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

**Co-Location of New District
ES and TER at X001**

October 23, 2013

5:30pm

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. YOLANDA TORRES: Okay. Thank you for
3 your patience and we're going to start. Good
4 evening everyone. [foreign audio]. Thank you
5 for your patience and know the little ones are
6 here. It's great to see all of you. [foreign
7 audio]. So welcome and we're going to start
8 this hearing. Good evening this is a joint
9 public hearing of the Department of Education
10 community education council and the school
11 leadership team for the proposed co-location of
12 the new elementary school, 07X429 in building
13 X001 with existing school PS1 Portland school
14 beginning 2014-2015. [foreign audio]. As you
15 know I am your community superintendent [foreign
16 audio]. We have asked district seven community
17 education council and the school leadership team
18 in building one to participate in this hearing.
19 [foreign audio]. I am joined tonight--first of
20 all Mr. Bendoma [phonetic], Principal of PS1 - -

21 .

22 [Applause]

23 MS. TORRES: Representatives of the PS1
24 school leadership team [foreign audio] Ms.
25 Valentine.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. TORRES: Ms. Cartagena.

3 [Applause]

4 MS. TORRES: Ms. Cartagena is the
5 chairperson for SOT [phonetic] and also is the -
6 - okay. Ms. Valentine--correction. Ms.
7 Valentine is the chairperson and also Ms.
8 Cartagena is the UFT representative, right?
9 [foreign audio]. In addition to that I am
10 joined by members of the community education
11 council [foreign audio] and what I'm going to do
12 is I'm going to pass the microphone to each and
13 every one of them [foreign audio].

14 MS. VIOLETA GUEVARA: [foreign audio].

15 MS. NOEMI LIZARDI: [foreign audio].

16 [Applause]

17 MR. JOHN FIELDER: Good evening. My name is
18 John Fielder. I am the co-president
19 representative for CEC7.

20 [Applause]

21 MS. ALMETA TRAMMEL: Good evening. My name
22 is Almeta Trammel. I'm sitting in tonight for
23 the president of - - . I'm the first vice-
24 president and also borough president of - - .

25 [Applause]

1 MS. DANIELLE POOLE: Good evening. My name
2 is Danielle Poole. I am the second vice for the
3 CEC. [foreign audio].

4 MS. TORRES: I would also like to
5 acknowledge the presence of councilwoman Carmen
6 Arroyo. Huh? Assemblywoman. [foreign audio].
7 The councilwoman for district 17 Maria Carmen
8 Arroyo [foreign audio]. We also have Ms. Monica
9 Majors what happened is the director for
10 education and youth services from the office of
11 the borough president, Mr. Ruben Diaz, Jr.
12 Where is Ms. Majors? [foreign audio]. The
13 purpose of this hearing is for district seven
14 community to provide comments about this
15 proposal. [foreign audio]. Before I describe
16 the proposals, I want to make sure you are all
17 aware the opportunity to provide your input.
18 All those who wish to speak must have signed in
19 the area located just outside the auditorium.
20 The sign-up sheet will close in 15 minutes and
21 speakers will be given the floor in the order in
22 which they signed up and all comments are
23 limited to two minutes. [foreign audio]. All
24 comments will be mentioned in the analysis of
25 public comments to be published and provided to

1 the panel for educational policy the evening
2 before the panel votes. That vote is scheduled
3 for October 30th. [foreign audio]. As I
4 mentioned before--I acknowledged elected
5 officials and at times they will be asked if
6 they would like to speak. [foreign audio]. In
7 addition, we welcome any comments and feedback
8 you may have at any time before the panel votes
9 on this proposal. This email address and phone
10 number where comments may be made are
11 z07proposals@schools.nyc.gov and the number is
12 212-374-5159. [foreign audio]. I will not
13 proceed with the summary of this proposal.
14 [foreign audio]. The New York City Department
15 of Education or DOE is proposing to open and co-
16 locate a new district school--elementary school
17 07X429, which will serve students in
18 kindergarten through 5th grade in buildings X001
19 located at 335 East 152 Street, Bronx, New York,
20 10451 in community school district seven.
21 [foreign audio]. If this proposal is approved
22 the new district elementary school will be co-
23 located with PS1 in this building beginning
24 2014-2015. [foreign audio]. In 2014-15, the
25 first year of the proposal, 07X429 will be begin

