE VOICE: Is there a 36 or 37 here? I  
11 didn't--no. Okay. Take it down, please.  
12 Thanks.

13 MR. TIM THOMAS: Is it okay if I look at my  
14 note here?

15 MALE VOICE: That's good [phonetic].

16 MR. THOMAS: Hi. My name's Tim Thomas. I  
17 actually don't have a kid in the school. I live  
18 around the corner; I've been here for 10 years  
19 in 11226. Maybe I don't have to be so politic  
20 as a result. Where's the gentleman who was  
21 speaking from the - -? Is he still in the room?

22 MALE VOICE: - -.

23 MR. THOMAS: Right there. I just wanted to  
24 say, I think you said that you met with Ms.  
25 Rahmaan twice during the course of the year. It

1 seems like most people in this room have  
2 probably had more experience in this school than  
3 you have the entire year, and we had to listen  
4 to 10 minutes of your diatribe.

5 [Background Noise]

6 Hey, I--

7 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: [interposing]

8 Excuse...

9 MR. THOMAS: Excuse me.

10 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: No comment. No  
11 comment, please.

12 MR. THOMAS: I heard personal accusations  
13 from the - -. I don't know how this--these  
14 kinds of things are set up, but I'm a blogger.  
15 I will be writing about that on my blog. I  
16 found it to be objectionable to start out with  
17 the most angry and vitriolic language from the  
18 get go.

19 [Applause]

20 I think it's been said many times that  
21 people here want to peaceably have a  
22 conversation. That's not the way to start it  
23 out, and I'm actually very disappointed that the  
24 district considers that a way to hold a meeting.  
25 Now, the second thing I would say is that

1       there's a lie out there that charter schools  
2       have more money. They actually get less money  
3       per student than a regular public school. I  
4       would also like to say that the--this--I don't  
5       know where my child's going to go; I'm looking  
6       at all of the schools. I will tell you this:  
7       When I called up the charter school and asked  
8       for a tour, I got one. When I called up Ms.  
9       Rahmaan, and I met with two other teachers, she  
10      has yet to call me back for a tour.

11               [Applause]

12              I have not gotten a tour, there has been no  
13      open house scheduled for members of people in  
14      the community, so when you say you're welcoming,  
15      I would like you to check that. I don't feel  
16      particularly welcomed, all right. I'm not zoned  
17      for this school, I understand perhap I'm not  
18      supposed to be welcomed, but I would like to see  
19      your school, and I would like these two schools  
20      to continue to be an option for my child. I've  
21      heard great things about both schools, both  
22      schools. Thank you.

23               [Applause]

24              MALE VOICE: Forty-one. Forty-one.

25              FEMALE VOICE: - -.

1 MALE VOICE: Forty--

2 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: [interposing]

3 Forty-one.

4 MALE VOICE: --one. Forty-two. Forty-one?

5 --, please. Thanks.

6 MS. JACQUELINE LAIRD: My name is Jacqueline

7 Laird and I fully support the co-location of

8 Lefferts Garden Charter School and PS 92.

9 [Applause]

10 MALE VOICE: - - two. Forty-two?

11 MS. JASPINDA BULLAR: I'm Jaspinda Bullar

12 and I strongly support Lefferts Garden in this

13 location. Thank you.

14 [Applause]

15 MALE VOICE: Forty-three?

16 MS. DONNA KOSLOFF: My name is Donna Kosloff

17 and I'm a SPED teacher at Lefferts Garden

18 Charter School, and I can tell you that I've

19 been accused that I smile too often, and--

20 [Background Noise]

21 --I smile too often at everybody and

22 anybody, and I have gotten all smiles back, and

23 I support the co-location at Lefferts Garden

24 Charter School and PS 92.

25 [Applause]

1           FEMALE VOICE: First and foremost, I would  
2 like to thank everybody for coming out. Before  
3 this meeting started, I am going to say I'm here  
4 for PS 92, but I encouraged every parent who  
5 walked in to get a ticket whether you were here  
6 from Lefferts Garden or from PS 92, so that you  
7 could be heard today. The problem here right  
8 now is, as a parent--I have four children. I  
9 have one who graduated, who has now graduated  
10 from junior high school, who has got accepted to  
11 a school with honors. She graduated from this  
12 school with honors. I have my fifth grader who--  
13 -you know, I have two kids that have special  
14 needs that receive awesome services by awesome  
15 teachers in this school who are helping my  
16 children and their future for tomorrow. The  
17 real issue here is that the division of the  
18 parents from both school are feeling is being  
19 put there by the DOE, because at the end of the  
20 day, it was their obligation to us as parents to  
21 notify us about this before it happened, okay.  
22 It's not the quality of--it's not a question of  
23 the quality of education that you offer your  
24 students, Lefferts Gardens. We get it, you're a  
25 good school; we get it, you have a great

1 program. It's not that we don't want you  
2 personally here, it's that we want our students  
3 back in their classrooms. My kids are  
4 suffering. Their classrooms, their class sizes,  
5 they're overcrowded, and what--the bigger you  
6 get, the bigger my kids' class get, okay. It's  
7 not that we don't want you, we just don't want  
8 you on the building, and that's the honest  
9 truth. You guys came here on false pretenses;  
10 you promised something and now y'all went back  
11 on your word, okay, and the DOE did not notify  
12 us until this meeting, putting us in a room to  
13 cut each other's throats and sit here and fight  
14 and argue, meanwhile, we have our children  
15 sitting here watching everything. So you know  
16 what? We have my 92 kids--my PS 92 kids, who  
17 feel a way about Lefferts Gardens kids. Why? I  
18 have a perfect example. The bathroom situation,  
19 that happened with my daughter. Third Floor  
20 bathroom, she was told to leave, she couldn't  
21 use that bathroom, that that was charter school  
22 bathroom. Okay? I had another situation where  
23 my other daughter, who's in the third grade,  
24 where charter school girls were in the bathroom  
25 and they threw water on her, and when my

1 daughter asked who was their teacher, they  
2 said, "Who cares? What do you want to know  
3 for?" There was never no way for me to find out  
4 who did what. Okay? At the end of the day,  
5 we're not sharing. That's the point, we're not  
6 sharing. Okay? The bigger your classes get,  
7 the big--my--the bigger y'all get, - - the  
8 bigger my kids' class get, and my kids'  
9 education matters to me, and my kids' education  
10 matters to me.

11 [Applause]

12 And it's stressing [phonetic] the teachers;  
13 they're stressing all of the teachers that they  
14 have to teach 30 plus students, and it's very  
15 hard when - - have special needs - -.

16 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Thank you.

