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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING
John Adams High School
101-01 Rockaway Boulevard
Queens, New York 11417
April 19, 2012
6:00 p.m.**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 GREGG: Good evening. My name is Gregg
3 [background noise]. I'm from the Department of
4 Education [background noise]
5 moderator/facilitator for this evening's joint
6 public hearing. This is a joint public hearing
7 with the Department of Education, Community
8 Education [background noise] 27 and the school
9 [background noise] committee to discuss the
10 proposed closure of John Adams High School
11 [background noise] 480 and the opening of new
12 school [background noise] 25780 in the building
13 [background noise] 2012-2012 school year.
14 Tonight's proceeding will be recorded and
15 transcribed.

16 Before we begin the hearing we ask that
17 anyone going to speak during the hearing tonight
18 [background noise] the public comment portion
19 please make sure your name is added to the list
20 outside [background noise] 15 minutes. If you
21 have a question [background noise] during the
22 question and answer portion of the [background
23 noise] you can write that question on an index
24 card [background noise] provided [background
25 noise] table. Only people who have signed up to

1 speak or [background noise] will be given the
2 opportunity to speak during the public comment
3 portion and we'll have [background noise]
4 questions to be addressed. Again, [background
5 noise] during public comment, please add your
6 name now. If you have a question you would like
7 us to address during the question and answer, we
8 [background noise]. All [background noise] no
9 later than 5:30. [Background noise] started
10 [background noise] make sure that we give them
11 the opportunity to speak. We [background noise]
12 number of [background noise] parent [background
13 noise]. [Background noise] Council 27
14 [background noise] move [background noise] take
15 their place on the dais.

16 With that there are a number of elected
17 officials who have joined us this evening and
18 [background noise]. [Background noise] like
19 [background noise] here right now we will give
20 you the opportunity to speak [background noise]
21 public comment portion [background noise] will
22 come later and we'll give them an opportunity to
23 speak [background noise]. Again, for those who
24 are here at the beginning [background noise]
25 public comment [background noise] will be asked

1 to speak first and thank you for your
2 consideration.

3 A [background noise] agenda for tonight's
4 hearing. The [background noise] a presentation
5 of the proposal. The presentation [background
6 noise] participants [background noise] school
7 leadership team here at John Adams High School.
8 Speakers should have already signed up at the
9 table in the lobby. Public Comment should be no
10 longer than two minutes each. Your time will be
11 strictly followed. The speaker will be informed
12 when their designated time has ended. We will
13 make every effort to make sure the folks can
14 finish their thoughts but not [background noise]
15 put anybody out but if you want to be sure 89 to
16 90 [background noise] ask those speakers who
17 signed up in the early part of the agenda to
18 [background noise] be respectful [background
19 noise] later [background noise].

20 There will be a question and answer period.
21 Members of the audience that asked question
22 [background noise] cards outside when you signed
23 in. While the public comment is going on
24 [background noise] get them ready for the
25 question and answer period. Some questions will

1 be asked [background noise] directly, others
2 will be [background noise] to avoid [background
3 noise]. [Background noise] questions may not be
4 [background noise] tonight. The answers will be
5 available [background noise] website prior to
6 [background noise] policy meeting. After the
7 end of the hearing if you still have questions
8 or concerns [background noise] director
9 [background noise] 212-374-7621. Again that's
10 212-374-7621 [background noise] at D27 proposals
11 at schools dot N-Y-C dot gov. Again, 327
12 [background noise] at schools dot N-Y-C dot gov.
13 I'll repeat both that phone number and that
14 email address throughout the evening.

15 [Background noise] panel assembled for
16 tonight's joint public hearing. The joint
17 [background noise] principal of John Adams High
18 School. Thank you for joining us [background
19 noise]. Also [background noise] assistant
20 principle here at John Adams High school. And
21 we have [background noise]. We [background
22 noise] principal of science, [background noise]
23 teacher. Veronica [background noise].
24 [Background noise]. Eric Baker [p]. Daniel
25 Rhodes [background noise]. Celia Lewis

1 [background noise] parent. Calvin Palmer.
2 Chancellor Rodriguez [background noise].
3 Beverly Townes is also here. [Background
4 noise]. [Background noise] teacher [background
5 noise]. [Background noise] Rodriguez and
6 [background noise] 27 [background noise] hearing
7 [background noise] when she arrives. I do want
8 to thank everybody who turned out this evening
9 [background noise] is an opportunity for the
10 department to hear your feedback on [background
11 noise] students [background noise] teachers, and
12 the broad community [background noise] that are
13 heard this evening.

14 I do know that as we introduce this proposal
15 which will be brief and will be followed by a
16 [background noise] presentation [background
17 noise] School Leadership Team and [background
18 noise] presentation that [background noise]
19 presentation. I do ask [background noise] to
20 hold [background noise]. We're also pleased to
21 have [background noise] elected officials with
22 us. Senator [background noise] [Crosstalk]
23 [background noise]. [Background noise].
24 [Background noise] policy [background noise].

25 With that I'll turn the program over to

1 Deputy Chancellor Laura Rodriguez who will
2 present the proposal.

3 MS. LAURA RODRIGUEZ: Thank you Gregg. Good
4 evening ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for
5 being here this evening. This joint public
6 hearing is convened to discuss the proposed
7 closure and replacement of John Adams High
8 School. John Adams high school is located in
9 Building [background noise] at 101-01 Rockaway
10 Boulevard and [background noise] 726 located at
11 108-01 Rockaway boulevard in Community School
12 District 27. It currently serves students in
13 grades 9 through 12. On March 7th, 20012 the New
14 York City Department of Education published a
15 proposal to close John Adams High School and
16 open [background noise]. The proposal
17 [background noise] on April 16th, 2012 to correct
18 the typographical error on Page 21 referencing
19 the number of ninth grade students, and
20 [background noise] school through the high
21 school [background noise] including [background
22 noise] replacement. The amended EIS also
23 identified a [background noise] which is
24 occupied by John Adams. By closing John Adams
25 High School and replacing it with a new school

1 we are seeking to [background noise] a school
2 environment that will prepare students for
3 success in college work and life. The new
4 school will build on the strongest elements of
5 John Adams High School and it will incorporate
6 new elements suited [background noise] access
7 for a higher quality educational option while
8 they continue to attend school in this very
9 building. We believe this process will ensure
10 that all students are set upon the path for
11 [background noise].

12 In conjunction with this proposal as a way
13 to support additional school improvements the
14 Department of Education submitted a school
15 improvement grant application to the State
16 Education Department to implement the turnaround
17 model at the new school. If approved this would
18 mean a new school eligible for up to \$1,800.000
19 in supplemental federal funding.

20 Despite a number of challenges the school
21 [background noise] indicates that elements of
22 John Adams High School are worth preserving in
23 the new school. For example, John Adams appears
24 to be having some success in graduating English
25 Language learners; [background noise] percent of

1 English Language learners graduated in four
2 years in the 67th percentile citywide for this
3 [background noise].

4 The Department of Education believes that
5 with new programs and [background noise] to
6 improve teacher quality when this school will
7 expand the improvements in student outcomes.
8 However, John Adams High School's performance
9 overall and [background noise] of the New York
10 State Board of Regents that the [background
11 noise] persistently [background noise] schools
12 is not good enough to meet student needs
13 suggests that John Adams High School should be
14 closed and replaced with a new school and the
15 new programs [background noise].

16 John Adams [background noise] overall C
17 grade on the 2010-11 annual [background noise]
18 report with a C grade on student progress and a
19 D grade on student performance and a D grade on
20 school environment. This represents a
21 [background noise] from overall Grade D
22 [background noise] 2009-2010. The school's
23 attendance rates remains below that of most high
24 schools. The 2010-'11 attendance rates were 79%
25 putting John Adams in the bottom 13% of city

1 high schools in terms of attendance. John
2 Adams was rated [background noise] D on its most
3 recent quality review in 2010-'11. John Adams
4 2010-'11 quality review cited a number of
5 serious concerns including [background noise] to
6 support individual student needs.