1 serving approximately 45 to 55 kindergarten
2 students. The new elementary school will serve
3 one additional grade each subsequent year until
4 2019 to 2020, the final year of phase-in when
5 07X429 will serve approximately 270 to 330
6 students in kind through first grade. [foreign
7 audio]. Due to the large percentage of English
8 language earners or ELL students in district 7,
9 the DOE intends to offer a Spanish dual language
10 program 07X429 although ELL programming offered
11 at a given school is always subject to demand.
12 [foreign audio]. The new elementary school will
13 admit students via the district 7 elementary
14 school choice admissions process. [foreign
15 audio]. Concurrently, the DOE is planning to
16 reduce enrollment at PS1 over the course of the
17 six years. [foreign audio]. Beginning in
18 September 2012, PS1 will admit a smaller
19 incoming kindergarten class of approximately 45
20 to 55 students as opposed to approximately 97
21 kindergarten students it is serving this year.
22 [foreign audio]. The school will continue to
23 take in approximately 45 to 55 kindergarten
24 students [foreign audio]. The school will
25 continue to take in approximately 45 to 55

1 kindergarten students in future years also all
2 grade kindergarten through five. So fewer
3 sections in 2019-2020. At that point enrollment
4 will stabilize at a new lower level. [foreign
5 audio]. The proposal is not expected to impact
6 PS1's pre-kindergarten program. [foreign
7 audio]. This reduction of PS1's enrollment will
8 enable 07X429 to open in building one and grow
9 to scale. [foreign audio]. If this co-location
10 proposal is not approved by the panel four
11 educational policy, the DOE may reconsider the
12 decision to reduce PS1's enrollment. [foreign
13 audio]. According to the 2011 - - enrollment
14 capability utilization report, the blue book,
15 building X1 has a target capacity of 757
16 students. [foreign audio]. In the 2013-14
17 school year, PS1 is serving approximately 635
18 students in kindergarten through 3rd grade and
19 pre-kindergarten using a building utilization
20 rate of approximately 84 percent. [foreign
21 audio]. When both schools reach a stable
22 enrollment in 2019-2020 07X429 and PS1 will
23 collectively serve approximately 558 to 678
24 students in building one using a building
25 utilization rate of approximately between 74 and

1 90 percent. [foreign audio]. I will now
2 proceed with the presentations by hearing
3 participants and this is where I'm going to need
4 you? Okay? [foreign audio]. We will now have
5 first presentations by members of the Community
6 Education Council as well as the school
7 leadership team. [foreign audio]. Our first
8 presenter will be vice-president--first vice-
9 president, Ms. Trammel. [foreign audio].

10 MS. TRAMMEL: Speaking on behalf of the
11 council and on behalf on my president who is
12 absent, we're in full support with PS1 for no
13 co-location for the school--

14 [Applause]

15 MS. TRAMMEL: - - it's been our pleasure.
16 Thank you.

17 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

18 MS. TORRES: Do you hear me? Okay. Now we
19 will have Mr. Fielder who is the treasurer for
20 the CEC [foreign audio].

21 MR. FIELDER: Again speaking on behalf of
22 CEC 7, we are in total agreement with PS1 and
23 disagreement with co-locations - - .

24 [Applause]

25 MR. FIELDER: Again speaking on behalf of

1 Community Education Council 7.

2 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

3 MR. FIELDER: We are in total agreement with
4 PS1.

5 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

6 MR. FIELDER: - - co-locations with this
7 school in this time period.

8 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

9 [Applause]

10 MS. TORRES: Okay. Now we will have Ms.
11 Guevara who is--can you hear me with this
12 microphone? So we will have Ms. Guevara now who
13 is representing the ELL parents and students.

14 MS. GUEVARA: [foreign audio].

15 MS. TORRES: So basically Ms. Guevara is
16 indicating that she has a child here and she's
17 not in agreement with the co-location and
18 they're not going to accept this proposal. What
19 the school needs more of is resources to
20 continuing supporting the school.

