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

**TER of LIC at Q452
and Opening of New HS at Q452**

October 23, 2013

5:30pm

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MR. GREG BETHALL: Ladies and gentlemen,
3 we're going to get started in a few minutes.
4 For anybody that plans to speak this evening
5 during the public comment portion of the
6 evening, please make sure that you have added
7 your name to the signup sheet out in the lobby.
8 We'll keep that open for about 15 more minutes.
9 Also if anybody plans to ask a question during
10 the question and answer portion, which will be
11 the last part of the evening, there are
12 notecards out front. Please make sure that you
13 submit your questions on those notecards to the
14 folks at the table.

15 We'll keep your question and answers being
16 received until the start of the public comment
17 period, at which time we'll close it. So we'll
18 be getting started in just a minute. Thank you
19 for your cooperation.

20 [Pause]

21 MR. BETHALL: Ladies and gentlemen, if there
22 is anybody that needs translation services this
23 evening, we have translation available in
24 Spanish, Arabic and Bengali. Take advantage of
25 those translation services out the back door.

1 INTERPRETER: [Spanish]

2 [Long pause]

3 INTERPRETER: [Spanish]

4 INTERPRETER: [Arabic]

5 INTERPRETER: [Bengali]

6 MR. BETHALL: Ladies and gentlemen, we're
7 about to get started. I just want to make one
8 more announcement for anybody that needs
9 translation in either Spanish, Bengali or
10 Arabic. There are translation services out the
11 back door on the left.

12 INTERPRETER: [Spanish]

13 INTERPRETER: [Arabic]

14 INTERPRETER: [Bengali]

15 MR. BETHALL: Before we start the formal
16 hearing, we would like to invite the principal
17 who is going to lead us in the Pledge of
18 Allegiance and national anthem.

19 PRINCIPAL: Good evening, everyone. Please
20 take a moment to stand. Salute, pledge.

21 AUDIENCE: I pledge allegiance to the flag
22 of the United States of America, and to the
23 republic for which it stands, one nation under
24 God, indivisible with liberty and justice for
25 all.

1 PRINCIPAL: Please stay standing for the
2 national anthem.

3 SCHOOL BAND: [Plays National Anthem]

4 [Applause]

5 PRINCIPAL: Please be seated everyone. I
6 would like to hand this over to Mr. Greg
7 Bethall, Executive Director for Academic Talent
8 Management for the Department of Education who
9 will be the moderator/facilitator this evening.
10 Mr. Bethall.

11 MR. BETHALL: Thank you very much. As your
12 principal just said, I am Greg Bethall. I am
13 the Executive Director for Academic and Talent
14 Management at the New York City Department of
15 Education. I'll be acting as the moderator and
16 facilitator for this evening's joint public
17 hearing. This is a joint public hearing of the
18 Department of Education, Community Education
19 Council 30 and the school leadership teams of
20 Long Island City High School and PS 993 to
21 discuss the following proposal; the proposed
22 opening and co-location of new high school 32335
23 with Long Island City High School 30Q450 and PS
24 983 Queens 75Q983 in building Q452 beginning in
25 the 2014-2015 school year.

1 Tonight's proceedings will be recorded and
2 transcribed. Before we begin the hearing we ask
3 that anyone who wishes to speak during the
4 public comment portion of this evening, please
5 sign up at the table at the back out in the
6 hallway. It is just after 6:17 now, we'll close
7 sign up at 6:30. And please make sure that if
8 you do plan to speak tonight that you add your
9 name to that list if you haven't already. Also
10 if you have a question that you want addressed
11 during the question and answer portion of the
12 agenda which will come at the end, please write
13 that question on one of the index cards that are
14 also available at the table in the hallway and
15 submit them to the volunteer at the table.

16 Only people who have signed up to speak and
17 only those questions that were submitted tonight
18 will be addressed during the public comment
19 portion and the Q & A part of the agenda. All
20 panel participants were asked to be here no
21 later than 5:30 p.m., and now that we've started
22 if any additional panel participants arrive
23 late, he or she will be given time to speak at
24 the first opportune moment. We do want to be
25 respectful of everybody's time this evening.

1 There are elected officials who have already
2 joined us and others who will arrive at
3 different times throughout the evening.

4 If they wish to speak we will do our best to
5 accommodate them at the first opportune moment
6 following the formal presentations. Those who
7 are here at the start of the public comment
8 period will be asked to speak first. Tonight's
9 format will include a presentation of the
10 proposal and presentations by the hearing
11 participants assembled on the stage, followed by
12 public comment and a question and answer.
13 Again, speakers should have already signed up
14 with the table in the lobby. If you have not
15 signed up yet, there is a little more than ten
16 minutes remaining.

17 Public comments can be no longer than two
18 minutes each and the time will be strictly
19 followed and speakers will be informed when
20 their designated time has ended. There will
21 also be a question and answer period. Members
22 of the audience if you have a question, please
23 make sure you write your question on the index
24 cards that were supplied at the sign in table
25 and when you arrived this evening. While public

1 comments are taking place, staff members will
2 organize the questions into categories and get
3 them ready for the question and answer period.

4 Some questions will be asked directly from
5 the index cards, others will be batched under
6 headings to avoid repetitiveness. Even though
7 all individual questions will not be addressed
8 at the forum tonight, answers to questions will
9 be posted on the Department of Education's
10 website prior to the Panel on Educational Policy
11 hearing on October 30th. If at the end of the
12 hearing you still have questions, we encourage
13 you to direct them to us at the Department of
14 Education by calling 212-374-7621. Again that's
15 212-374-7621, or sent them to us via email at
16 D30proposals@schools.nyc.gov. Again, that's D-
17 3-0 proposals at schools dot nyc dot gov.

18 And now I'd like to introduce the panel
19 which has been assembled for tonight's joint
20 public hearing. From Community Education
21 Council 30 we are joined by two members of the
22 Community Education Council, the CEC 30
23 president Rachel Paster, as well as Irving
24 Torres, also from CEC 30.

25 [Applause]

1 MR. BETHALL: We're also joined from the
2 district 75 council from Aleya Basul.

3 [Applause]

4 MR. BETHALL: As she joins us we'll make
5 sure she has the opportunity to be introduced
6 again. Also I would like to introduce
7 Superintendent Tamika Matheson. And there are a
8 number of members here from the school
9 leadership team of Long Island City High School,
10 including Principal Vivian Selenikas.

11 [Applause]

12 MR. BETHALL: Vladimir Hurych, the assistant
13 principal.

14 [Applause]

15 MR. BETHALL: Tracey Brown with District--
16 D37.

17 [Applause]

18 MR. BETHALL: Ken Achiron who is the UFT
19 chapter chair.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. BETHALL: Maria Karistas [phonetic].

22 [Applause]

23 MR. BETHALL: Peter Muhlbach.

24 [Applause]

25 MR. BETHALL: And we have some student

1 representatives including Diya Ramdath.

2 [Applause]

3 MR. BETHALL: Also student Erin Ramgulam.

4 [Applause]

5 MR. BETHALL: PTA president Anita O'Brien.

6 [Applause]

7 MR. BETHALL: We are also joined tonight by
8 parents Osvalda Luna.

9 [Applause]

10 MR. BETHALL: And Cassandra Swan.

11 [Applause]

12 MR. BETHALL: Is there anybody up there that
13 I missed? Then we're doing okay. We are also
14 joined tonight from a cluster, cluster leader
15 Destinini Zerharakas [phonetic].

16 [Applause]

17 MR. BETHALL: As well as network leader
18 Angie Hemagio [phonetic].

19 [Applause]

20 MR. BETHALL: We are fortunate to be joined
21 tonight by the following elected officials who
22 have joined us this evening, Micah Gionares
23 [phonetic].

24 [Applause]

25 MR. BETHALL: Arabella Sunokis [phonetic].

1 [Applause]

2 MR. BETHALL: Representing Councilmember
3 Jerom [phonetic] is Michael Mallam [phonetic].

4 [Applause]

5 MR. BETHALL: The Queen's representative to
6 the Panel on Educational Policy, Dmitri
7 Ofitkowski [phonetic].

8 [Applause]

9 MR. BETHALL: From Council member
10 VanBremer's [phonetic] office, Deborah Forington
11 [phonetic].

12 [Applause]

13 MR. BETHALL: And Council member Cosa
14 Constantinia [phonetic]. Did I get that right?

15 [Applause]

16 MR. BETHALL: Is there anybody that's
17 arrived that I don't have on my list? Thank you
18 very much. We'll now turn the program over to
19 the Chancellor's designee, Superintendent Tamika
20 Matheson, High School Superintendent for
21 districts 15, 22, 23, 27 and 30 and 32, who will
22 present the formal proposal.

23 [Pause]

24 MS. TAMIKA MATHESON: Good evening,
25 everyone.

1 AUDIENCE: Good evening.

2 MS. MATHESON: Good evening. Students,
3 parents and faculty, as per Mr. Bethall, I am
4 the Superintendent for Long Island City High
5 School. I have had the pleasure of meeting some
6 of you in the spring during my brief visit to
7 the school. At this time I will read to you the
8 proposal that is under consideration this
9 evening. The New York City Department of
10 Education is proposing to open and co-locate a
11 new district career and technical education high
12 school, 30 Q335 in building Q452 for the 2014-
13 2015 school year.

14 Career and technical education programs
15 integrate academic study with the workforce
16 skills in specific career clusters. Students
17 receive instruction in an industry-related area
18 and have the opportunity to graduate high school
19 with industry-specific competencies and skills
20 that lead to post-secondary education, further
21 industry training and/or entry into the
22 workforce. The proposed new high school, 30
23 Q355 will likely offer career and technical
24 education programming in the information
25 technology career cluster with specific program

1 focus on interactive design, networking and
2 software development.

3 If this proposal is approved, 30 Q355 will
4 be co-located in building Q452 with Long Island
5 City High School, which I will refer to as LIC,
6 and one site of PS 993 Queens, a district 75
7 school serving students in grades nine through
8 12. In addition, Q452 houses a Living for the
9 Young Family Through Education program, a
10 school-based health center program, a program
11 with the School of Cooperative Technical
12 Education, and two community-based
13 organizations, United Way and Saint John
14 University's Gear Up.

15 A co-location means that two or more school
16 organizations are located in the same building
17 and may share common spaces like auditoriums,
18 gymnasiums and cafeterias.

19 AUDIENCE: No.

20 MS. MATHESON: Currently, the DOE is
21 planning to reduce the enrollment at LIC over a
22 period of four years, beginning in September
23 2014. The growth and production of LIC is
24 driven by LIC's performance and applicant demand
25 for the school and is intended to provide an

1 opportunity for LIC to concentrate on a small
2 cohort of students and allow for a new school
3 option to develop in building Q452. By 2017-
4 2018, enrollment at LIC will decrease by
5 approximately 420 to 460 students, so that it
6 will serve 1,935 to 1,975 at scale in nine
7 through 12th grades.

8 The educational impact statement for this
9 proposal was amended on September 27th to
10 reflect the fact that the planned enrollment
11 reduction will not impact the admissions methods
12 or policies of any of the programs at LIC
13 currently--that LIC currently offers, including
14 the Zone program. As indicated in the original
15 educational impact statement, this proposal is
16 not anticipated to impact LIC's ability to
17 accommodate all of the zone students who apply
18 the LIC's zone program. If this proposal is
19 approved, 30 Q335 would serve approximately 105
20 to 115 students in ninth grade beginning in the
21 2014-2015 school year.

22 The new school will add one grade level
23 every year until reaching its full grade span of
24 ninth through 12th grade in the 2017-2018 school
25 year, when it will serve approximately 420 to

1 460 students. 30 Q335 will be open to
2 students through the city-wide high school
3 admissions process, and it will have a limited
4 unscreened selection method with priority for
5 students residing in Queens.

6 According to the 2011-2012 enrolment
7 capacity utilization report, or the blue book,
8 building Q452 has a target capacity of 2,156
9 students. During the current year, 2013-2014
10 school year, the building is serving a total of
11 approximately 2,524 students, yielding an
12 estimated building utilization rate of 117%. If
13 this co-location proposal is approved, 30 Q335
14 will gradually phase into Q452, while LIC
15 simultaneously scales back its enrollment. The
16 proposal to co-locate 30 Q355 in building Q452
17 will not substantially increase the number of
18 students in the building at any given year above
19 current practice.

20 SLIC's enrollment will decrease as the new
21 school phases into the building. In 2017-2018,
22 once LIC has completed its enrollment reduction
23 and 30 Q335 has reached full scale, it is
24 projected that there will be approximately 2,387
25 to 2,483 students served in Q452, yielding an

1 estimated building utilization rate of
2 approximately 111% to 115%. Although the
3 utilization rate in excess of 100% may suggest
4 that a building will be over utilized or
5 overcrowded in a given year, this rate does not
6 account for the fact that rooms may be
7 programmed for more efficient or different uses
8 than the standard assumptions in the utilization
9 calculation. This concludes the proposal.

10 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. I would just like
11 to indicate that Jamie Bloomer [phonetic] is the
12 unit coordinator representing the SLT of PS 93Q
13 did confirm that they would be here this evening
14 and haven't arrived yet. They do arrive--hi
15 Jamie. Thank you for joining us. My apologies.
16 With that, our next presenters will be from
17 Community Education Council 30 and I would
18 invite them to the microphone to speak. Would
19 you like to make a statement?

20 MS. RACHEL PASTER: To start, I just want to
21 say that as part of the public policy joint
22 public hearing, although the Community's
23 District Education Council 30 is here, we are
24 actually required to be here, we are not
25 presenting this proposal. Community District

1 Education Council 30 is not supportive of this
2 proposal.

3 [Applause]

4 MS. PASTER: So I guess neither are you.

5 [Laughter]

6 MS. PASTER: We have actually submitted
7 comments in a seven page single spaced document
8 to the Department of Education already
9 concerning this proposal. I have a few copies.
10 I can email it to anyone who is interested. My
11 email is RPaster, R-P-A-S-T-E-R at Gmail.com and
12 I will be happy to send you a copy if you want.
13 I want to say before I start I am very proud to
14 be joined by the CEC student member Irving
15 Torres tonight.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. PASTER: Not every CEC is so fortunate
18 to have a student member, and it just so happens
19 that he is homegrown and so he is going to speak
20 to the issues tonight I think with more
21 authority probably than anyone else here except
22 for the teachers and the principal. The problem
23 with this proposal is it's destructive. It is
24 destructive to this school. It is destructive
25 to this community. The DOE wants to take apart

1 Long Island City High School. They have tried
2 it before, it didn't work. It kind of seems
3 like payback.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. PASTER: Long Island City offers this
6 community, our students, our future students not
7 just what we need, but what we need to succeed.
8 And some of the things that the Chancellor has
9 said are really important. One of the things
10 that this school offers is 26 AP courses.

11 [Applause]

12 MS. PASTER: In addition to the numerous
13 advanced Regent's courses, and it offers them to
14 large numbers of Hispanic students, which is not
15 the case throughout the New York City and in
16 fact has been a real issue of concern for New
17 York City.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. PASTER: There has been a number of news
20 articles saying that in fact this lack of AP
21 offerings to the diversity population that we
22 see here tonight is a real problem for New York
23 City. So to try to co-locate a school that
24 would reduce those offerings is absurd. The DOE
25 is - - to paint LICHS as a failing school. When

1 Bloomberg has attempted to close it failed,
2 now the DOE is trying to co-locate a school that
3 nobody asked for. They claim it's in response
4 to community demand, but where is the demand? I
5 haven't heard any. There isn't any.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. PASTER: Not only that, they won't even
8 tell us what it is. The EIS says that the
9 school will likely offer CTE programs. So maybe
10 it will offer us that. Maybe it will offer
11 something else. We have no idea what it is
12 going to be. But it's clear what it won't
13 offer. It won't offer AP classes or advanced
14 Regents. It won't have a band. It won't have
15 an orchestra. It's not going to have sports
16 teams.

17 AUDIENCE: [Yelling]

18 MS. PASTER: There will be no theater
19 program, there will be no state competition, no-
20 -

21 AUDIENCE: [Yelling] No.

22 MS. PASTER: It's not even going to offer
23 CTE certification. It won't offer those things.
24 And guess what? If the DOE goes through with
25 this co-location, guess who else may not have

1 those things? You.

2 AUDIENCE: [Yelling] Boo.

3 MS. PASTER: The DOE can't or won't tell us
4 that the LICHS programs will be preserved, that
5 it will keep our AP classes, that it will keep
6 our Regents programming, even though Chancellor
7 Wolcott himself has stressed the importance of
8 ensuring that our high schools provide college
9 prep programs. But there is something else that
10 they're getting out of this equation. As you
11 all know, the school has been improving in a
12 hurry. It was rated effective and proficient by
13 the State last year, graduation rates are going
14 up.

15 [Applause]

16 MS. PASTER: We've got a great principal who
17 has turned the school around.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. PASTER: One of the things that's not
20 addressed in this EIS, and it's really never
21 addressed in any of these conversations, but we
22 need to address it. One of the reasons these
23 kids stay in school, and you will not hear this
24 from the DOE but it's true, is extra-curricular
25 activities. Participating in the orchestra--

1 [Applause]

2 MS. PASTER: --being in the theater, staying
3 in athletic programs, this is what keeps kids in
4 school. They stay, they graduate. That
5 improves graduation rates. These programs are
6 as integral to the school as academics. This
7 co-location proposal would by necessity reduce
8 or eliminate some of these programs by taking
9 away the space for them. I myself probably
10 would have left high school if it hadn't been
11 for the theater program. We can't have a
12 proposal that's going to put kids at risk by
13 turning them away from school.

14 So for these reasons and many, many others
15 and it's too long, and I'm not going to read all
16 seven pages. Please read it yourselves. I hope
17 the DOE will read it. I gave it to the PEP last
18 week. CEC 30 is against this proposal. Now I
19 understand that the principal is more than
20 willing to host a CTE program in the school and
21 there is also an InfoTech High School about a
22 mile away, so if people are interested in that
23 program, that program does exist nearby. We
24 could add it to Long Island City High School to
25 give you guys more options.

1 But the way that this co-location would go
2 down, it would give you less. So we're asking
3 the DOE to say no.

4 [Applause]

5 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Our next presenter
6 also from the CEC is Mr. Torres.

7 [Applause]

8 MR. IRVING TORRES: Hello everybody. How
9 are you guys doing today? My name is Irving
10 Torres.

11 [Applause]

12 MR. TORRES: I am the senior senator here at
13 Long Island City High School, as well as the
14 student member on the CEC, CEC 30. Before I get
15 started, before--I just want you guys to give
16 yourselves a round of applause.

17 [Applause]

18 MR. TORRES: Because you know what this is
19 about, this is what it's about. Community and
20 family, all of you guys sitting here together as
21 a result of our request. In the days leading up
22 to this hearing, I've been running around the
23 school with my friends in leadership and we've
24 been making announcements about this hearing and
25 informing the students about co-location and

1 what it's all about, what it would result in.

2 And I think that everyone in leadership can
3 agree that when we went around making these
4 announcements that you see a lot of anger on
5 your faces, anger on faces of the students
6 hearing what's going to happen to their clubs,
7 what's going to happen to their teams, what's
8 going to happen to their classes, okay? And
9 this is very, very similar to what we
10 experienced a few years ago with the DOE's
11 turnaround...

12 [Pause]

13 MR. TORRES: Hello? Okay.

14 [Applause]

15 MR. TORRES: As well, remember two years ago
16 we had a public hearing very similar to this
17 one, okay, regarding the DOE's turnaround
18 proposal. And that--what that proposal put
19 around during that year, my sophomore year, it
20 was not a very--it wasn't a very easy one, okay?
21 There was a lot of uncertainty about what would
22 happen to the school, okay? What are the
23 classes, what classes are not going to be
24 offered to me next year. The classes that I'm
25 currently taking now, are they going to be

1 offered to me next year? The clubs that my
2 friends are in, are they going to be offered to
3 me next year?

4 This uncertainty, as it turned because of
5 this proposal to co-locate LIC, okay, there were
6 questions going around among the students and
7 whether or not the school was going to close
8 down, what's going to happen, who is this new
9 school, who are these students coming in to our
10 school? What's going to happen to our clubs?
11 What's going to happen to our teams? What's
12 going to happen to all of the classes that we
13 have now? What's going to happen to it? Where
14 is it going to go? Again, very similar to what
15 we had two years ago, okay?

16 On a personal note, I consider LIC my home
17 away from home.

18 [Applause]

19 MR. TORRES: If it were not for LIC, I
20 wouldn't be here sitting for you all today. It
21 if weren't for LIC, I wouldn't have developed my
22 passions for leadership, my passions for student
23 government or public speaking, my love for
24 theater, my love for performance, because that
25 is--

1 [Applause]

2 MR. TORRES: And my love for swimming and my
3 love for competition on the swimming team, okay.
4 And my second family as well, my student team.
5 Any of you guys out there, I love you guys.

6 [Applause]

7 MR. TORRES: LIC has shaped me. LIC,
8 because of LIC I am who I am today, okay? And
9 it is a real shame that the opportunities that
10 I've had as a student throughout these past few
11 years and during this year are--my not be
12 offered to future generations of students. They
13 might not be here for the next new seniors and
14 the sophomores and I mean, juniors. All of the
15 classes, all of the students, they might not
16 have these opportunities, okay? And that's a
17 real shame. Because they are being deprived of
18 those chances to grow as individuals, to grow as
19 people--

20 [Applause]

21 MR. TORRES: --to grow as students. This
22 school has--

23 [Applause]

24 MR. TORRES: - - okay? But they are going
25 to be college-ready, okay? And wielding a

1 support group of teachers and students who
2 have their back constantly, getting on task with
3 their work at school, getting on task with
4 applications for college; all of that is because
5 of this school, okay? And even though I'm a
6 senior and I'm leaving at the end of this year
7 and I will not be affected by this proposal, the
8 school again has shaped me, okay? And I will
9 not stand by as I have watched my home being
10 attacked by this proposal and the entire--

11 [Applause]

12 MR. TORRES: As you all know, as Rachel
13 Paster mentioned, this school was improving and
14 it still is improving because of our amazing
15 principal, okay? She has done an excellent job
16 of turning this school around to what it was a
17 few years ago.

