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

**TER of R016 and Opening
of New District ES**

10/25/13

5:30pm

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. MEG BARBOZA: We're going to get
3 started. Thank you so much for coming tonight.
4 Thank you so much. Good evening. This is a
5 joint public hearing of the Department of
6 Education, Community Education Counsel 31, and
7 the School Leadership Team of PS16 regarding the
8 proposed opening and co-location of New District
9 Elementary School 31R10 with existing school
10 PS16, John J. Driscoll, in building R016
11 beginning in 2014/2015. I am Meg Barboza from
12 the Department of Education and I'll be leading
13 the hearing tonight. We have asked the District
14 31 Community Education Counsel and the School
15 Leadership Team of PS16 to participate in this
16 joint public hearing and I'm pleased to be
17 joined tonight by members of the CEC. We have
18 Ms. Latonya McMillan, Sam Pirozzolo, and from
19 the School Leadership Team, we have Tina
20 Collucci, Kathleen Bayer, Nieves Pavia, - -
21 Monroe, Giselle Heffran. I would also like to
22 recognize Principal Gallassio of PS16. Thank
23 you so much for your assistance in facilitating
24 this hearing and for your attendance tonight,
25 even though I understand you have a scheduling

1 conflict. We also are joined by our new
2 district superintendent and we're very excited
3 to have her here tonight as well. I wanted to
4 let everybody know that tonight's hearing is
5 being recorded. The purpose of this hearing is
6 for you to provide comments about this proposal.
7 Before I describe the proposal, I want to make
8 sure that everyone is aware there is an
9 opportunity to provide a comment on this
10 proposal. All those who wish to speak during
11 the public comment period must sign up at the
12 speaker sign-up table, which is located just
13 outside of the auditorium. The sign-up list
14 will close in 15 minutes. Speakers will be
15 given the floor in the order in which they
16 signed up and all comments are limited to two
17 minutes. We do have elected officials with us
18 tonight. They're making other school - - at
19 different times throughout the evening. If they
20 wish to speak, we'll do our best to accommodate
21 them at the first opportune moment and I
22 understand that we have several signed up to
23 speak here tonight as well. All comments will
24 be included in the - - of public comment to be
25 published and provided to the panel for

1 educational policy. That will also be posted
2 on the DOE's website 24 hours before the vote.
3 That vote is scheduled to happen October the
4 30th. In addition, we welcome any comments and
5 feedback you may have at any time before the
6 panel votes on this proposal. The e-mail
7 address where you may send comments is
8 d31proposals@schools.nyc.gov and the phone
9 number is (212) 374-7621. I'm just going to
10 briefly read the proposal summary and then we'll
11 move on to statements from the dais. The New
12 York City Department of Education is proposing
13 to open and colocate a new district zone
14 elementary school, 31R10, with existing
15 elementary school PS16, John J. Driscoll, in
16 building R16 at the beginning of the 2014/2015
17 school year. A co-location means that two or
18 more school organizations are located in the
19 same building and they share common spaces like
20 auditoriums, gymnasiums, or cafeterias.
21 Concurrently, the DOE's planning to reduce the -
22 - at PS16 beginning in September 2014 over a
23 period of six years. The DOE does not anticipate
24 reducing PS16 at the moment if this proposal to
25 colocate 31R10 is not approved. If this co-

1 location proposal is approved, however, 31R10
2 would gradually phase into building R016 while
3 PS16 simultaneously reduces its enrollment. The
4 new school will serve students in kindergarten
5 for the 2014 and 2015 school year and would add
6 one grade level every year until the school
7 reaches its full scale, serving students in
8 kindergarten through fifth grades for the
9 2019/2020 school year. In 2019/2020, once PS16
10 has completed its enrollment reduction and 31R10
11 is at full scale, the building is projected to
12 serve approximately 726 to 846 students, thereby
13 using an estimated building utilization rate of
14 approximately 88 percent to 102 percent. If
15 this proposal is approved, the elementary school
16 seats that will be lost as a result of the
17 enrollment reduction at PS16 will be recovered
18 through the new seats created by the opening of
19 31R10. If this proposal is approved, all
20 current PS16 students will have the opportunity
21 to finish their primary education at PS16. The
22 proposed co-location is not expected to impact
23 instructional programming or the admission
24 processes of PS16. New school 31R10 will share
25 an elementary school zone at PS16 and PS74,

1 Future Leaders Elementary School, which is
2 located at 211 Daniel Low Terrace here in Staten
3 Island. Future students in that shared
4 residential zone will have admissions priority
5 to all the schools in that zone. The new zone
6 elementary school 31R10 and the existing shared
7 zone schools PS16 and PS74. The proposed co-
8 location of 31R10 is part of the DOE central
9 goal to create new school options that will
10 serve current and future students at the
11 community at large and to provide another option
12 for students. Now that I've read the summary of
13 the proposal, we'll move on to the presentation
14 by - - participants, and if nobody objects I'd
15 like to just start - - CEC and go on down, if
16 that's okay.