21 [Applause]

22 MS. TORRES: So now--thank you--we are going
23 to have Ms. Valentine who is the member of--Ms.
24 Valentine who is the member of the PS1 [foreign
25 audio], the chairperson for SLT, Ms. Valentine.

1 MS. VALENTINE: Good evening ladies and
2 gentleman, teachers, administrators, CEC
3 members. My name is Luisa Valentine and I'm the
4 chairperson of the school - - PS1. I am here in
5 front of you tonight to speak on behalf of the
6 SLT [foreign audio]. The co-location proposal
7 is something the concerns us all. We are all
8 wondering what is behind this co-location
9 proposal. We feel that this co-location will
10 eventually have a negative impact effect on our
11 school. PS1 - - and the quality review this
12 past year. In prior years, we have also shown
13 progress, and the coming year is not going to be
14 any different. Here we all...

15 [foreign audio]

16 MS. VALENTINE: Here we all share one
17 mission and one goal, which is to make sure that
18 our students achieve academically and - - enough
19 to the next grade by meeting state standards,
20 but to also become individuals that are critical
21 and analytical thinkers that will be successful
22 in the future. [foreign audio]. So with--let
23 me see - - and this waiting that we are already
24 proud of because we worked very hard for it, and
25 we thank our talents also because without them

1 we wouldn't be able to do it, and we thank you
2 deeply for all your support that you continue
3 giving us. So for the school in the south Bronx
4 that's doing as well as we're doing, I think
5 it's a very big deal. - - .

6 [Applause]

7 MS. VALENTINE: It is sad that we know as a
8 fact because of the data that many schools
9 around us--they're failing. They're not doing
10 as well as we're doing. So why come and bring a
11 school to our school that the city and - - us
12 apart and divide us, which is eventually what's
13 going to happen if we don't need it. Why try to
14 fix something that's not broken. That's the way
15 I see it.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. VALENTINE: [foreign audio]. Okay. So
18 at least to me and to all - - and I know as a
19 fact that Mr. Pordoma [phonetic], Ms. Reyes
20 [phonetic], Mr. Grandes [phonetic], and all of
21 those teachers, parents, and the general staff
22 of the school as well as the students are doing
23 our best, and that we are showing it in our - -
24 . So there is no doubt in my mind that PS1 to
25 become a school this current year that could

1 become an A school and that's what we're going
2 to get - - .

3 [Applause]

4 MS. VALENTINE: [foreign audio]. Because
5 when we choose--

6 [Applause]

7 MS. VALENTINE: - - to say that I believe
8 strongly, I believe strongly that - - this
9 school up will only - - service our school at
10 the end. We are like a big family here and we
11 are very happy the way we are, and that's the
12 way we want to stay.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. TORRES: Thank you, Ms. Valentine. And
15 now--okay we need attention. Now, we're going
16 to have Ms. Cartagena who is the UFT
17 representative for the school.

18 MS. CARTAGENA: Good evening ladies and
19 gentleman and students. I want to thank you for
20 the opportunity to speak before you this
21 evening. Again, I am Brenda Cartagena, 4th
22 grade teacher and UFT chapter leader in this
23 building.

24 [Applause].

25 MS. CARTAGENA: Before I give you my

1 thoughts on the proposed co-location, I would
2 like for you to view this video.

3 [video playing]

4 MS. TORRES: So after that wonderful
5 presentation, Ms. Cartagena is going to speak to
6 you.

7 MS. CARTAGENA: Our public schools have been
8 forced to endure many unfortunate, misguided,
9 and failed educational policies these last ten
10 years. We have become political scapegoats and
11 once again I feel we are being victimized. We
12 are being victimized by this proposed co-
13 location. I stand before you hoping that you
14 will desist from moving forward with this plan.

15 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

16 MS. CARTAGENA: I strongly believe that our
17 school building is not large enough for this
18 idea to work well. We simply do not have
19 sufficient space to accommodate two schools
20 equitably without having to eliminate parts of
21 our educational programs. Co-location would
22 curtail our ability to bring in enrichment
23 programs such as the Bronx arts ensemble, vocal,
24 dancing, and chess in the schools.