18 [Applause]

19 MR. TORRES: And we are making progress. We
20 are doing it. We are going there.

21 [Applause]

22 MR. TORRES: I know a lot of the students
23 have actually felt that, felt that change in
24 either academics or that change in your
25 environment. They have felt that change all

1 around and we are improving, okay? We
2 weren't--we are not the LIC that we were a few
3 years ago, okay? If any of you guys know a lot
4 about the inside schools, okay 93 was it? 93
5 reviews, all by students, okay? Talking about
6 how great of a school this was. You can see
7 that there was a large group of students who can
8 say that this school is their home, okay? You
9 guys can see that. You guys can see it in your
10 faces.

11 [Applause]

12 MR. TORRES: - - This year - - okay? They
13 can go up to the school every day for the past
14 three, four, five years--

15 [Applause]

16 MR. TORRES: - - home, and we will not stand
17 for that. We will not stand for that. I have
18 so much to thank this school for, so much to
19 thank this school for, for the opportunities of
20 being here, amazing teachers who have - - for
21 who I am, to the teachers out there, to all of
22 you guys who I know and maybe those who I don't
23 know, thank you for your amazing work, okay?

24 [Applause]

25 MR. TORRES: It would be safe to say that

1 last year a lot of teachers that we came to
2 grow with and love have been excessed, okay,
3 they are no longer in the school. That is an
4 effect that is going to come up again if this
5 goes through, okay? And that is sad, very, very
6 sad.

7 [Applause]

8 AUDIENCE: [Chanting] Torres, Torres,
9 Torres, Torres, Torres, Torres, Torres, Torres.

10 MR. TORRES: As many of you all were here in
11 the public comment section there will be a large
12 amount of students who have signed up to speak
13 and share their opinions about the school, share
14 their opinions about LIC. And you are not going
15 to hear it from me, okay, because I am part of
16 LIC, but you will be hearing from a lot of other
17 students, okay? Students who have the same
18 opinions as me, students who have other
19 experiences in this school, okay?

20 And it's a shame that those experiences that
21 we've had as students might not be available to
22 them next year because of this threat to our
23 environment, to our school, and to our
24 community. In conclusion...

25 [Laughing]

1 MR. TORRES: I thank you guys all for your
2 support again for being here. You are so
3 supportive of this school--

4 [Applause]

5 MR. TORRES: All right? Because it is this
6 support, it is this support with this amount of
7 students, oh there's the football team, there
8 they are.

9 [Applause]

10 MR. TORRES: They are -- to look at the
11 audience today, okay? I ask to look at the
12 audience today, because you can see the
13 reaction, okay? How much you do not agree with
14 this proposal. Again, I will not stand for
15 this, my students, my fellow students, my
16 brothers and my sisters, they will not stand for
17 this either, okay? And that is going to be
18 very, very clear after today, okay? On behalf
19 of LIC, on behalf of the students of the
20 community, I stand by my school and say to be as
21 one, as it was meant to be.

22 [Applause]

23 MR. BETHALL: Thank you, Mr. Torres. I
24 would like to acknowledge that Assembly member
25 Kathy Knowlin [phonetic] has just arrived.

1 [Applause]

2 MR. BETHALL: And just so everybody is clear
3 on our timing this evening, we still need to go
4 through the school leadership team and any
5 comments that they may have. Following that
6 we'll go to the public comment and we'll begin
7 with our elected officials that are here. And
8 then we do have a few dozen sheets of folks that
9 have signed up to speak. We will begin with the
10 students so that we can potentially get you back
11 home to study and come to school tomorrow. But
12 we do want to make sure that everybody has got
13 the opportunity to speak this evening. With
14 that, our next presenter will be from the school
15 leadership team.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yah! [phonetic]

17 [Laughter]

18 MR. KEN ACHIREN: With all due respect, we
19 would like to defer in that we know our elected
20 leaders have made commitments tonight. And if
21 it would be okay, we would like to offer them
22 the opportunity to speak first.

23 [Applause]

24 MR. BETHALL: I'm not hearing any
25 objections. I'm sure we can accommodate them,

1 if that's okay. Let me just make sure I have
2 the right--no problem, thank you. Just make
3 sure I have the right order of folks here.

4 [Pause]

5 MR. BETHALL: Okay, we'll begin with--let me
6 get my cards here, with Michael Genos
7 [phonetic].

8 [Applause]

9 MR. MICHAEL GENOS: Okay. Thank you all,
10 I'm State Senator Mike Genos. I am a proud LIC
11 alumni myself.

12 [Applause]

13 SENATOR GENOS: Let me thank Mr. Ackeron
14 [phonetic], he was teaching me 27 years ago and
15 he's still helping me out by letting me--

16 [Applause]

17 SENATOR GENOS: I'm here to speak in strong
18 opposition to the DOE proposal for co-location.

19 [Applause]

20 SENATOR GENOS: I have to say I'm sick and
21 tired of showing up in hearings telling the DOE
22 to stop messing with our school.

23 [Applause]

24 SENATOR GENOS: It's been year after year
25 after year now, they're trying to destroy this

1 school as if there is a personal vendetta. I
2 don't understand it. It doesn't make sense.
3 Please stop doing it. It sounds like--

4 [Applause]

5 SENATOR GENOS: DOE reminds me of the
6 soldier that's on an island still fighting the
7 war that they lost already and they don't
8 realize it.

9 [Applause]

10 SENATOR GENOS: The facts are the school is
11 getting better. The city is already
12 overcrowded. The last thing we need is a new
13 school dropped in here that nobody is asking for
14 to begin with.

15 [Applause]

16 SENATOR GENOS: And what's most curious to
17 me is that, I'll talk about the elephant in the
18 room, in a little more than two and a half
19 months there will be a new DOE. This thing
20 doesn't take effect until next September. Why
21 are we doing this right now?

22 [Applause]

23 SENATOR GENOS: Wait until January, let the
24 new administration have their say, don't try and
25 box them into something that nobody wants but

1 the administrators at the DOE.

2 [Applause]

3 SENATOR GENOS: I appreciate the DOE that
4 actually did show up tonight because it's not an
5 easy job to get yelled at by all of us, but the
6 fact remains that this proposal is ill-
7 conceived. It makes no sense. I have not heard
8 a single argument why it needs to happen. I've
9 not heard a single argument why it needs to
10 happen now. And I would strongly encourage the
11 DOE to reject this proposal. Thank you.

12 [Applause]

13 AUDIENCE: [Chanting] LIC, LIC, LIC, LIC,
14 LIC, LIC, LIC, LIC, LIC, LIC, LIC, LIC, LIC.

15 [Applause]

16 MR. BETHALL: I guess we'll call on Assembly
17 Member Phyllis Knopf [phonetic].

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER PHYLLIS KNOPF: Thank you
19 very much for the opportunity to speak. Well
20 the Senator is evidence of why this school
21 really turns out great graduates, and why
22 everyone in this room--

23 [Applause]

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOPF: And why every
25 student in this room deserves an opportunity to

1 graduate from one LIC that has remained
2 intact.

3 [Applause]

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOPF: I'm here to also
5 oppose the PEP's proposal.

6 [Applause]

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOPF: The issue is one of
8 fairness. Is it fair to put even more students
9 in an overcrowded school?

10 AUDIENCE: [Screaming] No.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOPF: The answer is no.
12 And I was listening with some amusement at the
13 person who was explaining the proposal who said
14 that there are ways, there are electronic ways
15 to reduce overcrowding. Well why don't we do
16 that for this school now so we can reduce the
17 overcrowding that already exists?

18 [Applause]

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOPF: - - state that the
20 DOE should invest those ideas in LIC. It's
21 weird that the students don't want this change,
22 the parents don't want this change, the teachers
23 don't want this change, the elected officials
24 don't want this change, so who wants this
25 change?

1 AUDIENCE: [Yelling]

2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOPF: Well somebody does
3 want this change, an administration whose term
4 is about to expire.

5 AUDIENCE: [Yelling]

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOPF: I think the time
7 can't come soon enough. This is a school on the
8 run. We have to continue to invest in it and
9 not make changes that are going to be
10 detrimental to the students. Reducing AP
11 classes reducing programs which are really the
12 essence of a school experience is not the way to
13 go about making sure that all of our students in
14 all of our schools get the best education they
15 deserve. So I hope that you listen to our
16 voices and that you vote no on to the proposal.
17 Thank you.

18 [Applause]

19 MR. BETHALL: Thank you.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. BETHALL: Next is Assembly Woman Knoll
22 [phonetic].

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOLL: Thank you
24 everybody. You know, it's just so discouraging
25 for me to be back in another school, another

1 good comprehensive community-based high school
2 fighting the same fights that we fought over and
3 over again. And yet when you see a crowd like
4 this, and I, you know, are there alumni here
5 tonight?

6 [Applause]

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOLL: To people from the
8 alumni, what year were you?

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Last year.

10 [Applause]

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOLL: Now if people could
12 just--some people--what were some of the other
13 graduates who are here, what was your year?

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: 2011.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOLL: 2011?

16 [Applause]

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOLL: Okay, - - .

18 [Applause]

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOLL: You know, I'm from
20 Cleveland class of '76, you know, it matters.
21 Where you went to high school matters in your
22 life. And we have a functioning community
23 school here. And you know, we have a lot of
24 high schools in western Queens now. We've been
25 a key supporter really of the choice movement.

1 We have lots of choices for our students. But
2 there comes a point where you have to say what
3 are we doing here? And one of the things that
4 particularly frustrates me about this proposal
5 is that we already have a CTE InfoTech High
6 School just a few blocks away.

7 So why do we want another--a small one in
8 the same building with our community school?
9 And I think we would ask the Department to do a
10 review of that. It makes no sense. I would
11 just read my statement real quick, but I want to
12 make sure because I knew we--I know we had
13 alumni here, but I knew in my heart because we
14 know how much people care about their high
15 school. And they come back and they--

16 [Applause]

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOLL: I would like to see
18 that - - . You know, I have a privilege of
19 serving as the chair of the Assemblies Committee
20 on Education. I must have done something wrong
21 in a prior life, because I got the--I have had
22 the most challenging assignment in the
23 legislature with absolutely very little
24 satisfaction. But we keep pushing on. Long
25 Island City High School is a true community

1 school with outstanding leadership.

2 It serves a large number of my constituents
3 including many from three New York City Housing
4 Authority developments, Queens - - houses in my
5 district. It also has an over 40% ELL student
6 population, right? There are a lot of people
7 here from the community, right?

8 [Applause]

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOLL: And the schools know
10 and I see from the selection of - - you must be
11 aware the school has several strong what they
12 call "ed op programs," including the lauded
13 culinary arts program.

14 [Applause]

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOLL: These things make
16 Long Island City High School a valuable asset in
17 our community. It's a relatively new building.
18 It's a beautiful building. My own sons say, and
19 I know the middle school, the middle school
20 music performances, and here I'm spilling my own
21 son when he was in middle school sang here.
22 It's a beautiful building and a beautiful
23 school. It's not in this school's best interest
24 to be co-located with the new Information
25 Technology CTE school. And as I just mentioned,

1 this is especially true given the existence of
2 the InfoTech High School only a few blocks away.

3 Like many of our large comprehensive high
4 schools, Long Island City High School has faced
5 challenges in recent years. They get a large
6 over the counter population of kids who come at
7 the very last minute, may not be as directed as
8 some other students, and yet they do a good job
9 with those students. I mentioned they have a
10 large ELL population. But they don't, by the
11 way, receive 100% of fair student funding. And
12 that's been a problem here very--

13 [Applause]

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOLL: - - selective high
15 schools, they are all 100% utilization. You
16 know, I don't understand why taking down the
17 enrollment is the way to deal with that and
18 putting in an outside room. You know, reducing
19 their enrollment and adding an unwanted school
20 does not assist our students. I also want to
21 say a word about Principal Selenikas. She has
22 been a tremendous asset to this school.

23 [Applause]

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOLL: She is a true
25 principal from the outreach to the community and

1 I really hope and pray that this year the
2 record will show that the Department of
3 Education will give her a chance to make this
4 the great community school that I know it can
5 be. She's only been in for a short time, she's
6 already done a great deal. And it's really
7 unfair to put a principal in place after a time
8 of some transition and tumult and a number of
9 people in leadership, and then in addition to
10 handing her that hot potato, tell her she now
11 has to make stew with a whole another group of
12 students coming in with a new principal.

13 You know, give her a new way--put the CTE
14 program under her control, we can talk. You
15 know, we want to--

16 [Applause]

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOLL: I just want to
18 single out and I want to say first of all to my
19 colleagues, Assembly woman Knopf and Senator
20 Genos and our Councilman elect Costa Constantine
21 [phonetic] Councilman to be, what a pleasure
22 it's been to work with you. I know someone is
23 here from our dear friend Jenny Vanbrenner's
24 [phonetic] office, a council member in the
25 neighboring district. I also want to thank this

1 poor man, Dmitri Fredkowski [phonetic] comes
2 to everything as our president's appointment to
3 the PEP, the DOE PEP.

4 And he doesn't get a nickel, he does it out
5 of love. He's got daughters in the public
6 school system and a little son not in the school
7 system yet. I don't know if he ever sees them,
8 but he's always working. But Dmitri I thank
9 you. He helped us get this vote postponed at
10 the last PEP meeting and he deserves a round of
11 applause for that here.

12 [Applause]

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOLL: And I also want to
14 applaud the fact that our staff members, you
15 know, took the time to come and show the
16 interest--show us the kind of relationship that
17 Principal Selenikas and Tedd and so many of the
18 leaders here in the SLT have had with all levels
19 of government and all levels of community and
20 DOE involvement. So I would formally request
21 that the New York City Department of Education
22 withdraw their request to co-locate a separate
23 school in Long Island City High School and
24 listen to our community.

25 As the chair of the Committee on Education

1 in the New York State Assembly, I would
2 formally request that the New York City
3 Department of Education give Ms. Selenikas the
4 time and resources to improve the school. Work
5 with us, the local elected officials, to enhance
6 our existing Long Island City community. Expand
7 the culinary arts program. Add an honors
8 program. Add an ed op. Add a CET.

9 [Applause]

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOLL: Don't spend our tax
11 dollars on an entirely new co-located school.
12 It's not going to achieve what you want to
13 achieve. After the community partners
14 connect with the local NAACP, the East River
15 Development Alliance, Jacob Resettlements
16 [phonetic], DEC Ferry [phonetic], Queens
17 Economic Development; all of these groups have
18 been partners with Long Island City and all of
19 us can and should do more to support our schools
20 so that we have better graduation results.

21 But a true partnership is based on dialogue,
22 trust and understanding. And Ms. Selenikas has
23 done that. And it's not fair to the students
24 here or to the faculty or the parents to say you
25 start the dialogue with us based on trust and

1 respect and understanding, and now we turn our
2 backs and we don't listen. A dial-up has to be
3 two ways. So we trust in an approach that works
4 with our local community and will involve
5 teachers, parents and the students themselves
6 who have obviously shown great leadership
7 tonight by being here.

8 We trust that the DOE will listen to us and
9 consider this request and withdraw the
10 application and support Long Island City High
11 School.

12 [Applause]

13 MR. BETHALL: Thank you, Assemblywoman. I
14 just want to make sure there were no other
15 representatives from our state elected
16 officials. We'll now move on to our city
17 elected officials. We have representatives here
18 this evening from Councilman Drum's [phonetic].
19 We call Michael Mallam [phonetic].

20 [Applause]

21 MR. MICHAEL MALLASSEMBLY MEMBER KNOFF: Hi,
22 good evening everyone. My name is Michael
23 Mallam and I'm making a statement on behalf of
24 New York City Councilmember Daniel Drum who
25 represents the 25th district in Queens and

1 serves as a chair on the Council of Committee
2 on Immigration. Council Member Drum states, "I
3 am a veteran 25 year teacher who has taught at
4 PS 199 in Sunnyside [phonetic] before being
5 elected to city council.

6 I know firsthand how important parental
7 involvement is to success of schools and their
8 students. Most of the families I taught were
9 recent immigrants, many of whom primarily spoke
10 a language other than English. I believe that
11 the notification requirements of the educational
12 impact statement were not followed, which will
13 effectively nullify any decision of the PEP.
14 While I acknowledge the work needed to translate
15 the entire EIS, that still does not excuse the
16 DOE from ensuring that all of the school's
17 parents have sufficient time to review it.

18 If the Spanish translation of the entire
19 document was not ready, then the EIS should not
20 have been released, nor the hearing scheduled
21 until it was translated. With an issue so
22 important, no stakeholder should have been
23 rushed, especially not the parents. The release
24 of the English version three weeks before the
25 Spanish version shows a blatant disregard for

1 the impact of families. Unfortunately, the
2 DOE's failure to provide sufficient notice
3 betrays a negative attitude towards certain
4 parents that is typical.

5 All our parents deserve sufficient time to
6 review a plan that will have such a large impact
7 on their children's future. There are many
8 questions and concerns that have yet to be
9 addressed, and I look forward to working with
10 all of the stakeholders in ensuring that
11 procedures are followed. Thank you very much."

12 [Applause]

13 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Representing
14 Councilman Jim VanBragen [phonetic] is Deborah
15 Thornton [phonetic].

16 MS. DEBORAH THORNTON: Good evening,
17 everyone.

18 AUDIENCE: Good evening.

19 MS. THORNTON: I have a letter to read on
20 behalf of Council member Jimmy VanBragen who
21 represents the 25th--26th council district. But
22 before I start I want to stress that Council
23 member VanBragen strongly opposes the proposed
24 co-location of--

25 [Applause]

1 MS. THORNTON: "Dear Chancellor Wolcott, I
2 am extremely concerned about the scheduling of a
3 panel room education policy on October 30th,
4 2013 regarding the proposed co-location of a new
5 career and technical education high school at
6 Long Island City High School and PS 93 in
7 building Q452. To co-locate an additional
8 school at this site has the potential to
9 severely disrupt the communal and educational
10 foundations of Long Island City High School.
11 This action could have drastic effects on
12 students, families and teachers, and I ask that
13 the Department of Education reconsider this
14 plan.

15 The community has not been given sufficient
16 time to consider this proposal, review the
17 environmental impact statement, and prepare for
18 the joint public hearing scheduled for October
19 23rd. Particularly consideration should be
20 given to the fact that Long Island City High
21 School has a diverse student body with the
22 majority of the students coming from foreign
23 language speaking households. I join our
24 parents and community members who are opposed to
25 the co-location of a new school within Long

1 Island City High School and I urge the
2 Department to reevaluate this plan and the time
3 table for conducting this process. Thank you."

4 [Applause]

5 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Next I'll call on
6 the Queens Panel Educational Policy member
7 Dmitro Fitkowski [phonetic].

8 [Applause]

9 MR. DMITRO FITKOWSKI: I don't mean any
10 disrespect.

11 MR. BETHALL: Not at all.

12 MR. FITKOWSKI: Thank you. First, thank you
13 all for being here tonight. I especially want
14 to thank the panel, the principal, the teachers,
15 the wonderful students for showing support for
16 your school community.

17 [Applause]

18 MR. FITKOWSKI: As I was introduced, my name
19 is Dmitro Fitkowski. I am the Queen's rep on
20 the Panel for Educational Policy. I was
21 appointed by the Bureau President five and a
22 half years ago to serve as your representative
23 to ensure that the Department of Education
24 proposes sound policy. And as you heard
25 tonight, this is one that is not very sound.

1 Long Island City can be viewed as the melting
2 pot of Queens.

3 History such as this needs to continue, and
4 the only way we're going to continue to do that
5 is by fighting for LIC to keep their dedicated
6 space, funding, support, and to keep its
7 leadership it needs to help its learning
8 environment. Well we have the leadership, that
9 was made quite clear by the elected officials
10 here that your principal is doing an amazing
11 job, that your teachers have done an amazing
12 job. And we need to keep that going.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. FITKOWSKI: Now many of you were here
15 the last time there was a public hearing about
16 the closing of this school. Well it persevered,
17 and that's something to be said for the
18 leadership, the teachers and the students that
19 never gave up. One has to ask why the DOE would
20 co-locate when you could implement the same
21 program in an existing high school? It just
22 doesn't make sense. The mayor has his own
23 agenda and one that doesn't fit here. Choice
24 for a select few should not punish thousands of
25 other children.

1 It's struggling to me that a lame duck
2 administration would burn the next
3 administration with his agenda, which obviously
4 needs revision. What occurred from the
5 community was a request for DOE support, funding
6 and proven educational models that had sustained
7 long term gains, and not some Band-Aid approach
8 that seems to be proposed before us today. This
9 proposal doesn't reduce the capacity of the
10 building and has the potential to hinder
11 successful programs, such as the AP programs.