17 MR. SAM PIROZZOLO: Good evening, everyone.
18 My name is Sam Pirozzolo and I'm president of
19 the Community Education Counsel and with me
20 tonight I have Latonya McMillan. Basically what
21 our role is, is that we are parent advocates.
22 We do not work with the Department of Education.
23 We are not employees. We don't get paid. We're
24 volunteers. We're parents just like you. My
25 son is in IS-- I'm sorry, PS69. My daughter is

1 in IS27. So we are here to hear what everyone
2 has to say. We don't have decision-making
3 authority over whether the school gets colocated
4 or it does not get colocated, but in the past we
5 have raised our voices to talk pro or con about
6 certain issues. I just want to go over what's
7 happening here as far as this proposed co-
8 location is concerned. To me, this co-location
9 has been different from other co-locations I've
10 heard about. No one is saying the children
11 aren't doing well. No one is saying the
12 principal isn't doing well. No one is saying
13 that the PTA president isn't doing well. This
14 co-location is coming about from the Department
15 of Education and I'll talk about a letter that
16 we wrote, but in a response I got from Emily
17 Ates [phonetic] from the Department of
18 Education, she basically says that the
19 enrollment reduction is intended to provide
20 opportunities for PS16 to concentrate on the
21 smaller - - of students and to allow a new
22 school option to develop in building R16 which
23 the DOE believes would benefit the community as
24 a whole. So this idea is being presented to you
25 as parents to say, 'You know what? You could

1 send your kids here or you could send your kids
2 there.' I also forgot to include teachers. No
3 one is saying the teachers are bad. This is
4 being given to you as a choice. Typically, the
5 CEC and myself, we're opposed to co-locations,
6 and we're opposed to this particular co-location
7 and every one for the same reason that, why put
8 two administrations, which cost at least 250--
9 if not more-- \$250,000 to educate the same group
10 of people. Okay. What's the problem with that?
11 So that's something that you have to discuss
12 among yourselves. We're here, or at least the
13 DOE is here to listen. We have elected
14 officials that are here to listen. It is not--
15 even if the school is colocated, it is not the
16 fault of your principal, your teachers, or your
17 PTA president. Okay. It's not your fault.
18 Someone at the Department of Education is doing--
19 - they're trying to make an offer to say that
20 you can go A, you can go B. So if we're not
21 happy with that-- just a few minutes ago in
22 talking to your PTA president, an idea was
23 floated that said why don't we turn PS16 into a
24 - - program with a dual language program, and
25 everybody kind of seemed to like that idea. I

1 am absolutely 100 percent an advocate of - -
2 programs. So let me just ask everybody that's
3 here-- does everybody think - - if you're in
4 favor of that? Can I get like a show of hands?
5 And there are people that are opposed to it? So
6 we have a few people that are opposed to it.
7 But let's do a show of hands again as far as
8 who's in favor of - -. Okay. So this is
9 something that maybe that we can possibly work
10 on. So this is the parents that are speaking to
11 you, Meg, and to you, Emily, as far as wanting a
12 program or saying yes, maybe the community does
13 need another choice, but this is what that
14 choice would be. So I would certainly welcome a
15 conversation with you. I would do that. Also,
16 I think-- I'll let the officials speak for
17 themselves, but I think they may be in favor of
18 a program, too. So basically what I want to let
19 you know here tonight is that no one is pointing
20 any fingers at anyone else. This is an
21 opportunity to do better for your children and
22 whether it's in school A or school B, they're
23 still your children, okay? And if you took kids
24 from PS16 and PS78 and you put them on the
25 playground tomorrow, within 20 minutes they're

1 going to be playing with each other and having
2 fun. They don't know not to like other kids.
3 That comes from parents. So whatever happens in
4 this school, you're the parents. It's kind of
5 your decision. Think with your heads, think
6 with your hearts, and let us here what it is
7 that you have to say this evening. I also want
8 to let you know that around 8:15, I may have to
9 leave. I have another appointment that's been
10 50 years in the making and I have to go, so
11 please forgive me. Don't think I'm getting up
12 because I'm tired of what's going on, but that
13 may happen. Thank you very much.

14 MS. BARBOZA: Before we move on, I just
15 wanted to note that we're also joined by SLT
16 member Donna Jean Amerosa. My apologies for
17 missing her earlier.

18 MS. TINA COLLUCCI: Hello. My name is Tina
19 Collucci. I'm the PS16 PTA president. I am
20 speaking tonight because I do not like the co-
21 location of PS16. I've been speaking to many
22 parents in the community and the parents in the
23 community would rather our students be K through
24 8 instead of having another elementary school.
25 They feel we have enough elementary schools, but

1 not enough choice to have a 6 through 8
2 school. Our school was, nine years ago, gifted.
3 We had a wonderful program called the dual
4 language. It was pioneered by our former
5 principal, Mr. Tenenbaum, and our present
6 assistant principal Mr. Ramos. It was what the
7 community wanted and this is what the school
8 brought to them and they loved and cherished the
9 program. The DOE has let us down. They
10 promised us nine years ago that we would get the
11 same program as all the other boroughs have. K
12 all the way through high school. Staten Island
13 has still not seen that program brought here,
14 but we have grown. There are four other PS
15 schools on Staten Island that have the dual
16 language program. That is PS19, 22, 41, and 44.
17 The parents want this program in the schools.
18 It is growing, but yet in the middle schools
19 they are dropping a second language. We feel we
20 have the space in the school that we should use
21 the other available room or a 6 through 8 grade
22 program featuring the dual program so we can
23 have the whole program. We only have a piece of
24 it. Why should every borough have the full
25 program and Staten Island denied? We have

1 already graduated three years of fifth graders
2 who have gone to middle school and have lost the
3 education that was given to them from this dual
4 language program. Many parents are disappointed
5 that their promise of the middle school has
6 never been given to them. So we are asking for
7 you to rethink this and give our middle schools
8 an option to set up a new school and continue
9 this program.