7 Before we hear from other members of the
8 panel and move to the public comments, I would
9 like to briefly discuss the impact [background
10 noise] the proposal current John Adams High
11 School students and families if it is approved.
12 Number one, all current John Adams High School
13 students will have [background noise] seats in
14 the new school This includes all current 9th,
15 and 10th, and 11th grade students as well as any
16 12th grade students who do not graduate by the
17 beginning of the 2012-'13 school year. All
18 incoming 9th graders who have applied to John
19 Adams High School and are matched to it in the
20 high school admissions process will
21 automatically be enrolled in the new school.
22 Finally, I want to [background noise] the new
23 school will go through to hire the best possible
24 staff if this proposal is approved. One, there
25 is no quota of staff that must be removed as a

1 result of this process. This proposal does
2 not require a turnover of any set percentage of
3 staff. Pursuant to the city's teacher contracts
4 if this proposal is approved [background noise]
5 staff will apply to work at the new school will
6 be reviewed by five person school-based
7 personnel committee. The committee is made up
8 of the principal, two designees of the
9 chancellor, and two designees of the [background
10 noise] teachers [background noise]. The
11 proposed new [background noise] will develop
12 qualifications for positions in the new school
13 and the personnel committee will consider each
14 candidate who applies. All teachers from the
15 current school are eligible [background noise]
16 to apply to work at the new school. If the
17 sufficient number of staff from the closing
18 school apply, at least 50% of the new school's
19 [background noise] positions must be selected
20 from among the appropriately licensed, most
21 senior, qualified applicant. Again, there is no
22 set percentage or limit on the number of staff
23 from the closing school who can [background
24 noise] to work at the new school and the
25 decision to remain by the personnel committee of

1 the new school. I want to thank you and we
2 look forward to hearing your comments and your
3 questions.

4 GREGG: Thank you. I [background noise]
5 than everybody [background noise] respectful of
6 the [background noise] vocal the remainder of
7 the [background noise] questions [background
8 noise] elected officials, and those [background
9 noise] signup sheet and we'll try and do that as
10 efficiently and [background noise] as we can
11 [background noise] but I do want thank you from
12 the beginning [background noise].

13 I been told that despite [background noise]
14 the senator [background noise] early,
15 [background noise] the panel [background noise]
16 senator not being [background noise] and then
17 we'll come back to our questions.

18 SENATOR: [Background noise]. Do we need
19 [background noise] citizens [background noise]
20 this. Over 250 years later I don't think
21 [background noise] not [background noise]. In
22 September [background noise] this school
23 [background noise] New York was [background
24 noise]. Only a few months later [background
25 noise] this school and he said [background

1 noise] that it was [background noise] program
2 [background noise] schools [background noise]
3 turnaround. [Background noise] virtually no
4 [background noise], no [background noise]
5 already [background noise] and no [background
6 noise] John Adams [background noise] experience
7 all [background noise] freshman [background
8 noise] seniors, it's [background noise]. It's a
9 [background noise]. I disagree with this
10 [background noise]. [Background noise] promise
11 [background noise]. [Background noise]. This
12 initial [background noise]. [Background noise]
13 our students, our family, our teachers, our
14 administrators, all those [background noise]
15 school and I'll [background noise] John Adams is
16 [background noise]. [Background noise].
17 [Background noise] this school [background
18 noise] turnaround [background noise].
19 [Background noise] question [background noise]
20 why [background noise] and what are you
21 [background noise]. This is a tremendous
22 [background noise]. [Background noise].
23 [Background noise].
24 GREGG: Senator thank you. [Background
25 noise] reminder anybody [background noise]

1 questions part please [background noise] in
2 the back so they can be incorporated into
3 [background noise] in the Q and A. With that
4 [background noise] panel [background noise]
5 representative [background noise]. With that
6 I'll [background noise] and we'll start with
7 Celia Lewis [background noise].

8 MS. CELIA LEWIS: Thank you [background
9 noise] teachers and students of John Adams High
10 School. This evening I [background noise] and
11 [background noise] of John Adams High School. A
12 few years ago my son and I moved from
13 [background noise]. Because we [background
14 noise] school [background noise] we decided to
15 come to John Adams because John Adams
16 [background noise] school and [background
17 noise]. It became [background noise] new school
18 because he's [background noise] but I
19 [background noise] I am [background noise]
20 because my son [background noise] always feel
21 bad [background noise] so [background noise]. I
22 would [background noise]. Last [background
23 noise] my son [background noise]. We
24 [background noise]. [Background noise]. I have
25 two other sons who are [background noise] but

1 not high school the teachers [background
2 noise] high school. The teachers [background
3 noise] were involved [background noise].
4 [Background noise]. [Background noise] please
5 don't [background noise] John Adams [background
6 noise]. John Adams [background noise] school
7 [background noise] no other school in New York
8 City [background noise]. [Background noise] so
9 [background noise] all [background noise], John
10 Adams truly [background noise]. If you
11 [background noise] after [background noise]
12 please [background noise]. [Background noise]
13 John Adams from [background noise]. Thank you.

14 GREGG: Thank you. [Background noise].

15 MR. DANIEL RHODES: [Background noise] to
16 school but [background noise] I will graduate in
17 June. [Background noise] each student in this
18 school to believe in [background noise]. We
19 [background noise] this school [background
20 noise], and we [background noise]. [Background
21 noise]. This school is [background noise].
22 There is no other school like this school so
23 [background noise] the way [background noise],
24 you can't [background noise] a school like this.
25 You [background noise]. [Background noise] I

1 [background noise]. The school is not
2 [background noise]. The school [background
3 noise]. I told [background noise].

4 GREGG: Thank you [background noise].

5 MS. BEVERLY TOWNES: [Background noise] my
6 name is [background noise] and I'm [background
7 noise]. I think [background noise]. When
8 [background noise]. [Background noise]. Most
9 of you know [background noise]. For those of
10 you that [background noise]. [Background noise]
11 and he went through a lot [background noise].
12 [Background noise]. Anything to help me help my
13 child [background noise]. Four years ago this
14 summer [background noise] worked with my son
15 [background noise] exposed to our [background
16 noise] because of what [background noise]. It
17 wasn't until I came here to John Adams High
18 School that for the first time in eight years of
19 [background noise] going back and forth, back
20 and forth, I [background noise] my voice was
21 heard. As a parent [background noise] I felt
22 [background noise] someone actually finally
23 listened to me. [Background noise] have to ask
24 the question why, why [background noise] this?
25 Why is [background noise] community that has

1 teachers here that are like second mothers,
2 second fathers to a lot of these students
3 [background noise] academy. I [background
4 noise] who have graduated from here and come
5 back to [background noise] not just to say
6 [background noise] you have made a big impact on
7 my life. You changed my life [background
8 noise]. [Background noise] in 2011 are
9 graduating [background noise]. [Background
10 noise]. We use the tools that [background
11 noise] and despite [background noise] in the
12 middle of all this John Adams school made
13 progress. [Background noise]. There is no
14 school that is perfect but if you could
15 [background noise] to support us. Continue to
16 [background noise]. Continue to give us
17 [background noise] resources that we may
18 [background noise] make the progress that we've
19 been making [background noise] we will reach the
20 goal that's set for us and [background noise].
21 Not [background noise]. How are you going to
22 expect anyone to reach goals if every time you
23 make progress [background noise]? [Background
24 noise]. I ask you please take John Adams off of
25 the list [background noise]. Let us continue

1 doing [background noise] opportunity to
2 [background noise]. Thank you.