12 Even though the DOE says it's not expected
13 to, this proposal can be very fluid when it
14 comes to sharing space, because the space
15 sharing plans haven't been developed yet. And
16 when you're overcrowded something has to give.
17 I hear this proposal with more downside than
18 upside, and as a member of the panel I will be
19 voting no to this proposal on October 30th.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. FITKOWSKI: I truly believe it's a
22 foreign policy that lacks long-term vision for
23 Long Island City High School. We as a school
24 community should demand that all of the space be
25 retained for LIC so that it can flourish under

1 the leadership of the current principal and
2 teachers. Enough is enough, Mayor Bloomberg.
3 LIC doesn't want to be part of some school
4 chance experiment. Our school community has
5 suffered enough through budget cuts and threats
6 of closure. We want our space and we're not in
7 the market for another DOE birthplace.

8 In closing, some of you may have known that
9 in the past I've - - to the PEP resolution which
10 calls for a moratorium on all changes and school
11 utilization.

12 [Applause]

13 MR. FITKOWSKI: Well when we presented it,
14 it didn't get the support of the majority that
15 are appointed by the mayor, so there's no
16 surprise there and it fell on deaf ears. But we
17 can only hope that the next mayor's vision will
18 be one that works with school communities so
19 proposals like this will be a thing of the past.
20 Thank you again for coming out tonight and make
21 your way for October 30th when--

22 [Applause]

23 MR. BETHALL: Next we'll call on district
24 leader and Democratic nominee for city council,
25 Kosta Constantines [phonetic].

1 [Applause]

2 MR. KOSTA CONSTANTINES: Good evening. You
3 know, sadly I think Senator Genos brought this
4 up before, but I'll sort of bring this up again.
5 This is the third time that we've been--we've
6 stood in this auditorium together. The
7 Bloomberg administration has been very clear
8 about kicking this school repeatedly and putting
9 these students through unnecessary - - year
10 after year. Outside we were talking to the
11 students and seniors here had to go through a
12 year of uncertainty in their sophomore year, a
13 year of uncertainty in their junior year, a year
14 of uncertainty in their senior year.

15 [Applause]

16 MR. CONSTANTINES: It is categorically
17 unfair to these students what this
18 administration has done to them. And it's
19 really, you know, we've talked to the people in
20 the community. No one wants this. You are not
21 speaking--it's not a two way conversation. It
22 never has been with this administration. It's
23 never been let's sit down and talk with the
24 students in this school. It's never let's talk
25 to the elected leaders, let's talk to the

1 students.

2 [Applause]

3 MR. CONSTANTINES: It's never let's talk to
4 the parents, talk to the faculty, see how we can
5 work out a solution that makes sense for all and
6 something we can all come to the table and
7 declare ourselves winners.

8 [Applause]

9 MR. CONSTANTINES: It has consistently been
10 just an exercise in futility instead of telling
11 you we don't want things, and you keep--you
12 schedule a hearing a week from tonight. To me
13 that says this is--this public hearing is in
14 your minds just a formality, something that
15 we're going through.

16 [Applause]

17 MR. CONSTANTINES: We're going through the
18 motions this evening. We are here to speak our
19 piece, and the you're going to do what you want
20 to do anyway. Well I am here to say that that
21 is unacceptable.

22 [Applause]

23 MR. CONSTANTINES: Like a student who crams
24 for their final exams, that is unacceptable.

25 [Applause]

1 MR. CONSTANTINES: And I think Senator
2 Genos brought this up as well. In two months,
3 this administration will cease to exist.

4 [Applause]

5 MR. CONSTANTINES: I graduated from Bryan
6 High School [phonetic] - -

7 [Applause]

8 MR. CONSTANTINES: But I went on to Queen's
9 College. I went on to - - Law and there's moral
10 perpetuities that they talked about in law
11 school. And it's the law that that they have to
12 keep someone who has died from willing out their
13 property and real property law long after
14 they've died. Well this Bloomberg
15 administration is about to expire in two months.

16 [Applause]

17 MR. CONSTANTINES: And instead of coming to
18 the community and saying let's talk about this,
19 let's have a reasonable conversation, you are
20 trying to violate the law of perpetuities. And
21 that's a real property term. But it does say
22 you will long be gone when the effects of this
23 school has happened. It is unfair. These
24 students deserve to have their--they're on the
25 rise. They're doing everything you've asked of

1 them. I'm not sure what other hoops you want
2 them to go through.

3 [Applause]

4 MR. CONSTANTINES: But it's time to stop the
5 nonsense. It's time to take this off the PEP
6 calendar for next week, come back to this
7 community and have a real conversation with us
8 and not a public hearing a week before and then
9 they're going to push it through. It's time for
10 it to stop. We're asking you please reconsider
11 this proposal and we're--

12 [Applause]

13 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Are there any
14 other elected officials who have joined us this
15 evening that wish to make a statement? Thank
16 you for those who have joined us and we'll now
17 turn back to the school leadership team.

18 [Applause]

19 MR. KEN ACHIREN: Thank you very much.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. ACHIRON: This will be a coordinated
22 presentation by the school leadership team, not
23 by location. However, before we actually
24 present our material, and I think it's very
25 important for our neighborhood to know that our

1 city council person whose term will end in
2 December also sent in a letter and I'm just
3 going to read a paragraph or two from the letter
4 from Council Member Baloo [phonetic]. I think
5 it's important that you know that while he could
6 not be here tonight, he certainly supports the
7 position that we have.

8 "I am writing to express my strong
9 opposition to the Department of Education's
10 proposed plan to co-locate a new career and
11 technical education school at Long Island City
12 High School. The consensus of our community,
13 parents, students and in fact the DOE itself is
14 that Q452 is already overcrowded." And it goes
15 on to talk about how it's unacceptable what is
16 being planned and what is going on. And some
17 students have to be here at 7:00 a.m. already.

18 And he concludes by saying he asks that it
19 be withdrawn from the PEP meeting of next week
20 until all sides can reach an amicable
21 understanding and agreement as to what should be
22 done for a--for improving the education at this
23 school. He wants it taken off and continued.
24 So just so everybody knows, our own city
25 councilman is in on the phone. Now I'm going to

1 bring Ms. Selenikas up as the first of our
2 people because she's, as we did with political
3 people, we are certainly moving a little
4 different than a traditional presentation. Ms.
5 Selenikas.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. VIVIAN SELENIKAS: Good evening,
8 everyone.

9 AUDIENCE: Good evening, Ms. Selenikas.

10 PRINCIPAL SELENIKAS: I am going to do
11 something unusual for me, which is not speak a
12 lot. But I would be remiss not to put out there
13 that while I accept the acknowledgement of the
14 work that we have done together, we have done it
15 together.

16 [Applause]

17 PRINCIPAL SELENIKAS: It is not about me.

18 [Applause]

19 PRINCIPAL SELENIKAS: There are 12 assistant
20 principals in this school who, together with
21 another 200 staff care for every child in this
22 building, every one.

23 [Applause]

24 PRINCIPAL SELENIKAS: And there is no way
25 that we could have students as articulate as the

1 ones to whom I'm going to defer the rest of my
2 time, if it wasn't a family.

3 [Applause]

4 PRINCIPAL SELENIKAS: So therefore I would
5 like to call up to the bottom podium the
6 students to whom in leadership positions at the
7 student council of Long Island City High School
8 will speak about how this proposal will affect
9 them. Jocelyn Baguy [phonetic]--

10 [Applause]

11 PRINCIPAL SELENIKAS: William Hung
12 [phonetic] SL secretary.

13 [Applause]

14 PRINCIPAL SELENIKAS: Angela Bodrum, SL vice
15 president and senior secretary.

16 [Applause]

17 PRINCIPAL SELENIKAS: Nusrap Rapman
18 [phonetic], senior president.

19 [Applause]

20 PRINCIPAL SELENIKAS: Joshua Santiago
21 [phonetic], senior vice president.

22 [Applause]

23 PRINCIPAL SELENIKAS: Wendy Lee, senior
24 treasurer.

25 [Applause]

1 PRINCIPAL SELENIKAS: Juba Weight

2 [phonetic]--

3 [Applause]

4 PRINCIPAL SELENIKAS: And last but not
5 least, Cardinal Sanchez [phonetic], sophomore
6 senator.

7 [Applause]

8 PRINCIPAL SELENIKAS: And Athena Zackary
9 [phonetic], senior secretary.

10 [Applause]

11 PRINCIPAL SELENIKAS: I humbly defer the
12 rest of my time to them and I thank you.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. JOCELYN BAGUY: Good evening, my name is
15 Jocelyn Baguy and I am currently a senior and SL
16 treasurer at this school. I transferred to Long
17 Island City High School my sophomore year, and
18 honestly I think it's the best decision I ever
19 made. As a new student to the school, I felt so
20 alone. The teachers were so kind and tired--
21 tried to make me feel at home. The Long Island
22 City High School has so much to offer not only
23 in extracurricular activities and teams but also
24 in classes. We have a lot of AP classes to
25 offer and I'm glad I got to experience them.

1 By having the opportunity of being in AP
2 classes, I wouldn't have to be responsible.
3 Long Island City High School helped me overcome
4 some of my fears and helped me become a leader
5 by letting me be in leadership and be part of
6 student government. We also have clubs that
7 help us prepare for college such as Europe and
8 Globalkids [phonetic].

9 [Applause]

10 MS. BAGUY: By having clubs, I knew we would
11 have someone to guide us when we needed help.
12 If this co-location happens, that makes me sad
13 that the other students who are in this school
14 might not have the opportunity to experience all
15 of the great things I did. If this goes
16 through, then we need money to fund our
17 activities, teams, clubs and college classes.
18 Thanks to Long Island City High School, I am who
19 I am today. This is not just my school but also
20 my second home. Everyone here is my family and
21 if you co-locate in our school you are tearing
22 this family apart.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. BAGUY: I may be a senior, but I will
25 always fight for Long Island City High School.

1 We are one team, one family.

2 [Applause]

3 MS. TASHIA HUNG: Good evening. My name is
4 Tashia Hung [phonetic] and I am currently the SL
5 secretary of Long Island City High School.
6 First off, I would like to thank our school for
7 providing me with vast opportunities in
8 bettering my high school years as well as
9 preparing me for the future. Over the past few
10 years that I've attended this school I was able
11 to develop friendships with students and faculty
12 members.

13 Our faculty members have dedicated their
14 time and effort in encouraging and influencing
15 the students. Fortunately through the
16 assistance of teachers and guidance counselors,
17 I was able to encounter a career that I would
18 like to pursue in the future. Our school is
19 already overcrowded and I find absolutely no
20 reason for co-location to take place. By
21 bringing in other students in to our school,
22 students from LICHS will have to go through
23 unnecessary consequences such as losing the
24 privilege of receiving all opportunities that
25 are currently given to them.

1 Students will no longer be able to have
2 access to programs that prepare them for college
3 and numerous amounts of AP classes as well as
4 extracurricular activities will no longer exist.
5 LICHS is an amazing, well rounded school with
6 countless amounts of opportunities given to
7 students to better their education. As many
8 students say, this is truly our second home. We
9 currently are a big, happy family, thus I would
10 like to ask that co-location does not wreck the
11 unity and pride of our family. Thank you.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. ANGELA BODRUM: Good evening
14 distinguished guests. My name is Angela Bodrum
15 and I am the senior secretary at Long Island
16 City High School. As a dedicated senior in my
17 school, I am speaking on behalf of my generation
18 and on behalf of future generations to come.
19 Seniors like myself have worked our fullest
20 potential. We have strived to achieve success
21 throughout our entire high school careers. By
22 co-locating our school, the Department of
23 Education is declaring every future senior has
24 the opportunity to do the same.

25 Co-locating LIC diminishes our resources and

1 puts an overall limit on our potential and
2 abilities as students. We have--the school we
3 have enrolled in and the opportunities we have
4 been promised will be smashed away from us. We
5 are aware that Long Island City High School may
6 not have the best rating, however the Department
7 of Education is not allowing our staff, our
8 students, nor our devoted principal the
9 opportunity to properly restructure and succeed
10 as a school community.

11 Our students are just as ambitious and
12 determined as students in every other high
13 school in New York City. Our principal, Ms.
14 Vivian Selenikas has devoted so much of her
15 precious time into seeing that this school make
16 the progress it needs in order to run
17 successfully. Co-location derails both her
18 efforts and our efforts as determined students.
19 It is completely inequitable that we are
20 continuously being chosen by the Department of
21 Education to have our building molded into
22 something it was never meant to be.

23 With utmost sincerity I highly request that
24 the Department of Education please reconsider
25 their decision of co-locating our school. Thank

1 you.

2 [Applause]

3 FEMALE VOICE: Okay so unfortunately our SL
4 VP Arisa Hilario [phonetic], she is currently
5 out of state and therefore could not be present
6 tonight, so given these circumstances I am going
7 to be reading her speech on behalf of her.

8 [Applause]

9 FEMALE VOICE: Okay, I started out on the
10 first day of school of freshman year. I vividly
11 remember how fascinated I was with the building
12 and its contents including the diversity within
13 the students and faculty. Ever since then, LIC
14 has become my second home. From school,
15 swimming and working as a swim instructor on the
16 weekends, I spend seven days a week in this
17 place I call home. A couple of weeks ago I was
18 engaged in a conversation with one of my
19 friend's student's mother. She heard about this
20 drafted change that the Department of Education
21 is attempting to make.

22 She was outraged and said it was not fair
23 for the students. She believes that education
24 is very important for the future generation and
25 co-location is not the answer to further improve

1 the school system. In fact, it's taking away
2 a good education the students deserve. LIC is
3 not only a building itself, but a community of
4 students, teachers and staff who make every day
5 bearable and worthwhile. Adding another school
6 and a new set of teachers and students disrupt
7 the unity and bond of students, teachers and LIC
8 as a whole.

9 It would create overcrowded bathrooms,
10 lockers, cafeteria, classrooms and confusion
11 with bell schedules. We wouldn't want to share
12 what we have with strangers, just like how you
13 wouldn't want to share your food to someone you
14 don't know.

15 [Laughter]

16 FEMALE VOICE: That's how we feel about
17 sharing classrooms, gyms, equipment and the
18 school. The education I have received has been
19 great. I have excelled at academics and sports
20 with the help of teachers, students and my
21 coach. I would like the future of students of
22 LIC to have the same. It wouldn't be fair for
23 the rest of my fellow bulldogs to be deprived by
24 the education that they deserve. Once again,
25 please don't co-locate another school in a

1 building that is already full of joy and
2 unity. It not only affects the teachers and
3 students, but also the community around Long
4 Island City High School. Thank you.

5 [Applause]

6 MS. LISTA VALON: Good evening. Hello, my
7 name is Lisa Valon [phonetic] and I am the
8 senior class president of Long Island City High
9 School.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. VALON: I have been almost four years at
12 LIC. In these years I have seen the school grow
13 as a community and as more importantly as a
14 family. As a member of this community, co-
15 location can do us no good in fixing anything,
16 therefore this cannot happen. It is one thing
17 to go to school every day and it's another to go
18 to your second home. Students like myself who
19 are involved in government leadership after
20 school activities and sports teams, we spend
21 most of our time in school than the time we
22 actually spend at home.

23 It takes a lot of balance. Our balance to--
24 a lot to balance our academics with our
25 extracurricular activities, but we don't

1 complain. If co-location does happen, however
2 we will complain. We do not want to share our
3 rooms, we don't want to share our space, books,
4 gym, hallways, activities, even locker rooms
5 with another school when it clearly states on
6 the front of this building "Long Island City
7 High School."

8 [Applause]

9 MS. VALON: We are already limited by the
10 amount of resources we have. Sharing them would
11 only cause more problems for our big student
12 population. I'm not only thinking about the
13 students. The faculty in this building are
14 more--are far more important than the teachers
15 and instructors. Sorry, the faculty in this
16 building are far more than just teachers and
17 instructors. They are role models who will
18 guide in a way that gives us a chance for a
19 better teacher. Half the time our assistant
20 principal Vande [phonetic], I call him dad.

21 [Applause]

22 MS. VALON: If co-location happens, what
23 will happen to them? To make room for another
24 school will decrease the school staff and our
25 chances of having another person to depend on to

1 show us the way. Even though my position
2 revolves around the class of 2014, I am deeply
3 concerned of the wellbeing of my under classmen.
4 The co-location starts next year. It will
5 affect all the juniors, sophomores and freshmen.
6 I have come across dependent underclassmen in
7 this school and they should not have to deal
8 with sharing resources that belong to LIC with
9 another school.

10 They should have the same and equal
11 opportunity as us and have the same amazing high
12 school experience that I got to experience.
13 This isn't just a building where we learn. LIC
14 is more than that. We are a community, a
15 family. We support each together with open arms
16 and we help each other when needed. For the
17 past three years I have changed so much from
18 just going to class and heading straight home,
19 to long hours--to staying long hours, attending
20 meetings, attending performances, celebrating
21 spirit days, loving my school and being proud of
22 it.

23 I'm going to admit LIC was my last resort as
24 a high school choice. I wasn't too happy about
25 it but I decided to give it a try. From my

1 first year in this school I fell in love, as
2 cliché as it sounds. I wanted to get involved
3 and help the community, which further pushed me
4 to the person I am today, senior president.

5 [Applause]

6 MS. VALON: Until I graduate and leave this
7 school, I want to make sure that the generations
8 after mine have the same opportunity. They
9 should not have to share with another school.
10 Their resources should not be limited just
11 because other schools want the same thing.
12 Probably the most important thing that I could
13 not stress enough is how much our school will
14 lose its identity if co-location hasn't
15 happened. We would no longer be our own school
16 anymore. Two years ago you were trying to shut
17 us down, but we did not let that happen. And
18 therefore we will not let this happen either.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. VALON: As a final thought, I would like
21 to say that the thoughts that we have expressed
22 tonight are shared not only by LIC students but
23 also students throughout the city. Even in
24 schools that will never face the threat of co-
25 location, they understand what co-location will

1 do. In the words of my good friend, Thouston
2 Bar [phonetic] who is senior president of
3 Stafferson High School [phonetic], the top
4 specialized high school in the city, he told me
5 himself being a part of the high school is like
6 being a part of the community.

7 At Stafferson, we all have an identity that
8 is related to the school and if we have to open
9 our school to another it would completely
10 dissolve the culture we have had for the past
11 four years. We wouldn't have an identity any
12 more. We wouldn't have a home anymore. We
13 would just be sitting sharing the building with
14 other students. I think something that people
15 make--people take for granted is how our
16 specific--has our specific high school shape up
17 into the people we are. Co-location would get
18 rid of a big part of our high school experience.

19 It wouldn't really even feel like a high
20 school anymore. Thank you.

21 [Applause]

22 MR. JOSHUA SANTIAGO: How is everybody
23 tonight?

24 [Applause]

25 MR. SANTIAGO: As Ms. Selenikas has

1 mentioned, I'm Joshua Santiago and I'm the
2 senior vice president.

3 [Applause]

4 MR. SANTIAGO: And I stand here among my
5 peers and the community opposed to the co-
6 location by the Department of Ed. I stand here
7 because this building is Long Island City High
8 School and it should be kept this way. This
9 building should not be shared with any other
10 school. The funding that is going towards this
11 supposed school can be given directly to the LIC
12 in order to start the programs. The school may
13 have had its ups and downs in the previous
14 years, but we are improving and will continue to
15 improve in the upcoming years.

16 We can overcome any obstacles in the future
17 as one, LIC. This school has offered me and
18 experience these past three years that I won't
19 be able to find anywhere else. There's nothing
20 like LIC. This is my second home. I make the
21 sacrifice of commuting a minimum of an hour from
22 Brooklyn on a daily basis in order to receive a
23 proper education. This school has helped me
24 develop into the person I am today, as cliché as
25 that sounds. I ask the DOE to reconsider this

1 proposal in changing a major part of our
2 community. I only hope that future students
3 aren't deprived of the experiences, mentoring,
4 and ultimately education that I was fortunate
5 enough to receive. Thank you.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. WENDY LEE: Hey everyone, my name is
8 Wendy and I am the senior treasurer of Long
9 Island City High School.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. LEE: I remember doing the high school
12 application. My sister was in LIC and she told
13 me all the extracurricular activities, clubs,
14 sports teams and AP classes that were offered.
15 After visiting LIC high school, I knew right
16 then and there that this was going to be the
17 perfect school for me. Yes it wasn't a
18 specialized high school and yes, there were
19 issues. But all schools have issues. However,
20 there is no problems that can't be overcome.
21 When I got my acceptance letter I remember
22 jumping and screaming for--with joy.

23 I have been in this school for almost four
24 years now. The teachers, my peers have taught
25 me the right from wrong, to learn from my

1 mistakes and to embrace myself. Being a part
2 of leadership and student government has made me
3 more confident. The great thing about LIC is
4 that we are really diverse. I never expected
5 myself being in a classroom with students from
6 different backgrounds and cultures. I think is
7 what makes us unique.

8 When I heard about the DOE trying to
9 collocate LIC I was very upset. This is absurd
10 because adding another school would not only
11 limit our resources, AP classes, clubs and
12 extracurricular activities, co-locating LIC will
13 discourage our identity. This will only lead to
14 more problems and competitions because they're
15 not a part of who we are. Two years ago we went
16 through a similar situation, however we stopped
17 it from happening. This clearly shows that we
18 took two steps forward and now the DOE is
19 pushing us three steps back.

20 [Applause]

21 MS. LEE: Everyone in LIC High School is a
22 big family and by co-locating we are not only
23 losing new students coming in, but we're also
24 losing some amazing and inspiring teachers who
25 are like our mentors. So you can't do this to

1 us. Don't break this family apart. Thank
2 you.