17 [Applause]

18 MALE VOICE: Forty-five. Forty-five? Come  
19 on up.

20 FEMALE VOICE: I don't really know what I  
21 can say. This is never a good forum for people  
22 to get together and discuss this kind of things.  
23 It's not solving anything. I think we have to  
24 take it from this point and move forward. I  
25 have a second grader at Lefferts Gardens. I

1 support this co-location. I would hope that  
2 the DOE would not be squeezing 30 kids into a  
3 classroom. This is just not right. But if they  
4 are going to co-locate, they should do it  
5 properly and not have each school blaming each  
6 other, okay. Both programs are good. I was not  
7 happy with the scores when I was looking, and I  
8 looked for other options. It just so happened  
9 that I live three blocks away and this one was  
10 perfect, so I come here every day, I'm the PA, I  
11 but my hip to make sure that my kids--'cause it  
12 comes down to the parents being in the school  
13 and doing, and the DOE has to support us in  
14 supporting our kids. And I know everybody's  
15 angry, and I know that we really need to, like  
16 with world peace, try to come together and find  
17 a solution and a common ground, and I really do  
18 support it and I really hope we can all live  
19 together in harmony, which is what we should be  
20 doing in the world right now. Thank you.

21 [Applause]

22 MALE VOICE: Forty-six. Thanks.

23 MALE VOICE: Can we all just get along? You  
24 know, a lot of things have been said here; the  
25 bottom line, it's the kids, so let's do it for

1 them.

2 [Applause]

3 MALE VOICE: Forty...

4 MALE VOICE: Support the coalition

5 [phonetic].

6 MALE VOICE: Forty-seven. Ticket.

7 MS. TRACY PADMORE: Hi. Good evening. I'm  
8 Tracy Padmore. I'm a teacher at LGCS and I  
9 fully support the co-location of LGCS at PS 92.  
10 Thank you.

11 [Applause]

12 MALE VOICE: Forty-eight.

13 MS. CLELIA BERGONSON: Hi. Good night. I'm  
14 Clelia Bergonson. My daughter, she's in charter  
15 school, and I support the collation [phonetic],  
16 but I'm so really very sad to and receive and  
17 see these anger and these very fight tonight,  
18 what the people say, because, me, I'm happy what  
19 my daughter she teach in this school, but this  
20 super [phonetic] - - high - -, high class, I  
21 never see for both of the public school, but all  
22 is good, so thank you.

23 [Applause]

24 MALE VOICE: Forty-nine.

25 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Speakers 50 to 60,

1 please come forward.

2 MS. JAVEL ROBERSON: Hi. My name is Javel  
3 and my daughter goes to Lefferts Gardens. I  
4 fully support the co-location--

5 FEMALE VOICE: [interposing] Quietly  
6 [phonetic] - -.

7 MS. ROBERSON: --here at PS 92. I'm really  
8 surprised at the hostility and all of things  
9 that have been said, and I just hope that things  
10 will get better between the two schools, and I  
11 hope that going forward things will get better.

12 [Applause]

13 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Please announce--  
14 I'm sorry. No one has expressed an interpreter  
15 for Spanish. If you need a interpreter, please  
16 come forward before 8:00 p.m. The interpreter  
17 is leaving at 8:00 p.m.

18 MALE VOICE: Fifty.

19 MS. CHRISTINE PALMER: Hi. I'm Christine  
20 Palmer. I have two son. One used to go to PS  
21 92 like a year or two year ago, and the other  
22 one go up to Lefferts Garden Charter School, and  
23 I was very surprised to know that somebody from  
24 PS 92 would actually say that they teach the  
25 kids to--don't talk to other kids. My child

1 definitely would come home and tell me that,  
2 and I would never accept that, I would go on  
3 really bad. I would have to speak somebody in  
4 the school if they really teach my children  
5 something like that, not to talk to another  
6 person. And I could say that Lefferts Garden  
7 Charter School teachers and parents, they're  
8 very humble and nice and get together. I  
9 wouldn't have nothing to say bad about them, and  
10 I'm very surprised to know that two schools  
11 should come together and fighting like this. We  
12 are just fighting for--trying to get what right  
13 for our child.

14 [Applause]

15 MALE VOICE: Fifty-one.

16 MR. MAX OSSE: Under the gun [phonetic]. Hi  
17 my name is Max Osse. I'm a parent of a second  
18 grader at LGCS, and I'm not sure that there's a  
19 lot that I can say that's not already been said  
20 before, but I wanted to thank Principal Rahmaan  
21 for being welcoming, and a lot of the PS 92  
22 teachers and community for being very welcoming.  
23 It's really disappointing to come here tonight  
24 and to see this kind of animosity because it  
25 generally doesn't exist for the rest of the

1 year. It's unfortunate that it has to happen  
2 in a forum like this that we need to go at each  
3 other's throats like this, and it's really  
4 unfortunate that there are these accusations and  
5 these outright lies that come out about the  
6 charter school that just really aren't true.  
7 I'm glad that Tim Thomas was here to debunk a  
8 lot of that, and I don't need to. I'm in full  
9 support of the co-location of LGCS at PS 92.  
10 Thank you.

11 [Applause]

12 MS. MARY BERGER: Hi. My name is Mary  
13 Berger and I'm a neighbor of both PS 92 and the  
14 Lefferts Garden Charter School, and I'm here to  
15 support the charter's co-location with 92, but I  
16 also wanted to say that it's so clear that  
17 there's a challenge here that I think can be an  
18 opportunity to make both schools the best they  
19 can be.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. LORENA HILLS: Hi. My name is Lorena  
22 Hills. I have a daughter in second grade at the  
23 charter school and I am in full support of the  
24 co-location of LGCS at PS 92.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. SONIA SADLER: Good evening. My name  
2 is Sonia Sadler and I'm the great aunt of two  
3 students at PS 92. I do not support the co-  
4 location. A lot of the reasons have been said  
5 here today by other parents, grandparents,  
6 aunts, whomever; however, the bottom line is  
7 that we all want the best for our children  
8 regardless of how we each look at it  
9 individually. The fact of the matter is that  
10 one cannot help but salivate when they see the  
11 prospect [phonetic] Lefferts Gardens students  
12 coming out with their musical instruments and  
13 their much improved and higher level of  
14 extracurricular programs than those at PS 92.  
15 And it is not the fault of Lefferts Gardens; I'm  
16 not blaming them. What I'm saying is that the  
17 Department of Education has let PS 92 and all  
18 the traditional public schools down in this day  
19 and age and it is time that they stand up to  
20 their responsibility. Thank you.

21 [Applause]

22 MR. RICHARD OTTO: Okay. My name is Richard  
23 Otto and my wife support co-location. I would  
24 like to make a comment about the--the artwork  
25 when we come into this building is amazing, so I

1 would like to tell PS 92 and their art teacher  
2 that they're doing amazing work with their  
3 resources.

4 [Applause]

5 I too was very surprised at the comments  
6 that were made at the beginning. Our daughter  
7 is always welcoming to other kids, and as are  
8 we. We share a block with other kids from PS  
9 92; we always play together when we're at the  
10 playground. As far as the history lesson that  
11 was provided, Plessy v. Ferguson, 1896, and then  
12 fast forward, of course, to 1955 or 1954 and  
13 Brown v. The Board of Education, those are just  
14 laws, okay. They're just laws, and it takes  
15 actions to implement them, so 1954 and 1955  
16 didn't change anything, all right, and if you  
17 recall, Little Rock Arkansas happened in 1958  
18 when Dwight D. Eisenhower had to reluctantly--  
19 shouldn't have been reluctantly, but reluctantly  
20 had to call in the national guard in order to  
21 let a school welcome I believe five black  
22 children, okay. So that being said, it takes  
23 action, and we have an opportunity tonight to  
24 take an action, and I think that provides a  
25 great opportunity for our students and our

1 children to learn from, that we can share and  
2 that we can coexist in not only a school, but in  
3 a community. I would also like to mention one  
4 thing as I leave, just a few words; Germany,  
5 South Africa, Rwanda, Bosnia, and the latest,  
6 Sudan, all places in the world where people have  
7 chosen to not coexist. Thank you.