3 GREGG: Thank you [background noise].

4 MALE VOICE 1: Good evening [background
5 noise], I'm a science teacher here and
6 [background noise] at John Adams. Now I
7 [background noise] when we [background noise]
8 showing the data that [background noise].
9 [Background noise] would replace [background
10 noise] percent of our teachers and close the
11 [background noise] past 18 years. We cannot
12 allow it to happen. The board [background
13 noise] Pleasant Avenue [background noise] New
14 York. The [background noise] support John Adams
15 and [background noise]. We're [background
16 noise] opposes [background noise], we oppose
17 [background noise] our school. The department
18 of education has [background noise] year.
19 [Background noise]. The report [background
20 noise] John Adams [background noise] but
21 [background noise]. In fact, [background noise]
22 64% in 2011 over 60 graduates [background
23 noise]. This represents [background noise] and
24 a huge [background noise] to show [background
25 noise]. [Background noise] John Adams High

1 School. [Background noise] performance over
2 the same four year [background noise].
3 [Background noise]. Based on those projections
4 John Adams School [background noise] progress
5 [background noise] in both [background noise]
6 the current school year. We will no longer
7 consider [background noise] by the New York City
8 [background noise] Department. We could
9 [background noise]. The Department of Education
10 [background noise] operating [background noise].
11 [Background noise].

12 In addition, because John Adams accepts all
13 students we [background noise]. Again,
14 [background noise] but I'm not [background
15 noise]. [Background noise]. This report
16 [background noise] teacher turnover [background
17 noise] for a period of five years. There is
18 also [background noise] teacher [background
19 noise]. [Background noise]. So far I've
20 [background noise]. But this isn't [background
21 noise]. We are so much more. We have developed
22 [background noise]. [Background noise]. Thank
23 you.

24 [Background noise]

25 GREGG: Thank you. As we move to

1 [background noise]. [Background noise].

2 MR. CALVIN PALMER: Good evening everyone.
3 My name is Calvin Palmer and I'm [background
4 noise]. [Background noise]. I'm here to
5 [background noise] on a different level because
6 [background noise].

7 [Background noise]

8 MS. VICTORIA ALVARADO: [background noise]
9 and [background noise] before them [background
10 noise].

11 [Background noise]

12 GREGG: Thank you [background noise].

13 PORTIA: Good evening everyone. My name is
14 [background noise] and I'm a student [background
15 noise]. I'm a student [background noise]
16 national honor society, key club, [background
17 noise] and [background noise]. Three years ago
18 when I was in junior high school my parents told
19 me that I [background noise] John Adams High
20 school. At first I was [background noise] come
21 here to [background noise]. The only reason
22 [background noise] is because [background noise]
23 and she [background noise]. [Background
24 noise]. We understand more, we learn more, we
25 interact more with each other and that's what

1 it's all about. I [background noise]. It
2 also prepared me for [background noise] college,
3 preparing [background noise] that I know about
4 [background noise]. [Background noise]. Right
5 now I'd like to say thank you to all the
6 teachers [background noise] and pushed me and
7 tell me they want to [background noise].
8 [Background noise] I love you all for
9 everything. [Background noise] because we are a
10 great school, we are fantastic. Another thing
11 [background noise] is that [background noise].
12 [Background noise] so what is the point? I
13 am very concerned [background noise].
14 [Background noise]. I find it very [background
15 noise] high school if I cannot [background
16 noise]. Aside from that [background noise] the
17 building [background noise] because [background
18 noise] they say a house is not a home
19 [background noise] that you love it here and
20 [background noise] and I [background noise] just
21 a building [background noise]. [Background
22 noise] every day in every way possible they can
23 [background noise] just to help us, just to
24 [background noise] and to help us [background
25 noise]. I would also like to add that

1 [background noise]. [Background noise].

2 Thank you.

3 GREGG: Thank you. With that I'll

4 [background noise] 27.

5 FEMALE VOICE 1: [Background noise] I stand

6 before you as a parent [background noise] and I

7 will make this very short [background noise].

8 We [background noise].

9 [Background noise]

10 GREGG: I think [background noise] public

11 hearing [background noise]. Our next speaker is

12 [background noise] Jose [background noise].

13 JOSE: Good evening [background noise]. For

14 those who don't know me my name's [background

15 noise] I [background noise].

16 [Background noise]. Two [background noise]

17 they sent out letters to the parents to let them

18 know that [background noise]. That [background

19 noise] why can't [background noise] principal

20 [background noise]. [Background noise] process

21 should wait [background noise] and hit should

22 stop.

23 [Background noise].

24 GREGG: Thank you [background noise].

25 [Background noise] Ms. Simpson.

1 MS. SIMPSON: Goodnight. [Background
2 noise].

3 All New York High Schools can take one
4 [background noise] the CEP. [Background noise].
5 One year we had 31 [background noise] students.
6 Thirty-one. [Background noise] One year we had
7 [background noise] students that were
8 [background noise] and by the way, we
9 [background noise] students we have [background
10 noise] that are overage and [background noise].
11 Why? Why [background noise]? Because they are
12 all [background noise] in to us at 16 years old
13 and 17 years old, and 18-year olds. For
14 [background noise] and created a plan for our
15 students [background noise] program and
16 [background noise].

17 [Background noise].

18 Our students who are coming into our school
19 [background noise] measures to what we
20 [background noise] our school. From [background
21 noise] students from other schools to our school
22 [background noise] to our school. [Background
23 noise] are coming to our school. There are no
24 [background noise]. The requirement is as such;
25 if you are a [background noise] and you are to

1 be educated you are welcome here. We take the
2 students that no other school wants. And many
3 people [background noise] for our students
4 [background noise] or our students [background
5 noise] six years [background noise]. These are
6 students whose lives outside of this building,
7 these are students who they make movies about.
8 These are the students they tell stories about.
9 These are students who are [background noise]
10 than people are teaching them on a daily basis.
11 [Background noise] and decide I'm coming back to
12 school to see you Miss So-and-so, Mr. So-and-so,
13 my [background noise] and [background noise]. I
14 remember one [background noise] and I'm coming
15 back to start [background noise]. We find that
16 honorable. We are the [background noise]. We
17 are [background noise]. Our teachers are
18 [background noise]. Our students are
19 [background noise]. Our principal is
20 [background noise]. But through it all we find
21 a way to keep our students here. Because if we
22 keep them here long enough we can [background
23 noise] to the street.

24 Our [background noise] do not live
25 [background noise]. They are [background noise]

1 school. They are [background noise] to get to
2 school. And they come anyway for [background
3 noise] but [background noise] or a job or just
4 to [background noise]. They are here.
5 [Background noise] and the first step
6 [background noise] is to [background noise]
7 safe. [Background noise] family. When I came
8 here [background noise] I heard our mayor say
9 [background noise]. All he did was come here
10 and [background noise]. That's what [background
11 noise]. [Background noise.

12 [Background noise]

13 I can assure you [background noise] my
14 colleagues feel the same. We want to be here
15 and we [background noise]. We [background
16 noise] and we want to continue [background
17 noise]. [Background noise] out front of John
18 Adams High School. [Background noise] was the
19 best for us. We are [background noise], and I
20 [background noise] our [background noise]
21 exponentially larger than progress of
22 [background noise] schools that are [background
23 noise].

24 [Background noise]

25 Students want to come here. They want to

1 come here [background noise]. They want to
2 come here because they can [background noise]
3 relationships they have forged here. They
4 [background noise] when you come here and this
5 is where they want to be, and this is where we
6 want to be, and this is where I want to be
7 [background noise].

8 [Background noise]

9 And the last [background noise] is this. We
10 are and forever will be the Adams Family.

11 GREGG: Thank you. [Background noise]
12 conclude the remarks from the panel [background
13 noise]. [Background noise].

14 FEMALE VOICE 2: [Background noise].

15 [Background noise] our community has
16 accepted that there may be some heavy impacts
17 because we are [background noise] our
18 [background noise] to ensure that [background
19 noise].

20 [Background noise]

21 There are other ways to accomplish
22 [background noise]. This is [background noise]
23 which are [background noise].

24 GREGG: Thank you [background noise].

25 [Background noise] for Policy [background

1 noise].

2 MALE VOICE 2: Thank you [Background noise]
3 listening to [background noise] students.
4 [background noise] years from now thank you
5 [background noise] the students of New York City
6 and most of all [background noise] very much
7 [background noise]. Not only [background
8 noise].