3 [Applause]

4 MS. ALENA ZACKARIA: Hi guys. My name is
5 Alena Zackaria [phonetic] and I am the senior
6 representative for--

7 [Applause]

8 MS. ZACKARIA: I came in to LIC as a
9 freshman and I was put into an academy otherwise
10 known as a small learning unit. Soon enough we
11 came this family under new parents, our
12 teachers. We also like to grow up together and
13 hang together. We pretty much became a sibling
14 to one another. Now that we're all seniors and
15 from what we have been through these past two
16 years, I can proudly say that the bond that has
17 been forged is more than that of a family bond.
18 It is something that is unbreakable.

19 We have lots of small learning communities
20 at LIC at the moment. We are all like cousins.
21 It's like extended family living under one roof.
22 If this occurs, the memories that are created,
23 the friendships that we have made, and because
24 we're a big happy family, that all builds us
25 together. Putting another school in this

1 building will not only take away our
2 resources, but it will also cause acrimony
3 between our families, our home and dears. It
4 makes no sense to build a house and then to
5 build another house in it.

6 This is a public school family. All are
7 welcome into our family to share. Watching the
8 DOE make it--why does--sorry. Why would the DOE
9 think it makes sense to divide us? How is it--
10 how does it make sense to create two families to
11 share limited resources rather than one family
12 with unlimited resources? LIC as a family has
13 gone through many changes. We had one positive--
14 --we had one big positive change last year. A
15 new parent was introduced to us, Ms. Selenikas,
16 our new principal.

17 [Applause]

18 MS. ZACKARIA: With her leadership and
19 guidance, things changed and we finally started
20 to stabilize. A family needs stability in order
21 to function properly and thrive. Now the DOE is
22 trying to destabilize us by adding in a new
23 unwanted element that makes us focus our
24 energies on this fight instead of growing and
25 learning. Why does the DOE continuously pick on

1 us when we are trying to go to the right
2 direction? The DOE has desired to co-locate
3 schools without substantial proof that it yields
4 desirable results seems reckless.

5 A large school allows minimalist
6 opportunities and it also allows growth and
7 change in Long Island City. We don't want to
8 lose teachers. We don't want to lose each
9 other. We don't want to lose each other as
10 siblings, as brothers and sisters. And lastly,
11 we do not want to lose our home. And we will
12 fight for it.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. ZACKARIA: We are LIC and we should stay
15 as one. For the past three years I have made
16 the most amazing memories and met so many great
17 new friends. Most importantly I can say I have
18 a family away from home. I have teachers who
19 have treated me as friends and as students. The
20 future of LIC should have the same--should be
21 able to experience the same things as I have
22 experienced. The resources in this school are
23 limitless and we can't have them taken away from
24 us.

25 I speak for all students when I say please

1 don't ruin this amazing family that we have
2 all been a part of and grown to love. Keep LIC
3 as one. Thank you.

4 [Applause]

5 MR. HUGO WEIGHT: Hello? Okay.

6 [Applause]

7 MR. WEIGHT: Good evening, everybody. My
8 name is Hugo. I am the junior senator. I'm not
9 a senior like most of the others who have spoken
10 before me, but I--today I want to address those
11 from the city who have come individually, I
12 don't know all of you individually. But I want
13 to address you guys, I want to address the
14 panel, anybody here--everybody who is here to
15 support us, the students, the alumni, the
16 community. I want to say thank you everybody
17 for coming out tonight and supporting us
18 tonight.

19 [Applause]

20 MR. WEIGHT: I know although a lot of people
21 who are here tonight are seniors, this co-
22 location will like mainly affect the sophomores,
23 juniors and freshmen, the underclassmen who are
24 here today. And as a junior I know this will
25 affect my senior year immensely because we would

1 have co-location might pose a threat to our AP
2 classes, to the college and our courses, the
3 after school activities; everything that we need
4 to build a good college resume in order to
5 further our second education.

6 The DOE--I speak--I can't speak for all of
7 us when I say that we love LIC. You know, we
8 love the teachers here, we love our community.
9 We love everything that we have to offer.

10 [Applause]

11 MR. WEIGHT: And I'm just trying to make it
12 short and sweet because, you know, it's getting
13 kind of late. But I think I speak for everyone
14 here tonight and anybody who couldn't make it
15 out tonight, that we want LIC as one, we want it
16 as one whole--as a unity, as a whole. We don't
17 want another school here to interrupt what we
18 have and everything that we have here tonight.
19 And I was here for my freshman year and
20 throughout my career here at--during high
21 school. My freshman year was the same, when we
22 had a panel here and we had a hearing as well,
23 similar to this.

24 And I said this two years ago and I want to
25 say it again and I want to say it for however

1 many times the DOE would come back and try to
2 come out and condemn us for--from our education
3 and everything that we have that's good going
4 on. We have our graduation rates are improving.
5 Our classes are improving. Our attendance is
6 improving, our grades--everything that we have
7 is getting better here at LIC and I don't know
8 why the DOE is trying to publicly--

9 [Applause]

10 MR. WEIGHT: So on that note, I will say
11 thank you for everybody that came out tonight.
12 It really means a lot and anybody from the
13 Department of Ed that came here and came here to
14 listen to what we have to say as a people and as
15 a community. And I want to say this one more
16 time, like I said two years ago, we are LIC. We
17 are bulldogs. We represent our community and
18 what we have to offer here, so thank you very
19 much.

20 [Applause]

21 CARDINAL SANCHEZ: Hello everyone. My name
22 is Cardinal Sanchez and I am currently the
23 sophomore senator at Long Island City High
24 School.

25 [Applause]

1 MR. SANCHEZ: I have attended Long Island
2 City High School since freshman year. Coming in
3 to LIC I didn't know what to expect. Not every
4 school is flawless, but Long Island City High
5 School is a great environment for educational
6 purposes. This school is fundamental in every
7 way, from the sports teams to the AP classes, to
8 the newly added clubs after school. In contrast
9 to that, LIC is currently at its maximum
10 capacity. Adding even more students to this
11 building might impact things such as getting to
12 class on time.

13 Nonetheless, adding a school to the building
14 will make places such as the gymnasium and lunch
15 rooms crowded. These are places that students
16 afford to socialize and conduct physical
17 education. It's the kind of places kids go to
18 to be worry-free from tests and assignments. I,
19 a sophomore senator, have spoken with many
20 sophomores about this issue. They think it's
21 preposterous. It wouldn't be right or fair
22 coming from many undercurrent forces at Long
23 Island City High School.

24 I would like to thank the panel on behalf of
25 leadership of Long Island City and our community

1 for this opportunity to hear us out.

2 [Applause]

3 MR. BETHALL: Student government just wants
4 to get one picture with their elected officials.

5 [Applause]

6 [Pause]

7 FEMALE VOICE: You have a lot to be proud of
8 with your student government leadership and this
9 student government.

10 [Applause]

11 MR. BETHALL: Okay, while they're taking
12 pictures, we still have a few more statements
13 coming from the school leadership team. I want
14 to make sure that the school leadership team
15 from PS 193 has the opportunity, even though I
16 know they don't plan to speak. And then we
17 currently have 74 speakers signed up, 41
18 students and 33 other speakers. I just want to
19 give everybody a sense of time, if I could have
20 your attention.

21 [Pause]

22 MR. BETHALL: We'll be here to make sure
23 that everybody has had a chance to speak. If we
24 just go through the number of folks that are
25 there right now, we've got about another two and

1 a half to three hours of speaking and I would
2 just ask all of the speakers as you are talking
3 to please keep that in mind so we can be
4 respectful of those that are behind you. With
5 that, I'll turn it over to the chair.

6 [Pause]

7 MR. BETHALL: With that, I'll turn it back
8 over to the SL team who I believe had some
9 additional comments.

10 [Pause]

11 MR. ACHIRON: We are going to try this
12 tonight, everything that we do from up here.
13 Again, we want to thank you. We want to break
14 up the seats. We have heard a lot of the points
15 from a lot of the people. All of our stuff will
16 be going in writing, so you might hear the
17 highlights, but not all the pieces. So I want
18 to introduce Ms. Brown who will talk to you
19 about some of these items that we have found
20 that are problems with this whole program.

21 [Applause]

22 MS. TRACEY BROWN: Good evening. I don't
23 know if you all can see my shirt. It says, "I
24 am LIC."

25 [Applause]

1 MS. BROWN: I came here, actually I was on
2 this property before this building was put up.
3 I - - at the instruction of this building. He
4 was like a father to me, so I was here before
5 this whole building was up. So I can honestly
6 say I am LIC.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. BROWN: And I'm a Taurus, so I'm a
9 bulldog, so that's another thing, right?

10 [Applause]

11 MS. BROWN: Our school leader team--our
12 school leadership team of Long Island City High
13 School unanimously opposes the proposal to co-
14 locate another school in Long Island City
15 building. Unfortunately this proposal to create
16 a new small school inside Long Island City High
17 School building is the wrong time for the wrong
18 reasons, and if approved, we will have the wrong
19 outcomes. While the Chancellor's motto is
20 "Children First, Children Always," this proposes
21 the most LIC students into second class citizens
22 in their own school.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. BROWN: LIC students will have less
25 access to resources, fewer opportunities for

1 higher level education, higher level college
2 preparation, excuse me, and fewer chances to
3 success than they had previously. This school
4 took 26 years to be built with many broken
5 promises along the way. Now that it is here and
6 with these continual attacks, our boulevard
7 outside is truly the boulevard of broken dreams.

8 [Applause]

9 MS. BROWN: Now that it is here, it is clear
10 that the Department of Ed would like to displace
11 its own children to bring in others. Clearly
12 this co-location is just the first stop on the
13 road to a slow death for LIC, as other
14 organizations begin to populate the building.
15 Rather than Children First, Children Always, it
16 is some children first, certain children always,
17 but LIC children never.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. BROWN: We're not going to stand for
20 that. LIC always, okay?

21 [Applause]

22 MS. BROWN: Co-location stands in the way of
23 continued success at Long Island City High
24 School. For a system that provide--that prides
25 itself on being driven by the data, it is really

1 a shame that the Chancellor is choosing to do
2 data that is over two years old in the
3 educational impact statement, the ESI. For the
4 proposed co-location at LIC, two years old
5 issues that produce two year old data provided
6 in the ESI are long gone.

7 New changes, new structures have literally
8 reversed most of the issues that negatively
9 affected the school two years ago. The school
10 is ahead of the curve on offering advanced
11 placement courses at a time when the Chancellor
12 seeks an outside grant to add advanced placement
13 courses in 55 other high schools while we
14 already offer 26 such classes. The school is
15 ahead of the curve in offering college readiness
16 such as algebra II, chemistry, physics, which
17 are things that are just not being given in
18 sufficient amounts in the city.

19 The school is ahead of the curve in offering
20 state certified career and technical ed classes.
21 And lastly, based on the reason that the
22 Chancellor describes in his own testimony on
23 closure and co-location before the city council,
24 Long Island City High School is not in need of
25 such support and should remain intact as one

1 school without a second small school in the
2 building. I say LIC and 193. That's the only
3 people that should be in this building.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. BROWN: We'll take the program, we'll
6 take the students. We don't need the staff,
7 we've got the best principal ever.

8 [Applause]

9 MS. BROWN: Okay, when she came in they - -
10 okay? So we don't need another co-location. We
11 are LIC and we're here to fight. Don't take our
12 school. Thank you.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. PETER MUHLBACH: Hi, my name is Peter
15 Muhlbach. I'm here to speak about
16 accountability, all right?

17 [Applause]

18 MR. MUHLBACH: Everyone in this room is
19 accountable. We have students that are
20 accountable. We have teachers. We have
21 parents. We have administration and we have the
22 school board here. The only problem is the only
23 people not accountable are in the Department of
24 Education.

25 [Applause]

1 MR. MUHLBACH: On the 12th of September
2 they offered up this educational impact
3 statement for co-location, but to this day the
4 first translation was never ever produced, and
5 that dissed pretty much 61% of our parents.
6 They never got a translation. All right? That
7 is a violation of Chancellor's regulation 663.
8 Why doesn't the Department of Education--

9 [Applause]

10 MR. MUHLBACH: Who is policing the
11 Department of Education? The mayor and the
12 Chancellor seem to do whatever they want to do,
13 but we're not going to stand for that.

14 [Applause]

15 MR. MUHLBACH: Okay? A second proposal came
16 out on October 8th and then they had a Spanish
17 translation, actually the Spanish translation of
18 the second amended proposal came out. Why
19 haven't we had 45 days to look at that proposal,
20 all right? We haven't had that either, okay?

21 [Applause]

22 MR. MUHLBACH: And I'll tell you why,
23 because that would put the proposal and the next
24 meeting into November after the election,
25 because they're trying to shove it in before the

1 election. We know about their games.

2 [Applause]

3 MR. MUHLBACH: Okay, in September 2013, the
4 panel for educational panel meeting ceded that
5 76 new schools were created but only 19
6 buildings. That's not enough buildings. They
7 need to go out and build some buildings in this
8 city, all right?

9 [Applause]

10 MR. MUHLBACH: Brown University, Annenberg
11 Institute [phonetic] made a statement about
12 Mayor Bloomberg. And it said in spite of the
13 city's efforts to increase equity by expanding
14 high school choice and creating 500 new small
15 schools and 100 charter schools, college
16 readiness rates are still largely predicted by
17 the demographics of a student's neighborhood,
18 okay? So they suggest that the strategies, the
19 school choice and school creation are not
20 sufficient enough to create the equity that the
21 Bloomberg administration has envisioned. So
22 none of this--it doesn't work, okay?

23 They also came out with one way to fix this;
24 invest heavily in school improvement strategies.
25 Spend the money in LIC, not another set of staff

1 for half the building.

2 [Applause]

3 MR. MUHLBACH: Rather than school creation
4 and choice, increase the capacity of existing
5 schools to prevent--to prepare students for
6 college. It seems pretty simple but they don't
7 get it. Okay, between Long Island City High
8 School here and the Queens Bureau Bridge there
9 are almost 6 million square feet of unused
10 warehouses, all right? I went the other day on
11 Realtor.com. I don't know why the Department
12 didn't build a site, take a building, and bring
13 that school down the road. We don't need that
14 here.

15 [Applause]

16 MR. MUHLBACH: One other problem I have. If
17 this new school is smaller, let's say it happens
18 to actually go through, or if LIC needs more
19 space, will we be allowed to go back into our
20 own building and take some space back? It seems
21 that they don't want to let any of that happen,
22 okay? I am Peter Muhlbach and I vote for no co-
23 location.

24 [Applause]

25 MR. ACHIRON: As you know, we also have

1 students on the SLT and they're going to give
2 you their take.

3 MS. DIYA RAMDATH: Good evening
4 Superintendent Ms. Michaelson [phonetic] and my
5 Long Island City High School community. As the
6 student body president of Long Island City High
7 School, I would like to address my concerns
8 regarding the proposed co-location plan for our
9 school. For starters, our school is already
10 overcapacity. Starting a new school would
11 further complicate the availability of our
12 resources.

13 If this co-location takes place, all of our
14 school resources such as the auditorium and gym,
15 cafeteria and pool would be limited for our LIC
16 students. We are a part of LIC's legacy and our
17 privileges as students would be taken away and
18 given to those who were never a part of LIC.
19 LIC is not only a school for students to learn
20 and get an education, but it's a school that
21 offers a wide range of interests. Two years ago
22 I witnessed LIC in its most vulnerable time.
23 The DOE planned to close our beloved school.

24 This event not only proved the DOE wrong,
25 but has shown them that LIC is a school of faith

1 and we take pride in our accomplishments.
2 When you see the progress has made since the
3 last attempt by the DOE to shut us down, has
4 clearly shown us that LIC has a future, if only
5 the DOE would allow it. Our principal, Ms.
6 Selenikas has done her best to improve LIC for
7 the better. She has opened up so many programs
8 that resulted in the benefit of the students,
9 and she will continue to do so for future
10 generations.

11 [Applause]

12 MS. RAMDATH: The result of this co-location
13 would lead to many unjust circumstances.
14 Yesterday I attended a staff meeting where I was
15 able to communicate with different schools
16 throughout the bureau of Queens. One school in
17 particular stood out the most and was actually
18 affected by co-location previously. The
19 president of Flushing High School [phonetic]
20 explained the tough conditions of co-locating
21 schools. They gave me personal feedback of
22 their thoughts about co-location and most of the
23 comments were negative.

24 One student said not only is there chaos and
25 too many kids in Flushing High School, but

1 everything is restricted and the students are
2 not able to use what's theirs. They say it's
3 like two worlds in one building. There is no
4 communication or unity amongst the students.
5 But the fact that they already have two to three
6 co-locations taking place in their school, they
7 clearly know how it feels to attend a school
8 that consists of chaos and tension amongst the
9 students.

10 Not only does it have destructive effect on
11 the Flushing High School students, but it also
12 impacted the students who were getting co-
13 located. Like Flushing High School, I'm sure
14 that our co-location would create the same
15 result. The way I see it, Flushing High School
16 is the future LIC. Then this co-location would
17 not only hurt the students of LIC, but also the
18 students who are in the co-location process. It
19 seems to me that every time our school gains an
20 opportunity to achieve success, the DOE finds a
21 way to combat it.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. RAMDATH: With that being said, I ask
24 the DOE to please rethink their decision of co-
25 locating our school and to not terminate our

1 bulldog unity. Thank you.

2 MR. ERIN RAMGULAN: Good evening
3 distinguished guests and my Long Island City
4 High School family. Let me start out by saying
5 that we as a school community have gathered here
6 today in order to keep another school from
7 taking place into our school. We want all
8 incoming freshmen to be admitted as LIC bulldogs
9 and be a part of all that we have to offer. Our
10 principal has tremendous experience in making
11 sure that every student gets the resources they
12 need.

13 Our administrators in the building work very
14 hard in making sure the school is safe and the
15 students have a fun environment to learn in.
16 Within one year, our principal Ms. Selenikas has
17 laid the foundation to help the Long Island City
18 High School meet all the required New York State
19 Education Department targets in order to move
20 the school from the New York State Education
21 Department designation as a priority school.

22 All the hard work that the administrators,
23 teachers, and staff have put into making the
24 school organized, safe and productive will go
25 away when a new school is put into our school

1 building. This means that LIC students will
2 have limited resources, the amount of AP classes
3 offered will decrease and the teachers we have
4 grown to love will be excessed. Our teachers
5 have been our motivation to come to school every
6 day to learn. In this school I believe we have
7 some of the most amazing teachers and faculty,
8 teachers who sincerely care so much about the
9 students and are here every single day making
10 sure that we are learning and ready to--ready
11 for life beyond high school.

12 I would not be where I am today without the
13 help of what my teachers have taught me. With
14 this proposal by the DOE, it means that Long
15 Island City High School will be losing its
16 teachers as well as students to make space for
17 the new school. This is wrong. And the DOE
18 believes that we are not affected in any way
19 possible. Well I'm here to tell you Ms. Madison
20 [phonetic], that as a student body
21 representative, I am speaking on behalf of all
22 students in this building when we say we do not
23 approve the proposal set forth by the Department
24 of Education.

25 This school is our home and just like you

1 would not want someone coming into your house
2 causing chaos, we as students do not want
3 another school with an entirely new
4 administration in our building. This building
5 was opened the year of 1995 and was meant for
6 only the students of Long Island City High
7 School.

8 [Applause]

9 MR. RAMGULAN: It is engraved on the front
10 of our building as Long Island City High School.
11 Many of our teachers are Long Island City High
12 School alumnus. We do not want this legacy to
13 vanish from this school and no longer just be
14 LIC but another school as well. Sharing all of
15 the resources meant only for our students, only
16 for our teachers, and only for our faculty. So
17 please do not think that this panel will have no
18 effect on the students or community, because it
19 affects every single person in this building,
20 present, past and future.

21 [Applause]

22 MR. RAMGULAN: This is the second time that
23 the Department of Education has come up with a
24 plan to disrupt the fabric of everything our
25 school stands for. Because of this new plan I

1 have to give up time which could be dedicated
2 for studying for exams that I have tomorrow, as
3 well as preparing for SATs and college
4 applications. But I am set on fighting for a
5 school I will always hold dear to my heart, a
6 school which has become my second home, where I
7 have built a foundation of trust and respect for
8 everyone in the building.

9 So DOE please reconsider your proposal
10 because as you can see we have so many people
11 for our school and are against what you're
12 proposing. Think of all the money that the city
13 will be wasting to incorporate a new school into
14 an already functional school, only to bring
15 chaos and destruction. This is a waste of
16 taxpayer dollars, because the DOE is not paying
17 for this with money from their own pocket, but
18 instead tax payer dollars. Many of you who are
19 in this room and do not support the proposal.
20 Department of Education, our student body is
21 telling you do not slice or dice Long Island
22 City High School. Thank you.

23 [Applause]

24 MR. ACHIRON: Ms. Gragus [phonetic] will
25 explain some of the things that deal with your

1 community being shortchanged.

2 [Applause]

3 MS. GRAGUS: Mr. Achiron used to be my
4 teacher, so this is what community is all about.
5 I am a former LIC graduate. I've been teaching
6 here for 19 years and I've also been within the
7 neighborhood for 40 years. Three generations of
8 my family live in the neighborhood. So not only
9 am I LIC, but I am also LIC community. And I am
10 horrified to see that the Department of
11 Education has done absolutely no outreach to my
12 community. No one in my community knows about
13 this proposal.

14 No one in my community was asked about how
15 this proposal would impact their children, their
16 school, or their community. It was easy for the
17 Department of Ed to make decisions like this
18 because our community is a community of working
19 class parents. Our community is a community of
20 immigrant parents. When we go home, our parents
21 work two to three jobs. They don't have the
22 opportunity to be here right now. When we go
23 home, our parents usually don't speak English.
24 61% of our students at LIC High School speak
25 Spanish as their first language.