8 [Applause]

9 MALE VOICE: Fifty-six. Fifty-six?

10 MALE VOICE: Hi. Good night. I got a third  
11 grader of LGCS, and some comments early on,  
12 they're saying that there's segregation and  
13 telling the kids don't speak to each other is  
14 wrong. I think it's wrong. I think tonight we  
15 should focus on more of the education and  
16 growing a lot of the fundamentals, and not sound  
17 like it's a big argument about funding and all  
18 the animosity. I never experience my son ever  
19 coming home and telling me, "Well, Dad, someone  
20 told me don't speak to another or"--you know,  
21 the craziest I ever heard him telling me is  
22 probably he go to 92, the bathroom, and see  
23 cursing on the wall or the kids cursing and  
24 stuff like that, but that was like the craziest.  
25 Other than that, I think this school right

1 here's excellent, and I think both schools  
2 should try to practice the work--you know, work  
3 - - each other much better. I think the  
4 lunchroom situation, they're kids. Parents make  
5 the rules; teachers make the rules. If you put  
6 all the kids in a room, they're going to play  
7 together, they're not going to, like, say, "Oh,  
8 I don't like you 'cause of the uniform." They  
9 will--they're going to play together, so I think  
10 we adults, we should try and make it work for  
11 them.

12 [Applause]

13 MALE VOICE: Fifty-seven.

14 MS. FIONA JOHN: Hi my name is Fiona John.  
15 I have a third grader in Lefferts Garden Charter  
16 School and I'm here for Lefferts Garden to - -  
17 stay in PS 92.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. WENDY RAMOS: My name is Wendy Ramos.  
20 I'm the director of operations at Lefferts  
21 Gardens, and since I've gotten here two weeks  
22 ago, I've been very welcomed by everyone in the  
23 community, by Principal Rahmaan, by Dixon  
24 [phonetic], the facilities, the parents that I'm  
25 meeting when I'm outside, so just hope that we

1 can continue to work in some cooperation and I  
2 fully support the co-location of Lefferts  
3 Gardens at 92.

4 [Applause]

5 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Thank you.  
6 Speakers 60 to 70, please come forward. Sixty  
7 to 70...

8 MS. KATHY CHARLES: Hi. My name is Kathy  
9 Charles and I'm the finance manager at Lefferts  
10 Garden Charter School. I am certainly in  
11 support of coexisting location here at PS 92. I  
12 think that it's clear that parents want a fair  
13 shot for their children here, a fair education,  
14 and this is a perfect opportunity, having  
15 Leffert Gardens here, to get that. I mean, as a  
16 parent myself of this community, for many, many,  
17 many years, I felt like we didn't have the  
18 resources, we didn't have options, and we  
19 definitely have an option now. Why push it  
20 away? Grab it.

21 [Applause]

22 MALE VOICE: Sixty. Ticket.

23 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening, everyone. My  
24 daughter has been here since we first came here,  
25 LGS. I just want to say that I've never felt

1 any separation; this is the first time I'm  
2 hearing the frustration from the parents and the  
3 teachers and the board. We apologize for this  
4 because any problem that I've had, I've always  
5 taken it to Ms. Kidd and--or the principal or  
6 Mr. Marcus [phonetic]. Yes, they always handle  
7 any situation, so please, I'm asking on behalf  
8 of the kids, consider maybe plan has changed. I  
9 mean, as a parent, I may have set a plan and it  
10 didn't work out, so you have to reconsider,  
11 reevaluate, so maybe they did say that in two  
12 years they would leave, but on behalf of the  
13 kids, I mean, don't just throw us out. You  
14 understand? And even if you throw us out, maybe  
15 another school might come here, but we're here  
16 already. We're here already, you understand?  
17 So maybe we may need more time to find another  
18 place, or work together--we can--you can have--  
19 we can have the opportunity to work together to  
20 better the situation because a lot of us, a lot  
21 of teachers from before, they're not there now;  
22 we have new teachers. So one experience my  
23 daughter--when she first came here, she told me,  
24 "Mommy"--she has a friend named Linda  
25 [phonetic], and she said, "Mommy, I can't speak

1 to Linda." I said, "Why?" She's having lunch  
2 and she can't speak to Linda, and she said the  
3 teacher said not to speak to her, and I'm saying  
4 to myself, "Well, okay," then I understood why,  
5 because they're having lunch, they want to  
6 finish fast in order for them to go back. I  
7 didn't take it any further. You understand what  
8 I'm saying? So, parents, step back a little,  
9 look at the children, look at the school. We  
10 need somewhere to teach the kids.

11 [Applause]

12 You understand? So put aside your feelings  
13 and just look at the children.

14 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: We can have no  
15 comment from outside, only the ones that have  
16 the mic. Thank you.

17 MALE VOICE: Sixty-one. Sixty-one? Sixty-  
18 two. Ticket. Thanks [phonetic].

19 MS. TREVIOUR DONOVAN: Good evening, ladies  
20 and gentlemen. My name is Treviour Donovan. I  
21 live at 150 Hawthorne [phonetic] Street, so you  
22 know just right there. I know this lady. I saw  
23 you several time in the building and I do say  
24 good morning to you. You might not recognize me  
25 'cause I always changing up my looks. And the

1 principal, I do say good morning to you, and  
2 the teacher with the--those several teachers,  
3 they may not recognize me, but I do say good  
4 morning to everybody. Even the security know me  
5 personally. I took it personal when you said  
6 that the children here are rude or - ---all  
7 children are taught. All children are--I'm not  
8 going to stand up here and make it look like my  
9 daughter is a saint. She go to Leffert Charter  
10 School and she's in third grade. But we have--  
11 as adults, as everybody say, we need to out our  
12 self, take a pause and just look at the  
13 children. We all here are family. Like it or  
14 not, we all here are family, and it's really  
15 important that we work together to--for the  
16 children's sake. Forget--you know, we--adults  
17 messed up things; we mess up thing in our  
18 personal life just because we like to put our  
19 emotion involved in a lot of thing. For the  
20 children's sake, I just say just take a pause  
21 and see [phonetic]--know what? As everybody  
22 say--okay. I wasn't here when they had the  
23 meeting about the building, but we already here,  
24 and you know what? Let's try to really make it  
25 work, until at least when the school get another

1 place to go. We can do it. If we went this  
2 far, we really can do it.

3 [Applause]

4 MALE VOICE: Sixty-three.

5 FEMALE VOICE: Hi. I have two nieces that  
6 attend school here, and just judging from what  
7 I've heard tonight, it just kind of seemed--I'm  
8 against the whole coexisting of the two schools  
9 because it just seems like it just created a lot  
10 of animosity, and the main purpose and the  
11 bigger picture is about the students and them  
12 getting the proper education that they need, and  
13 if they're in an environment...