9 MALE VOICE 3: Good evening ladies and
10 gentlemen [background noise]. I am [background
11 noise]. [background noise] several years ago
12 when [background noise]. [background noise].

13 [Background noise]

14 As a member [background noise] proposal
15 [background noise] I will- - next week.

16 [Background noise]

17 John Adams High School [background noise]
18 school [background noise] and I'm not
19 [background noise] for another DOE [background
20 noise] school. [background noise].

21 [Background noise]

22 Continue fighting for [background noise] and
23 [background noise] supporting [background noise]
24 for your school. Thank you very [background
25 noise] tonight. Go [background noise].

1 GREGG: [Background noise] teachers
2 [background noise]. [Background noise]

3 MALE VOICE 4: Good evening ladies and
4 gentlemen. [Background noise] home room. I
5 [background noise]. I look out here today and I
6 see students, I see parents, I see [background
7 noise], I see [background noise], concerned
8 about [background noise] this school [background
9 noise]. [Background noise] when I look at
10 [background noise] I was scared. [Background
11 noise] John Adams High School, a public high
12 school, public. The people. It's about the
13 [background noise] of people. What you see
14 today is the [background noise]. It is the
15 height of disrespect is the height of
16 [background noise] by Bloomberg and all of those
17 [background noise] disrespectful to the people
18 of the City of New York.

19 Public education is a right. It's a civil
20 right. Even if you're poor [background noise]
21 are basics of this country [background noise].
22 It is a right [background noise]. It is about
23 these students [background noise], of the
24 people, by the people and for the people
25 [background noise].

1 [Background noise]

2 We will not be [background noise]. We will
3 not [background noise], we will fight you every
4 step of the way and we will [background noise]
5 to [background noise] the people [background
6 noise].

7 [Background noise]

8 GREGG: Thank you [background noise].

9 [Background noise]

10 FEMALE VOICE 3: Good evening [background
11 noise] members, [background noise] parents,
12 [background noise] and all John Adams students.

13 [Background noise]

14 Thank you.

15 GREGG: We have concluded the [background
16 noise]. [Background noise].

17 The way this will work [background noise].

18 [background noise] by number [background noise].

19 [Background noise]

20 We will be [background noise] when you have
21 30 seconds remaining. We will [background
22 noise] also signal when your two minutes are up
23 and [background noise]. With that [background
24 noise] then [background noise] number one
25 [background noise], number two [background

1 noise], number three [background noise],
2 number four [background noise], and number five
3 [background noise]. With that [background
4 noise].

5 FEMALE VOICE 4: [Background noise] we only
6 [background noise]. Having [background noise]
7 we have [background noise] wish they had. We
8 have [background noise] government, through
9 leadership, through education, both [background
10 noise], [background noise] and so much more.
11 The [background noise].

12 [Background noise]

13 Thank you.

14 GREGG: [Background noise]. We'll make sure
15 [background noise]. [Background noise]

16 FEMALE VOICE 4: [background noise] do you
17 know why? Before [background noise] senior
18 [background noise]. Our recent [background
19 noise].

20 GREGG: Thank you. [Background noise]. The
21 next speaker [background noise].

22 FEMALE VOICE 5: Good evening. [Background
23 noise].

24 [Background noise]

25 GREGG: Thank you. [Background noise] thank

1 you.

2 [Background noise]

3 FEMALE VOICE 6: Before I start actually
4 [background noise]. The [background noise]
5 teachers, [background noise] stand up. Stand
6 up. [Background noise].

7 [Background noise]

8 Thank you.

9 GREGG: [Background noise].

10 [Background noise]

11 FEMALE VOICE 7: Hi, my name is [background
12 noise] and I'm [background noise] for 11 years.

13 [Background noise]

14 We hope that the [background noise] panel
15 please consider our [background noise] our
16 community in arriving at their best [background
17 noise] to [background noise] and save our
18 school.

19 GREGG: [Background noise].

20 ALLISON: Good evening. My name is Allison
21 [background noise]. There are only two faculty
22 members who [background noise] and both
23 [background noise]. [Background noise]

24 The mayor's office would like you to believe
25 that [background noise] by years of [background

1 noise] success. Our [background noise]. My
2 students are not [background noise]. The
3 [background noise] relationship [background
4 noise] throughout [background noise] our
5 teachers. The passionate [background noise]
6 resource [background noise] 1984 [background
7 noise]. I [background noise] which [background
8 noise].

9 [Background noise]

10 GREGG: [Background noise].

11 FEMALE VOICE 7: Hello, my name is
12 [background noise].

13 [Background noise] alive and well.

14 GREGG: [Background noise]

15 MALE VOICE 5: Good evening. [Background
16 noise].

17 [Background noise] Thank you.

18 [Background noise] fight, fight, fight. We
19 [background noise]. [Background noise] we're
20 already [background noise] us to fight, fight,
21 fight [background noise].

22 GREGG: [Background noise].

23 [Background noise]

24 FEMALE VOICE 8: Good evening. I'm here
25 [background noise].

1 [Background noise] each of my students.

2 [Background noise]

3 GREGG: Thank you.

4 [Background noise]

5 MALE VOICE 6: Hi my name [background noise]
6 and I'm the [background noise] 27 [background
7 noise].

8 [Background noise]

9 Thank you.

10 GREGG: [Background noise].

11 FEMALE VOICE 9: Good evening [background
12 noise] John Adams High School, [background
13 noise]. My name is [background noise] and I'm a
14 senior at John Adams High School. I'm
15 [background noise] program. [background noise]
16 national honor society. I am also [background
17 noise].

18 [Background noise]

19 One of the most likely [background noise]
20 that [background noise] third world countries.
21 We [background noise] United States. I never
22 thought that I would be standing here at my
23 school in New York City, [background noise] on
24 earth to [background noise]. [Background noise]
25 third world country. My parents always taught

1 me [background noise]. There are schools
2 around the city that [background noise] high
3 schools. I [background noise] schools
4 [background noise] program [background noise].

5 [Background noise] and I love my school.

6 GREGG: [Background noise]

7 MALE VOICE 7: [Background noise].

8 [Background noise]

9 The best piece of advice I'd ever received
10 [background noise] first two days [background
11 noise] I was told [background noise] and John
12 Adams [background noise] to show, [background
13 noise] to show up [background noise]. I don't
14 take [background noise].

15 [Background noise]

16 GREGG: [Background noise] those that have
17 [background noise] later on. [Background noise]
18 212-374-7621 or [background noise] email at
19 [background noise] 27 proposals at schools dot
20 [background noise] dot gov [background noise]
21 that I give out [background noise] dot gov.

22 [Background noise]

23 FEMALE VOICE 10: [Background noise].

24 [Background noise].

25 [Background noise] our stats, that they are

1 beautiful, they are being educated, they go on
2 to college and jobs and become beautiful
3 citizens of these United States, that's
4 [background noise]

5 [Background noise] but I have to tell you
6 [background noise] absolute nightmare as
7 [background noise] to throw it out for good, to
8 [background noise] that [background noise] poor
9 administration they would never [background
10 noise] it's an absolute [background noise] that
11 [background noise] propose that [background
12 noise]. Thank you so much.

13 GREGG: [Background noise].

14 MALE VOICE 7: Thank you very much. Good
15 evening ladies and gentlemen. My name is
16 [background noise]. I [background noise].
17 [Background noise].

18 [Background noise]

19 [Background noise] and if we can turn our
20 back on this school we don't [background noise]
21 this community. We cannot allow [background
22 noise] political games [background noise] this
23 school [background noise]. This school
24 [background noise].

25 [Background noise]

1 It's simply not right. Closing schools is
2 not [background noise] address [background
3 noise] needs.

4 [Background noise] let's keep [background
5 noise].