1 State law mandates that the EIS statement
2 that Ms. Matheson read to us at the very
3 beginning of this proceeding should be
4 translated into Spanish for those children 45
5 days before the PEP vote, which is next week.
6 It has not been done for us. That is illegal.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. GRAGUS: They are not allowed to make
9 decisions about our schools, about our families,
10 about our community without us being part of the
11 decision making process. But even though the
12 Department of Ed has placed obstacles in our way
13 of making this decision making process, the
14 community has spoken. Over 1,500 community
15 members have signed a petition saying no, we do
16 not want another school in this building.

17 [Applause]

18 MS. GRAGUS: The point--so this building was
19 made for one purpose; for Long Island City High
20 School students and the Long Island City High
21 School community, not for three or four other
22 schools.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. GRAGUS: We want our school buildings
25 and all of our resources for our community. A

1 third school in this building will hurt our
2 students. A third school in this building will
3 hurt our advanced placement classes. All of our
4 electives and all of the hard work that we've
5 done this--all of these years to prepare our
6 students. I had a really long thing to read to
7 you all, but--and I was very angry when I came
8 into this meeting, but I am so proud because all
9 of our kids brought up these points.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. GRAGUS: You are listening to the
12 argumentative--

13 [Applause]

14 MS. GRAGUS: And I'm telling you I've never
15 been so proud as a teacher because you don't
16 need us anymore. You can do it yourself. So
17 keep moving on, moving forward. Listen to
18 what's going on in school. Listen to your
19 teachers, because this is a real life lesson.
20 Argumentative writing that we've been working on
21 for so many years, you brought it to life and I
22 love you and keep loving LIC.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. GRAGUS: And say no to co-location.

25 [Applause]

1 MR. ACHIRON: Thank you very much. I too
2 have taken at least seven or eight pages out
3 which you've already said and we don't have to
4 say it again. So I just want to concentrate on
5 a few items. First of all, the DOE, the
6 Chancellor has such disrespect that it couldn't
7 even call the school or get HSST or saw himself
8 to find out that our enrollment, superintendent,
9 is not what he handed you to present. You can
10 tell him it is not 2,524 students, but today
11 there is 2,610 students.

12 [Applause]

13 MR. ACHIRON: It is not 117% utilized, it is
14 121% utilized.

15 [Applause]

16 MR. ACHIRON: So you are the messenger and
17 it is certainly not your fault. And we do not
18 blame you at all. But for the Chancellor not to
19 check his numbers before sending you here just
20 says shame on you and I feel like I can do
21 anything I want. And that's unfortunate. He is
22 Chancellor of all of the students, including the
23 LIC students. In addition, on October 2nd, the
24 Chancellor spoke to the city council. His
25 testimony tells us that LIC should not be in

1 this vote. His testimony was about why
2 schools need to be closed sometimes and why co-
3 locations are necessary.

4 And reading from his testimony, I would ask
5 the following questions. If you talk about high
6 school at a 29% graduation rate needing this
7 kind of drastic work, why are you looking at
8 Long Island City High School which had an 11%
9 increase at 61%? When you talk about students
10 in small schools getting more personalized
11 instruction, Long Island City is organized into
12 small learning communities. Every students is
13 in a small learning community of 300 to 500
14 approximately, so - - and they get that.

15 Principals can--with the small schools,
16 principals themselves can then focus on more
17 professional development and less on day to day
18 operations. But that's--that work goes on here.
19 We have both. We have a special bell schedule
20 and we have all voted as a faculty, 96% or 97%
21 to go on this bell schedule that provides a
22 Wednesday morning staff development every single
23 week. This faculty is interested in
24 professional development and is willing to work
25 on professional development.

1 And when you came out with your special
2 plan for the future effectiveness model, we
3 didn't need to revise anything because we had
4 the time built into our schedule already. I
5 know each of these items the Chancellor comes up
6 with, we are doing. We have the advanced
7 placement courses that - - to college board to
8 get a grant for to improve the kids being ready
9 for college. We teach the courses they are
10 looking for for college readiness. We do what
11 they want. We do what our children need.

12 This new school has no reason for being.
13 It's right here, InfoTech, and they don't know
14 what's going in. Their words, it will "likely
15 be" an information technology program. They say
16 one thing and then do another. You know, we are
17 co-located and I think we have the greatest
18 relationship you can have with PS 983 and our
19 teachers have the utmost respect for those
20 teachers and parents who every day escort their
21 kids everywhere and are really protective and do
22 a tremendous job.

23 But how many different bell schedules do you
24 have in a school, which can impact on kids like
25 that that need to have good structure when you

1 have the LIC schedule and the co-located
2 schedule, and they're different. And there's
3 bells ten minutes apart and nobody knows what's
4 what. And then the kids who are really
5 challenged really don't know what's what. We're
6 not saying you can't co-locate with a school of
7 challenged children, we are saying how many does
8 it take before you overflow the challenge?

9 We think this EIS has been drawn up too
10 fast. It's clear it's a land grab. They want
11 the nice building for their whoever, their
12 special constituency. They want to take it
13 before they leave. And it's, as Ms. Brown said
14 at the beginning, it is some children first,
15 certain children always but LIC children never.
16 You know what? Enough is enough.

17 [Applause]

18 MR. ACHIRON: They need to pull the EIS,
19 pull the vote, leave us to do our own work for
20 our kids which we have proved we don't shrink
21 away from. We do that every lifting year and
22 every time you hear them standing up let's say -
23 - and you say, well why would they have lesser--
24 let me explain it to you out there. Because as
25 they scrape the population, they scrape the

1 available pool of kids to do it and they
2 scrape the money because there's less kids,
3 there's less teachers. When that happens,
4 anything beyond the routine class is averaged.
5 And that's how they make it into a school that's
6 boring, that you don't want to go to.

7 And then they say your numbers are down
8 because nobody wants to go. You know, we were
9 4,200 around 2007. And guess what? We're the
10 ones that said to the superintendent of the day
11 it's too big. You can't have 13 period days.
12 You can't have no classroom available for a
13 club. You can't have school end at 5:20 in the
14 afternoon so that kids can't be on teams and
15 clubs and other activities. You've got to trim
16 it down to a manageable size.

17 Parents weren't voting with their - - about
18 clamoring for a new school. They vote with
19 their feet. In all the years that we've been on
20 those lists, every spring they have to put a
21 letter out telling parents they have the right
22 of the federal law to have their child go
23 elsewhere and they got three letters. Three
24 letters.

25 [Applause]

1 MR. ACHIRON: This staff and these
2 students do the heavy lifting, Chancellor.
3 There is no reason to drop another building
4 here. You want another program? We've already
5 proved we can do that. We have state certified
6 CTE in the building and you're talking about a
7 CTE that you're not even sure what's it going to
8 be. Pull the EIS and pull it off the vote next
9 week. Thank you.

10 [Applause]

11 MR. ACHIRON: One more thing. They keep
12 asking--we keep asking who in the community
13 wants this and nobody answers. But we have a
14 petition that's been going on Change.org and as
15 of today--

16 [Applause]

17 MR. ACHIRON: 1,542 signatures around 3:00
18 p.m. and 15 pages of comments from them, which I
19 would just like you to consider. And now I'm
20 done.

21 [Applause]

22 MS. ANITA O'BRIEN: Hello everyone, I'm
23 Anita O'Brien, the PA president and a very proud
24 graduate of Long Island City High School 1985.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. O'BRIEN: As the PA president I, you
2 know, in my brain I had a lot of reasons to
3 oppose this co-location and I sent a very long
4 email to the Department of Portfolio Management,
5 but this statement comes from my heart. As the
6 PA president of Long Island City High School, I
7 oppose this proposal for a co-location because
8 it is just another road block that the
9 Department of Education created to disrupt our
10 school's journey to become all that they can be.

11 Over the past six years that I have been
12 involved in this school, the DOE has imposed
13 drastic changes but none that would benefit our
14 children. Today with our new administration,
15 positive changes and plans are being implemented
16 to give our children a quality education in a
17 safe, nurturing environment. Long Island City
18 High School has shown progress and we are very
19 proud. As parents, we along with our children
20 chose Long Island City High School, as opposed
21 to a smaller school.

22 It has more options for AP classes, foreign
23 language, science, math classes. We have more
24 physical education classes and teams than
25 smaller schools. A co-location would reduce

1 these options. We sent our children here
2 because they want and deserve more, not less.
3 Finally, I grew up in this neighborhood and I
4 still work in this neighborhood. I'm a proud
5 graduate. Let's have our children be proud
6 graduates and not live under the constant
7 negative criticisms of the DOE. The children of
8 Long Island City and Astoria deserve this.

9 [Applause]

10 MR. BETHALL: Let's call Aleya Basul from
11 the district 75 community education counsel.

12 MS. ALEYA BASUL: Good evening. My name is
13 Aleya Basul and my son is with autism and he
14 attends the district 75 special school here.
15 And he's very--he's a very happy child. He just
16 moved to this school and it's been just hardly
17 two weeks and I see a big change in him. He is
18 right now getting all the therapy, although the
19 therapy--the room is not there. He is getting a
20 therapy in the corner of a classroom and while
21 the class is in process.

22 It's amazing that this co-location issue is
23 coming up in a school which is already full. I
24 mean, there is no way any other program can be
25 added. And if it's added, I am really concerned

1 about three things, which is safety, safety,
2 and safety.

3 [Applause]

4 MS. BASUL: So my concern is why the key
5 proposal is why not making sense, why it's the
6 new management, the new administration is going
7 to be in another month or so. So why, we don't
8 need this. The new administration to decide
9 whatever they decide, why does we have--why we
10 are making this right now as if they are trying
11 to strengthen the chairs in a Titanic ship,
12 which is not making sense. We cannot at the
13 11th hour making--

14 [Applause]

15 MR. BETHALL: Is there anybody else from the
16 school leadership team? Is there anybody else
17 from PSI 93? Okay. With that, we have now
18 concluded the formal presentations.

19 [Applause]

20 MR. BETHALL: As I said before, we have 74
21 speakers that are signed up. I imagine at this
22 point some may have left already so we'll call
23 all the names that tare here. Everybody is
24 reminded that public comments must be limited to
25 two minutes. Time will be kept and you will be

1 signaled when there's about 30 seconds left.
2 And when your time is up we'll give you the
3 opportunity to finish out your thought, but
4 please try and be respectful of the time so that
5 everybody has a chance to speak.

6 With that, I'll call up the first five
7 students to the microphone and we'll begin with
8 our district representative from the United
9 Federation of Teachers, but behind them I have--
10 well, if those are the elected officials. We
11 did them already. Student number one will be it
12 looks like Tammy Kadine [phonetic]. Student
13 number two, Forhyde Shaw [phonetic]. Student
14 number three, Emily Tapas [phonetic]. Student
15 number four, Leslie Kurnow [phonetic]. And
16 student number five, Aksana Mohammed [phonetic].

17 [Applause]

18 MR. BETHALL: Just line up over there and
19 use that microphone in that order. And with
20 that, I'll turn the microphone--

21 [Applause]

22 MS. JANELLE ALBINES: Good evening. Good
23 evening everyone, my name is Janelle Albines
24 [phonetic]. I am vice president of academic
25 high schools for the United Federation of

1 Teachers.

2 [Applause]

3 MS. ALBINES: And we are here standing in
4 solidarity with the school community of Long
5 Island City High School. It's sad that so many-
6 -and that your friends aren't here, they
7 couldn't stay so late. And it's sad that you
8 all have to actually come out on a school night
9 and try to express why the school community
10 should remain intact. That is sad. It's sad
11 that the DOE has continued to show disrespect
12 after disrespect after disrespect with the way
13 that the EIS was written with the lack of
14 translation, with the decision to co-locate a
15 school that hasn't even been created yet and
16 that has the same exact model as the school down
17 the block.

18 This kind of disrespect is emblematic of the
19 last 12 years. We are so, so happy that it is
20 coming to an end now.

21 [Applause]

22 MS. ALBINES: What we want you to know, the
23 union representing the educators in your
24 building are standing in solidarity with the
25 union representing the administrators in this

1 building. We want you to know that we are on
2 the record supporting each and every one of you
3 as you say no to this proposal, as you stand
4 with the community, with the parents, with the
5 businesses, with all of you we say no to the
6 decision to strangle LIC as it grows, to
7 strangle LIC as it thrives under the leadership
8 of your principal and the partnership with
9 faculty and your students who are phenomenal
10 leaders in this school.

11 We say no, no, no. Thank you.

12 [Applause]

13 MR. BETHALL: And from the council, Lucindas
14 Kwol [phonetic].

15 MS. LUCINDAS KWOL: Yes, good evening. My
16 name is Lucindas Kwol and I am here because I am
17 standing in strong opposition of what they want
18 to do to this excellent learning community.
19 This is a community of leadership from the
20 students to the teachers that teach them, to the
21 administrators that work with the teachers and
22 to the principal, Ms. Vivienne Selenikas. And
23 on that note I want to read a statement from our
24 president, Earnest Logan [phonetic] who says
25 that the CSA has been supportive of school

1 locations when the motivation for putting
2 more than one school under the same roof has
3 been a rational one.

4 And the best interests of children and their
5 educators have been taken to heart. This is not
6 the case. If precious space isn't appropriated
7 reasonably by the incoming school, if the DOE
8 doesn't give preferential treatment to one
9 school or another, and that the leaders of each
10 school establish consistent, reasonable
11 communication practices, then co-location can be
12 successful. Even when the school's ideologies
13 are different and even when there is a mix of
14 traditional public schools and charter schools.

15 When this kind of successful fusion occurs,
16 it is always because there has been substantial
17 input, and I said input from the entire school
18 community. This has not been the case here.
19 And when the DOE has to--has no ulterior motives
20 for the co-location, this doesn't seem to be the
21 story at Long Island City High School, but just
22 a few short years ago was on the Newsweek's list
23 of America's best high school, but was suddenly
24 yanked off the list and declared a failing
25 school. LIC became just one more of the large

1 high schools singled out for DOE closure.

2 Considering the fragile recent past, the
3 last thing Long Island City High School needs is
4 a second school to come in and compete for the
5 very resources we heard the students talk about
6 tonight. It certainly doesn't the inevitable
7 overcrowded situation that will put the students
8 at risk in terms of safety. CSA believes that
9 the DOE should stand firmly beside the community
10 in supporting the continuing revitalization of
11 Long Island City High School. They should end
12 all attempts to undermine the school.

13 They should put all efforts behind the
14 building and improving Long Island City High
15 School rather than spending time and money on
16 establishing a new school within the same walls.
17 The bottom line we oppose this co-location.
18 Thank you.

19 [Applause]

20 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. As the hour comes
21 to 8:30, we will begin with our first speaker on
22 the list. I will remind the students that are
23 among our first speakers, as you step up to the
24 microphone just let us know your name and the
25 number. Hold on one second. The gentleman down

1 here in the maroon sweater will be signaling
2 you when you have about 30 seconds left. So you
3 will get a hand wave, there will be a little
4 sign that will say, "30 seconds left." They'll
5 pick up the sign when it says there is no time
6 left. Please feel free to finish your thought,
7 but we do want to make sure we can be respectful
8 of the other speakers behind you.

9 So I just need to call speaker number one,
10 Tammy Kadine. I'm making sure that he or she is
11 not here. Okay, with that we'll go on to
12 speaker two, Forhyde Shaw.

13 MR. FORHYDE SHAW: Hi, my name is Forhyde
14 Shaw. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I
15 have like a question for the DOE. So just so I
16 understand it, that the DOE is in the business
17 of providing equal access to quality education.
18 And your silence will be taken as a yes to this
19 question. So that's a yes. You are in the
20 business of providing equal access to a quality
21 education, which if you do go through with this
22 co-location, will not be given to us.

23 So what you're proposing will end up in
24 this--we'll have another school that nobody
25 asked for and then we'll have our resources, our

1 clubs, our after school programs, our
2 building spaces such as auditorium, the
3 cafeteria, the gym; all of that will be limited
4 and taken away from us. Our school courses such
5 as the AP classes, the college math classes, all
6 of that will be limited and restricted and we
7 will get less and less of it as the years go by
8 and the high school, you know, the other school
9 gets to 12th grade.

10 So I am an immigrant. I moved to this
11 country last year. And what you see before you
12 is a product of this school.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. SHAW: This school has shaped me to be
15 who I am today.

16 [Applause]

17 MR. SHAW: This school was the foundation
18 that will propel me to my college level. What I
19 become in life later on in college, what college
20 I go to will be determined by this school. So
21 what you are proposing is taking away my
22 foundation. You are going to take away and just
23 adding brick after brick, take away brick after
24 brick, and then just end up with a whole jumble
25 of puzzle--of nothing that makes no sense and

1 that is to be my future. My life is not a
2 toy for the DOE to play with.

3 [Applause]

4 MR. SHAW: That does not mean that - - . So
5 this is my request to the DOE that please
6 reconsider that what you are playing with
7 people's lives, teachers, students, the
8 community. This is a matter that is dear to our
9 hearts. Thank you.

10 [Applause]

11 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker number
12 three is Emily Tapas. Speaker number three.
13 That was speaker number two. Speaker number
14 three, Emily Tapas is not here. We'll go on to
15 speaker number four, Leslie Kurnow.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. LESLIE KURNOW: Okay, good evening. I'm
18 sure you know, we all know why I'm here and I
19 beg you please listen. My name is Leslie Kurnow
20 and I am a junior here at Long Island City High
21 School. I chose to come here and I had many
22 chances to transfer but I didn't. I came here
23 because I received offers to many clubs, sports,
24 AP classes and opportunities I can't get in
25 other places. When I chose LIC, I chose

1 everything the school has to offer, not parts
2 of it so don't take it away. Next year I'll be
3 a senior and I don't want to deal with the
4 problems of a co-location.

5 I'm hoping to have a role in student
6 government next year. I don't want the seniors
7 to have a bad year because you decided to change
8 our system. So please take us into
9 consideration and don't let everything we are
10 telling you go through one year and out the
11 next. This is coming from the heart of a girl
12 who has struggled to make the school better, who
13 will keep struggling to keep the school as one
14 and make sure everyone has the same
15 opportunities that we have now and nothing is
16 taken away from us.

17 Don't discourage students from learning,
18 from learning by taking away what we have.
19 Don't let them think that the harder they work,
20 the more they get punished. Help our students
21 reach their full potential. Help them become
22 the successful leaders that they can be. I'm an
23 educational activist and I've fought for many
24 justices before, but none is more important than
25 my second place of home, where I have spent more

1 than eight hours. Please help us keep LIC
2 alive.

3 [Applause]

4 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Next is speaker
5 number five, Aksana Mohammed.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. AKSANA MOHAMMED: Hi guys. My name is
8 Aksana Mohammed. I am currently a senior at
9 Long Island City High School. LIC is the home I
10 share with whom I consider my family and I don't
11 want it taken away from me. By shoving another
12 school into our school, you are not only going
13 to deprive the students of our resources that we
14 need, but you're taking away our classrooms, our
15 hallways, our locker rooms, everything--and our
16 amazing teachers.

17 It will cause chaos amongst the students of
18 the school. Throughout my four years of
19 attending LIC, I have learned to love all of my
20 teachers and friends. LIC has now become a part
21 of me. I want to be able to come back to my
22 school, Long Island City High School next year
23 and see all my wonderful teachers and principal.
24 I want to come back to this very building and
25 acknowledge all of my fellow bulldogs. I ask

1 this Department of Education to please
2 reconsider the co-location of LIC and keep LIC
3 as one. Thank you.

4 [Applause]

5 MR. BETHALL: I'm calling back the following
6 speakers six through ten. I know some folks may
7 have left and given their numbers to friends
8 that were ahead of them. Just make sure you
9 give us your name as you come to the microphone.
10 Number six is Angela Bordrum. Number seven is
11 Alena Zackaria. Number eight is Nicole, forgive
12 me if I pronounce this wrong, it looks like
13 Gibraria [phonetic]. Speaker number nine Tameka
14 Hudson [phonetic] and speaker ten is Anyssa
15 Hudson [phonetic]. Speaker number six?

16 MS. FRANCHELLES CALDARON: Hello my name is
17 Franchelles Caldaron [phonetic].

18 [Applause]

19 MS CALDARON: Over the last three years I
20 have grown to love LIC. As a freshman I didn't
21 know what I was getting into. I heard so many
22 bad things about this school. It all turned out
23 to be completely false. LIC is a fantastic
24 school. I've met so many amazing people and had
25 so many amazing teachers like Mr. Tye

1 [phonetic], Ms. Cappodacious [phonetic], Ms.
2 Cruz [phonetic], Ms. O'Keyes [phonetic], Ms.
3 Caroten [phonetic]--

4 [Applause]

5 MS. CALDARON: And so many, so many more.
6 If this colocation happens, those teachers may
7 not be here next year and they deserve to impact
8 future LIC students just as they have impacted
9 me. There are so many great opportunities I
10 have had throughout these three and almost four
11 years. Without LIC I would have never learned
12 how to play the trumpet and become passionate
13 about marching band. Without LIC I wouldn't
14 have begun to dance or sing again. Without LIC
15 I wouldn't have had the opportunity to take
16 eight AP classes that look amazing on my college
17 applications.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. CALDARONE: Without LIC I wouldn't be
20 the person I am today. Though I will be
21 graduating this year and the colocation it
22 happens won't affect me, I would like to have a
23 school to come back to. I would like to have a
24 school to say I graduated from. I would also
25 like for my underclassmen friends to have as

1 amazing an experience as I have had in this
2 school. This co-location will destroy my high
3 school wherein have spent some of the best years
4 of my life and where I know many students will
5 also spend some amazing years in the future.