14 MALE VOICE: - -.

15 FEMALE VOICE: Okay. No, I was saying the  
16 situation just seems to created a lot of  
17 animosity, and the bigger picture is about  
18 students having a good education, and I don't  
19 think--just based on what I'm seeing here  
20 tonight, I don't think it's--I think it's taken  
21 away from the bigger picture of what's  
22 important, and if it is, as it was said, that  
23 there's a divide and there's all this  
24 inconvenience, then I don't think it's--to me, I  
25 don't see it being something positive.

1 [Applause]

2 MALE VOICE: Sixty-four.

3 FEMALE VOICE: Now I was sitting in my seat;  
4 I'm wondering, all of these comments, but as  
5 parents we never truly address the problem. The  
6 problem does not stem from PS 92, from Lefferts  
7 Garden, the problem starting from the board of  
8 ed, the way they treat parents. Right now it's  
9 not about the location, it's about the quality  
10 for our kids. Now, look at--around us. There's  
11 a whole bunch of kids. As adults, we're  
12 screaming at each other, we are looking--we want  
13 to walk, we have to be escorted out, but right  
14 about now we need to look at the quality. Right  
15 about now, if Lefferts Garden could coexist,  
16 okay, but the way it's looking, we just keep  
17 pushing, pushing PS 92. The classes, there's no  
18 more room. My son eats breakfast from home,  
19 7:30. You mean to tell me 10:00 he's going to  
20 go eat lunch? The sense that sometime let just  
21 [phonetic] hear what each other is truly saying.  
22 Would it be good, - - timeframe? Why can't we  
23 coexist as adult, for our kids, - - they go out  
24 there, they're able to say--why don't we just  
25 take a minute and truly think about our

1 children? Thank you.

2 [Applause]

3 MALE VOICE: Sixty-five.

4 MS. MARISA GORDON: My name is Marisa  
5 Gordon. I have two daughters, pre-K and  
6 kindergarten. I'm pretty new to this, but  
7 sitting down here watching all this, what I  
8 really want for my children is just that  
9 everybody can just come to reason, and also, I  
10 believe that PS 92 has a lot of improvement to  
11 make, and I think with room, being that--you  
12 know, I just think that the school should be  
13 just PS 92 'cause with room I could see that  
14 there is going to be improvement. That's what I  
15 see. That's it.

16 MALE VOICE: Sixty-six. Sixty-six? Sixty-  
17 seven. - -.

18 MR. GEROME DAY: Hi. My name is Gerome Day  
19 and I have two students, I have one in PS 92 and  
20 I have a scholar that's in Lefferts Garden  
21 Charter School, so I strongly support the  
22 location for Lefferts Garden Charter School to  
23 come together [phonetic] - - 92. Thank you.

24 [Applause]

25 MALE VOICE: Sixty-eight.

1           FEMALE VOICE: Hi. My two children go to  
2 Lefferts Garden Charter School, and prior to  
3 that, they're coming from a public school, so I  
4 definitely understand the feelings of the  
5 Lefferts Garden parents, and I don't think I can  
6 add anything in terms of the animosity because  
7 it really boils down to what do we want for our  
8 children. What I will say that my children,  
9 they go to CAMBA, and I think CAMBA--I believe  
10 CAMBA serves both schools, and I have had so  
11 many projects where Lefferts Garden and PS 92,  
12 they're together, working on separate--on  
13 different projects together, so I've really  
14 never felt that animosity of anything. My kids  
15 have really embraced that diversity, as they  
16 have friends from each other. So I want to echo  
17 what the other parents have said, please, for  
18 the sake of our children sitting here, let us  
19 really look at what is best for our kids and  
20 find a way to co-location and coexist together  
21 while we're making improvements to our community  
22 and for our kids.

23           [Applause]

24           MALE VOICE: Sixty-nine.

25           SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Speakers 70 to 80,

1 please come forward.

2 MALE VOICE: Good evening. I'm full of  
3 support of Lefferts Charter School staying here.  
4 I have my son here, and I want you guys to stay  
5 forever. Lefferts Garden School's a good  
6 school. My daughter graduated from PS 92. I  
7 used to go to PS 92, too.

8 [Applause]

9 But we all should be together, all of us  
10 should stay together because we all live in the  
11 community. A lot of fighting, a lot of hate, a  
12 lot of jealousy, so I'm full of support of  
13 Lefferts Charter School.

14 [Applause]

15 FEMALE VOICE: Good night. I support  
16 Lefferts Charter School. My son is in that  
17 school, my daughter graduate in PS 92, and both  
18 the school is great, but I support Lefferts  
19 Charter School.

20 [Applause]

21 MALE VOICE: Seventy-one. No seventy-one?  
22 Seventy-two? Seventy-three? Seventy-four?  
23 Seventy-five?

24 MS. LEONA SCHWARTZ: Hi. My name is Leona  
25 Schwartz. My son attends Lefferts Gardens

1 Charter School. I very much support the  
2 continued co-location, and would like to be  
3 personally be part of some sort of harmonizing  
4 and reconciliation so that we can all be a  
5 community together, and I'm hope that by the  
6 time she goes, we will have our own building.

7 [Applause]

8 MR. MARK SCHWARTZ: Hi. My name's Mark  
9 Schwartz. I live on Lefferts Avenue and I am  
10 the father of a LGCS child. I support the co-  
11 location. I want to say thank you to all the  
12 staff and administrators at 92 who have been  
13 nothing but positive to me, staff of--Principal  
14 Rahmaan and the assistant principal have helped  
15 me out on numerous occasions, Ms. Hall  
16 [phonetic] and the security team. We've--we  
17 want to work together as a community. These are  
18 two community schools for this community, for  
19 our kids. Thank you.

20 [Applause]

21 MALE VOICE: Seventy-six and seventy-seven.

22 MS. KEISHA ANDERSON: Hi. I'm Keisha  
23 Anderson. I have a son at Lefferts Garden  
24 Charter School. I can only speak for myself; my  
25 experience has been wholly positive, coming into

1 the building, speaking with everyone at the  
2 front desk. Whoever we encounter, I've never  
3 had a negative experience here, but I can only  
4 speak for myself. I respect everyone's opinion.  
5 I would just urge administrations of both school  
6 to do a better job of communicating things to  
7 the families so that we're not speculating and  
8 we're--you know, we're guessing; there's a lot  
9 of speculation tonight. And I will just  
10 clarify, programs, afterschool programs at LGCS  
11 and music programs, we pay for those; those are  
12 not free programs that--we pay for them. So I  
13 support co-location.

14 [Applause]

15 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Speakers 80 to 90,  
16 please come forward.

17 MALE VOICE: Hi. Good evening, everybody.  
18 I had a--my child goes to Leffert Garden Charter  
19 School. I am in favor of coexisting both the  
20 charter school and PS 92, and one thing, before  
21 everything I want to say, my first plan was PS  
22 92. The first gentleman that speak, that's a  
23 lie; we never--they say everybody in the  
24 community is allowed to PS 92. I signed my  
25 child at PS 92, but he was--we were rejected.