25 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

1 MS. CARTAGENA: If you look on the
2 paperwork that you were given by the DOE on page
3 five, impact on extracurricular programs, you
4 will see that with the loss of students the
5 extracurricular programs will be shifted and
6 lost. I believe that we are a small building.
7 The proposed co-location would create tensions
8 and division within our school community. It
9 will lead to the division among the student body
10 that could lead to future conflicts.

11 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

12 MS. CARTAGENA: The proposed co-location
13 would also create untold scheduling problems due
14 to our having to share common spaces, such as
15 lunch room, library, gym, and the auditorium.
16 Co-location creates overcrowding and oversized
17 classes, which ultimately lead to academic
18 demise.

19 [Applause]

20 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

21 MS. CARTAGENA: This proposed co-location
22 has brought down morale among students and
23 teachers alike because the resounding message we
24 are receiving is that somehow we are not good
25 enough. I also feel that we stand to lose many

1 talented teachers because they feel that they
2 will be excessed as a result of co-location.

3 [Applause]

4 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

5 MS. CARTAGENA: It is my understanding that
6 many of the schools that have been through the
7 co-location were failing schools. We here at
8 PS1, however, have evidence that we are
9 improving all the time.

10 [Applause]

11 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

12 MS. CARTAGENA: I suggest that perhaps
13 instead of moving ahead with the co-location
14 proposal that perhaps we should be given support
15 in the areas that the DOE finds us lacking in.
16 Thank you.

17 [Applause]

18 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

19 MS. TORRES: Thank you. [foreign audio].

20 And now I'm going to ask our assembly person,
21 Ms. Carmen Arroyo to present to the public.

22 MS. ARROYO: [foreign audio]. I'm just
23 making a comment to show my respect to the
24 district superintendent, a person that I respect
25 very deeply. She's a professional. I want to

1 be very professional, but I - - that the
2 person and the people that produce this material
3 was supposed to produce - - material in English
4 and in Spanish for the - - .

5 [Applause]

6 MS. ARROYO: Now as respected
7 representative--as a person that was for 24
8 years and district member of community school
9 board 7. With all my respect to the
10 superintendent, I don't want to kill the
11 messenger because I love her. Can you go back
12 and tell these people that they're choosing the
13 wrong school - - ?

14 [Applause]

15 MS. ARROYO: At the wrong time because that
16 administration is leaving January 1st. - - .

17 [Applause]

18 MS. ARROYO: [foreign audio]. As the state
19 representative of this area--and I am the chair
20 of the bilingual education committee for the
21 assembly. I serve in the education committee of
22 the assembly, but I'm also the - - of the
23 Hispanic delegation in the state assembly. I'm
24 the senior in the assembly and the senate, and I
25 am a member of the executive committee of the

1 assembly. That - - my voice is heard over
2 there, and you people voted for me to send me
3 there to the job that I'm supposed to be doing
4 for you and your children and this community - -
5 .

6 [Applause]

7 MS. ARROYO: [foreign audio]. - - to defend
8 what belong to you - - .

9 [Applause]

10 MS. ARROYO: - - for your children and for
11 this community. I'm with you. I will never
12 tolerate that that proposal - - .

13 [Applause]

14 MS. ARROYO: And we're going to have another
15 speaker, but let me tell you before I leave the
16 microphone. I have two grandchildren in PS1.

17 [Applause]

18 MS. ARROYO: [foreign audio].

19 [Applause]

20 MS. ARROYO: [foreign audio].

21 [Applause]

22 MS. ARROYO: [foreign audio]. The message
23 is that she should tell her superiors--and she
24 has a lot. But she now be afraid of them
25 because they are leaving January 1st, but she's

1 going to stay there. But the message should
2 be that the decision to put another school here
3 is stupid - - .