10 MS. KATHLEEN BAYER: My name is Kathleen
11 Bayer. - - Ms. Bayer. I would like to welcome
12 you to PS16, to our school. I'm the PS16
13 chapter leader, and therefore a member of the
14 School Leadership Team. I'm currently a fourth
15 grade teacher and a 14-year veteran of PS16. I
16 taught ten years in our annex, which is now
17 PS74. I share this history with you so you'll
18 understand that I bring considerable knowledge
19 of and experience with this learning community
20 as I reflect on your proposal. In reviewing
21 this proposal, I reflected on my time at PS16
22 and I realized that the majority of the hours I
23 have spent here have been focused on how to best
24 meet the needs of the students here. So my
25 essential question as I read the co-location

1 proposal became how would this proposal best
2 meet the needs of the students I have come to
3 know at PS16? My conclusion for the reasons
4 that are set forth is that this proposal just
5 doesn't make sense. The premise that a smaller
6 school will help students while their individual
7 classroom size may grow flaws in the face of
8 research that shows that small class size is
9 what supports students' success. The
10 educational impact statement repeatedly
11 addresses the performance of PS16 students on
12 standardized tests. However, what is not
13 mentioned is the ongoing progress in all areas,
14 especially the English language learners and
15 special education, PS16's students continually
16 show growth. PS16 - - student progress for
17 2011/'12. Student progress mentions how much an
18 individual student has improved on state tests
19 in both English and math. In the city's own
20 progress reports, progress is more heavily rated
21 than performance. PS16 in particular moves the
22 lowest third performing students forward. How
23 would putting another school under the same roof
24 help student achievement? It just doesn't make
25 sense. A teacher is also a taxpayer - -. As a

1 taxpayer, I'm appalled that the city would
2 propose to fund start up costs and the salary of
3 the principal to oversee two kindergarten
4 classes. How can we better support PS16
5 students with the approximate \$300,000
6 expenditure? I'm quite sure the parents here
7 tonight would come up with a list very quickly,
8 including more after school programs and
9 enrichment programs. Respectfully, I have to
10 say that this proposal doesn't make sense. How
11 would this proposal best meet the needs of PS16
12 students or Tompkinsville students? All we need
13 to do is turn on the news to hear about the
14 importance of school safety. One of the major
15 components of a safe school environment is
16 familiarity. We know our kids and our kids know
17 us. When you divide a school building classroom
18 by classroom, floor by floor, students and
19 teachers in the same physical building will not
20 know each other. What will happen when we have
21 three schools all marching to the beat of a
22 different drummer? I thank you for the
23 opportunity to speak with you about this
24 proposal. For financial, educational, and
25 safety reasons, I ask you to vote down this co-

1 location. It just doesn't make sense.

2 MS. DONNA JEAN AMEROSA: Hello. My name is
3 Donna Jean Amerosa. I've been a teacher at PS16
4 for almost ten years. I think that making PS16
5 a co-location will not benefit the quality of
6 the students' education and has no economic
7 benefits. Just recently our school has spent a
8 large sum of money to reconfigure many of the
9 electrical outlets and has added technology to
10 every room. One Smart Board could cost anywhere
11 from \$3,000 to \$5,000 and we have at least 20 of
12 them. Many teachers have undergone professional
13 development to go along with this equipment, and
14 we have taken pride in being a school that is
15 not far behind the most modern advancements. We
16 have children using technology today that
17 excites them and teaches them mathematical
18 concepts. Other students are fascinated by
19 learning things by looking at the Smart Boards.
20 We have children reading books on the computer
21 that are on their level that they can't wait to
22 get back to. If we make PS16 a co-location, all
23 of that goes to waste. We have over thousands
24 of dollars in technology and professional
25 development going. Even if the new principal

1 wishes to keep this equipment, the principal
2 would still have to spend money on training for
3 the new staff. Again, more money would be
4 wasted on something that PS16 and its members
5 already have. Another reason why PS16 becoming
6 a co-location ends up costing us more money than
7 it's saving.

8 MS. GISELLE HEFFRAN: Hello. My name is
9 Giselle Heffran. I'm an SLT. I'm a parent.
10 I'm also an alumni. I graduated from the school
11 years ago - -. The fact that I see we're all
12 just looking on short term. - - very short
13 term. We pride ourselves in the community, so
14 let's build it. Make it six to eight. Let's
15 use those kids to transport, you know, go into
16 the sixth and - - out. Give them
17 responsibility. Teach them. We've got a - - to
18 our children - - as well when they become women
19 and men. - - for all the rumors that - - but
20 now we're just - -. That's the goal. Let's - -
21 the goal at the end of the day. So let's get a
22 six to eight-- you know, K to 8 in the
23 community. We want the children close. We
24 throw them out into the world so quickly that -
25 - all these things at - - and we say, 'Okay.

1 Go. Find your way.' There's no - - there.
2 So let's be the first one in our community to
3 follow - -.

4 MS. NIEVES PAVIA: Hello, everybody. My
5 name is Nieves Pavia. I'm part of the SLT
6 group. What I'm going to say is if you want to
7 do something for them to be - -, bring a school
8 that's going to teach the kids all the way. Not
9 just leave them at the middle. I'm talking by
10 experience. I was a former student - -. My
11 daughter graduated from this school two years
12 ago and now the hard part for both teachers that
13 she had because she was in the dual language
14 program went to waste. She doesn't have the
15 language in the middle school and I wouldn't
16 like that for my son, which is also in the dual
17 language program. I want him to go from K to 8
18 knowing both languages and being prepared for
19 high school. That's what I want and I think
20 that's what most of the parents want. We don't
21 want to send the kids unprepared and losing what
22 they just learned and going to waste. I think
23 it's better for the school to be - -. Thank
24 you.