1 We were rejected, and we live around the  
2 block, so that's not true when he said that  
3 everybody in the community is welcome at PS 92,  
4 so I in favor of coexisting of Lefferts Garden  
5 Charter School and PS 92. Thank you.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. JENNIFER PHILLIP: Hi. Good evening.  
8 I'm Jennifer Phillip. I have a son coming here;  
9 he is in first grade, second year coming here,  
10 and when he start coming here, I didn't - - know  
11 there was a second school, I thought it was one  
12 school, and going into the school - - during the  
13 weeks, I saw children post on the outside, so I  
14 ask the question, "Why you all standing  
15 outside?" They said there was a next school - -  
16 for PS 2--PS 92, and I didn't find that  
17 [phonetic] right because--if it's two school,  
18 then all the children are supposed to come here  
19 at the same time and go at the same time. And  
20 another thing I want to speak about again, that  
21 I send my child for lunch--for breakfast. He is  
22 the most tiniest thing in this school. While's  
23 [phonetic] he here for breakfast in the line, -  
24 - other guys - - and get all the line, so I said  
25 to him, I said, "Cyrus [phonetic], go back in

1 your line." He said, "No. They want me go  
2 and sit down," so I said, "Why would they tell  
3 you go and sit down?" So when I went to enter  
4 the lunchroom - -, the security guard say I  
5 can't come into the lunchroom, so I wait until  
6 school over. So when school over, I asked--I  
7 said, "Why they want you to go and sit down?"  
8 He said he didn't know. The next time  
9 [phonetic] I - - again and I saw the guy tell,  
10 "Go back and sit down," and he called the  
11 security guard, and I don't know what he said to  
12 his security guard, but I see that he was  
13 searching his bag. Come here, Cyrus. Let - -  
14 see how small you is. Come. Come. He is--he  
15 was the most littlest thing in the line, so I--  
16 - - probably - - ask you now [phonetic] why it  
17 is that she is searching his bag? And from  
18 that, as a mommy, I do not want to go back again  
19 for no breakfast, and from since that time 'til  
20 now, he didn't have--we never go back again for  
21 breakfast, and I just want to say we all could  
22 get along, yes, we can.

23 [Applause]

24 MALE VOICE: Eighty? Eighty? Eighty-one?

25 MS. VERONICA THOMPSON: Hi. My name's

1 Veronica M. Thompson, Mary [phonetic]. I'm in  
2 support of Leffert Gardens Charter School. I'm  
3 just shocked with all the animosity, and I just  
4 want to leave you all all with this: You know  
5 all of us could not wake up tomorrow - - about  
6 [phonetic] all of us to be just not left on this  
7 earth, so I was really shocked because we need  
8 to learn to get along, and for the children we  
9 need to learn to get along. And my daughter--I  
10 told this week [phonetic] everyone, she even  
11 said she has a friend in PS 92, so I was a  
12 little bit shock. The third lady on the right  
13 side--I don't know her name, I'm sorry--she was  
14 really nice, how she presented it, but I'm  
15 shocked that educators, how they could be so  
16 hostile. And I'm--so I'm born here in Brooklyn,  
17 but I was raised in Long Island. They call it  
18 Cuppy Cake Land [phonetic]. I--my last place  
19 was Massett Beach [phonetic]. I do need a place  
20 to live right now, but I told my daughter don't  
21 be sharing nothing, 'cause I come from a well  
22 family, well off, and I didn't expect to come  
23 here and go through a lot, but all this I heard  
24 tonight, it's not professional, but I'm in  
25 support of Lefferts Gardens Charter School.

1 It's a great science school and I jumped on it  
2 because my daughter--what my daughter's learning  
3 shocks me. But we all got to learn to get along  
4 'cause God can not let us all not wake up  
5 tomorrow. Then what are you going to do? And  
6 then on top of it, what if another school comes  
7 here, what are you going to do? You going to  
8 treat the same school the same way? I'm just  
9 different; I'm very humble 'cause life is so  
10 short.

11 [Applause]

12 MALE VOICE: Eighty-two.

13 MS. KENDRA MARSHALL: Good night, everyone.  
14 My name is Kendra Gilson [phonetic] and I have a  
15 first grader at Lefferts Garden Charter School.  
16 I actually did not come here tonight to make a  
17 long speech, but after some of the remarks that  
18 I heard, it really threw me back and I was very  
19 shocked because, as a parent, I know we all look  
20 for the same things in common. The number one  
21 reason why I chose Lefferts Garden Charter  
22 School over the typical schools in New York or  
23 Brooklyn was because, for one, I wanted  
24 something different for my daughter, I wanted  
25 somewhere for her to be safe, not just the

1 learning aspect of education, but also for a  
2 safe net place, and after hearing all these  
3 comments and going back and forth tonight, I'm  
4 really questioning the safety of my child.  
5 Also, as a parent, too, before I made the  
6 decision to choose a charter school, I tried to  
7 research as much information as possible, and I-  
8 -my one concern was what is happening to the  
9 students that are already in the school. Is it  
10 that we're coming in to take over? And I got  
11 the answer that I was looking for. The space  
12 the we are using is not utilized space; it's  
13 space that is there, dead space for the school,  
14 so it's not like we're pushing any children  
15 away, it's not like we're coming in and saying  
16 we're better than the children that are already  
17 here. I can't even--I can go on forever, but,  
18 long story short, I am in support of the co-  
19 location of Lefferts Garden and PS 92.

20 [Applause]

21 MALE VOICE: Eighty-three?

22 MS. KASHAWN JOHN: Hi. My name is Kashawn  
23 John. I have a first grader and I'm in support  
24 of Lefferts Gardens co-locating at PS 92. I  
25 feel that since he's started here, the

1 environment, as a whole, has been beneficial  
2 not just for him, but for, I feel the students -  
3 - the community. He's opening--he's open, he's  
4 friendly, he's picking up garbage. Nobody does  
5 that. And I see that his friends see how he is  
6 and they start doing what he's doing, the good  
7 things, not the bad that we don't want our kids  
8 to do, and I think that that's beneficial for  
9 everybody, and not just the children, for us to  
10 learn how they're able to get along, how they're  
11 able to better us, - - a community, as a world.  
12 Thank you.

13 [Applause]

14 MALE VOICE: Eighty-four.

15 MS. ANITRA HUTTO: Good evening, everyone.  
16 My name is Anitra Hutto and I'm a staff member  
17 at LGCS, and I'm in support of the co-location  
18 of PS--of LGCS and PS 92.

19 [Applause]

20 MALE VOICE: Eighty-five.

21 MS. KATRINA REBERE: Hi. My name's Katrina  
22 Rebere. I'm a member of the leadership team at  
23 LGCS. I've been here since year one, and since  
24 year one, up until the current year, I'd just  
25 like to say that our staff has nothing but the

1 best intentions for everyone in this building,  
2 and values collaboration and working together  
3 for everyone that's in this public space, and  
4 I'm for the co-location.

5 [Applause]

6 MALE VOICE: Good evening, everyone. I'm a  
7 parent here at Lefferts Gardens charter school.  
8 I have a third grader and I've never witnessed  
9 some of the vile stuff I've heard here this  
10 evening; I've never seen it, so I just want to  
11 say that I'm pleased with my daughter's  
12 progress. She has done well, behavior is good,  
13 and she has friends on both sides. She speaks  
14 to all the kids. So I'm in support of the co-  
15 location of LCGS. Thank you.