6 [Applause]

7 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Student number
8 seven, Angela Poler [phonetic]. What's your
9 name?

10 MS. TONYA PAKEEP: My name is Tonya Pakeep
11 [phonetic]. I am editor in chief of the
12 yearbook and a member of leadership.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. PAKEEP: As a senior who is going to
15 leave her high school years behind, I am
16 extremely concerned that all of the diverse
17 opportunities I had and the community feel I
18 experienced would not be here for future
19 generations of bulldogs. I want my younger
20 friends and even my younger sister to have the
21 same opportunities and potentially the same
22 positive experience. If anything, LIC has been
23 our home for so many years, and by consequence,
24 the compassionate and nurturing bodies in it are
25 family.

1 I could not bear to see this happen to my
2 family. When I come back to visit, I want my
3 family to have grown and expanded. I will not
4 stand to see it divided instead. And as a side
5 note, even the members of our family that are
6 unable to make it to the hearing are
7 representing LIC and fighting the DOE's decision
8 in their own way. - - you saw the football team
9 who came in and left, and have tutoring lessons
10 and are studying. And a lot of us here brought
11 along flash cards and review sheets to hit two
12 birds with one stone.

13 At LIC public pressure does not stop us from
14 bettering ourselves.

15 [Applause]

16 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Student number
17 eight.

18 MS. NICOLE BUBRIDGE: Hi, my name is Nicole
19 Bubridge [phonetic] and I am--

20 [Applause]

21 MS. BUBRIDGE: --currently a senior
22 attending Long Island City High School. Due to
23 the co-location there may be severe budget cuts
24 meaning less classes, clubs and other
25 extracurricular activities. And more

1 importantly, things will get extremely
2 chaotic. This won't affect me because I'm
3 leaving since you know, I'm a senior. But I
4 don't want the lower classmen to suffer this
5 consequence and have less opportunities and
6 activities than I did in my whole years of high
7 school, because you guys decided to shove
8 another school into this building.

9 LIC has grown to be a part of me and has
10 become my second home. I want to be able to
11 walk back into the school and have it still be
12 named Long Island City High School and only Long
13 Island City High School. At this school, LIC
14 student and faculty members sitting in this
15 auditorium, or the ones that left, are--everyone
16 here is my family and I don't want to see my
17 family divided. And I'm pretty sure everyone
18 else doesn't want to see that happen.

19 You need to leave LIC alone as a whole
20 because we are one team, one family.

21 [Applause]

22 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker number
23 nine.

24 MS. YOKINA: Hello my name is Yokina
25 [phonetic]. Just so everyone knows, most of the

1 students left because the bus fare expires at
2 8:30.

3 [Laughter]

4 MS. YOKINA: And Department of Ed, when I
5 first started there, I thought it was our
6 friends, but lately it's starting to sound like
7 an enemy. It's kind--I don't know much about
8 politics, but the more I've learned from my AP
9 class, Ms. Tuttle [phonetic].

10 [Applause]

11 MS. YOKINA: The relationship between LIC
12 and DOE is very similar to that of Congress and
13 the President.

14 [Laughter]

15 MS. YOKINA: When I came in as a freshman I
16 was a drama geek and loved the theater. For two
17 years I was actively involved in drama and film
18 club and then all of a sudden these clubs are
19 shut down due to a lack of funds. That erased
20 my whole identity and I even faced an identity
21 crisis and asked myself who I am.

22 [Laughter]

23 MS. YOKINA: The school is really trying
24 hard, trust me. As student treasurers, even
25 though we don't have money--

1 [Laughter]

2 MS. YOKINA: --explained how the teachers
3 here are trying to get the students involved.
4 For the first time ever in our entire history,
5 we have a homecoming, a pep rally and lockers
6 for our competent students. We even gave birth
7 to our first lady bulldog. She is made out of
8 Styrofoam's, glue and an old piece of blanket,
9 but she represents us. Lady bulldog is for us
10 and not for the new school. LIC is - - and
11 although I'm not in any student government I got
12 to go to Italy last year and even had dinner
13 with you, if you remember me.

14 [Laughter]

15 MS. YOKINA: And through the contact of
16 school, it was a - - . I have come back to the
17 school even after graduate. I have memories
18 everywhere; here, there, everywhere. I have
19 slept here. I have ran up the stairs so many
20 times. And I want to come back ten, 20 years
21 later for my Long Island City High School
22 reunion. And I want to come back and visit my
23 teachers here. I want to see Ms. Calvin's
24 [phonetic] gray hair.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. YOKINA: I want to send my children
2 to Long Island City High School and my
3 grandchildren and so on. As - - said, it's not
4 the quantity, it's the quality.

5 [Applause]

6 MS. YOKINA: Thank you, have a good night.

7 [Applause]

8 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker number
9 ten.

10 MS. DAVIS: Hi, my name is Ms. Davis. I'm a
11 teacher and a dean here at Long Island City High
12 School.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. DAVIS: One of our students asked that I
15 read a statement she prepared. She had to
16 leave. She had to go home. It takes her an
17 hour to get home. "Hello, my name is Anysa
18 Hedgeback [phonetic] and I'm a senior here at
19 LICHS. I'm also a representative for the
20 Academy of Well Mentored Education, in SLC
21 within my school and a liaison for the girls'
22 varsity basketball team. I come with nothing
23 more than the hope of expressing some truth
24 about my feelings toward my school in regards to
25 the DOE's proposal for co-location.

1 Students as well as supporters of LIC
2 have been working hard in an attempt to improve
3 and unify our school, creating a better group of
4 students. So you can understand how hearing
5 about the intended co-location within LIC would
6 start such an uproar. For an upperclassman like
7 myself, the idea of returning to LIC one day as
8 an alumni and not seeing the place I left
9 creates heartache for me. For younger students,
10 freshmen and sophomores, the idea of not having
11 the option of enrolling in an AP course they
12 deserve because of lack of space and/or staff is
13 a disappointment.

14 This could all happen if another school is
15 occupying space that belongs to us. Overall, I
16 find this proposal of co-location to be absurd,
17 unfair, and not the best interest of students.
18 The idea of slowly phasing out LICHS to create a
19 new school is extremely upsetting. That's what
20 we, as students, staff, and support of LICHS are
21 here to show you. LIC is on a constant path of
22 improvement and we don't want to be brought to a
23 halt by the slicing and dicing of a now more
24 academically proficient family oriented and
25 unified LIC." Thank you.

1 [Applause]

2 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Next are speakers
3 11 through 15. Speaker 11 is Sonya Sanoli
4 [phonetic]. Number 12 is Eric Sahamjad
5 [phonetic]. Number 13 is Syriah Ramen
6 [phonetic]. Number 14 is Joyce Chang
7 [phonetic]. And I believe we already heard from
8 number 15, Ms. Sharoody [phonetic].

9 MS. SONYA SANOLI: Hi, my name is Sonya
10 Sanoli. So currently I'm a senior at LIC. And
11 first off, I would just like to say that I have
12 five AP classes. I have some homework I should
13 be doing and a test I should be studying for for
14 AP government. And I'm here representing all
15 the juniors, sophomores, and freshmen. And this
16 doesn't even affect me but it's so important to
17 me because this is my school and I don't want to
18 see it wrecked.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. SANOLI: Often I've been hearing that
21 the school building is being called Q5--no,
22 Q452. This is not an available building for
23 rent. It's not an available building that's
24 sitting for sale.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. SANOLI: I don't want to see it
2 called Q452. No, it's our home. And third of
3 all...okay, so the juniors, the freshmen and the
4 seniors--I mean seniors, the sophomores. So
5 I've been here three years and I've made such
6 great memories and great teachers. And I'm
7 going to come back here maybe next year, maybe
8 the following year. I'm going to ask my
9 teachers for recommendations for jobs that I
10 want to apply for. I want to ask them to go
11 over my college work before I hand it in, just
12 to be sure for my grades.

13 And if another school gets put into this
14 school, will I be sure if my teachers are going
15 to be here? is the programs that I had going to
16 be available to those students? I'm not sure
17 because I have so many friends that want to do
18 so many things that I'm doing, but if this
19 school gets divided, will they have what I had?
20 That's the main concern that I have for them.
21 Thank you.

22 [Applause]

23 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Number 12?

24 MR. ERIC SAHAMJAD: My name is Eric Sahamjad
25 and I am a senior here at Long Island City High

1 school. The things that I've witnessed as a
2 student here at--over the school--over the past
3 few years are beyond bizarre and outrageous.
4 The way the school has been attacked
5 consistently by the DOE is just unbelievable.
6 Long Island City High School has been under fire
7 by the Department of Education and Mayor
8 Bloomberg for the past few years. Our school
9 has never been given a chance, no breathing
10 room, to try and flourish.

11 The - - plan of Long Island City High School
12 was proposed three years ago, three years ago.
13 Today we are gathered here to voice our
14 opinions, our views about the plan to co-locate
15 information technology school within Long Island
16 City High School. This co-location plan overall
17 seemed to be sort of a revenge plan concocted by
18 the DOE and Mayor Bloomberg after the - - plan
19 failed.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. SAHAMJAD: The proposed co-location
22 would create chaos and havoc among the students
23 of Long Island City High School and the staff of
24 Long Island City High School. If this plan were
25 to be approved, a second administration would be

1 placed inside the school and most likely a
2 second bell schedule, which was done in Flushing
3 High School. This would just be even more
4 hectic with the students. Certain after school
5 programs and classes that LIC has to offer would
6 have to be cut and funding would have to be
7 reduced along with the excessing of teachers and
8 faculty.

9 This of course is not fully factual because
10 the DOE have yet to comment on where the funding
11 for the CET school will come from. The New York
12 State Education Department has not approved any
13 sort of funding for the supposed vocational
14 training school, so for the time being we are
15 assuming that these funds will be taken from
16 Long Island City High School. But the question
17 I have is why not come to a resolution and
18 instead of trying to implement a school within
19 Long Island City High School, implement the IT
20 program to make it part of our school?

21 This way there is no need for a second
22 administration and programs would neither have
23 to be cut nor funding have to be reduced and the
24 teachers wouldn't have to be excessed. Please
25 take everything we have to say into

1 consideration before making a decision on
2 October 30th, as it deeply affects the future of
3 Long Island City High School. Thank you all for
4 letting me come here.

5 [Applause]

6 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker 13?

7 MS. SYRIAH RAMEN: Hi, I'm Syriah Ramen.
8 I'm a new student for leadership. Long Island
9 City High School is the most diverse high school
10 I know. Students come here to be independent
11 learners and have a - - . Everything about us
12 is unique. I came to Long Island City High
13 School with a 90 average and I didn't even
14 bother to try for other high schools. I was so
15 sure that I wanted to attend this high school
16 because this school has its own voice, its own
17 personality, and its own identity.

18 Sophomore year I moved to the Bronx. I was
19 willing to travel over an hour on the train
20 every morning to attend Long Island City High
21 School. My older sister graduated from Long
22 Island City High School with a full scholarship
23 to Mahoney Honors College [phonetic].

24 [Applause]

25 MS. RAMEN: She got a free MacBook and she

1 is currently finishing her masters in City
2 College. She is looking forward to getting a
3 PhD in biology because of the AP classes and the
4 teachers from Long Island City High School.

5 [Applause]

6 MS. RAMEN: Our beauty lies between our
7 classes, our sports, and our--the opportunities.
8 Our school is this large because we need the
9 space. Our clubs and teams are what shows our
10 spirit to the rest of the state. Please do not
11 take this away from us, our personality, and do
12 not separate us from our second home, Long
13 Island City High School.

14 [Applause]

15 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker 14?

16 MS. JOYCE CHANG: Hi, my name is Joyce Chang
17 and I'm currently a junior at LIC and assistant
18 rep for Academy of Humanities and Early Culture.
19 As a junior it's been - - a lot we shared,
20 because I've been really looking forward towards
21 next year, my classes, going to extracurricular
22 activities. And just with the co-location, the
23 AP classes that I want to have isn't going to be
24 there anymore because the classes that I want to
25 take is really unique, like AP psychology. Not

1 every school provides AP psychology.

2 So I really want to tell you that co-
3 location is a very bad idea. And imagine if you
4 were in our position, how would you feel about
5 it? Like it's going to affect you as a student
6 and many people it's going to--wait. As a
7 student, I feel like it's going to affect
8 everyone deeply. Also everything that we built
9 up throughout all these years, it's going to
10 disappear. So I think as like, you try to give
11 us a chance but then like you try to take it
12 away from us.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker 15?

15 MS. ELSIE RATTLE: Good evening, ladies and
16 gentlemen. My name is Elsie Rattle [phonetic]
17 and I'm a junior at LIC. Two years ago when I
18 was a freshman, I do have to admit that things
19 were--could have been improved. However,
20 sophomore year came along and honestly things
21 have drastically changed. I wasn't facing as
22 many issues as I did freshman year. The school
23 was--has been through so much and I felt
24 confident to be known as a Long Island City High
25 School student. LIC was finally coming together

1 and this co-location is like basically
2 breaking them down.

3 [Applause]

4 MS. RATTLE: Okay, not only is this a bad
5 idea, but it causes me so much stress. This is
6 my junior year. This is the year that colleges
7 look at to see how I'm doing, so you know, when
8 I apply to college they look or whatever.

9 [Laughter]

10 MS. RATTLE: I can't be thinking about this
11 co-location thing when I have AP classes to, you
12 know, like Ms. Karoke [phonetic] is - - because
13 I'm here today, you know, to do this. And yeah.
14 Yeah, so if--okay. I understand that you may or
15 may not--oh, sorry.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. RATTLE: Keep in mind that I am a
18 teenager. And the teenager is like the most
19 misunderstood generation of our time.

20 [Applause]

21 MS. RATTLE: So - - this opportunity to, you
22 know, we want your voice to be heard. But like
23 everything that comes out is technically like a
24 silent scream. So this co-location is like
25 basically bombing for peace. Thank you for your

1 time.

2 [Applause]

3 MR. BETHALL: I call speakers 16 through 20
4 to line up. If somebody is holding number 16,
5 Vaheda Van Slope [phonetic], number 17 is
6 Sabrina Santos [phonetic]. Number 18 is Carlos
7 Sanchez [phonetic]. Number 19 is Raoul Pillfro
8 [phonetic], and number 20 is Luz Ramaron
9 [phonetic].

10 [Pause]

11 MR. BETHALL: Is anybody holding number 16?
12 Number 17, Sabrina Santos?

13 MS. SABRINA SANTOS: Hi, my name is Sabrina
14 and I'm a sophomore at LIC. When I came to this
15 school, I thought it was going to be the worst
16 school ever, but throughout freshman year I
17 started to like this school. I warmed up to
18 people. I made friends. I love my teachers.
19 When I was at LIC I joined the after school
20 program called Saint [phonetic]. It was seniors
21 with freshmen and sophomores with juniors. The
22 seniors made me feel so welcome and break out of
23 my shell. They made me take back the thoughts I
24 had on LIC.

25 Over the year, LIC changed from programs to

1 - - such as Vera [phonetic], the - - college
2 ed and provide tutoring, and Global Kids which
3 helps people through college application with
4 extra-curricular classes, courses, and community
5 service, and helps you communicate with others.
6 If you look up on the walls of the second floor,
7 you see all the kids that graduated LIC, and you
8 come to think that could be me in the future,
9 kids looking at me. LIC is a home for many of
10 us, and adding a new school just isn't going to
11 be the same.

12 I don't know about you, but I don't want no
13 other school.

14 [Applause]

15 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker 18?

16 MS. EPHA ESON: Hi, my name is Epha Eson
17 [phonetic] and I'm a junior. This is actually
18 my first official year at Long Island City High
19 school. I transferred here from the Bronx High
20 School of Science. And becoming--before coming
21 here I was really, really terrified of the
22 change. And like it's no secret that this
23 school has sort of a stereotype associated with
24 it, but I was surprised to see that they weren't
25 true at all. Like honestly I have met some of

1 the friendliest, most driven people I have
2 ever met.

3 There are kids traveling from other bureaus.
4 I have met so any kids for the opportunity this
5 school provides for them, whether they be
6 educational or athletic. Sharing the building
7 and reducing the student population and the
8 programs will take away these opportunities and
9 some really great people. Many students here
10 are very proactive and determined, and because
11 I've had the opportunity to meet these people
12 personally, I've looked at them and I know that
13 these qualities that I've developed here will be
14 an advantage to me in the long run.

15 However, I think it's unfortunate that these
16 kid's efforts to improve the school community
17 and themselves are being greeted with the
18 possibly of having the building they grew up in
19 divided. To me it's all incredibly unfair and
20 really inconvenient. And I just hope that the
21 right decision will be made here. And to me the
22 right decision is to keep this building as ours
23 and only ours.

24 [Applause]

25 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker 19?

1 MR. RAOUL PILLFRO: Hello, my name is
2 Raoul Pillfro.

3 [Applause]

4 MR. PILLFRO: I am a representative for the
5 Humanities and Early Culture and team captain
6 for the gymnastics team since my junior year.
7 This is - - to not only me, but to the students
8 attending this school and also to the faculty
9 members of this school. In my own opinion,
10 there is no reason to place another school
11 within Long Island City High School. This
12 building is made for Long Island City High
13 School and nothing else.

14 Yes, the school may have its problems but in
15 reality what school doesn't? We are not saying
16 you can't bring other students in this building,
17 but if you do we want them to be Long Island
18 City High School students. It is not fair for
19 the other students in Long Island City High
20 School. They would not be able to revise any
21 certain programs or benefits in the school
22 because they are competing with another school
23 in this building. If you want to make another
24 school, by all means you can do it but take it
25 somewhere else. This is Long Island City High

1 School and should remain that way.

2 [Applause]

3 MR. PILLFRO: We the people of Long Island
4 City High School do not support the placing of a
5 new school within this building. This building
6 is Long Island City High School and nothing
7 else. Thank you.

8 [Applause]

9 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. I call speakers 20
10 through 25. Mr. Aman [phonetic], Heyou Niphong
11 [phonetic], Joshua Santiago [phonetic]. 23 is
12 Robert Battista [phonetic], 24 it looks like
13 Carly Bessing [phonetic] and 25 is Matthew
14 McGovern [phonetic].

15 [Applause]

16 MR. BETHALL: Speaker 20 is Mishrop Ramana
17 [phonetic]. Okay, 21, Heyou Niphong. Okay, 22
18 Joshua Santiago? Okay. 23, Robert Battista.
19 24, Robert Bessing.

20 MS. ROBERT BESSING: Right here.

21 MR. BETHALL: Thank you.

22 MR. BESSING: All Right, good evening. My
23 name is Robert Bessing and I'm a senior at Long
24 Island City High School. I have been a part of
25 the school for three years and this will be my

1 final year. I have loved every single minute
2 of it. These have been the best years of my
3 life. Before I came to the school, I didn't
4 have a sense of belonging and I had a low self-
5 esteem. I learned from the students and
6 teachers that I am an individual and I'm a great
7 person.

8 [Laughter]

9 MR. BESSING: I have to thank the teachers
10 and the many people I have met. I will cherish
11 these moments for my entire life. Here I have
12 gained more confidence which I lacked throughout
13 my early years of my life. Not only am I more
14 confident, I am a better person and I have LIC
15 to thank. I love my school, my second home, and
16 I don't want anything--I don't want to see
17 anything happen to it. Co-location is a threat
18 to my school and I do not like that.

19 Students should not have to fight for space
20 in the school. I understand that the students
21 in the other school have a right to learn and
22 receive education too, however Long Island City
23 High School has the same, one team, one family.
24 So instead of adding another school, we have the
25 students come to our school as students of Long

1 Island City High School. Thank you for your
2 time.

3 [Applause]

4 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker 25,
5 Matthew McGovern.

6 MR. MATTHEW MCGOVERN: Hi, I'm Matthew
7 McGovern. I'm a senior here at Long Island City
8 High School.

9 [Applause]

10 MR. MCGOVERN: I only have two minutes,
11 guys.

12 [Laughter]

13 MR. MCGOVERN: So I really came here with
14 low expectations. I only came here because I
15 could walk here. I got accepted to a
16 specialized high school but I was like no, it's
17 in the Bronx. So I'll just come here, it's only
18 a half hour walk. It's not that bad. And so
19 and, you know, I--nice - - for me, they really
20 were and I like this place. I know a lot of
21 people - - . And so, you know, if you put
22 another school in this school it's kind of like
23 throwing a rocket in my marriage.

24 [Laughter]

25 MR. MCGOVERN: And that's going to kill my

1 marriage.

2 [Laughter]

3 MR. MCGOVERN: And you know, that's--I don't
4 think that's right. I really love this place, I
5 do. I think that's it. Thank you.

6 [Applause]

7 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Calling speakers
8 26 through 30. Number 26 is Sarah Abdonabi
9 [phonetic], 27 is Christina Zambrana [phonetic],
10 28 is Amelia Orelana [phonetic], 29 I believe
11 already spoke is Elsie Rossdale [phonetic] and
12 number 30 is Maria it looks like Dukas
13 [phonetic].

14 MR. BETHALL: What number are you?

15 MR. ZARAH ABDONABI: 26.

16 MR. BETHALL: Thank you, sir.

17 MR. ABDONABI: Okay, good evening everyone.
18 I am--my name is Zarah Abdonabi and I'm a
19 junior. Now students, teachers and leaders have
20 shed their blood and tears for this school. Now
21 we do not approve of this co-location policy
22 because obviously the new students would invade,
23 you know, our home. But not that we wouldn't
24 welcome them with open arms, but only under LIC,
25 not two separate schools.