4 [Applause]

5 MS. ARROYO: - - .

6 [Applause]

7 MS. TORRES: Thank you Ms. Arroyo. And now
8 we will have councilwoman, Maria Carmen Arroyo.

9 MS. ARROYO: Thank you. [foreign audio].
10 And for those of you who are not away, that's
11 mommy. [foreign audio]. My mother. I want to
12 first congratulate all of you and echo the
13 sentiments of the assemblywoman how proud I am
14 to be your city council member because you have
15 been here for hours already making sure that
16 your voice is heard. [foreign audio]. A lot of
17 folks are going speak. I'm just going to ask -
18 - please say hello. It seems to unanimous.
19 [foreign audio]. Madam Superintendent, I echo
20 the sentiments of the assemblywoman. I have a
21 profound respect for you as a professional.
22 [foreign audio]. What happened here tonight is
23 unacceptable. The fact that this panel was not
24 prepared is not only disrespectful to our
25 community, but unacceptable. [foreign audio].

1 And I don't know that this was [foreign
2 audio]. I hope it wasn't intentional. And I
3 also want to say, you know, I'm here serving in
4 two capacities. I'm your city councilmember,
5 but I'm grandma to the Diego and Octavio Garcia
6 who are - - . [foreign audio]. I think none of
7 what I heard in the proposal convinced me that
8 this is the right thing to do. [foreign audio].
9 Let's work on bringing enrollment to PS1 to 100
10 percent and add a dual language program to - - .
11 [foreign audio]. - - that is already here--that
12 is already on its way to becoming a model school
13 in our system. [foreign audio]. I'm here.
14 After this administration leaves, I will still
15 be councilmember - - . [foreign audio]. As my
16 commitment to you, DOE, the CEC, the school
17 leadership and my constituents--the ones that
18 are paying - - send me to do the work at city
19 hall is to work with all of you to help you
20 accomplish bringing PS1 to 100 percent capacity
21 and adding a dual language program.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. ARROYO: [foreign audio]. I promise to
24 be here for you. [foreign audio]. But please
25 take this message back. [foreign audio]. We've

1 had these hearings in the past. [foreign
2 audio]. And they often end the same way.
3 [foreign audio]. The co-location happens and
4 the schools are closed. The co-locations happen
5 and the schools are closed. [foreign audio].
6 Please do not continue to make that mistake.
7 This administration is not proving that co-
8 locating schools work and that the co-located
9 school that comes in is any more successful than
10 the school that - - .

11 [Applause]

12 MS. ARROYO: [foreign audio]. And what we
13 usually end up seeing, like everyone said on the
14 panel, is division in the school, challenges and
15 conflict that make it all the more difficult for
16 the professionals in the building to do their
17 work.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. ARROYO: [foreign audio]. Do not
20 approve this plan. It is not what's in the best
21 interest of our community. Please don't play
22 the movie out the same way it always ends.
23 Please write a different ending to this movie.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. ARROYO: [foreign audio]. Leave PS1

1 alone.

2 [foreign audio]

3 MS. TORRES: Thank you, Ms. Arroyo. And now
4 we have concluded with the formal presentations,
5 and we will now open the floor for public
6 comment.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. TORRES: Speakers will be given the
9 floor in the order that they have signed up and
10 all comments are limited to two minutes.
11 [foreign audio]. And we will have the
12 translator next to the speaker--will we have the
13 translator next to the speaker? This mic?
14 Okay. So I use this one. Okay. We're going to
15 begin with the first speaker number on. Ms.
16 Birch.

17 MS. BIRCH: I'm the great-grandmother of
18 Anthony - - . His father attended this school.
19 His aunt, his uncles--it's always been one
20 school in this building. The safety of the
21 children is important. This school is not big
22 enough to contain two schools. Let's be for
23 real. Leave PS1 alone.

24 [Applause]

25 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

1 MS. CHRISTINE CHARLES: My name is
2 Christine Charles and I have two kids - -
3 Charles and - - Charles. It is not only
4 affecting the adults, but it's also going to
5 affect the students too. So you really need to,
6 like, help us. Put more academic stuff in here
7 so we won't go and be a failing school. We need
8 to be a better--we need to be better people. We
9 need to work together as one instead of trying
10 to put the school down. Thank you.