6 GREGG: [Background noise].

7 FEMALE VOICE 11: [Background noise].

8 [Background noise]

9 For us these students are not just
10 [background noise]. They're [background noise]
11 us. We have [background noise]. They are
12 [background noise], our children. This is not
13 [background noise]. This is [background noise].
14 [Background noise]

15 GREGG: [Background noise].

16 FEMALE VOICE 12: [Background noise].

17 [Background noise]

18 GREGG: [Background noise].

19 MALE VOICE 8: [Background noise].

20 [Background noise]

21 I [background noise] all [background noise]
22 athletes who have matured from boy to young man
23 to productive adults who never forget where they
24 came from; John Adams High School. Thank you.

25 GREGG: [Background noise]

1 MALE VOICE 9: [Background noise].
2 Thank you.
3 GREGG: Thank you. [Background noise].
4 DAVE: Good evening my name is Dave
5 [background noise] I'm a [background noise]
6 representative from Queens [background noise]
7 United Federation of Teachers. You know in ten
8 years [background noise] we all [background
9 noise]. They've abandoned [background noise]
10 schools and have done nothing but sit there and
11 close schools. Closing schools is not
12 educational policy; it is [background noise].
13 The students and staff, the parents and the
14 community at John Adams High School know when to
15 [background noise]. As you can see [background
16 noise] all the people that have spoken, the
17 parents, the students, the community, this is a
18 family. These are people. They are not numbers
19 [background noise]. We are [background noise]
20 leaders [background noise] this school
21 [background noise] graduating [background noise]
22 we are all educators. We understand and we
23 [background noise]. This school is [background
24 noise]. For years [background noise] sitting
25 there and [background noise]. For years they

1 [background noise] graduation rates
2 [background noise]. For years John Adams
3 [background noise]. [Background noise] of years
4 despite [background noise]. The only reason we
5 are here tonight, the only reason Deputy
6 Chancellor is [background noise] and we're
7 [background noise] high school not [background
8 noise]. [Background noise] of the matter is we
9 know what [background noise]. We know
10 [background noise] is. We know what we have and
11 only [background noise]. Let's be clear in 22
12 months the mayor could be gone we are going to
13 be here long after he is gone.

14 [Background noise.]

15 FEMALE VOICE 13: My name is [background
16 noise] at John Adams High School the last 10
17 years. When I started working at John Adams I
18 was in my early twenties and I [background
19 noise].

20 [Background noise]

21 Through the years I've [background noise]
22 about [background noise] for my students. I
23 learn from my students all the time. John Adams
24 is [background noise] school, we're a family.
25 When I [background noise] to John Adams High

1 School I was overwhelmed by the size of the
2 facility. The high school [background noise]
3 was less than half the size of [background
4 noise]. I remember [background noise]. I grew
5 up in the suburbs where [background noise]. The
6 first person [background noise] high school so
7 [background noise] enjoyable. I remember that
8 very first [background noise] this very room
9 [background noise] introduced me to two people
10 who [background noise] years. One of them
11 [background noise] that same [background noise].

12 [Background noise] I taught [background
13 noise] freshman [background noise]. For those
14 of you [background noise] 14 [background noise]
15 days. I remember graduation 2006 when
16 [background noise] first class [background
17 noise] year ago [background noise]. In fact, it
18 [background noise]. they graduated college
19 [background noise] year [background noise].
20 [Background noise].

21 One of the things [background noise] special
22 [background noise] people in the building.

23 [Crosstalk]

24 [Background noise]

25 GREGG: Thank you. Speaker 17.

1 [Crosstalk]

2 MALE VOICE 10: Hi, my name is [background
3 noise]. [Background noise].

4 [Background noise]

5 When I was a young teacher I was really
6 impressed by how helpful and professional
7 [background noise] faculty [background noise].
8 Forty-three years later I'm still impressed by
9 our professional [background noise] faculty and
10 staff [background noise]. It seems hard to
11 believe that [background noise] replacing up to
12 half the staff and faculty [background noise]
13 facilities that [background noise] claim
14 [background noise]. John Adams High School
15 [background noise] by a panel that thwarts our
16 progress and minimizes our [background noise].
17 Before I retired a few years back I was
18 [background noise] for the last 19 years of my
19 career [background noise]. I hope that the
20 school [background noise].

21 [Background noise] we [background noise], we
22 love [background noise], we love the kids.
23 [Background noise] of John Adams never die.

24 GREGG: [Background noise]

25 [Video plays]

1 GREGG: [Background noise]

2 FEMALE VOICE 14: Good evening [background
3 noise], parents, teachers, and [background
4 noise]. My name is [background noise] I've been
5 working [background noise] John Adams for 50
6 years. [Background noise] love this school.
7 Over the years this institution has [background
8 noise] for over 80 years. I receive thank you's
9 from a number of students whom I [background
10 noise]. Off the record [background noise] thank
11 you [background noise] sports. All [background
12 noise].

13 [Background noise] their lives have been
14 enriched by teachers and others [background
15 noise]. Please let us [background noise]. We
16 have done it over the past and we [background
17 noise] just getting better [background noise].
18 Thank you.

19 GREGG: Thank you. [Background noise]

20 MALE VOICE 11: Hi, my name is [background
21 noise] and I am [background noise].

22 [Background noise]

23 I believe in my students. I believe in my
24 [background noise], I believe in [background
25 noise], I believe in John Adams. This is

1 [background noise] let's [background noise].

2 GREGG: [Background noise]

3 MALE VOICE 12: How's it going everybody?

4 I'm [background noise]. I can [background

5 noise] I will say [background noise] the money

6 [background noise].

7 [Background noise]

8 Why are you [background noise]? I don't

9 understand. Why? Students and families

10 [background noise].

11 GREGG: [Background noise].

12 FEMALE VOICE 15: Thank you. I'm

13 [background noise] and I [background noise] this

14 school [background noise] John Adams [background

15 noise] and I [background noise] like to say that

16 [background noise] John Adams [background noise]

17 teachers [background noise]. And if we

18 [background noise].

19 [Background noise]

20 GREGG: [Background noise].

21 FEMALE VOICE 16: Good evening everybody.

22 My name is [background noise] and I'm

23 [background noise] graduate [background noise]

24 scholarship to go to Howard University.

25 [Background noise]

1 Now when I heard my school was closing
2 [background noise]. We are a family, we
3 [background noise]. [Background noise]
4 [Background noise]
5 GREGG: [Background noise]
6 FEMALE VOICE 17: Good evening ladies and
7 gentlemen. My name is [background noise] and I
8 am a student here at John Adams High School. I
9 am president of [background noise] government, a
10 [background noise], a [background noise], and a
11 member of national honor society. I came here
12 today not for myself, but for the teachers who
13 made me believe that [background noise] high
14 school that I can be [background noise] me. The
15 teachers who showed me that the world was a lot
16 bigger and more complex than [background noise].
17 The teachers always [background noise] everyone
18 [background noise]. And the teachers
19 [background noise] made my education [background
20 noise] not just [background noise]. They
21 supplied [background noise] all the teachers
22 here at John Adams High School. I [background
23 noise] educators that I [background noise].
24 Then to everyone [background noise] high school.
25 Thank you very much for [background noise] but

1 thanks [background noise]. But [background
2 noise] the confidence [background noise] so I
3 [background noise] my goals. The student
4 [background noise] me and [background noise]
5 others thus [background noise].

6 [Background noise] stand aside and let our
7 teachers continue to teach [background noise] of
8 John Adams [background noise]. Our teachers
9 [background noise]. I would like to [background
10 noise] speech but [background noise]. I owe
11 [background noise] to John Adams High School.

12 GREGG: [Background noise]

13 [Crosstalk]

14 MALE VOICE 13: Hello everybody. My name is
15 [background noise]. I'm on the [background
16 noise] team, I'm in national honor society, I'm
17 currently [background noise] team and
18 [background noise]. And [background noise]
19 student. Now this school situation [background
20 noise]. This [background noise] and [background
21 noise]. right now I'm [background noise]. I
22 thought I had [background noise]. [Background
23 noise].