25 MS. HEFFRAN: I'm sorry. She's not feeling

1 well right now so she will not be speaking.

2 She's also against - -.

3 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you so much. We've now
4 concluded with the formal presentations. I note
5 that we're joined by-- yup. I note that we're
6 joined by several elected officials, so I would
7 like to invite-- we have assembly member Matt
8 Titone. We have Senator Diane Saliano and I
9 believe we also have Councilmember Debbi Rose.

10 MR. MATT TITONE: Thank you. First,
11 foremost, and very most important, happy
12 birthday, Sam. Myself, Senator Saliano, and
13 Councilmember Rose do have a joint statement
14 that we'll be submitting once Councilmember Rose
15 gets here. Once Council-- myself, Senator
16 Saliano, and Councilmember Rose have a joint
17 statement. Councilmember Rose will read it when
18 she gets here. I do want to basically - -.
19 This is supposed to be a public meeting,
20 correct? So I really want to object to the fact
21 that we're holding it on a Saturday. Imagine
22 what it would be like for many-- for Sam,
23 myself, Diane-- if the Department of Education
24 said we're going to hold a hearing on Sunday
25 morning, so when we have public hearings, we

1 have to include all of the public. By holding
2 it on a Saturday, you've excluded all of the
3 public. I'm not going to say it's illegal, but
4 it certainly is not fair. I know you're going
5 to respond-- not you, personally, but the
6 Department of Education-- that there is the
7 opportunity for orthodox - - practicing--
8 celebrating the Sabbath to go online, but let me
9 tell you how I feel, and I'm sure the majority
10 of the people who participate in a democracy
11 feel: that equal but different simply doesn't
12 cut it, and it certainly is very insulting. So
13 I really want to know from the Department of
14 Education when our orthodox friends will have
15 their opportunity to participate in a hearing.
16 With that said, I will expect to hear back from
17 the Department of Ed next week so we can work
18 that out. With that said, I also just want to
19 once again really stand with Tina, Kathleen,
20 Donna, Giselle, Nieves, and I know you're not
21 feeling well, but certainly your enthusiasm
22 shows. We're talking about the proposal that's
23 on the table here simply does not make sense. I
24 couldn't agree more. The community has been
25 primed for K through 8 for quite some time. As

1 Tina pointed out, the community was promised
2 the dual language. Tina, was it nine years ago
3 just about? Not to continue that is really just
4 a slap in the face to this community as well as
5 to the elected official. - - support that. So
6 our statement will be read. Diane's going to -
7 - with what I have to say, but once again I
8 strongly, strongly - - opposed to this
9 quote/unquote public hearing being held on the
10 Sabbath. It really is insulting to all members
11 of this community. Thank you.

12 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you, and - -

13 MS. DIANE SALIANO: Thank you. First of
14 all, I want to thank everyone for coming out
15 tonight and I want to thank the panel for giving
16 the opportunity to give comments. As Senator
17 Titone said, the joint statement that's been
18 prepared by Councilwoman Rose, myself, Matt
19 Titone, will be read by Councilwoman when she
20 arrives here soon. For myself, this is the
21 third co-location meeting I have attended this
22 week. Two in Brooklyn, this one tonight, and
23 there will be another one on Monday at IS49.
24 You have to wonder what is happening that we're
25 having so many of these co-location meetings and

1 a big joint hearing of the public education
2 panel on Wednesday, October 30th, the day before
3 Halloween. There's an expression in government
4 that we talk about how when one administration
5 is on its way out the door and a new one is on
6 its way in, and the outgoing one decides that it
7 wants to kind of leave their mark on the
8 government for a very long time to come. They
9 call it government from the grave. So we are on
10 the verge now of an outgoing administration
11 governing from the grave, trying to leave its
12 mark in a way that's not acceptable to the
13 people its trying to govern, so I'm going to
14 make the same comments here that I've made at
15 every other co-location meeting in the past
16 week, and that is that the panel for education
17 policy should vote no on this co-location. It
18 doesn't make any sense for the reasons you've
19 already heard, but more importantly, to try and
20 enforce your will on the next administration is
21 wrong and we should not allow it to happen.
22 Now, for the past 12 years, this city has been
23 engaged in an experiment of public education
24 that some would argue has been good. It's
25 produced some good things like the CEC panel.

1 It exists now and it didn't before, and some
2 things that were not so good, but there were two
3 issues that have driven parents crazy more than
4 anything else. One of course is the closing of
5 schools and two is co-locations. Now this
6 school has been colocated. I stood here in this
7 room just a few years ago. Remember, Sam? When
8 they talked about the co-location of PS16. So
9 the question remains, why are we going to
10 colocate again? Why are we doing this? You
11 really don't need to hear from me. You have a
12 written statement. You already know what I
13 think. You need to hear from the parents. I
14 think you need to listen carefully to what they
15 need because on the way out the door, this
16 administration needs to be concerned with what
17 the parents they're leaving behind really care
18 about, and the one thing I heard very clearly
19 tonight is they do not want a co-location; they
20 would like a K through 8 program, and they would
21 like the dual language program to be expanded
22 and improved, and that's what people want. So
23 if this administration really cares about
24 leaving its mark on our education system, pay
25 attention to what people want, not what they

1 want. Thank you.

2 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you very much. I note
3 that we are still waiting for Councilmember
4 Rose. We'll accommodate her at the first
5 opportune moment. I would like to move on to
6 public comment. Sure. I'll go ahead and--
7 before we move on to public comment, go ahead,
8 Sam.