16 MALE VOICE: Eighty-seven.

17 MS. ANNICK LEROY: Hi. My name is Annick  
18 Leroy and I'm a parent of twins in the third  
19 grade of Lefferts Garden Charter School. I'm  
20 glad two-thirds of you have left already. It's  
21 really hard to be up here. I've been walking my  
22 kids to school; I'm only two blocks away. I  
23 first started at PS 92 and it wasn't a good fit  
24 for me, it wasn't a good fit for my family, and  
25 I was thrilled that there was an option, right

1 here, right next door, or in the same  
2 building, for a good place for my kids to be  
3 part of this community. I've been living here  
4 for eight years. I want my children to have  
5 friends here, not in a Manhattan charter school  
6 where people are coming from everywhere else.  
7 We go to the park every day after school,  
8 weather permitting. My kids don't see the color  
9 of the uniform. I really think that as adults  
10 we have to learn how to cohabitate.  
11 Neighborhoods change, dynamics of things change,  
12 even households change, and we have to move  
13 forward. Anybody who's been in business has  
14 read Who's Moved The Cheese--Who's Moved My  
15 Cheese. Maybe we should pick it up and read it  
16 again. Somebody's moving the cheese; we need to  
17 get along, and we need to do this because all  
18 our children deserve a good education. If  
19 anybody understands history, people will  
20 understand that in wartime, the way people... The  
21 party that controls tries to divide and conquer.  
22 Let's face it, DOE is the problem. Lefferts  
23 Garden is not the problem; PS 92 is not the  
24 problem. The real problem here is DOE, and we  
25 should band together so that we can all turn

1 around, as a unified voice, and say, "We want  
2 our schools to do better; we want resources for  
3 our schools; we want our kids to be better  
4 educated than the 33 percentile we are at  
5 today."

6 [Applause]

7 MS. SUZANNE MILLER: Sorry. Hi. I'm  
8 Suzanne Miller. I'm a community member and I'm  
9 in support of the co-location of the Lefferts  
10 Charter School in PS 92. I just want to say, as  
11 an educator in the City of New York, the  
12 university system, I think we should keep our  
13 eye on the prize, which is to develop and  
14 encourage lifelong learners.

15 MALE VOICE: Eighty-nine.

16 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Speakers 90 to 100,  
17 please come forward. Ninety to 100..

18 MS. ALISON GORSUCH: Hi. My name is Alison  
19 Gorsuch. I have a daughter in kindergarten at  
20 Lefferts Garden Charter School. I'm in support  
21 of co-location, and I just want to say that I'm  
22 also a teacher in the public school system. I  
23 teach in a building that has two different  
24 schools in it, and it works, so it can work.  
25 Thanks.

1 [Applause]

2 MALE VOICE: Ninety. Ninety? Ninety-one?

3 MS. SHARMAINE GRIFFITH: Good evening,  
4 everyone. My name is Sharmaine Griffith and I  
5 have a second grader at Lefferts Gardens Charter  
6 School, and I'm in support for co-location. My  
7 thing is let's all practice what we preach,  
8 sharing is caring, and like most parents said,  
9 the DOE is the one that we should be talking to,  
10 not Lefferts Gardens, not PS 92. Our main  
11 objective should be getting a wonderful  
12 education for all our kids. Thank you very  
13 much. Have a good night.

14 [Applause]

15 MALE VOICE: Ninety-two.

16 MS. RENATA GOMEZ: My name is Renta Gomez.  
17 I'm on the board of the Lefferts Gardens Charter  
18 School and I support co-location of the charter  
19 school at PS 92. Thank you.

20 [Applause]

21 MALE VOICE: Ninety-three.

22 MS. TARA HARRISON: Good evening. My name  
23 is Tara Harrison. I too am on the board of  
24 Lefferts Garden Charter School and I support the  
25 co-location at PS 92.

1 [Applause]

2 MALE VOICE: Ninety-four. Ninety-four? No.  
3 Ninety-four? Ninety-five?

4 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening. I'm the mother  
5 of a proud third grader who's exceeding since  
6 she started Lefferts Garden. It's amazing. I  
7 do apologize for the way everything went on this  
8 evening. I think it start off in the wrong  
9 form. Kids were around and we should not do  
10 this in front of them, so when they react, we  
11 blame the parents; we have to blame each and  
12 every one of us, and I think if PS 92 had a  
13 problem before tonight, it was a problem that  
14 was existing, this problem should have been  
15 addressed before tonight. We came here for one  
16 reason and it went beyond animosity and hatred.  
17 All of us need better education and the best for  
18 our kids. As parents, as teachers, as friends,  
19 as soon as you enter this building and you see  
20 kids, you should all want the best for them.  
21 Thank you.

22 [Applause]

23 MALE VOICE: Ninety-six.

24 MS. STACY PROPHETE: Hi. My name is Stacy.  
25 I have two kids in Lefferts, a second and a

1 third grader. We've been here from the start  
2 and I fully support Lefferts Gardens coexisting  
3 in PS 92.

4 [Applause]

5 MALE VOICE: Ninety-seven.

6 MS. ALLISON COX: Good evening. My name is  
7 Allison Cox [phonetic] and I have--my grandson  
8 attends Lefferts Garden Charter School and I do  
9 support the coexistence of Lefferts in 92.

10 [Applause]

11 MALE VOICE: Ninety-eight.

12 MS. TONI PARKS: Hi. My name is Toni Parks  
13 and I have a child at Lefferts Garden Charter  
14 School. I just want to say one thing, that I  
15 think it's awesome that so many parents came out  
16 tonight, whether it's from Lefferts Garden or  
17 from PS 92. It proves that we really do have an  
18 incredibly strong community and a lot of parents  
19 that really care, and for something that's about  
20 education, I think that there's one thing that's  
21 missing, and I think there's a lot of mis-  
22 education happening both on the part of the LGCS  
23 family and that--also in part of PS 92; we were  
24 unaware of a lot of--the anger and the pain that  
25 you guys are going through, and on the other

1 side of it, I think there's a lot of things  
2 that you guys may not know about our school, and  
3 may not know about charter schools in general,  
4 that we are a public school, we get the same  
5 funding that you guys do, less funding that you  
6 guys do. The part of the building that we're  
7 exist in was not being utilized, it was not  
8 going to be utilized. We're not taking space  
9 away from your students. And I, for one--like,  
10 I'm here every morning with my son. I am happy  
11 to talk with anybody from PS 92 to work together  
12 to try and make something... Make this  
13 cohabitation a much happier and a much better  
14 solution because we all clearly care about our  
15 kids, we all clearly care about this school and  
16 this building as a whole, and I want to be a  
17 part of a solution and not part of a problem,  
18 so... Thank you.

19 [Applause]

20 MALE VOICE: Ninety-nine. Ninety-nine?

21 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Speakers 100 to  
22 110, please come forward.

23 MALE VOICE: One-hundred. Is 100 here?  
24 One-hundred one.

25 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening. Good evening.