24 [Background noise]

25 GREGG: [Background noise]

1 FEMALE VOICE 18: Good evening everyone.
2 I am [background noise]. When I started
3 [background noise] I was lost [background noise]
4 trying to find a place in a school with 4,000
5 students. I soon realize that [background
6 noise] heart and soul of our school. I
7 [background noise] now. I know [background
8 noise]. I am the treasurer of the national
9 honor society and [background noise].
10 [Background noise].
11 [Background noise] This is our school.
12 This is our decision. Thank you.
13 GREGG: [Background noise].
14 FEMALE VOICE 19: Good evening everyone.
15 [Background noise]. My name is [background
16 noise] and I'm a student. I have [background
17 noise] and I am [background noise] high school
18 [background noise].
19 [Background noise]
20 GREGG: [Background noise].
21 FEMALE VOICE 20: Good evening everyone
22 [background noise].
23 [Background noise]
24 Thank you.
25 GREGG: [Background noise].

1 FEMALE VOICE 21: Good evening everyone.
2 I'm [background noise] and I'm [background
3 noise].
4 [Background noise]
5 Thank you.
6 GREGG: [Background noise] The next speaker
7 [background noise].
8 FEMALE VOICE 22: Good evening everyone.
9 [Background noise]
10 So please don't [background noise]. Thank
11 you.
12 GREGG: Thank you. [Background noise]
13 MALE VOICE 14: Excuse my back folks. We
14 [background noise] so [background noise].
15 Education is not about [background noise] it's
16 about people. How do you quantify emotional and
17 psychological support? Our teachers [background
18 noise] over the years. Alright, about ten years
19 ago a young female student came to me and let me
20 know that she had been raped. I was here at
21 school, other members of the faculty till
22 [background noise] at night [background noise].
23 I [background noise] practice of [background
24 noise]. We here on the staff [background noise]
25 that. I [background noise]. But these stories

1 are not unusually unfortunately. There are
2 over 200 faculty and staff [background noise]
3 teachers [background noise] and we all have been
4 here for our students. How can you quantify
5 these events? How does that go on a report?

6 Last year I [background noise] students
7 [background noise] homeless who are supposed
8 [background noise] and they're [background
9 noise] world. [Background noise]. Alright. I
10 was happy. Away from [background noise] world
11 the staff here who has not [background noise]
12 she told me that [background noise] she was so
13 depressed on vacation [background noise] that
14 [background noise] teacher and the staff that
15 kept her from committing suicide. How
16 [background noise] by that? I [background
17 noise] part and the emotion [background noise]
18 we here at John Adams give to our students every
19 second of every day. Thank you.

20 GREGG: Thank you. [Background noise]

21 FEMALE VOICE 23: [background noise] my
22 name's [background noise] and [background noise]
23 high school.

24 [Background noise]

25 GREGG: [Background noise].

1 FEMALE VOICE 24: [Background noise].

2 GREGG: Thank you. [Background noise]

3 MALE VOICE 14: Before you start the clock
4 [background noise] about four hours [background
5 noise].

6 [Background noise] in 2005. Thank you.
7 [background noise]. When I arrived at John
8 Adams High School in September of 2005 I had one
9 whole [background noise] that [background noise]
10 teacher [background noise]. [Background noise]
11 in 2001. I was [background noise] County.
12 [Background noise] two other schools on my
13 resume [background noise]. The best [background
14 noise], get [background noise] and [background
15 noise]. So that's what I [background noise] in
16 September of 2005. The [background noise] fell
17 in love. I fell in love with John Adams. I
18 fell in love with the students. I fell in love
19 with the faculty. I fell in love with everything
20 [background noise]. I'm still here today.
21 [background noise] career [background noise]
22 enjoyment and being part of the school
23 community. One that [background noise].
24 [Background noise] in 2005 [background noise].
25 This is my home. This is where I want to spend

1 the next 25 years of my career. I love
2 [background noise] my classroom [background
3 noise]. No [background noise] students
4 [background noise]. [Background noise] succeed
5 in their life with the tools [background noise].
6 We are more than just a [background noise]. We
7 are more than just a [background noise]. You
8 cannot [background noise].

9 [Background noise]

10 We are more than just John Adams, we are a
11 family. We [background noise]. We are
12 [background noise]. Thank you and [background
13 noise].

14 GREGG: [Background noise] speaker 38.
15 Number 39 [background noise]. Number 40
16 [background noise].

17 [Crosstalk]

18 MALE VOICE 16: Good evening my name is
19 [background noise]. I want to make two points.
20 First of all [background noise]. Second I have
21 [background noise] so [background noise].
22 [background noise] a lot to me [background
23 noise] thank all the teachers and faculty that
24 [background noise]. this is more than just a
25 school. This is a home; this is [background

1 noise] more than [background noise]. Thank
2 you.

3 GREGG: Thank you.

4 [Background noise]

5 Number 44.

6 [Background noise]

7 MR. JIM PITTMAN: I'm Coach Jim Pittman.

8 I've been here since 1998 and without

9 [background noise].

10 [Background noise]

11 My father told me [background noise] make
12 sure you like your job. And yes [background
13 noise] I like my job. Now more importantly it's
14 about the course [background noise]. I
15 [background noise] I can't [background noise]
16 history. I said [background noise].

17 [Background noise]

18 GREGG: [Background noise]. Number 45

19 [background noise].

20 MR. LAWRENCE RUSSELL: Number 45 went home
21 because he had work to do. My name's Lawrence
22 Russell. I [background noise] for nine years
23 and the principal [background noise] and the
24 boy's varsity [background noise]. Now like
25 [background noise] has said [background noise]

1 family [background noise] we [background
2 noise] and we fight. But when we love we love
3 hard. We love [background noise], we love the
4 people we're working with, we love [background
5 noise]. [background noise]. Okay.

6 The bottom line is this we love John Adams
7 [background noise]. If you take this
8 [background noise] away, if you take this school
9 away from us, from our schools, let me tell you
10 something. [Background noise] you know why?
11 Because [background noise] left [background
12 noise].

13 [Background noise] okay? I [background
14 noise] home. [background noise] my family. I
15 got a friend [background noise] but this is my
16 family. Okay? I got [background noise], I got
17 brothers and sisters [background noise] my
18 faculty [background noise] and these, all
19 [background noise] my children.

20 [Background noise] do not take this away
21 from us. Thank you.

22 GREGG: Thank you. [Background noise].

23 FEMALE VOICE 25: Well my speech three hours
24 ago would have been very different [background
25 noise] John Adams students stand up and

1 [background noise].

2 [Background noise] we have over [background
3 noise] parents here [background noise].

4 [Background noise] over 150 [background noise]
5 and 150 other [background noise] communities
6 here. We have grown. We are family, we stick
7 together. I am the director of the [background
8 noise] program which fought long and hard to
9 become powerful and to become part of the
10 community here. They come in [background noise]
11 sign that they were [background noise] that says
12 [background noise] John Adams [background
13 noise].

14 [Background noise]

15 Some of them graduate [background noise] one
16 or two years in our country. We work with them
17 one-on-one to help them. We make them part of
18 the school.

19 [Crosstalk]

20 [Background noise] say anymore because I
21 feel that without teachers who care so much and
22 support these kids, they wouldn't be who they
23 are. They have become citizens of the
24 community, they go on to higher education, we
25 [background noise] right here [background noise]

1 they're in college, they're becoming more and
2 more successful everyday and we begin
3 [background noise] to become part of this
4 [background noise]. So please understand us,
5 understand who we are and what these kids mean
6 to us as a staff.

7 GREGG: [Background noise]. Let me say one
8 thing now [background noise]. [background
9 noise].

10 [Background noise]

11 MALE VOICE 17: Good evening [background
12 noise] of the DOE [background noise],
13 [background noise] panelists, [background
14 noise].

15 [Background noise]

16 The lady up there said the [background
17 noise] that are good [background noise] I would
18 say. And this is one of the elements
19 [background noise]. but before I [background
20 noise]. I was educated [background noise], then
21 [background noise]. Then I got through college
22 and all [background noise] yourself [background
23 noise] and they [background noise] in
24 linguistics [background noise]. [Background
25 noise].