11 [Applause]

12 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

13 MS. TORRES: Number one, Ms. Connolly.

14 MS. MYRNA CONNOLLY: My name is Myrna
15 Connolly and I'm here on behalf of the United
16 Federation. I'm here to point out that
17 everything is - - driven, that the numbers of
18 students that we reach through the years 2019 to
19 2020 falls well within today the range of this.
20 So this school is not under-utilized. This
21 school - - . Its grades are up. Its teachers
22 are working incredibly very hard to implement
23 the new Common Core curriculum into the
24 Department of Education - - having trouble
25 figuring out themselves. All I can say is that

1 our mayor will be out of office as of January
2 1. - - with the TEP [phonetic] meeting next
3 week while - - is a sign that he wants to do
4 enormous damage to not only the school system,
5 but to your children. - - and so I urge
6 everyone to go back and say not now, not ever -
7 - .

8 [Applause]

9 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

10 MS. TORRES: WE have Ms. Villanueva.

11 MS. LATISHA VILLANUEVA: Hi. I have four
12 children. One graduated from PS1 last year.
13 Three are in this school as we speak. I totally
14 disagree with this proposal. This proposal
15 needs - - resources. So we bring back - - and
16 keep my mind - - that they shouldn't be doing
17 and keep them active in curricular activities.
18 This proposal is taking away our students time,
19 space to give to other children when our
20 children need it. - - . So that's - - take
21 this message. - - help especially in this
22 environment nowadays with all the guidance and
23 not educating children because of this. Keep
24 them in our school providing resources--better
25 educate them. Provide curricular activities,

1 after school programs to help these kids that
2 are weak in their reading levels. Why bring
3 more children here? We have no space. No
4 space. We're already looking at teachers who
5 have 20 to 1. Instead of bringing more
6 children, give them assistance so they can help
7 those children who need one on one.

8 [Applause]

9 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

10 MS. TORRES: Ms. Wilner.

11 MS. TRICIA WILNER: I'm sure by now you all
12 understand how we feel, but I just want to give
13 you the perspective of a - - staff member here.
14 My name is Tricia Wilner and I'm in my fourth
15 year teaching here at PS1. I'm here to talk to
16 you about why co-location is not the right
17 choice for a school like ours. When I think of
18 the kids right now, I think of the community--a
19 community that's on a roll. No matter how far
20 away I work from the school, I can't walk from
21 school to my car without seeing a current
22 student, a former student, a parent or a - - .
23 That's a community. When I see the kids - - the
24 team. Look at them.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. WILNER: I see a school with a
2 momentum for success. I see an administrative
3 team - - with an innovative way to include more
4 learning time in the school hours. I see school
5 - - of teachers every year because we have
6 teachers that take our school motto very
7 seriously, health, happiness - - . I see a
8 staff that works as a team professionally and as
9 family personally. Because of this, I see
10 students that love to learn. This formula is
11 the winning formula for success. A co-location
12 would be detrimental to the success. Please
13 don't take away the momentum we've worked so
14 hard to build.

15 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

16 MS. TORRES: Ms. Garlarza. Desiree
17 Garlarza.

18 MS. DESIREE GARLARZA: My name is Desiree
19 Garlarza of the parent - - at PS1. I also
20 disagree with the co-location because both
21 parents and students are going to be forced to
22 relocate against their will. We already have a
23 family environment here at PS1 and no one can
24 guarantee that this new school will either meet
25 or exceed the progress that we're already

1 making. We're going to lose a lot of high
2 qualified staff who are extremely dedicated to
3 our students, family, and our overall community.
4 Many students have already come to trust members
5 of the staff and they have a sense of safety and
6 security here at their second home. There will
7 be a lot of - - issues and we won't be able to
8 offer any of our current programs nor future
9 programs that we would like to implement due to
10 lack of space. I want to keep progressing as a
11 school and we can only do so with support, not
12 by separation. It's more expensive to start a
13 school from the ground up rather than to support
14 and existing progressive school. It's almost
15 like the DOE is sending a mixed message. If you
16 don't succeed as a school, you get shut down.
17 But you're succeeding and making significant
18 progress and yet we're being threatened with co-
19 location. So how do you win?

