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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF  
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**  
**Truncation of 10X360  
from K-6 to K-5**

**June 4, 2013**

**5:30pm**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. MELODIE MASHEL: Good evening. Welcome,  
3 everyone. This is a joint public hearing of the  
4 Department of Education, Community Education  
5 Council, and the School Leadership Team, for the  
6 proposed grade truncation of P.S. 360, 10X360,  
7 to a K through five school, in 2014 to 2015. My  
8 name is Melodie Mashel, and I am the Interim  
9 Acting Superintendent of Community School  
10 District 10. We have asked the District 10  
11 Community Education Council and the School  
12 Leadership Team in the building of X360 to  
13 participate in this joint public hearing. I am  
14 joined here tonight by Nancy Rodriguez-Lewis,  
15 who is a member of SLT, as well as principal of  
16 the school. Miss Padorme [phonetic]?

17 MS. NANCY RODRIGUEZ-LEWIS: Padmere  
18 [phonetic].

19 MS. MASHEL: Padmore?

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ-LEWIS: She's the PTA  
21 president.

22 MS. MASHEL: PTA president and SLT member,  
23 as well as Miss Scarano? Scarano. - -. Also  
24 SLT member and teacher at 360. And chairperson.  
25 As well as Marvin Shelton, from the CEC. - -

1 here? No, - -, okay. So we will begin the  
2 hearing. This hearing is being recorded. The  
3 purpose of this hearing is for you to provide  
4 comments about the proposal. Before I describe  
5 the proposal, I want to make sure you are all  
6 aware of the opportunity to provide your input.  
7 All those who wish to speak must sign up in the  
8 speaker signup area located just outside the  
9 cafeteria. The signup list will close in 15  
10 minutes. Speakers will be given the floor in  
11 the order that they signed up. All comments are  
12 limited to two minutes. There may be elected  
13 officials who arrive at different times  
14 throughout the evening. If they wish to speak,  
15 they will inform us. We will do our best to  
16 accommodate them at the first opportune moment.  
17 Those who are here at the start of the public  
18 comments segment will be asked to speak first.  
19 All comments will be mentioned in the analysis  
20 of the public comment to be published and  
21 provided to the Panel for Educational Policy the  
22 evening before the Panel votes. The vote is  
23 scheduled for June 19, 2013. In addition, we  
24 welcome any comments and feedback you may have  
25 at any time before the Panel votes on this

1 proposal. The email address and phone number  
2 where comments may be made are D10proposals, P-  
3 R-O-P-O-S-A-L-S, @schools.nyc.gov, and (212)  
4 374-5159. Copies of this proposal can be found  
5 in the main office of P.S. 360, or on the DOE's  
6 website. This is the proposal summary. P.S.  
7 360 is an existing zoned elementary school  
8 located in Building X360 at 2880 Kingsbridge  
9 Terr., Bronx, New York, 10463, of Community  
10 School District 10. It currently serves  
11 students in kindergarten through sixth grades,  
12 and offers a full-day pre-kindergarten program.  
13 P.S. 360 is currently the only school located in  
14 Building X360. This is a proposal to implement  
15 a grade truncation, meaning that the school will  
16 no longer enroll sixth graders after the 2013-  
17 2014 school year. If this proposal is approved,  
18 at the close of 2013-2014 school year, all fifth  
19 and sixth grade students who meet promotional  
20 standards will graduate from P.S. 360. During  
21 the 2013-2014 school year, P.S. 360 fifth and  
22 sixth grade students will participate in  
23 District 9 and 10 middle school choice process.  
24 In September 2014, P.S. 360's current fifth and  
25 sixth grade students will enter middle school

1 elsewhere as sixth and seventh graders,  
2 respectively. Beginning in September 2014, P.S.  
3 360 will only serve students in kindergarten  
4 through fifth grades and will continue to offer  
5 a pre-kindergarten program subject to continued  
6 funding and demand. If a P.S. 360 sixth grade  
7 student does not meet the promotional standards,  
8 at the conclusion of 2013-2014 school year, and  
9 is required to repeat a grade in 2014-2015  
10 school year, the DOE will seek to place that  
11 student in the sixth grade at the same middle  
12 school to which he or she has been matched for  
13 seventh grade through the middle school choice  
14 process. If such placement is not feasible,  
15 then the DOE will find an alternative District 9  
16 or District 10 placement for that student.  
17 Middle schools typically enroll students  
18 beginning in sixth grade. At P.S. 360, students  
19 already have the option to apply to middle  
20 school as fifth graders. However, P.S. 360  
21 students who wait until sixth grade to apply to  
22 the middle school are limited to those schools  
23 that still have available seventh grade seats.  
24 There are several middle schools in District 9  
25 and 10 that rarely have seventh grade seats open