9 MR. PIROZZOLO: I'm really sorry. I just
10 wanted to address one other issue that kind of
11 came up. When the mention of the Smart Boards
12 came up and all the equipment that the school
13 already has, it had been mentioned that there
14 would be a possibility of the third floor being
15 given over to the new school coming in and the
16 school would be there for the - -. So let me
17 say very clearly to the DOE officials that are
18 here today, number one, I know that's not true.
19 That does not happen because that panel has not
20 voted on this yet, so that discussion hasn't
21 happened, but for the record there's no way that
22 this community will sit by and allow a new
23 school to come into this building or any other
24 building on Staten Island and steal resources
25 from the existing school. It will not happen.

1 This is Staten Island and we take care of our
2 own. So no matter what, I don't - -.

3 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you very much. I'm
4 going to call speakers on number one through
5 five. Number one, we have Sara Hamilton. I'm
6 going to see if number two - -. Number three,
7 Adam Fishbein. Number four, it looks like Carol
8 Ann Busuttil. Busuttil, thank you. And we have
9 Naomi Encarcion. Ms. Hamilton? Thank you very
10 much.

11 MS. SARA HAMILTON: Good evening. My name
12 is Sara Hamilton. I am the dual language
13 coordinator at PS44. Thank you to the PTA
14 president for inviting me here tonight. I want
15 everyone in this room, especially the people
16 that really need to hear it, to know that PS44
17 and PS19, we have Alma Ascensio, a dual language
18 teacher from 19, [clapping] the parent
19 coordinator from 19. I represent PS44. But I
20 want the community at PS16 to know that PS44 and
21 PS19 stand with you. PS22 and PS31 also stand
22 with you. The Department of Education needs to
23 understand something. There are five growing,
24 thriving, vibrant dual language elementary
25 schools on Staten Island. At PS44 we currently

1 have 154 students that stand grades
2 prekindergarten through grade second and we
3 intend on adding grades three, four, and five in
4 the coming years. We made a commitment to the
5 parents to have a dual language education. We
6 are obligated to continue that education in
7 middle school and so when I hear about co-
8 location of another elementary school rather
9 than a dual language six, seven, and eight and I
10 hear about that under the guise of parent choice
11 and utilization of space, it's insulting. A
12 true parent choice would be a middle school for
13 dual language grades six, seven, and eight for
14 the community on the north shore in addition to
15 the wonderful community at PS16, and as far as
16 utilization of space, you will find that with
17 five elementary schools that have dual language
18 programs, you will have a thriving middle
19 school. This is not a program that's going to
20 die on the - -. We're here. Thank you.

21 MS. BARBOZA: Adam Fishbein.

22 MR. ADAM FISHBEIN: I'm Adam Fishbein. - -
23 PS16. I just want to talk about it's imperative
24 that our students--

25 MALE VOICE: [Interposing] Adam, Adam. - -

1 Slow down.

2 MR. FISHBEIN: I'm Adam Fishbein. I'm a
3 kindergarten teacher at PS16 and I just want to
4 say that it's imperative that our students get
5 to utilize science classes in our school.
6 Effective teaching and learning of science
7 involves - - classroom teaching and
8 experimentation that takes place in the science
9 classroom - - so students grasp concepts
10 thoroughly. We also integrate STEM, which
11 stands for Science Technology - -. Our students
12 are exposed to the STEM concept which will
13 inspire and motivate them to pursue STEM-related
14 - -. If we allow another school into our
15 building, we will lose our science room which is
16 fully utilized at this time.

17 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you. [Clapping] --and
18 I'm also going to call the next five speakers to
19 line up behind them. We have number six, Doreen
20 Nowlen, number seven, Johanna Morak, number
21 eight, Makeda Campbell, and number nine, Megan
22 Passaro.

23 MS. CAROL ANN BUSUTTIL: Good evening,
24 everyone. Thank you for coming to - -. My name
25 is Carol Ann Busuttil. I'm a - - for 12 years.

1 PS16 is not just the staff, the students, the
2 administration, and this building that we're in.
3 What really constitutes PS16 is above all
4 working together. We are a learning community.
5 We work together. I'm speaking about the issue
6 of safety on behalf of the staff and students of
7 PS16. We have already gone a transformation in
8 the past three years. - - PS74 respectfully - -
9 , PS16 and its building. We share the gym,
10 auditorium, and library with PS74. During the
11 latest fire drill last week, PS74 was exiting
12 the auditorium and this resulted in a little
13 confusion at one of the exits which quickly - -
14 got out of the building, but in the event it had
15 been an actual emergency, valuable time could
16 have been lost and threatened the safety of the
17 students and staff of PS16 as well as those of
18 PS74. Adding one - - under the same roof for a
19 grand total of three schools into this mix just
20 does not make sense. Thank you.

21 MS. NAOMI ENCARCION: - - Thank you for
22 coming here. My name is Naomi Encarcion. I
23 have been at PS16 since 1993. I am a
24 paraprofessional now. I was a-- I am a former
25 PTA officer, a parent of two children that went

1 here, graduated from college now. My concern
2 is that PS - - colocated with our school is a
3 major one. Given the diversity of our school,
4 it appears to be happening only to schools like
5 ours on the north shore. First, it was PS14.
6 Now possibly it'll be our school. Is PS31 next
7 on the agenda? As of now, according to - - IS49
8 will have grades six through eight of the - -
9 school for people - - young men. It will be
10 located with the existing school IS49 beginning
11 2014 and 2015 of the school year. What is the
12 purpose of this? This would definitely disrupt
13 the stability and consistency of our school that
14 is present now. There would be different people
15 who are children, parents-- oh, and ourselves.
16 We're not done. I was told I have to get off,
17 but thank you for coming here. Oh, 30 seconds?
18 Oh, okay. If there are any data showing that
19 co-location works and if so, where is it, and
20 who benefits from it? One thing - - us now, how
21 will we know their students are coming in, their
22 needs, because we have our needs. I got
23 confusing there. But thank you for coming
24 anyway.