1 A year and a half ago when I [background
2 noise] open [background noise]. [Background
3 noise] I went to [background noise] district
4 [background noise]. I didn't have to. I was
5 [background noise] but I decided to come here so
6 I could be useful. Okay, [background noise].

7 [Background noise]

8 I appreciate what you [background noise]
9 said. I [background noise]. [background noise]
10 thank you [background noise] I appreciated
11 [background noise]. This department when I came
12 here [background noise]. [Background noise] but
13 what they do here is, they do [background
14 noise], they [background noise] rid of
15 [background noise]. I have no time to do
16 anything else. I have [background noise] five
17 of [background noise] want to [background
18 noise]. I have to translate for the school and
19 then [background noise] three and a half hours
20 every Friday [background noise] over a hundred
21 students [background noise] and my wife, her
22 thank her; she hasn't divorced me [background
23 noise].

24 I'm here to say I [background noise] yet to
25 see [background noise] to us [background noise]

1 person. I would [background noise].
2 [Background noise]
3 Thank you very much. Do not close us
4 [background noise]. [Background noise]
5 John Adams will not [background noise].
6 Thank you so much.
7 GREGG: [Background noise].
8 MALE VOICE 18: Good evening everyone.
9 [Background noise].
10 Thank you very much.
11 GREGG: Thank you.
12 FEMALE VOICE 26: My name is [background
13 noise]. I am [background noise]. I [background
14 noise].
15 [Background noise]
16 Please take the one thing that all
17 [background noise] students have [background
18 noise]. I have seen it [background noise]. I
19 [background noise] from my own high school based
20 on the same [background noise] because you put
21 them on the list. I graduated [background
22 noise] in New York City. I [background noise]
23 represent them and [background noise] has
24 welcomed me with open arms I [background noise].
25 It's not a different [background noise], it is

1 not [background noise] problem. It is not
2 [background noise]. Don't put this school on a
3 list. And I have one last thing to say.
4 [Background noise] right here right now
5 [background noise]. Because I'm going to tell
6 you right now, what starts here we have the
7 [background noise] and the courage to go stand
8 up and fight for what we believe in and this is
9 family, this is the Adams family and there's
10 nothing you can do that could take away
11 [background noise].

12 GREGG: Thank you [background noise].

13 [Crosstalk]

14 GREGG: Okay [background noise]. Number 53
15 [background noise].

16 [Crosstalk] Number 55 [background noise].

17 MALE VOICE 19: Good evening everyone, my
18 name is [background noise].

19 [Background noise]

20 Don't close our school, don't [background
21 noise] teachers who [background noise]. Thank
22 you.

23 GREGG: [Background noise]

24 MALE VOICE 20: Hi [background noise]
25 students, [background noise]. I [background

1 noise] and [background noise].

2 [Background noise]

3 There's a casino right [background noise].

4 [Crosstalk]

5 [Background noise]

6 FEMALE VOICE 27: That's my son; I

7 [background noise] take away the teachers that
8 are here.

9 [Background noise]

10 MALE VOICE 20: [Background noise].

11 GREGG: [Background noise] speaker 58.

12 Speaker 59.

13 FEMALE VOICE 28: I am [background noise]

14 I'm a school secretary here at John Adams High

15 School. [background noise] since 1966. I

16 [background noise] in this [background noise]

17 over 50 years and I am very strongly opposed to

18 closing [background noise] school. I feel the

19 children here [background noise], the staff

20 [background noise]. I cannot [background

21 noise]. Please don't close our school

22 [background noise]. And I go on record

23 [background noise]. Thank you very much.

24 GREGG: Thank you. [Background noise].

25 Number 60? Number 61 [background noise].

1 Number 62. Looks like Frances [background
2 noise]. Number 63 [background noise]. Number
3 63. [Crosstalk] Number 64.
4 [Background noise]
5 FEMALE VOICE 29: Wow, so this is what it's
6 like to actually make it up here. I'm also
7 [background noise]. My [background noise]
8 because [background noise]. But I will say
9 [background noise] students [background noise]
10 being here [background noise] students. But you
11 know obviously they're looking at [background
12 noise] so I'm going to talk about that.
13 [Background noise] but I owe John Adams my
14 career. I [background noise].
15 [Background noise]
16 GREGG: [Background noise] Number 66
17 [background noise].
18 FEMALE VOICE 30: Hi, goodnight everyone.
19 My name's [background noise] actually
20 [background noise] guidance counselor
21 [background noise] high school and I [background
22 noise] support John Adams because we are facing
23 [background noise] situation. I just want to
24 say [background noise] schools. So I
25 [background noise] to ask you [background noise]

1 designated [background noise] schools
2 [background noise] list of closures. There are
3 things on the impact statement that [background
4 noise] school for that the schools don't have
5 much control over. Things like truancy,
6 [background noise] not come to school and
7 they're [background noise] graduation rate.
8 well we all know that students who are not
9 present cannot [background noise] and therefore
10 not graduate in four years.

11 I'd like to [background noise] the way
12 [background noise] address those issues
13 [background noise] start raising [background
14 noise] and things like that [background noise]
15 actually as teachers we [background noise]
16 recommend the students to get help and then they
17 don't [background noise]. So after we've
18 exhausted all [background noise] visited
19 [background noise] given extra credit
20 [background noise] student doesn't show up the
21 [background noise] put something in place that
22 [background noise] teachers. I also ask
23 [background noise] safety [background noise]
24 this is also on the impact statement. And so as
25 of right now the highest form of punishment

1 [background noise] is suspension and for
2 [background noise] students right now
3 [background noise] a student can be suspended
4 never show up to suspended time, come back to
5 the school and continue with business as usual.
6 Now a student who is not in school obviously
7 cannot earn credits and you and I can see the
8 city do something about more [background noise]
9 students for superintendents suspended
10 [background noise], and they can [background
11 noise] suspension [background noise].

12 We'd also like to get [background noise]
13 about [background noise] transfers. You're
14 talking about safety but there [background
15 noise] 10 to 20 students in every school
16 [background noise] problems and we can't do an
17 involuntary transfer. If we suggest them and
18 the student [background noise] refuse and so we
19 have [background noise]. So we have to ask the
20 city to come up with [background noise] if
21 you're going to create [background noise] and
22 rate us [background noise] safety [background
23 noise] on the impact statement [background
24 noise] we'd like to [background noise] of what's
25 the [background noise] I think [background

1 noise] options. Also literacy; we're talking
2 about [background noise] students to come to our
3 school [background noise] severely [background
4 noise] skills. Now I'm not complaining about
5 our students. We work with and we love our
6 students, we're here for them but what I have to
7 say is that we need some more support. Socially
8 [background noise] junior high school are not
9 high school ready and we're expected to
10 [background noise] to come to our school.

11 [Background noise] highest population
12 [background noise] our school [background
13 noise]. There are [background noise] students
14 [background noise] interrupting formal
15 education. Students [background noise] 74%. We
16 helped [background noise] achieve [background
17 noise] everything we can with them. These are
18 things [background noise] graduate in four years
19 we're held accountable. Some of these students
20 its unrealistic to expect them to graduate in
21 four years so we'd like to also suggest that the
22 city will come up with a new [background noise]
23 addition to the curriculum where they would
24 [background noise] remediation on the junior
25 high school [background noise] testing level

1 one, two, on their [background noise] state
2 exams, you implement [background noise] junior
3 high school level some kind of remediation so
4 that they can actually get help. So if you're
5 going to hold up accountable please some more
6 support. [background noise] my school
7 consistently low achieving [background noise]
8 schools [background noise] extra support
9 [background noise] and also [background noise]
10 improving scores. That's it [background noise].

11 [Background noise]

12 [Background noise] five different boroughs,
13 26 [background noise], thousands of educators,
14 one constant and that's the failure of the
15 education system. So [background noise]
16 students [background noise] high school
17 [background noise].

18 GREGG: [Background noise]. Speaker 69
19 [background noise]. Speaker 70 and 71. Speaker
20 71 [background noise]. Speaker 72 [background
21 noise] Martin. Speaker 73 [background noise].
22 [crosstalk].