1 because those seats become available only if  
2 the sixth grade students leave the school. As a  
3 result, students who remain at 360 through sixth  
4 grade have fewer options than their peers who  
5 start middle school a year earlier. This  
6 proposed grade truncation will help standardize  
7 middle school application and entry grades in  
8 District 10, giving all P.S. 360 students access  
9 to the same range of middle school options as  
10 their peers throughout the district. Having  
11 students start middle school through multiple  
12 entry grades, sixth and seventh, creates  
13 challenges for students, and the school as well  
14 as a whole. P.S. 360 students who start middle  
15 school in seventh grade may face transitional  
16 challenges related to entering middle school a  
17 year later than most of their classmates. They  
18 remain in their new middle school for only two  
19 years before moving on to a high school, leaving  
20 them with less time to adjust to a new school  
21 environment, and new academic expectations  
22 before facing another transition and adjustment.  
23 Multiple transitions in such close succession  
24 can have the effect of depersonalizing the  
25 school experience at a time when adolescents

1 tend to need the most personal and supportive  
2 environments. Having students enter in multiple  
3 years is also challenging for middle school  
4 teachers and leadership from an instructional  
5 perspective. Changing P.S. 360's grade span  
6 from K through six to K through five will reduce  
7 the school's enrollment by approximately 65 to  
8 75 sixth grade students in Building X360 in the  
9 short term. P.S. 360 has seen an increase in  
10 its kindergarten enrollment in each year since  
11 2007-2008 school year. P.S. 360 can use the  
12 space created as a result of the truncation to  
13 accommodate additional lower grade students or  
14 to meet other needs. This proposal is not  
15 expected to impact academic or extracurricular  
16 offerings for the students in grades  
17 kindergarten through fifth, or for sixth graders  
18 in 2013-2014 before the school is truncated.  
19 All students will continue to receive mandated  
20 special education services and instruction for  
21 English language learners. Okay, thank you. At  
22 this time, the next presenter will be the  
23 president of our Community Educational Council,  
24 Marvin Shelton. He has selected to make a  
25 statement.

1           MR. MARVIN SHELTON: Thank you. Since the  
2 Educational Impact Statement was published, I've  
3 had the opportunity to get some more updated  
4 figures, after speaking with the principal.  
5 There's going to be approximately 59 sixth  
6 graders starting next September at P.S. 340.  
7 There'll be 14 sixth graders that are going to  
8 be involved in the double entry into middle  
9 school in 2014-2015. I've also been informed  
10 that the department has proposed taking two  
11 classrooms away from M.S. 368 for use for a D75  
12 program, and these developments and updates are  
13 giving me a little bit of concern for the  
14 students graduating from this school in 2014-15,  
15 next year 13-14, regarding the choices that they  
16 actually will have regarding middle school  
17 options. This school is zoned to P.S. 95 for  
18 middle school, P.S. 244 up the hill, and also  
19 M.S., H.S. 368. Middle School 368 currently is  
20 at 116% capacity, and that's not even dealing  
21 with the proposed removal of two rooms from her  
22 jurisdiction. M.S. 244 is at 100% capacity  
23 right now, and P.S. 95 currently is at 85 to 90.  
24 So I'm really concerned about the double entry,  
25 after next year with the fifth and sixth graders

1 trying to articulate to the middle schools that  
2 they are zoned to. And - - also, that there's a  
3 low number of actual middle school choice seats  
4 available that are unscreened or limited  
5 screened where you just have to go the middle  
6 school to sign up or visit the school or go to  
7 the middle school fair. A lot of them do have  
8 some other criteria for admission that sort of  
9 lowers the number of available seats within  
10 District 10. That's all.

11 MS. MASHEL: Thank you, Mr. Shelton. The  
12 next member who would like to speak, Miss Nancy  
13 Rodriguez, principal of P.S. 360, excuse me,  
14 M.S. 360, as well as SLT member. Thank you.