20 [Applause]

21 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

22 MS. TORRES: Ms. Crystal Padilla.

23 MS. PADILLA: First, I just want to say
24 thank you parents and staff for coming. My name
25 is Crystal Padilla. I'm a parent associate - -

1 and the parent of pre-K and 3rd grade student.
2 I want to know so much is changing in our
3 community when I see the progress made. I along
4 with other parents strongly disagree on this
5 proposal. When I hear this proposal, I hear the
6 cuts in programs and classrooms being taken away
7 from our students. This proposal may also cause
8 us to lose many of our great employees who make
9 a positive impact on our kids. How about
10 proposing more programs and more funding for
11 education projects? Instead of having another
12 school - - to this building, why not add the
13 dual language to PS1? We are a school who has
14 the most parent involvement within this school.
15 Every day parents--from today until October
16 30th--we need to call and email that we need to
17 stop this from happening. If you want - - the
18 email - - you got to make this happen. - - team
19 member - - information, we are - - so
20 congratulations - - .

21 [Applause]

22 MS. PADILLA: One more thing. This is what
23 I think about this proposal.

24 [Applause]

25 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

1 MS. TORRES: Ms. Sarah Mitchell.

2 MS. SARAH MITCHELL: Hi. My name is Sarah
3 Mitchell. I'm a 5th grade teacher here at PS1
4 and from reading the impact statement, I noticed
5 that a lot of the focus is on the utilization of
6 the space in this building. It - - currently to
7 84 percent, but when you look at the proposal,
8 in seven years they are saying - - at 90
9 percent. I don't understand what the point of
10 cutting resources, valuable teachers, and
11 hurting our children for gaining six percent.

12 [Applause]

13 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

14 [Applause]

15 MS. TORRES: Ms. Tracy Woodall.

16 MS. TRACY WOODALL: Good evening everybody.
17 My name is Tracy Woodall and I - - PS1 - - I'm a
18 proud parent advocate for this community. Okay.
19 First of all, the cost of co-location in this
20 district is - - . There's no success with any
21 co-location in our district. - - . Basically,
22 - - Tracy, she was a mother here and she's a - -
23 but she's first of all a parent advocate. And
24 I'm talking in English. You know - - . Why am
25 I translating? [foreign audio]. - - planning

1 over the summer of July when I was informed as
2 an associate parent in PS1 that if they can give
3 me any type of - - proving that co-location
4 works in our district and I - - see the results
5 because it does not work.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. WOODALL: [foreign audio]. District
8 seven has in the Bronx has been the dumping
9 ground for co-locations from - - and as of this
10 recent - - state exam - - district in the
11 country. This has to stop. As I said before, I
12 say district seven - - dumping ground for the
13 DOE to bring co-locations into our - - borough
14 and even - - state exams prove that it's not
15 working. We're failing. Our schools are
16 failing where those - - district in the city.
17 So something has to be changed. It's not
18 working.

19 FEMALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

20 MS. WOODALL: I sat up here with the CEC and
21 watched schools co-locate - - year after year
22 after year. I've seen parents cry. I've seen
23 students cry. And still - - and there's still
24 no progress, but they messed with the wrong
25 school. - - anymore. Not - - not today. - - .

1 Okay.

2 FEMALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

3 MS. TORRES: Thank you. Ms. Mendez.

4 MS. MENDEZ: [foreign audio].

5 [Applause]

6 MALE VOICE: - - what's the reason we're
7 trying to do the co-location. We don't need - -
8 leave it the way it is.

9 MS. TORRES: Thank you. Mrs. Neyda Franco.

10 MS. NEYDA FRANCO: Thank you everybody.
11 Thank you - - for still supporting this school
12 and I'm very proud that she went up to - - and
13 I've always - - . The safety - - to better the
14 school. So our principal picked up - - to have
15 small classroom sizes with that money. So we
16 did real good - - . So now we have the money
17 again, but now you have co-location. But I
18 couldn't - - to do better and to do better in
19 the - - co-location. And just for information,
20 I've done a couple - - this building in the past
21 two years. And every quarter in this - - is
22 occupied. - - .

23 [Applause]

24 MS. FRANCO: - - . This is not going to
25 work. - - . Where?

1 FEMALE VOICE: None.

2 MS. FRANCO: It's impossible to just bring
3 another school in here where we have everything
4 in this building already occupied. So your - -
5 is to take away from our children. That is not
6 right. And the same way that the - - send a
7 letter - - not to co-locate - - twenty.