1 [Applause]

2 MR. ABDONABI: Now this kind of goes back to
3 history, because it reminds me of the 13
4 colonies when they fought for their independence
5 from the British empire. You know, LIC is like
6 America fighting for its independence from, you
7 know, the British empire. And not only will we
8 fight for our independence, but we shall make
9 history tonight. Thank you everyone.

10 [Applause]

11 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Is anybody holding
12 number 27, Christina Zambrana? Number 28,
13 Amelia Orelana? 29 I believe has spoken
14 already, Ms. Elsie Rossdale. Number 30, Maria
15 Dukas? All speakers 31 through 35, Alexander
16 Raccon [phonetic].

17 [Applause]

18 MR. BETHALL: 32 is - - , speaker 33, Erin
19 Perez [phonetic]. Speaker 34, it looks like
20 Vanjama Fattima [phonetic], and speaker 35,
21 Monitah Rudder [phonetic].

22 MR. ALEXANDER RACCON: Hello, my name is
23 Alexander Raccon and I'm a senior.

24 [Applause]

25 MR. RACCON: So LIC was actually my first

1 choice when I applied. And that was because
2 my friends from junior high school were applying
3 here. And yeah, I wasn't sure which school to
4 pick and it seemed a lot of them decided to pick
5 this school. And I feel like I have no regrets.
6 I have made like many great choices, but there's
7 still like choices I have made that I kind of
8 regret. Like right now, like I'm cramming for
9 the SATs, I'm all over the place right now. And
10 right now, like I live near Coney Island, so I
11 have like an hour and 30 minute ride home from
12 here. Like this is how much I care about this
13 proposition.

14 [Applause]

15 MR. RACCON: I know this won't affect me,
16 but it will affect the next--the future students
17 of LIC and the future of the classroom. So I
18 really like, I feel for them. I feel like they
19 should have the same experiences I've had.
20 Because I've been involved in many programs like
21 Gear Up and now leadership and I'm captain of
22 the wrestling team now. And I feel like--

23 [Applause]

24 MR. RACCON: Like if these kids don't get
25 the opportunity that they have, it will really

1 like limit their possibilities of like
2 becoming a better person. Like my character has
3 seriously been built off of wrestling. I've
4 started since junior high school and it's been a
5 big part of me. So I feel like if you guys, if
6 the DOE puts another school in this school, it
7 will really affect the future applicants and
8 students in many ways, in their personality and
9 everything, just everything, you know. So I
10 wanted you guys to think about that when making
11 a decision.

12 MR. BETHALL: Thank you.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. BETHALL: Speaker 32 please. 33, Erin
15 Perez. Number 34, Vanjama Fattima. Speaker 35.

16 MR. MONITAH RUDDER: Yes. Well I'm a junior
17 this year. I must say that I'm very, very
18 grateful to this school. I came here from my
19 middle school. I was in gifted and talented
20 program, and I must say that LIC has had some--
21 no, not some of the--has had the best teachers I
22 have ever had--

23 [Applause]

24 MR. RUDDER: --in my life. I studied for
25 the specialized high school exam. I didn't past

1 the first time. I tried it again a second
2 time. I got accepted. I went to that school in
3 Brooklyn, specialized high school. That school
4 was terrible.

5 [Laughter]

6 MR. RUDDER: It had no programs, no
7 extracurricular, it had no soccer team, which I
8 am part of. And honestly, the AP classes, they
9 didn't have any--they had international - - .
10 But still, they have very limited options. This
11 school has calculus. This school has AP
12 biology. This school has so many--

13 [Applause]

14 MR. RUDDER: I do not want the DOE to shut
15 that in any sort of way.

16 [Applause]

17 MR. RUDDER: Lastly, I would like to say
18 that LIC does not live up to any of those
19 negative stereotypes in any way, shape way or
20 form.

21 [Applause]

22 MR. RUDDER: In any way. Go LIC!

23 [Applause]

24 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. I'd like to call
25 on our next five speakers, numbers 36 to 41.

1 Number 36 is Alicia Flemming [phonetic].
2 Number 37 is Sol Amadan [phonetic]. Number 38
3 is Jimmy Fadio [phonetic]. Number 39 I believe
4 already spoke, and that was Franchelles
5 Caldaron. Number 40, Telisia Ortiz [phonetic]
6 and number 41, Shaniece Walters [phonetic].

7 [Applause]

8 MR. BETHALL: Number 36, Alicia Flemming?
9 Okay, so let me through the others just so
10 they're in the record. Number 37, Sol Amadan.
11 Number 38, Jimmy Fadio. Number 39, Franchelles
12 Caldaron. Number 40, Telisia Ortiz. The time
13 is all yours.

14 MS. TELISIA ORTIZ: All right, thank you
15 very much. Hey, how's it going? I'm Ty.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. ORTIZ: Hey, all right. I don't know
18 how I'm going to top that last one, but I'm
19 going to give it a shot because I'm walking
20 here. This took forever. I'm just going to put
21 that out there. The students should have spoken
22 first because we all need to go to school
23 tomorrow.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. ORTIZ: Okay, first of all, I was a

1 freshman when I first came here. I came here
2 because it was close. That was it. I didn't
3 know any of the rumors or the stereotypes about
4 the school and I didn't really care, because
5 when I got here, the school was amazing.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. ORTIZ: They had good teachers, classes,
8 I got to go into a pool. There is a pool here.
9 I didn't know if you knew that. It's awesome.

10 [Laughter]

11 MS. ORTIZ: But seriously, this co-location,
12 it's not going to work. We have three minutes
13 to get to every class and it is like rush hour
14 in Manhattan as it is with--

15 [Applause]

16 MS. ORTIZ: --because I have to go with all
17 those students, it is like the - - . I don't
18 want more students. No, that's not good. We
19 have AP classes. I take five clubs. I'm going
20 to join a team. I have four AP classes that I
21 should be doing homework for tonight. I am not.
22 I'm here. Don't take these classes away because
23 you want to put a new school in here. We don't
24 have room for you in here. No, that's not a
25 good thing. What is that? Oh, I have 30

1 seconds remaining, I'm sorry.

2 [Laughter]

3 MS. ORTIZ: All right, so I've got 30
4 seconds. Don't put a new school in here. We
5 don't have room. We don't have the time. None
6 of us should be here because this is really,
7 really, it's not worth our time. Anyway, I'm
8 done. Have a good night, yeah.

9 [Applause]

10 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. We'll move to the
11 remainder of the list and include I imagine
12 teachers, parents and community members. Thank
13 you for your patience in getting to this part of
14 the evening. We have both green tickets and
15 pink tickets. We only have one microphone so
16 I'll call numbers alternatively between the two
17 lists.

18 And I'm going to ask the following five
19 speakers to come to the microphone. Number one,
20 Malia Bayez [phonetic]. Also number one, Costa
21 Contatinga [phonetic] I believe spoke already.
22 Yeah, thank you. Number two, James Vasquez
23 [phonetic], as well as number two, Mercedes
24 Kwals [phonetic] and number three, Gregory
25 Lavine [phonetic]. And we'll do also number

1 three, Mr. Miento [phonetic].

2 [Applause]

3 MR. BETHALL: What number are you holding?

4 MR. JAMES VASQUEZ: Number two, I think.

5 MR. BETHALL: Number two. So let me just
6 check. Is number one here? Malia Bayez? Okay,
7 you're James Vasquez?

8 MR. VASQUEZ: Yes. Good evening, my name is
9 James Vasquez. I'm the district representative
10 for Queen's High School for the United
11 Federation of Teachers.

12 [Applause]

13 MR. VASQUEZ: You know, I've been to the
14 school many, many times and what you saw tonight
15 and what you heard earlier this evening is a
16 clear demonstration of what education success is
17 about. It is not a person. It is not a number.
18 It is actually a community of people. It is
19 staff, students, administrators, parents,
20 community leaders, politicians and everyone
21 around you that makes a student, that makes a
22 school successful.

23 Apparently the Mayor still doesn't get it
24 after 12 years of being told so, 12 years of
25 people telling him that the numbers that you

1 look at it if you crunch at it you don't make
2 a difference. What makes a difference is what
3 actually goes on in the school communities, but
4 the Mayor doesn't get it. The Mayor promised
5 how many years ago, four years ago when he went
6 to Congress that he was going to open up 200
7 more schools, and that's all that he is doing
8 here. He is trying to fulfill a political
9 promise that he made that's doing anything to
10 support the existing schools that are here in
11 the--New York City right now.

12 This is not the first time that this mayor
13 has come to this school. It is not the first
14 time that this mayor has come to try to close
15 the school or do something else to put another
16 obstacle in the way, but just like the last time
17 he will not succeed.

18 [Applause]

19 MR. VASQUEZ: He will not succeed because
20 this school is stronger than just one man. He
21 doesn't seem to get that the team in his
22 administration are leaving in ten Fridays. That
23 is it. You are gone. He can't seem to get
24 pictured of him leaving, and leaving quietly.
25 But he doesn't get it because he is trying to

1 save his legacy. It is clear your education
2 policies are a failure. You have done nothing
3 to support these schools. The only thing that
4 has made these schools successful is the schools
5 themselves creating these communities and
6 working together to get things done.

7 [Applause]

8 MR. VASQUEZ: Even though the vote is going
9 to occur on October 30th, and unfortunately we
10 know what the failure of that policy--the
11 failure of the panel of education policy has
12 done in the past, they have never voted down any
13 single thing that the Department of Education
14 has ever proposed. And we know what they're
15 going to end up doing. But let's be clear.
16 October 30th is not going to be the final day
17 for this. We will continue to be fighting for
18 this. We will continue to be rallying for this
19 school. We will continue to be working this
20 community because we are going to be here much
21 longer than this mayor is.

22 The parent, the staff, the administration,
23 as soon as--

24 [Applause]

25 MR. VASQUEZ: --long after he is gone.

1 Thank you.

2 [Applause]

3 MR. BETHALL: Number three, Gregory Lavine?

4 [Applause]

5 MR. GREGORY LAVINE: Good evening. My name
6 is Gregory Lavine. As the Long Island City High
7 School's program chair, I am acutely aware of
8 the program services and opportunities that we
9 are currently offering to students that are
10 having a positive impact on student learning,
11 engagement, and our graduation rate. If we are
12 forced to give up valuable space and resources,
13 particularly specialized classrooms, spaces and
14 the staff that teach in those rooms, our ability
15 to continue engaging students who without having
16 these course options may otherwise not be
17 served.

18 My position as programmer gives me the
19 insight to understand how certain programs
20 require specialized rooms and student group
21 sizes to most effectively run. Working so
22 closely with the administration over the school
23 over the last few years, especially with Ms.
24 Elby [phonetic] as principal, I have an uncommon
25 view of what we needed and what we have done

1 that work in engaging students with different
2 learning styles coming from different
3 backgrounds, speaking different languages, with
4 all of the same goals; to be college ready and
5 college bound and/or a successful four years of
6 high school at Long Island City High School.

7 Some of the programs such as the language
8 media arts and technology strands, media arts
9 class, printing, Broadway production strands,
10 marching band, the full - - band, orchestra and
11 chorus sequences, the community and culture
12 strand in the - - hotel management strands and
13 National Academy Foundation supported
14 hospitality and tourism. The language,
15 hospitality and tourism strands, graphic design
16 class; five different language other than
17 English level--language offerings, Greek,
18 French, Spanish, Italian, Mandarin. Electricity
19 and housewares, physics, AP calculus BC, AP
20 biology, AP chemistry.

21 And yet the New York City Department of
22 Education considers our neighborhood to be all
23 of New York City. If our school has to give up
24 valuable space that we are currently using for
25 many of these programs, we will have fewer

1 resources to meet the ever more challenging
2 mandates from the city. I know that these
3 programs are helping to engage our students,
4 entice them to come to school and stay, and to
5 help them feel a part of their smaller learning
6 communities. We just got a great review, by the
7 way.

8 Co-location will mean that we will not be
9 offer these programs the way we do and the
10 direct result may be less student engagement.
11 Few course offerings and our incredibly hard
12 work over these last two years have shown to be
13 too successful to stop us now. Let Long Island
14 City High School continue to grow and succeed on
15 our own. Say no to co-location. Thank you.

16 [Applause]

17 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker number - -
18 , Ms. Miento.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. MIENTO: I just--I'm going to make it
21 short. Okay, make it short. I just want to
22 point out that the Department of Education two
23 years ago said that they needed to close the
24 school because of the bottom third student body.
25 Now this year they are saying they need to close

1 the school because the top third are not
2 being - - . And tonight I've heard from the
3 students that they have so many AP classes. So
4 the Department of Education in their wisdom has
5 chosen to continue underserving them by taking
6 away their resources and giving it to another
7 school.

8 So this is just going to show you how grim
9 they are. And this is Bloomberg's agenda.
10 Every year he has come up with a new plan and
11 they have all failed because he doesn't know
12 anything about education.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Just one
15 clarification. There is no proposal to close
16 the school. The proposal that's being
17 considered is the co-location. Obviously folks
18 that have spoken to what they think the
19 implications are. I just want to make sure that
20 they're clear. I just want to clarify and
21 understand the implications that folks are
22 talking about, I don't want to argue those. I'm
23 simply clarifying that it isn't a proposal to
24 close the school, so that we're clear on that.

25 I would like to call speakers four through

1 six and we'll go through the list. That is
2 Gussie Gutherall [phonetic], Jamiqua Heinz
3 [phonetic] and Leo Smith [phonetic]. I believe
4 speaker four on the green list, Maria Karioskos
5 [phonetic] has given her number to a student, as
6 well as Rhona Frasier [phonetic] and Wa Sun
7 [phonetic]. That's four through six on both
8 lists.

9 [Pause]

10 MR. BETHALL: Speaker four, Gussie
11 Gutherall? Speaker five, Jamiqua Heinz? Okay.
12 Speaker six, Leo Smith? Okay, I'm sorry, I'm
13 just going down the list. Go ahead. Just share
14 your name. Thank you.

15 MS. AUDREY GAMOLLA: Audrey Gamolla
16 [phonetic], LIC class of 2004.

17 [Applause]

18 MS. GAMOLLA: Our life began to end the day
19 we become silent about the things that matter
20 and this matters to me. I am a firm believer
21 that all we need in life is a chance. I'm a
22 born and raised Queens New York City kid who did
23 not apply to the specialized high schools. I
24 came here to Long Island City High School and
25 was given a chance for something more. Even

1 though I wasn't in a specialized or private
2 high school, I got the chance to take advanced
3 placement classes, go on trips to the
4 Metropolitan Opera with the principal, do
5 College Now courses [phonetic] and learn
6 calculus, perform in a city-wide Shakespeare
7 competition, and learn about all of the things
8 that would make me the writer, poet, performer,
9 journalist and professional I am today.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. GAMOLLA: Long Island City High School
12 have been fighting for four years. Its students
13 and faculty have been demoralized by negative
14 portrayal in the media and broken city promises.
15 We have fought against closure, turn around and
16 now a co-location. We have been asked to show
17 improvement and you know where improvements are
18 made. We have teachers who dedicate countless
19 hours of their lives to make a difference and
20 students, as all of you have shown here, who
21 value the opportunity.

22 But all the city sees are dollar signs and
23 statistics, what looks good on paper, what will
24 work in theory. Many people don't come out to
25 these events because they believe it's all about

1 formalities and protocol. The decision has
2 already been made, so why bother? This is why
3 we bother. All of you here tonight and all of
4 the kids who have been here who are not--

5 [Applause]

6 MS. GAMOLLA: There is one more--better than
7 a thousand - - sign, we are entangled in a
8 battle of politics that has nothing to do with
9 the education these kids have a right to
10 receive, just like I did. I urge you be
11 different. Be the voice that stands out. Make
12 cosmic change, restore the funding to the school
13 and its legacy. We are already dealing with
14 budget cuts, program cuts, overcrowding,
15 disruptive change; and still we are here, still
16 fighting a battle that's completely unnecessary
17 which energy better spent on ways to help and
18 enrich the school and its programs.

19 We are already dealing with budget cuts,
20 program cuts, overcrowding, disruptive change,
21 and still we are here still fighting a battle
22 that's completely unnecessary, which energy
23 better spent on ways to help and enrich the
24 school and its programs. We are not a dumping
25 ground for your failed policies and misguided

1 interventions.

2 [Applause]

3 MS. GAMOLLA: All right. Time is up.

4 MR. BETHALL: Finish your thought.

5 MALE VOICE: Let her speak.

6 MS. GAMOLLA: Thank you.

7 MULTIPLE VOICES: Let her speak.

8 MS. GAMOLLA: Thank you guys.

9 MR. BETHALL: We're letting her speak.

10 MS. GAMOLLA: My LIC brethren. All right.

11 We are not a dumping ground for your failed
12 policies and misguided interventions. Do
13 something different. Listen to the voices.
14 Look into these people's eyes. Remember what it
15 feels like to be a teenager. Understand what it
16 feels like to be a New York City Public High
17 School kid that should not be robbed to
18 experience the school and a faculty that has
19 always done what they can to bring these kids
20 something more. We are LIC. We are not words
21 on a page, numbers in a report, or what you see
22 in the media. And, Mayor Bloomberg, when you
23 are forgotten, when your actions are nothing but
24 a blight on our history, we will be the ones
25 running this great city. We are LIC and we will

1 not go quietly.

2 [Applause]

3 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Next number five
4 on the - - .

5 MALE VOICE 1: - - I am a UFT chapter leader
6 of Washington Irving High School. And from what
7 I've seen tonight we absolutely have no problem
8 with the future. You - - and you are absolutely
9 credible and I have absolutely no worries. I do
10 have worries about the past and Mayor Bloomberg
11 is a past. I came to Washington Irving High
12 School about a quarter of a century ago to teach
13 and I found out about 12 years ago that there
14 were bombs going on all around me. And those
15 bombs were being delivered, shockingly enough,
16 by the mayor of the city of New York. We've
17 been fighting him for years now. We have six
18 co-locations in Washington Irving High School
19 and it has absolutely ruined our school. An
20 auditorium like this takes about seven different
21 people that you have to contact in order to
22 reserve it. And then you have to pay the
23 Department of Education \$50 in order to use your
24 own school. This is what - - .

25 [Booing]

1 MALE VOICE 1: Mayor Bloomberg, I don't
2 understand why it is that a general would shoot
3 at their own troops. You are a disgrace to your
4 uniform, Mr. Mayor.

5 [Applause]

6 MALE VOICE 1: You are a coward for not
7 showing up here tonight and not even sending
8 anybody of any rank to this place tonight. Mr.
9 Mayor, you are an absolute disgrace and we don't
10 care if you can't handle the truth.

11 [Applause]

12 MR. BETHALL: - - . Number six, Leah Smith
13 [phonetic].

14 MS. LEAH SMITH: I'm Leah Smith. I'm an ESL
15 teacher here at Long Island City. And my
16 concern is the students that I encounter every
17 day have dreams of college and they have dreams
18 for their future. And when I look at this
19 proposal what I see is that it raises the
20 question of whether or not it serves or hurts
21 the community of Long Island City, meaning this
22 community of Queens, Astoria, and Long Island
23 City.

24 I want to point out that in the school--I've
25 worked at other schools in New York City and

1 this school has so many programs to support
2 the community of students that we have here.
3 The 61% Spanish speaking population, the 14% ESL
4 from lower frequency languages. Our AP Spanish
5 language and literature classes have success
6 rates above the state and national average.

7 [Applause

8 MS. SMITH: We have access to AP courses for
9 our immigrant population and for our Spanish
10 speaking population that other schools in New
11 York City cannot measure up to, and my question
12 then--my concern is that my students now, my
13 sophomores, my freshman, my juniors, will they
14 be able to have those classes. If you cut our
15 budget, if you cut our resources, we won't have
16 those to offer.

17 Now, my other concern is for access because
18 when the first meeting on September 23rd
19 convened for our students - - the SLT, we asked
20 at that point--and Mr. Mr. Muhlbach has already
21 said we asked for a translation. A translation
22 of the second copy was provided in Spanish only.
23 We have low frequency languages from this area
24 in Queens for Bengali, for Arabic students.
25 They are not included in this process. That is

1 against Chancellor's regulations and what
2 message does that send to students from Yemen,
3 from Egypt, from Bangladesh, from Tibet, from
4 China?

5 [Applause]

6 MS. SMITH: What was - - because it seems to
7 me the school is going to bring students from
8 other boroughs and displace our students, not
9 just the 500 over four years that you're talking
10 about but the students who need the language
11 supports and the skills to be successful. We
12 have successful programs here and your money and
13 your time is better spent supporting us. And I
14 would like to say that if you negatively impact
15 these you're making a false set of choices.
16 You're making an option that actually diminishes
17 the options for our students currently and you
18 are playing with their futures. I would say
19 diminishing resources for our community of
20 students in the service of any other agenda is
21 actually fiscally and ideologically
22 irresponsible.

23 [Applause]

24 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker six, Ross
25 Sanders [phonetic]? We'll go to speakers seven

1 through nine. On the pink list I have Chris
2 Watkins [phonetic], Mr. Baha [phonetic], and
3 Yvette Imaj [phonetic] holding number nine. And
4 then also on the green list it looks like Thomas
5 Hingell [phonetic]. I think there's a student,
6 Stephanie Blanco [phonetic] going to speak in
7 his place. Catherine Guerra [phonetic] and
8 number nine Gregory Petrakis [phonetic]. Let's
9 start with number seven, Chris Watkins.
10 Stephanie Blanco?