15 MS. RODRIGUEZ-LEWIS: Good evening. P.S.  
16 360 currently does serve pre-K to six as you  
17 heard. We have been asked to reconfigure a few  
18 times we've proposed, and we've looked at it.  
19 But in the beginning, there were some seats for  
20 our seventh graders at places like Jonas Bronck,  
21 and some of the other choice schools. I would  
22 speak to them; I would call. And I could  
23 usually get kids in. But in the last few years,  
24 because they've grown their own population, I  
25 haven't been able to do that for our students.

1 Many of our seventh graders, when they leave  
2 us they're seventh graders, our sixth graders  
3 into seventh, are limited to the choice of only  
4 the zoned schools. So I know that that has been  
5 a problem. I also know that when I speak to  
6 Miss Peterson, the principal at 244, where many  
7 of our students go, her concern is the double  
8 entry grade, the fact that which has already  
9 been mentioned, that our students come in in the  
10 middle, after every other kids have been there  
11 over a year. And they really don't partake of  
12 the beginning sixth grade activities and  
13 routines like the rest of her school. And  
14 therefore they're always at a loss in that  
15 transition. So for these reasons, because we  
16 want our students to have the same level playing  
17 ground as all the other sixth graders that are  
18 entering middle school - - this year, we propose  
19 reconfiguration.

20 MS. MASHEL: Thank you, Miss Rodriguez-  
21 Lewis. Thank you very much. We appreciate your  
22 comments. Next person who'd like to speak, PA  
23 President and SLT member, Miss Padmore.

24 MS. RENEE PADMORE: Hello, good evening.  
25 Three years ago we fought to stop the truncation

1 because at that time we thought it was  
2 something that was feasible for the school - -  
3 benefit. But at this point now, it seems like  
4 there is no option but to truncate. It would be  
5 better for our students, and for the children in  
6 the community. They'll benefit better. I'm for  
7 the truncation. You know, as I read the numbers  
8 here, and get a little bit more information and  
9 insight on what they're talking about as far as  
10 what we fought for, it probably will be better  
11 for our kids to leave here at fifth grade and go  
12 into sixth grade so they can get the full three  
13 years before entering high school, opposed to  
14 two years. And it will cause them to be lost.  
15 They may be behind a little as well. As you  
16 know, when they enter middle school, they are  
17 behind anyway because they have to, you know,  
18 get used to the transition. So I think this  
19 would be better. So I'm for it. Thank you.

20 MS. MASHEL: Thank you very much, Miss  
21 Padmore. Our next speaker is a member of the  
22 360 teaching community, also SLT chairperson,  
23 Miss Scarano.

24 MS. DENISE SCARANO: Good evening, everyone.  
25 In light of everything being said by Miss

1       Rodriguez, Miss Padmore, I am in total  
2       agreement with the truncation. One aspect that  
3       hasn't been mentioned is basically the  
4       social/emotional impact that it has on students  
5       going into a new school, a new building, a new  
6       situation, and they are basically the new people  
7       on the block, and everyone else has already had  
8       time to assimilate to the building and to the  
9       routines. I think it's very important for them  
10      to begin in sixth grade at a new building, when  
11      everyone else is beginning. Students have come  
12      back and have voiced that they feel like they're  
13      outliers. And again, they don't participate in  
14      everything that the middle schools have to  
15      offer. So I think the truncation would be  
16      better for the students all around.

17           MS. MASHEL: Thank you, Miss Scarano for  
18      your comments. Next speaker, if you would like  
19      to speak, is Drew Gabriel, representative in  
20      Council Member Koppell's office. First speaker?  
21      No? Okay, there are no other speakers on the  
22      list, so I guess we've pretty much exhausted our  
23      speakers for this evening. I'd like to adjourn  
24      the meeting at this point.

25           [Background noise]

1 MS. MASHEL: Okay. Again, we welcome any  
2 comments and feedback you may have at any time  
3 before the Panel for Educational Policy votes on  
4 the proposal at the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The email  
5 address and phone number where comments may be  
6 made are D10proposals, P-R-O-P-O-S-A-L-S,  
7 @schools.nyc.gov, and (212) 374-5159. Thank you  
8 for your participation. The joint public  
9 hearing is now closed.

10 MR. SHELTON: I just saw you guys walked in  
11 later as well. I'm happy to--

12 [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 *Aime Coleman*

Date June 6, 2013