1 I'm a mother of three kids; one go to PS 92,  
2 two go to Lefferts Gardens. I'm in support of  
3 the charter school.

4 [Applause]

5 MALE VOICE: One o' two.

6 MALE VOICE: Good evening, everyone. I'm in  
7 support of Leffert Garden Charter School. My  
8 son is in second grade. And I also support the  
9 co-location of both schools, and to this young  
10 lady beside us, I mean, we're here just to get  
11 this thing settled, not to get at each other's  
12 throat or anything. I don't know you, you don't  
13 know me. You make some accusation which I don't  
14 approve of, and as adults, we need to teach our  
15 kids what we practice, and if that's what you're  
16 teaching your kid, you have a sad case of - -  
17 growing up. We lost the many--a whole  
18 generation of kids because of parents like you,  
19 and I don't appreciate the way how you sit up  
20 here and lambaste us, you and the gentleman over  
21 there.

22 [Applause]

23 It's okay. It's okay. She speak her mind,  
24 let me--

25 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: [interposing]

1 Excuse me.

2 MALE VOICE: --speak mine.

3 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Excuse me. No, you  
4 don't need to address them. You can't speak.

5 MALE VOICE: Thank you. Thank you. So,  
6 going forward, if we can all get along because  
7 the interest is about our kids and our  
8 community, I'd appreciate it. We can meet  
9 outside, we can talk, hug, kiss, we can have,  
10 together--maybe can get administrators to have,  
11 like, a picnic - - so we can learn to live with  
12 each other because this is a community; we all  
13 live here. Have a good night.

14 [Applause]

15 MALE VOICE: One o'three. One-hundred and  
16 three? One o' four? One o' four? One o'five?

17 MS. NANCY BERNARD: Hi. My name is Nancy  
18 Bernard and I have a child in Lefferts Gardens  
19 Charter School and a child in the pre-K at PS  
20 92, and I'm for the co-location of the school in  
21 PS 92, and I just wanted to say that I get along  
22 great with both staff and parents of PS 92,  
23 like, Ms. Lakeshia [phonetic], I get along great  
24 with her, my child loves her child, and Ms.  
25 Hall, she's wonderful with my kids, and I just

1 want us all to live together as one, as happy,  
2 you know. That's it.

3 [Applause]

4 MALE VOICE: One o'six.

5 MS. DENISE BORGE: My name is Denise Borge  
6 and I'm a teacher at Lefferts Gardens Charter  
7 School and I'm full support of the co-location  
8 of PS 92 and Lefferts Gardens, and I have to say  
9 it's probably one of the nicest staffs I've ever  
10 worked with, and I've had no problems with 92,  
11 and I always say good morning, and we have to  
12 remember that we're educators and we're here for  
13 the children.

14 [Applause]

15 MALE VOICE: One o'seven.

16 MS. JANA GERACE: Good evening. I'm Jana  
17 Gerace. I'm a teacher at Lefferts Gardens  
18 Charter School and I totally support the co-  
19 location at PS 92, and, again, I also agree that  
20 this is about educating our kids, not so much  
21 about us trying to get along at every moment of  
22 the day. In the end it's about kids learning,  
23 and that's really the final say in it.

24 [Applause]

25 MALE VOICE: One o'eight. Ticket? Thanks.

1 MS. LYSTRA DEGANNES: Good evening. My  
2 name is Lystra Degannes. I'm the proud parent  
3 of a second grader of Lefferts Garden Charter  
4 School. Now, my daughter is coming from a other  
5 public school where she was very unhappy. Right  
6 now she's pretty happy and always likes to go to  
7 school, so I support her--I support--sorry--  
8 Lefferts Garden being co-located at 92, okay.  
9 Good night.

10 [Applause]

11 MALE VOICE: One o'nine.

12 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Speakers 111 to  
13 120, please come forward. One eleven to 120..

14 MS. DEBORAH CHARLES: Good evening. My name  
15 is Deborah Charles. I have a third grader at  
16 Lefferts Garden Charter School. I do support  
17 the co-location with Lefferts Garden and PS 92.  
18 I think that PS 92 is a great location. I like  
19 the school; I like the building. I--my favorite  
20 security people, Ms. Hall and Ms. Mahone  
21 [phonetic], I--I sometimes think that Principal  
22 Rahmaan thinks that I'm part of her faculty or  
23 her staff because I go to her, I ask her  
24 questions. She's very friendly; she's helpful.  
25 I've met a lot of teachers at PS 92 and we--I

1 was not aware that we had the problems that  
2 were mentioned here tonight. I think it's a  
3 good school, and I think that the two schools  
4 have great programs, and I believe that they can  
5 positively coexist, and, again, I support the  
6 co-location. Thank you.

7 [Applause]

8 MALE VOICE: One 10.

9 MR. RICHARD LASCH: Hi. My name's Richard  
10 Lasch and I have no children anywhere near  
11 Brooklyn, New York. In fact, my grandchildren  
12 are in Seattle, Washington. But you know what  
13 the greatest co-location that ever took place on  
14 the planet earth is? The United States of  
15 America. This is a country of co-located people  
16 from all over the world. We have people in this  
17 room from South Asia, from the Caribbean, from  
18 Africa, from Russia, from Europe. That is co-  
19 location; that's what America's all about, and  
20 the people from Lefferts Garden Charter School--  
21 my company, Teacher's School Supply [phonetic],  
22 we were very privileged to be chosen by Karen  
23 Palmer [phonetic] to come up on the upper  
24 floors, and they did a magnificent job  
25 decorating the empty classrooms and making them

1 a beautiful environment for the students of  
2 Lefferts Garden to grow in their little garden  
3 of education. So I think if we look at the  
4 positives, if we look that this an opportunity  
5 to be a little America here, a little co-  
6 location where all can prosper, that's the right  
7 attitude we should have toward each other, so I  
8 do support the co-location.

9 [Applause]

10 MALE VOICE: One 11?

11 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening, everyone. Good  
12 evening, Principal Rahman, Principal Duran  
13 [phonetic], and, Ms. Simmons, Ms. Moffatt, and  
14 everyone else. I would like to first of all  
15 say--and I hope someone carries this back to the  
16 board of education--board of education, you are  
17 totally oblivious about the ethnicities that  
18 this school represents. There is no Creole  
19 interpreter here, and there is a lot of Haitian  
20 students in this school, who wanted, I'm sure,  
21 express their view about what they think about  
22 this co-location, and they could not because  
23 there is no interpreter. Unfortunately, I only  
24 speak French, don't speak Creole. Anyway,  
25 moving right along, moving right along, I am

1 for... I am not--let me say this: I am  
2 against any kind of segregation, any kind of  
3 segregation, whether it be educational, skin  
4 color, ethnicity, whatever. I am against that,  
5 but I have to say I'm also against this co-  
6 location, and the reason why is because this  
7 public school here, PS 92, is already very,  
8 very, very, very, very low on resources, okay.  
9 Truly, truly, resources are running low here,  
10 and the students here are suffering immensely  
11 because of that, so I think that if Lefferts  
12 Gardens Charter School wants a deal, or any kind  
13 of deal, they need to come up with some kind of  
14 proposition to give to us, PS 92, first, okay,  
15 and we'll see what we'll do with that  
16 proposition before we can make any kind of  
17 decisions regarding accepting this co-location  
18 that you're trying to come to make--make to come  
19 to pass. The whole animosity issue, I would--I  
20 have to say, first and foremost, I have seen  
21 some of it myself, okay. Kids will be kids.  
22 The teachers really should not be doing that,  
23 but this is not about the animosity, this is  
24 about taking advantage and exploiting a school  
25 that has been granted space, okay, who has

1 resources far too low to accommodate another  
2 school. I believe we need to first take care of  
3 - -.