11 MS. STEPHANIE BLANMR. BETHALL: Gymnastics,
12 fencing, swim team, handball team, leadership -
13 -, drill, raiders, orchestra, every AP class and
14 College Now, these are the things I took when I
15 was here at LIC. It's been almost ten years
16 since attending - - every single day. I was
17 accepted to Brooklyn Tech. I was accepted to
18 Bronx Science and LaGuardia Arts but my heart is
19 in Queens. I am a Queens' girl.

20 [Applause]

21 MS. BLANMR. BETHALL: I always wanted more
22 than just a smart school, stats and numbers,
23 English and math. Music, art, and sports, a
24 wide range of activities I never thought I had a
25 chance of even experiencing, these shape us as

1 individuals. We aren't just students. We're
2 growing into adults. LIC was crowded back then
3 when I was a student here and I can't even try
4 to imagine bringing a whole other school and
5 stacking it on top of this one. These are the
6 years you're figuring out who you want to grow
7 up to be. You come into your own. You become
8 an adult. What kind of foundation are we
9 building? What kind of examples are you
10 setting? I ask the Board of Ed and everyone
11 trying to just bring us down, give these young
12 adults the same opportunities I had. We aren't
13 numbers. We aren't stats. We are and always
14 will be LIC.

15 [Applause]

16 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker number
17 eight, Mr. Baha.

18 DANIEL: Thank you for the courtesy of the
19 people behind me. My name is Daniel - - . I'm
20 an alumnus educator at Long Island City High
21 School and you are second family to me and I'm
22 here in support of you. Before I was excused
23 two years ago I ran the credit recovery
24 department under the direction of Vlad Van
25 Ulrich [phonetic] sitting up on the podium. And

1 we had success of making graduation rate go
2 from 59% to 64% in that following year. And I'm
3 proud to work with the educators in this school.
4 I was the school building leader and I am now a
5 fulltime first year teacher at another school
6 that's a co-located school. I can tell you from
7 firsthand experience co-location does not work.

8 [Applause]

9 DANIEL: It does not work and it should be
10 reconsidered by the DOE to give back the
11 resources to the school so we can teach the
12 children, please. Thank you.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. BETHALL: Number eight?

15 FEMALE VOICE 1: Sorry - - but name is - -
16 and I'm a proud graduate of LIC. For all the
17 LIC students that are still here, I just want to
18 let you guys know that two years ago I was
19 sitting in your place. - - after 8:30, so I had
20 to give an excuse and I told them a legit
21 excuse, that I was busy saving my school. They
22 gave me a dumfound look but, yeah, that's it.

23 So when I was student at LIC we had--the
24 main problem was the school was overcrowded. So
25 I thought the DOE would come up with something.

1 You know, they're college graduates or grad
2 school graduates. So they were pretty smart
3 about it but I don't know why they like to
4 complicate matters. But what they come up with
5 - - school. We may - - transform it. I mean
6 the answer--

7 [Microphone feedback]

8 FEMALE VOICE 1: The answer--the answer is
9 pretty simple. You have to limit the amount of
10 students that come to the school. It was pretty
11 obvious to me but thank God that the plan didn't
12 go through. Now they are coming with another
13 genius idea, is that - - the school in LIC,
14 which will not only suck for LIC students and
15 teachers because the programs will be--I mean
16 they'll have to share the resources. They'll
17 also suck for the new freshman. Imagine new
18 freshman stepping into a high school where no
19 one wants them. I mean I fear for them as well.
20 So I just want--I guess the Darwin's theory of
21 survival of the fittest, you'll just have to
22 compete for the resources which will not be a
23 very good classroom experience. That's it.
24 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

25 [Applause]

1 MR. BETHALL: Thank you - - .

2 KATHERINE: I'm number eight, Katherine - -
3 . My name is Katherine. I'm a 2012 LIC
4 graduate - - .

5 [Applause]

6 KATHERINE: - - I'm a poet as well, so I
7 actually wrote something for you guys. This is
8 where I found my voice with the intellectual
9 training of students and teacher grow. I won
10 here, lost here, caught here, fought here. This
11 is where my English teachers taught me how to
12 speak for myself and students taught me not to
13 take crap from anyone else. This is where I
14 found love, where I became a bulldog, where we
15 are still bulldogs and - - will be barking
16 against anyone, anyone trying to take our home.
17 This is your home away from home. This is our
18 home. It's our home, LIC. We live in
19 community. We learn in community. Search all
20 your memories. We are a family and we cannot
21 allow anyone to destroy our unity. This school
22 is not a commodity. We are not for bargaining.
23 Let them see that we will withstand the removal
24 of students and staff to the freshman new to the
25 scene - - the sophomores, juniors, seniors, - -

1 teachers. You are all leaders. We're all
2 here because we don't think the same. We do not
3 want this change. Let New York City know that
4 you are kings and queens and this, this is your
5 throne. Thank you.

6 [Applause]

7 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Our next is number
8 nine, Gregory - - .

9 GREGORY: I'm a former LIC student, class of
10 '84, before Genaris [phonetic].

11 [Applause]

12 GREGORY: Cohabitation is not the answer.
13 All right. I've been upstairs to the gym. I've
14 actually used the gym upstairs - - . Beautiful,
15 I wouldn't want to share with nobody. I've used
16 the weight room. I've used the field outside.
17 It won't work. The gentleman said there's a lot
18 of real estate. Yeah. There's a lot of real
19 estate from here all the way down to Jackson
20 Avenue. Why - - ? They could just build a new
21 school. All right? I think all the students,
22 their voice should be heard tonight and a lot of
23 them they weren't able to speak. They are the
24 school now. Okay. DOE, hands off LIC.

25 [Applause]

1 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Number nine on
2 the pink sheet, it looks like Yvette Imaj.
3 Yvette? We'll call speakers 10 through 12 on
4 the pink. It's Ashley Staten [phonetic],
5 Theodora Kapadistrous [phonetic].

6 [Applause]

7 MR. BETHALL: And 12 is - - on the green
8 sheet. It looks like - - Perez [phonetic],
9 Rhoda Jabor [phonetic], and number 12 Timothy
10 Gate [phonetic].

11 FEMALE VOICE 2: I'm - - switch with
12 someone.

13 MR. BETHALL: Okay, go ahead.

14 FEMALE VOICE 2: I need to address firstly
15 what you said about not closing LIC. I beg to
16 differ. It seems like this EIS at PEP is not a
17 democratic process. We are told it is.
18 Students trying to register for LIC for the fall
19 2014 incoming class are being denied. I have
20 personally received an account of this from a
21 family member. So are you--sorry, sorry, sorry,
22 sorry, sorry. So are you, the committee, trying
23 to help the students or are you segregating,
24 demoralizing, and trying to create a second
25 class of citizens with our students? It is

1 obvious the neighborhood is gentrified. Look
2 around your buildings right at your doorstep.
3 Are we and our kids not good enough for our new
4 neighbors? Because that is exactly what it
5 seems like. We know community. You saw it. We
6 know it is time to help our many underprivileged
7 kids with these new more difficult Common Core
8 aligned exams. They are very hard. With this
9 co-location it will do them no great favor, but
10 it is obvious who you want to serve. It is
11 obvious that is our new wealthy neighbors. In
12 short, we understand we're just less important
13 in the mayor's and the DOE's eyes. But to leave
14 you with a quote I hold true from a book I
15 cherish and many of my students that you heard
16 from tonight cherish, "It is only with the heart
17 that one sees rightly. What is essential is
18 invisible to the eye." We are LIC, no co-
19 location.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. BETHALL: Thank you.

22 MS. THEODORA KAPADISTROUS: I'm number 11,
23 Theodora Kapadistrous.

24 MR. BETHALL: Hold on one second. Let me
25 just...

1 [Applause]

2 MR. BETHALL: - - Perez or Ashley Staten.

3 MS. KAPADISTROUS: Good evening for everyone
4 who is left. Who we are, we are imbedded in
5 this building everywhere and we've been here for
6 a long time before the mayor came. And we've
7 worked very, very hard to get to where we are
8 right now. My main concern with this co-
9 location plan was why are the needs of these
10 students more important than ours? Why do we
11 have to share our building and draw down on our
12 opportunities which were listed by Mr. Levee
13 [phonetic] for the needs of these kids? These
14 co-locations do not work in these schools
15 because you compete with each other. And these
16 kids have told you time and time again and they
17 are the testimony here where they know best,
18 because they are the ones who are going to
19 endure this, that this is not going to work.

20 We leave a piece of ourselves every single
21 day that we are here. We do the hard work that
22 is brought--that is expected from the DOE here.
23 We go in day in and day out and we take care of
24 business. And the DOE continually prevents us
25 from doing that. We have met our state targets.

1 We have increased our graduation rate. So we
2 have done the hard work to improve. So now,
3 with that, by putting in a co-location, you
4 undercut all of that. And that is not
5 appropriate and that is not justice for these
6 kids.

7 These kids deserve every opportunity because
8 what we do, we tell them they matter. And we
9 work day in and day out to make sure that they
10 understand that. And we build in them their
11 confidence to be able to do that. Because,
12 while everybody else forgets about them, we
13 don't. So we take care of the hard work. We do
14 that. And all we want to do, just be left
15 alone. Just let us continue our work, what we
16 started. Let us finish.

17 We've been around since the 1890's, longer
18 than this mayor. And something that lasts that
19 long works, and we need to continue to work. So
20 if you're not here to help us and support us,
21 not a co-location, us, then you need to leave us
22 alone. You need to get out of the way so that
23 we can finish the work which we know how to do.

24 [Applause]

25 MR. BETHALL: Your name?

1 MS. LOUISA CRUZ: Number 12, Louisa Cruz
2 [phonetic].

3 MR. BETHALL: Thank you, Louisa Cruz.

4 MS. CRUZ: My name is Louisa Cruz and I've
5 been teaching music in New York City Public
6 Schools for 16 years. I started my career here
7 at LIC and though I spent 11 at a different at a
8 different school it was always my dream to
9 return to this school. Long Island City High
10 School is one of the most incredible places I
11 have ever seen. It offers 26 AP classes to
12 anyone who wants them, more than 30 sports
13 teams, five foreign languages, a world class
14 culinary program, four years of band, choir, and
15 orchestra, guitar classes, a marching band that
16 plays for citywide programs, an incredible art
17 department, and some of the most dedicated
18 faculty I've ever seen.

19 As a comprehensive high school, LIC gives
20 everyone who attends this school the chance to
21 partake of these incredible opportunities. And
22 the small learning communities ensure that no
23 student is lost, that every student is known.
24 The opportunities Long Island City High School
25 offers literally paves the way for the American

1 dream, especially for the many immigrants the
2 school educates.

3 We have worked so hard to bring life back to
4 LICHS have the mayor tried to close us two years
5 ago, and have been extraordinarily successful,
6 as demonstrated by rising graduation rates and
7 increased participation in AP classes. A co-
8 location would reduce the resources of LIC and
9 bring a completely different culture into the
10 building. The CTE program that the proposed co-
11 located high school may offer could easily be
12 brought under the umbrella of Long Island City
13 High School and be accessible to many more
14 students than just the 420 students of the new
15 school. Let Long Island City High School stay
16 on the path to success.

17 [Applause]

18 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker 12 on the
19 green list, Timothy Gate? Trying to exhaust the
20 green list, speakers 13 William Iota [phonetic],
21 speaker 14 Richard Mayna [phonetic], and speaker
22 16 - - . Come on down and we'll get everybody.

23 [Pause]

24 MR. BETHALL: Anybody holding a number lower
25 than 14? Let me just check. Is William - -

1 here? Richard Mayna?

2 MR. RICHARD MAYNA: Yes. - - my name is
3 Richard Mayna. A brief speech insufficiently
4 captures the colossal value and dedication the
5 school has given me. The skills that I acquired
6 in this school have served as a robust
7 foundation for my current academic endeavors.
8 This school has recruited excellent instructors
9 that work day in and day out to educate us,
10 namely Mr. Mullatto [phonetic], who is
11 unfortunately no longer here with us, Ms.
12 Kapadistrous who aroused my curiosity in
13 government and politics in so far that I now
14 want to pursue a career of that.

15 Co-locating this school would undermine the
16 efforts that these and so many other fine
17 instructions have worked for and would moreover
18 undermine the ultimate goal of the DOE. To
19 impart the students those fundamental skills
20 necessary to success in the real world, allow us
21 to move forward as one LIC. Thank you.

22 [Applause]

23 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker 16 - - .
24 You're holding 15?

25 MS. FRIEDMAN: Yes.

1 MR. BETHALL: Your name?

2 MS. FRIEDMAN: My name is - - Friedman
3 [phonetic]. I'm in the mathematics department.
4 I didn't start my career at Long Island City
5 High School. I started at a different school in
6 the New York City Department of Education. I
7 loved that school and we worked very, very hard
8 to serve our student body but unfortunately we
9 were one of six schools on the Roosevelt campus
10 in the Bronx. I was told that that would be the
11 best of both worlds, that we would get the
12 benefits of a large school while having the
13 benefits of a small school as well.

14 It ended up being the worst of both worlds.
15 We had a small school but we had no separation
16 from the school that was literally down the
17 hall. Students could walk freely between the
18 schools and we had no way to change school
19 culture in our school because it didn't matter
20 because there was five other schools that were
21 coming and going throughout the years that I was
22 at the school.

23 We fought tooth and nail. We were very
24 proud of the fact that we had six AP classes,
25 not the 26 we have here, 6 AP classes. That

1 sounds like an average Tuesday for most of
2 our seniors. I was told by last year that I
3 would have to choose between my AP calculus and
4 my AP physics class. I choose my AP physics
5 class because I had 11 students who were
6 interested in that class instead of the 9 that
7 were interested in the calculus class. We could
8 not serve the student body population.

9 The students came and went from the school,
10 treating it interchangeably with the other
11 schools. They would tell people in the
12 neighborhood they went to Roosevelt High School
13 and not name our high school that they attended.
14 The students got the message that schools were
15 interchangeable. Teachers got the message that
16 teachers were interchangeable, and as to the
17 fact the students got the message that students
18 were interchangeable.

19 If you've ever been to a school--to a
20 classroom on Long Island City High School, you
21 know that this is not the case. Students are
22 not interchangeable. And if I was able to
23 devote the number of hours that I had spent
24 fighting the DOE, a department that is
25 theoretically in support of my profession, I

1 would have been able to teach a lot more kids
2 algebra.

3 [Applause]

4 MR. BETHALL: Speaker 16 - - . Okay.
5 Daniel Rupstien's [phonetic] already spoken. I
6 just want to make sure that the remaining
7 speakers on the pink list who are holding
8 numbers 13 through 17 if you'd join us at the
9 microphone. While we're waiting for them, sir,
10 your name is?

11 MR. PATRICK MUREL: My name is Patrick Murel
12 [phonetic], number 15.

13 MR. BETHALL: Thank you, Patrick.

14 MR. MUREL: I can remember when LIC moved
15 from Queens Lower Plaza a number of years ago.
16 And after hearing the children tonight you can
17 see what they have achieved. I think they can
18 replace the Obama administration and do a much
19 better job.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. MUREL: I remember when LIC first
22 started out. It wasn't that great but here I
23 am--here I am today with my daughter and she is
24 now a senior. And the security is really doing
25 a good job because you can see them outside

1 every day, you know, just push--moving the
2 kids along, talking to them. There are no
3 fights, you know, from what I've seen far - - .
4 And for that I thank you.

5 I would like to say this to the
6 superintendent, which I know she's only a
7 messenger, reducing students and then finally
8 fading them out is completely not the answer.
9 If the DOE wants a school, just build one. I
10 mean look at all the condos. They got all the
11 money for the condos. They can build a school.
12 They don't need schools anyway. Don't shove
13 them all in here like cattle. I would like you
14 to bring the message back to your--to your boss
15 or whoever is a part of this process. We are
16 all going to remember this day so then when it
17 comes--when it comes down to it, when they go
18 find out - - on voting day we will remember
19 today. Thank you.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. BETHALL: Thank you. Speaker 13, Alan
22 Smart [phonetic]? Speaker 14, Lynn Surpy
23 [phonetic]? We just heard from speaker 15.
24 Speaker 16, Karen Shuback [phonetic]? Speaker
25 17, Leo Rocelle [phonetic]? Anybody else still

1 holding a ticket that has not had a chance to
2 speak?

3 [Pause]

4 MR. BETHALL: With that, we'll finish the
5 public comment and we'll now begin the question
6 and answer period. Remember, there are some
7 individual questions. We've actually only
8 received two. So we'll be able to answer them
9 both directly. Any question that's not answered
10 tonight, but we'll answer the questions tonight,
11 they will also be available on the Department's
12 website.

13 If you have additional questions at the end
14 of tonight's hearing, please direct them to us
15 via phone or email. Those numbers were on the
16 hearing notice for tonight but again the email,
17 it's d30proposals@schools.nyc.gov, or by phone,
18 212-374-7621.

19 The first question that we received tonight,
20 questions were used--whether law--whether
21 current Long Island City High School students
22 can transfer to the proposed new high school.
23 And, if not, how will co-location benefit the
24 community. The proposed new high school will
25 begin serving incoming ninth grade students in

1 2014-2015, and therefore would not serve any
2 grades the current Long Island Student High
3 School students are eligible as it is a phase
4 in.

5 The DOE believes in strongly in Career
6 Technical Education and providing new small
7 school options for students and families. We
8 believe this new school, which would focus on
9 graphic design, computer systems, networking,
10 and computer science and media applications will
11 provide the community with additional and
12 different choices. The new school will admit
13 students via a limited unscreened admissions
14 method, with priority for those that attend an
15 information session, open house, or high school
16 fair, and a priority for Queens residents. All
17 families in the community are welcome to apply.

18 The second question that we received is
19 regarding why the DOE is proposing a new school
20 versus adding a program to Long Island City High
21 School. Prepared response, CTE schools differ
22 from CTE programs in schools. Every student in
23 a new school would partake in a CTE sequence.
24 CTE programs in large high schools such as
25 culinary arts program at Long Island City are an

1 option for students enrolled in the school.
2 Long Island City continues to have the ability
3 to work through the DOE's office of post-
4 secondary readiness if it's interested in
5 offering new CTE programs, which must go through
6 the DOE and state approval process.

7 We do not anticipate that the proposed new
8 school will impact Long Island City's current
9 CTE programming or it's ability to offer
10 additional CTE programs in the future. This
11 proposal provides a new, different, and smaller
12 school option for students and families in
13 Queens and across New York City, while allowing
14 Long Island City to continue to offer a wide
15 array of educational options for students.
16 Thank you for those that submitted those
17 questions.

18 We've heard many significant comments this
19 evening and I will say that I volunteer to
20 facilitate these hearings often. I do
21 appreciate not only the number of folks that
22 have stayed this late but the respectfulness and
23 the consideration that was given to each of the
24 comments, whether it was the students, whether
25 it was the faculty, the school leadership, or

1 the elected officials that were here this
2 evening. We do appreciate that feedback and
3 contributions to the hearing.

4 I want you to know that you were heard and
5 we will carry that information back to the
6 Department. The information will be shared with
7 the Panel of Educational Policy, which will have
8 its meeting on October 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the
9 Prospect Heights Campus at 883 Classon Avenue,
10 Brooklyn, New York, 11225, to vote on this
11 proposal. Again, the email address and phone
12 number where comments may be made are
13 d30proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and 212-374-7621.
14 I'd like to thank everybody for coming and I'd
15 like to thank the panel for remaining with us.

16 MALE VOICE 2: Just one question. It's a
17 simple question, very simple question.
18 Throughout the entire evening there has not been
19 one speaker for. Will that be carried back and
20 will anything that was said here have an impact
21 to change anything, since it was 100%
22 opposition?

23 MR. BETHALL: As I said before, the
24 information that was provided tonight was both
25 recorded and transcribed. There were a number

1 of DOE representatives that were here. Our
2 job is to bring that back to the Department. I
3 think the voices were clear tonight and that's
4 the information we'll carry back to inform the
5 decision that will be made.

6 FEMALE VOICE 3: I have a question. I'm
7 sorry. There are thousands of comments on the
8 petition and there were hundreds of comment
9 today. The PEP members have four business days
10 to review all these comments. What is the
11 protocol in reviewing these? Because I can't
12 see how it's humanly possible to read all of
13 these comments and make an informed decision
14 that impacts our community. So I'm looking at
15 the time table. There are four business days
16 and I know the PEP panel themselves, they have
17 fulltime jobs. They have families. So I don't
18 know where the extra time will come in for them
19 to see this and the other co-location that is on
20 the agenda. So you have two separate things. I
21 don't know where the time--they would find the
22 time to do that.

23 MR. BETHALL: As I've said before, I can't
24 speak for the PEP members themselves. All this
25 information is provided to them. The times have

1 been outlined and they make--

2 MALE VOICE 2: [Interposing] - - .

3 MR. BETHALL: I want to be careful about
4 that. You've heard from other PEP members that
5 were here this afternoon and made statements on
6 their own behalf. So I want to be careful about
7 how we're characterizing individuals that folks
8 in this room tonight--

9 MALE VOICE 2: [Interposing] - - .

10 MR. BETHALL: I do not want to turn this
11 into a back and forth. It's been a respectful
12 hearing tonight. We have heard everybody very
13 clearly. You have my assurance and others that
14 are here that that information is carried back
15 to the Department and will inform ongoing
16 discussions ahead of the hearing later in the
17 week. With that, I'd like to thank everyone for
18 coming this evening. This joint public hearing
19 is officially adjourned.

20 [END RECORDING]

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24

25

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: October 28, 2013
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