25 MS. BARBOZA: We now have Doreen Nowlen.

1 MS. DOREEN NOWLEN: Good evening. My name
2 is Doreen Nowlen. I have been a
3 paraprofessional at PS16 17 years. Let me first
4 start by saying I'm working on my bachelor's
5 degree so I can teach at PS16. The many years
6 I've been here, we have come to learn many
7 families that attended our school. They have
8 come to trust and respect the teachers here. If
9 co-location is proposed, you will lose those
10 teachers who have come to love and know your
11 children. I love seeing the children grow up
12 and come back to us for advice. I want to
13 remind everybody that while it is important for
14 us to voice our opinions tonight, it is also
15 important to attend the PET [phonetic] meeting
16 on Wednesday, October 30th, at 883 Wesson
17 [phonetic] Avenue in Brooklyn. There are flyers
18 being handed out, so everyone would have a flyer
19 for Wednesday and they come to support us.
20 Please come and let the panel for education
21 policy know that you do not support this co-
22 location proposal. It just doesn't make sense.

23 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you. - - Johanna.

24 MS. JOHANNA MORAK: Good evening. My name
25 is Johanna Morak. I've been a parent at PS16

1 for many years. Even for myself, not only am
2 I the - - but for three decades I have been a
3 part of many committees that have - - the signs
4 that they - -. How many times will - -. In our
5 established neighborhood, - - our established
6 neighborhood schools. Not only will we - - by
7 educating our children, but many of our parents
8 have been - -. Many of our - - have gone on to
9 - - education. They have become teachers,
10 lawyers, bankers, doctors. We are a family
11 oriented school. I close with the words sung by
12 - -. 'We are family. I've got all sisters with
13 me.'

14 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you, Johanna. Makeda
15 Campbell.

16 MS. MAKEDA CAMPBELL: Hi. My name is Makeda
17 Campbell and I've been a DOE paraprofessional
18 for eight years, been here at PS16 for three. I
19 strongly disagree with the collocating because
20 of many reasons that were mentioned before, plus
21 it greatly affects the service plan here at 16.
22 These are the activities within the school which
23 promotes community service as a lesson for
24 children while providing direct support to our
25 community. If we collocate, it will decrease the

1 number of activities that we are able to
2 provide. You take away the activity to brighten
3 the day of an elderly person, provide - - within
4 the city boroughs and sending cards and gifts to
5 our soldiers overseas. PS16 service plan
6 includes Meals on Wheels, March of Dimes,
7 Project Homefront [phonetic], - - Penny - - and
8 Project - - just to name a few, and if you take
9 these away, it just doesn't make sense.

10 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you, Makeda. Next we
11 have Megan Passaro. I also want to call on
12 speakers ten through 15. We have Martin
13 Rodriguez, Ada Saurez, Besim Mehmedovic, Lillian
14 Basile, Christine Blasi, and Sarah Aly.

15 MS. MEGAN PASSARO: My name is Megan
16 Passaro. I've been a teacher here at PS16 for
17 the last seven years. I did my student teaching
18 here. This school is very close to me. I know
19 it's been talked about the amount of money that
20 would go into a co-location, but I am vehemently
21 opposed to co-location because of money. It
22 costs the Department of Education approximately
23 \$300,000 to start a new school, including
24 principal's salary. To me this makes little
25 sense. This in combination with the cuts made

1 to our school budget over the past several
2 years in academic intervention services, special
3 education, and English learner support hurts our
4 school. This year's budget was cut \$157,570 in
5 special education, \$18,124 in English language
6 support, and \$18,293 in academic intervention
7 services. Rather than using more money to fund
8 a new school and pay another administrator, we
9 invest that money into our school by providing
10 our school with professional support and
11 learning opportunities for our own schools and
12 our own building. Thank you.

13 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you very much, Megan.
14 Martin Rodriguez.

15 MS. ADA SAUREZ: My name is Ada Saurez. I'm
16 a dual language teacher at PS16. I'm mainly
17 going to talk about the dual language program,
18 but I can say that PS16 strives to meet the
19 needs of the community in any way. Special
20 education. Many, many ways you can't imagine.
21 My problem, I'm focused on the English - - and
22 also on the students for learning a second
23 language. Spanish is a second language, and
24 even as a third language-- my students, some of
25 them already have a second language and they

1 learn Spanish as a third language. I'm
2 concerned that the dual language program is a
3 lack of physical space that would affect our
4 program. We would think that having two
5 kindergartens, two first grades, - - what we do
6 with the students. We think that a program - -
7 the community means our students will learn
8 Spanish as a second language and as a third r
9 language. They're learning - -. What do they
10 want? They want the children to be career-
11 ready, to be professionals in the future.
12 They're becoming bi-literate in our program. So
13 instead of us having another school, like a
14 public school, we would like to have an - - if
15 it's possible. We would like that to happen.
16 We would be very grateful if that happened. - -
17 and we would continue the pioneering - -. Thank
18 you very much.

19 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you, Ada.