4 [Applause]

5 MALE VOICE: One twelve. Number 112? One  
6 thirteen? One fourteen?

7 MS. CELITA MARQUIS: Good evening. My name  
8 is Celita Marquis. I have a son at Lefferts  
9 Garden Charter School and I fully support the  
10 co-location at Leffert Charter School.

11 [Applause]

12 MS. MONIQUE JEFFERSON: Good evening. My  
13 name is Monique Jefferson. I am a member of the  
14 board for the Lefferts Gardens Charter School  
15 and I support having the charter school located  
16 here at PS 92. One of the thing--the one  
17 comment that I would just like to make this  
18 evening is that I would like for both schools to  
19 have the opportunity to continue the progress  
20 and the development that has begun, and to do it  
21 in an inclusive way where we're respecting the  
22 differences and embracing the diversity of both  
23 schools so that we can leverage and benefit from  
24 the resources and the funding that's here within  
25 the community, as well as the resources and the

1 funding that we get from the DOE,  
2 collaboratively, collectively and together. But  
3 I am 100 percent in full support of having the  
4 school co-located here. Thank you.

5 [Applause]

6 MR. MIKE GUINAN: I'm Mike Guinan. I'm here  
7 in support of Lefferts Gardens and the co-  
8 location.

9 [Applause]

10 MALE VOICE: One seventeen? One eighteen?  
11 One nineteen? One twenty?

12 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Speakers 121 to  
13 130, please come forward.

14 FEMALE VOICE: Okay. Good evening. First  
15 of all, I would like to apologize for my  
16 outburst. When we first walked in here, we came  
17 down this aisle here and we sat right over  
18 there. One of the parents said to us, "Where  
19 are you from?", so we said we with Lefferts  
20 Garden. We didn't know what she meant. You sit  
21 over there. So we didn't say anything to her,  
22 we just politely got up and we moved, but I  
23 would like to let you know that I am in--I do  
24 approve of the collision [phonetic] at PS 92.

25 [Applause]

1 MALE VOICE: One twenty-one.

2 MS. ALLA GRAYNITS: My name is Alla  
3 Graynits. I have a child at PS 92. I just  
4 don't get it. I was told that you came under  
5 false pretenses, and now you want more, so how  
6 much exactly are you trying to get? I mean,  
7 because like the female has said before, the  
8 bigger your school expands, the smaller my  
9 child's classroom gets. My child has special  
10 needs, so you're telling me that one teacher,  
11 even two teachers, have to support 27 children  
12 and my child is supposed to get the proper  
13 education that she deserves being an American?  
14 And whoever said about any principal, vice  
15 principal, I don't have no problem getting  
16 contact with Mr. Rahmaan, Ms. Duran, my--I have  
17 the personal cell phone number of my child's  
18 teacher where I could call her anytime when I  
19 need homework. And as far as safety, I have  
20 plenty of times that I have walked through the  
21 backyard, Lefferts Garden has this first gate  
22 open, as long--and along with this door right  
23 here. Behind Sandy Hook shooting that just  
24 recently happened, anybody could walk up into  
25 this school, snatch my child up, snatch anybody

1 child up, and walk out, and who's to answer  
2 for it? We don't know. And I'm in support of  
3 PS 92 and do not believe that they should  
4 coexist.

5 [Applause]

6 MALE VOICE: One twenty-two. One twenty-  
7 three. One twenty-four. One twenty-five.

8 MS. SANDY HOLDER: Hi. Good evening. My  
9 name is Ms. Holder. I--my daughter is a student  
10 of Lefferts Garden. By saying this, I'm  
11 familiar with other parents from PS 92, too. I  
12 think they should stay here and come together  
13 because, at the end of the day, it's for the  
14 kids. I stand by that door, and I'm the  
15 principal for both PS 92 and Lefferts Garden. I  
16 take the kids upstairs. When I see the kids  
17 coming in from PS 92, I'll take them, I said,  
18 "Get to class." It's not that Lefferts Garden  
19 feel that they're better than 92, it's kids  
20 together, and I believe that should stay here.  
21 Because --, I do a lot. I stay out there, and  
22 I guess everybody here probably seen my face  
23 before, and I do for both kids, and I know  
24 there's a lot of parents that do the same thing  
25 for both kids. I think they should stay here.

1 We just got to find what we going to do and  
2 come together. That's what we going to do. But  
3 I believe they should stay here.

4 [Applause]

5 MALE VOICE: One twenty-six.

6 FEMALE VOICE: Goodnight. I have a daughter  
7 in first grade at Lefferts Garden Charter School  
8 and I agree with the co-location at PS 92.

9 [Applause]

10 MALE VOICE: One twenty-seven. One twenty-  
11 eight.

12 MS. GERRICK: Okay. Good evening. My name  
13 is Ms. Gerrick [phonetic] and I'm Lefferts  
14 Gardens Charter School. I am--I really think  
15 that we should stay here. I understand the  
16 frustration. I also have a daughter in a public  
17 school that is co-located with a charter school,  
18 and she comes home and she's like, "The charter  
19 school..." this, "The charter school..." that, and  
20 they feel the tension between the public school  
21 and the charter school, so I do understand both  
22 sides, but I also know the meaning of community,  
23 and it doesn't matter what school your child  
24 goes to, whether it's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
25 Floor, we are all in the same community. All of

1 these children see each other. They should  
2 love each other no matter what. It doesn't  
3 matter what color shirt they're wearing today,  
4 they are all in the same community. I support  
5 Lefferts Gardens Charter School co-locating with  
6 PS 92.

7 [Applause]

8 MALE VOICE: One twenty-nine. One thirty.

9 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: That is it.

10 MALE VOICE: That's it?

11 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: Yes.

12 MALE VOICE: All right.

13 [Background Noise]

14 SUPERINTENDENT SIMMONS: The--thank you so  
15 much for participating. We understand that  
16 concerns was raised today, but we are so proud  
17 of the--so many parents coming out, families  
18 coming out, participating in the feedback.  
19 Again, we welcome any comments and feedback you  
20 may have at any time before the panel for  
21 educational policy votes on this proposal on  
22 April 17, 2013, meeting. The e-mail address and  
23 phone number where comments made should go to  
24 [d17proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:d17proposals@schools.nyc.gov), and the telephone  
25 number is (212) 374-0208. The information will

1 be shared with the panel on educational  
2 policy, which will have its hearing on April  
3 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. at the Prospect Heights  
4 Campus, which is located at 883 Classon Ave.,  
5 Brooklyn, New York, 11225. Thank you again for  
6 the participation. The joint public hearing is  
7 now closed.

8 [END RECORDING]

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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 April 11, 2013  
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