8 FEMALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

9 MS. TORRES: Thank you. Ms. Sumaya
10 Castillo. Sumaya Castillo.

11 MS. SUMAYA CASTILLO: [foreign audio].

12 [Applause]

13 MALE VOICE: - - and I also have a kid at -
14 - closest to you - - improve our school. Our
15 grades already going up, better and better, and
16 the exchange is going to affect us and the house
17 is going to approve the change. I don't
18 understand.

19 MS. TORRES: Thank you. Ms. Linda Johnson.

20 MS. LINDA JOHNSON: Hello. I'm Linda
21 Johnson. - - my grandson is - - . This is a
22 total - - our kids - - everybody - - I don't see
23 - - this is something for elementary for the
24 junior high school. These are elementary kids -
25 - basic learning. - - bring in another school

1 you - - bring something here tonight - - we
2 need the resources after school for our children
3 that's not in this - - take away. You know this
4 not good for our children. If you care anything
5 about our children, you wouldn't be here trying
6 to bring another school in here. Bring more
7 resources - - the kids that - - 1st and 2nd
8 grades and - - another kid - - I don't see
9 nothing on the table saying that this - - .

10 MALE VOICE: - - .

11 MS. JOHNSON: - - . This one right here - -
12 high school. They - - behind the faces but why
13 would - - . You could do better than that.
14 This is really - - . Thank you.

15 [Applause]

16 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

17 MS. TORRES: Okay. Last but not least
18 before - - , Ferdinand Nyarko. Ferdinand
19 Nyarko. Is that the way--the last name?

20 MALE VOICE: I would like to speak also.
21 You took the paper away before. My name is - -
22 but I asked - - .

23 MS. TORRES: He's supposed to speaking now,
24 sir.

25 MALE VOICE: Okay. Thank you.

1 MS. TORRES: Thank you.

2 MALE VOICE: - - .

3 MS. TORRES: - - the gentleman's last name,
4 please.

5 MR. FERDINAND NYARKO: My last name is
6 Nyarko, not - - .

7 MS. TORRES: Okay. thank you.

8 MR. NYARKO: - - helping - - to take out the
9 number of students - - here and then you bring
10 another person - - and - - the number of people
11 the country - - and - - .

12 [Applause]

13 MR. NYARKO: - - we don't know how - - . We
14 don't know how - - our system - - school. So
15 please no - - family - - my family is from New
16 York. So I'm telling these people outside - -
17 bring it from the inside. Please - - . No,
18 this is a constant - - don't let us do it.
19 Thank you.

20 [Applause]

21 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

22 MS. TORRES: Thank you, - - . We're going
23 to give Mr. Herman Francis the opportunity to
24 speak.

25 MR. HERMAN FRANCIS: - - . Today - - 70

1 billion dollars. I'm a firm believer - - .
2 Twenty nine of that 70 billion dollars go for
3 education. That's just - - as a business. - -
4 also studied - - public education - - this is -
5 - 16.2 - - and he took out - - and got started -
6 - got started - - all you have to do is follow -
7 - so called - - back to the basics. When this
8 system started in - - Massachusetts it was
9 educated residents - - one more U.S.
10 constitution. The fight - - against the white -
11 - resources before - - major polls - - and some
12 of that - - entire state of New York. - - with
13 these children and - - I see a whole lot of
14 people. I think that's a very large male
15 presence out here. When you folks--when these
16 children - - and I've seen it too many times - -
17 when they say that this child is not educated
18 enough to represent my - - . Why? Because the
19 - - up here - - to do what - - . I thank you
20 for your time.

21 [Applause]

22 MALE VOICE: [foreign audio].

23 MS. TORRES: Thank you, sir. The speaker -
24 - has not been exhausted. [foreign audio].
25 Again, we welcome any comments and feedback you

1 may have at any time before the panel for
2 educational policy votes on this proposal at its
3 October 30th meeting at the - - campus located
4 at 8830 Classic Avenue in Brooklyn. The email
5 address and phone number where comments may be
6 made are d407proposal@schools.nyc.gov and the
7 number is 212-374-5159. [foreign audio]. We
8 thank you very much for your participation.
9 This joint public hearing is now closed.
10 [foreign audio].

11 [END RECORDING]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature 

Date 10/27/13