20 MR. BESIM MEHMEDOVIC: Hi. My name is Besim
21 Mehmedovic. I'm a special education teacher at
22 IS51, which is not too far from here. The first
23 time I ever went to school was in '91. It was
24 through these doors. My mom had put me through
25 pre-K - -. I don't know why, but I learned to

1 read here. A lot of my teachers are still
2 here and I love them. I was fortunate enough to
3 teach here starting in 2009 for a couple of
4 years. I loved the administration. I loved the
5 staff. I love the paraprofessionals, the
6 teachers, the lunch aides. I love all of them.
7 Okay. So, because there wasn't really a spot
8 for me because of budget constraints, I went to
9 IS51 and when I heard about this, I thought I
10 hope they're not blaming the teachers. I hope
11 they're not blaming the staff. - - believe when
12 Mr. P - - happy birthday, by the way. I would
13 gladly accept - -. I know you guys said this
14 about the K through 8 school. I think it's a
15 brilliant idea, and let me give you two reasons
16 why it's a brilliant idea. If you have any
17 children in middle school, you know that they go
18 through a lot more changes there. Their friends
19 are more important than their family in some
20 instances, and it's a very difficult period of
21 growing up. If they stay in one school, they're
22 provided with a structure, familiar faces,
23 familiar administration, familiar teachers, and
24 they'll be in the best position to get through
25 middle school and make the best out of it.

1 That's one special reason. The other reason,
2 and this is especially if you have a special
3 needs student or if you have-- I'm sorry, if you
4 have a special needs child or if you have a
5 child that's struggling to read, middle schools
6 don't have programs to help them with what they
7 specifically need to help them read. Elementary
8 schools do in first and second grade, but middle
9 school teachers can be trained that way and if
10 they're having trouble with it, they can be
11 helped by first and second grade teachers to
12 learn that system to teach our children how to
13 read so they can take that with them and be
14 college and career-ready when they're done.
15 Support co-location, make some noise. Make some
16 noise for this. I'll be here. And Ms. - -, I
17 hope you hire me. I'm coming back.

18 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you.

19 MS. LILLIAN BASILE: Lillian Basile. I've
20 been in the school about 12 years and I wanted
21 to talk about the under utilization that we are
22 being told. I'm not really good at speech
23 writing so I'm going to word for word take this
24 from the educational impact statement, and it
25 says here according to city-wide instructional

1 footprint, R16 has a total of 44 full-sized
2 rooms, 726 students during the 2013/2014 school
3 year. 2014/2015, PS16 would serve about-- with
4 the reduction-- 631 to 691 students. In
5 2014/2015 school year per the footprint, PS16
6 would have a base line space allocation of 27
7 full-sized rooms. Do the math. 44-- and I did
8 the math-- 44 minus 27 is a loss of 17
9 classrooms. But if you do the math of the 726
10 students that we have and we could still have as
11 many as 691. That's a loss of 35 students. 35
12 students and we're losing 17 rooms. Does not
13 make sense. I'm not done. Also, they're saying
14 the community is getting smaller. According to
15 the Joseph - - district manager of community
16 board one, this community will grow by 30,000
17 people when the development of the waterfront
18 project big wheel down there goes in. We are
19 going to increase in size, not decrease. As far
20 as other co-location ideas, it's a great idea,
21 but it came late. But also if we stay just
22 elementary, we have additional room and programs
23 that we can add. Like how about a gifted and
24 talented program we don't have? Thank you.

25 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you, Lillian.

1 Christine?

2 MS. CHRISTINE BLASI: Good evening,
3 everybody. My name is Christine Blasi. I've
4 been a teacher here for over 20 years. I've had
5 the opportunity to work with many beautiful and
6 wonderful students along the way. I've been a
7 part of this learning community and enjoy every
8 minute of it. I've seen much success with many
9 of our prior students. At PS16, our students go
10 on to higher education. Allow me to introduce
11 to you my prior student, Sara Aly. Sara Aly
12 attends Macaulay Honors College at Brooklyn
13 College. She's currently studying a double
14 major in political science and chemistry for
15 pre-med. Sara has siblings with this school
16 currently and she is very concerned about this
17 proposed co-location and how this is going to
18 impact the future of her siblings. So it's my
19 honor for which to introduce to you the future
20 Dr. Sara Aly.

21 MS. SARA ALY: Thank you. Good evening,
22 everybody. I graduated PS16 nine years ago and
23 I'm the eldest of seven children, the youngest
24 of which is currently in kindergarten here, and
25 I have several concerns. First of all, PS16 was

1 already colocated. We already have two
2 options in the neighborhood. I don't understand
3 how that interference would benefit anyone in
4 the community at all. Another thing also is as
5 a Muslim, we have two religious holidays in the
6 year. Two days in the year that we haven't had
7 the opportunity to have days off to observe
8 those religious holidays and we've been - - for
9 and it kind of confuses me how the city has
10 funding to put new administration for all these
11 schools that are being colocated, but every time
12 I bring up the idea of having just two days off
13 to observe our religious holidays, they tell us
14 that there's a lack of funding, that they can't
15 fund - -. Another thing, also, I have three
16 siblings that are attending school right now,
17 and this is leading to the safety issues that
18 would come up. All of these issues that would
19 come up. I'm afraid for my brothers and sisters
20 and how this will affect them. I feel like
21 there are so many different things other than
22 funding a new administration, we can have
23 extracurriculars, we could have the K through 8,
24 do a language program. There are so many other
25 opportunities that we could use this funding

1 for, other than something useless like adding
2 a third option, but I don't see any benefit at
3 all for the community in this, so I mean, that's
4 just my two cents in this and I strongly oppose
5 the co-location.