23 FEMALE VOICE 31: Hello everyone [background
24 noise] to save our school - -. [Background
25 noise] about that. When I [background noise]

1 the U.S. I only [background noise] vacation.
2 [Background noise] emotional support. Emotional
3 support [background noise] my personal life.
4 That's why I [background noise] high school
5 [background noise] so that we can [background
6 noise].

7 GREGG: Thank you. Speaker 74 [background
8 noise]. Speaker 75 [background noise].

9 MALE VOICE 21: [Background noise] y'all.
10 While [background noise] success. I'm
11 [background noise]. I'd like to [background
12 noise] people here [background noise] support
13 [background noise] difference. And that
14 [background noise] high school [background
15 noise] family, a great family and [background
16 noise]. While [background noise] teacher
17 [background noise] in the south. My name is Mr.
18 Murrow. I'm the teacher [background noise]. At
19 the same time a professional [background noise].
20 I'm at times a [background noise] of a
21 [background noise]. At the same time a member
22 of the [background noise] school [background
23 noise] of [background noise]. Well, you see
24 [background noise]. I mean I come to this
25 school [background noise] people as [background

1 noise]. I mean you see when I [background
2 noise] I think about John Adams High School
3 [background noise] they are [background noise].
4 You know [background noise] do to help them and
5 we're [background noise] nine years, working
6 [background noise] every day and I [background
7 noise] you [background noise]. I've [background
8 noise] be as a [background noise] that is a
9 [background noise] and we [background noise] was
10 [background noise] so far this year 3,300
11 [background noise] on [background noise].

12 [Background noise]

13 John Adams seniors have worked so hard that
14 [background noise]. [Background noise] John
15 Adams is the number one high school in the
16 nation and we're going to [background noise].
17 So please let's [background noise] the right
18 tools [background noise] our case and they will
19 [background noise] wonderful [background noise].
20 So [background noise]. [Background noise] the
21 opportunity to [background noise]. Thank you.

22 GREGG: [Background noise] Speaker 77

23 [background noise]. [Crosstalk]

24 [Background noise]

25 MALE VOICE 22: [Background noise]

1 GREGG: Thank you. [Background noise]
2 Speaker 79 [background noise]. Speaker 80
3 [background noise]. Speaker 81 [background
4 noise]. Speaker 82 [background noise]. Speaker
5 83 [background noise]. Speaker 84 [background
6 noise]. Speaker 85 [background noise].
7 [Crosstalk]
8 MALE VOICE 23: [Background noise] a quick
9 story. [Background noise]. So fast forward a
10 little bit and I graduate from college and I
11 couldn't find a job anywhere [background noise]
12 a year. And my mom said why don't you try
13 [background noise], give it a shot. I've got
14 nothing to lose [background noise] what the
15 hell. I [background noise] it and eight years
16 later [background noise] weekend [background
17 noise] obviously [background noise] be something
18 that I'd really [background noise] about. Also,
19 this [background noise] school [background
20 noise] placement and [background noise] I'm
21 still here. So [background noise] for this
22 school. I have a lot of memories here and I
23 [background noise] understand now why
24 [background noise] all those years and you know
25 [background noise] a real joy from watching

1 someone grow up in front of you and you know,
2 how are [background noise] impact [background
3 noise] you have on them you know it's still
4 significant and you really can't put into words
5 how it affects [background noise] how it affects
6 myself, and how [background noise]. that's why
7 we [background noise], why [background noise].

8 This school has a [background noise] of
9 teachers and staff, kids and everything else. I
10 really do love who I work with. I [background
11 noise] teach [background noise] general ed.
12 Same guy every year, same [background noise]
13 years, [background noise]. And ours seems to do
14 very well. Last year [background noise] first
15 [background noise] understand that. [Background
16 noise] so clearly we [background noise] a lot of
17 progress. [Background noise]- - working not to
18 mention a lot of kids [background noise]. There
19 are three things more [background noise].

20 [Background noise] form these relationships with
21 these kids. Earlier this month I did a whole
22 [background noise]. I don't know if you guys
23 know what is or not but [background noise] and
24 you know.

25 [Background noise]

1 Aren't we supposed to be here to help
2 educate these kids [background noise] first
3 place [background noise]? I think [background
4 noise] and if you break this place up that's
5 gone and that's not [background noise] do this.
6 And [background noise] not like [background
7 noise]. Thank you.

8 GREGG: Speaker 86 [background noise].
9 Speaker 87 [background noise].

10 MALE VOICE 24: [Foreign Language]

11 GREGG: [Background noise] Speaker 89
12 [background noise]. Speaker 90 [background
13 noise]. Speaker 91 [background noise]. Speaker
14 92 [background noise]. [Crosstalk] Speaker 93
15 [background noise].

16 [Background noise]

17 MALE VOICE 25: First of all [background
18 noise] much. I'd like to thank the panel
19 [background noise], [background noise], all the
20 teachers that have been out tonight [background
21 noise]. One thing I want to [background noise]
22 home tonight I feel it's very important.

23 [Background noise]

24 [Background noise] which should be looked
25 into by the [background noise] as far as

1 [background noise] is concerned because all
2 schools here are in great danger when
3 [background noise] correctional institutions,
4 things of that nature and then when they do
5 something wrong they end up with a ten day
6 suspension. They [background noise] and they
7 [background noise] guidance [background noise].
8 but it's [background noise] have a couple
9 [background noise] these problems and they come
10 through [background noise]. This is something
11 that I feel [background noise]. Anyway I want
12 to thank the [background noise] also [background
13 noise]. [Background noise] thing and I did come
14 up with just one point. John Adams [background
15 noise] only students [background noise] passed
16 [background noise] very important. You saw
17 [background noise] we've done it, we've
18 [background noise] smart. Not only [background
19 noise] but smart. Please [background noise].
20 Thank you.

21 GREG: Thank you [background noise] Speaker
22 95 [background noise]. Speaker 96 [background
23 noise]. Speaker 97 [background noise].
24 [Crosstalk]

25 With that [background noise]. Remember

1 [background noise]. Any questions not
2 answered [background noise] website. Again,
3 [background noise] we ask [background noise]
4 available [background noise] website or by
5 calling 212-374-7621 [background noise] email
6 [background noise] at schools dot N-Y-C dot gov.
7 with that I'll [background noise].

8 FEMALE VOICE 32: Thank you [background
9 noise]. [Background noise] full information
10 [background noise]. You guys [background
11 noise].

12 [Background noise]

13 The [background noise] model is no longer
14 available to us under the federal [background
15 noise] the state department of education. In
16 order to [background noise] restart the program
17 in New York State [background noise] have to add
18 an agreement on [background noise] with our
19 [background noise].

20 [Background noise] and because this school
21 is still considered [background noise] failing
22 school [background noise]. This school will
23 continue to work with [background noise]. Okay
24 [background noise] the staff [background noise].

25 [Background noise]

1 Another question is what would happen to
2 [background noise]? The new school will
3 continue to offer [background noise] sports and
4 athletics [background noise] according to
5 [background noise] student or students
6 [background noise]. [Background noise].

7 [Background noise]

8 What would happen to [background noise]
9 association [background noise]? The new school
10 will create [background noise] four [background
11 noise] four parents [background noise]. In
12 order to [background noise]. So all those
13 [background noise] return [background noise]
14 once that is done [background noise] parents can
15 [background noise].

16 [Background noise]

17 Thank you very much.

18 GREGG: [Background noise] appreciate.

19 [Background noise]

20 We appreciate your feedback [background
21 noise]. The information will be shared with
22 [background noise] policy [background noise].
23 [Background noise] grades 6 through 12 at 6 p.m.
24 [background noise] plus [background noise].
25 Again, for official comments and questions

1 please use phone number 212-374-7621 or email
2 us at [background noise] proposals at schools at
3 N-Y-C dot gov [background noise].

4 With that we will conclude [background
5 noise] joint public hearing.

6 [END RECORDING]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature: *Cynthia Romero*

Date: April 24, 2012