6 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you, Sara. I do believe
7 we have not heard from Martin Rodriguez, so if
8 Martin is around... Number ten. Oh, also call up
9 the next five speakers. Number 17, Laura
10 Martinez. Number 18, Laura Pamileri [phonetic],
11 number 19, Aaron Bogard, number 20, Nancy
12 Almazo, and number 21, Cassandra Ferrara.
13 Laura?

14 MS. LAURA MARTINEZ (through interpreter): I
15 apologize today. I am going to express myself
16 in Spanish. I - - that the words won't come out
17 if I try to do it in English. For me and for
18 many of our parents, I have four - - here. I
19 think we'll - - a K through 8 school because our
20 children - - too many changes and even though -
21 -. They start - -, children start going on the
22 wrong path. For me, it's important - - that are
23 children can be protected. If this school - -
24 not going to take care of them and they help us,
25 - - show them how to take - - home. I would

1 like for the school to have three more grades
2 - -. Thank you.

3 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you, Laura. [Clapping]
4 --that Councilmember Rose is here. I'd like to
5 invite her to give a statement at this time.
6 Councilmember Rose?

7 MS. DEBBI ROSE: Okay. Okay. I'm coming.

8 MS. BARBOZA: Sorry. My apologies. I
9 didn't mean to rush you.

10 MS. ROSE: Good evening. Good evening,
11 everyone. I'm really glad to see the families,
12 the teachers, the staff here from PS16. I have
13 a statement that is supposed to be a joint
14 statement with--

15 MALE VOICE: [Interposing] Closer to the
16 mic.

17 MS. ROSE: Okay. Can you hear me now?
18 Okay. I have a joint statement that is in
19 conjunction with Senator Saliano and Matt Titone
20 and myself, so I'd like to read it, but I think
21 I have the wrong thing. Okay. In 2012, the
22 panel for educational policies, the PEP, voted
23 to close another 18 schools and truncate five.
24 One of those schools was PS14 and it was in my
25 district, and it has had a devastating impact on

1 the - - of the school's students. As this
2 administration comes to an end, forced co-
3 location of charter and other schools in
4 existing schools is continuing at an alarming
5 rate created a two-tiered system of education
6 that the next administration will be saddled
7 with addressing. I really hope that the new
8 mayor addresses this. The latest announcement
9 the Department of Education to colocate the New
10 District Elementary School with PS16 is further
11 illustration of how out of touch this
12 administration is to the needs of our city's
13 communities. They continue to turn a tin ear to
14 the needs of parents, teachers, elected
15 officials, and communities to help teachers
16 develop and allocate resources fairly to help
17 struggling schools. Each year, the city seems
18 to take two steps back - - education in its
19 public schools - - administration's education
20 legacy deserves a failing grade with fewer
21 teachers, - - classrooms, falling grades, and
22 less resources. We have failed our children.
23 How can our students who represent our future
24 excel in an environment that does not foster
25 learning? If students are performing poorly,

1 the answer is clearly not to surround them
2 with more students competing for the same
3 resources. PS16 is the perfect example of the
4 Department of Education mishandling vital but
5 yet limited resources. Over the past year, the
6 city has increased its share of school funding
7 by only a modest ten percent while other
8 resources have plummeted. It's no wonder then
9 that there are eight percent less teachers since
10 2007 and almost nine percent of them quit after
11 their first year. We are not supposed to be
12 making things hard for our children. We are
13 making things harder for those who most want to
14 help them. PS16's PTA has struggled to maintain
15 an adequate budget to use for their children.
16 They struggle to get air conditioning, which is
17 an expensive resource that's hard to fund by any
18 organization or even my discretionary funds, and
19 when they were able to afford the new air
20 conditioning, they were placed on the third
21 floor, and now the DOE has to move the colocated
22 school on this floor and refuses to move the
23 equipment which was purchased by the PTA. This
24 drain on co-location creates an unnecessary
25 drain. The drain on these resources is

1 unacceptable. It creates a need for two
2 principals and an entire faculty, and it adds to
3 the overuse and oftentimes struggle and
4 disagreement about the use of common spaces such
5 as gyms, the auditorium, the cafeteria, and the
6 playground. Around the city there are 6,330
7 classes that are over the class size limit,
8 which was an increase of 200 from last year
9 according to the Daily News. Curtis High School
10 has a 113 classes over the class size window.
11 Students are forced to stand or sit on the floor
12 to take notes during the class period. We're
13 trying to eliminate overcrowding of schools.
14 The DOE by their own admission says the project
15 utilization rate for PS16 could be anywhere from
16 88 percent and 102 percent. We are not fooled
17 by this. The DOE says it's - - to make things
18 more efficient. They are simply planning to
19 make things more crowded. We have to put an end
20 to this nonsense. We promise to use our
21 influence, the city council's influence and the
22 state senate, to put an end to the misuse and
23 unfortunate toll that co-location is taking on
24 our schools and our community. I just want to
25 say thank you for all of you for coming out.

1 It's really - - and I really want the
2 community, the CEC to understand that there are
3 communities that have greater and larger voices
4 and it - - influence. IS2 was able to influence
5 the chancellor to stop their co-location, and I
6 think it would be a travesty, literally a
7 travesty, if this co-location was allowed to go
8 through because this community might seem to
9 have lesser of a voice, this community also is a
10 bilingual community that isn't as outspoken as
11 the communities that I [clapping] and I think
12 that it would be a shame if because this
13 community is not viewed in the same status, same
14 regard, the same economic impact that IS2's
15 community is, for this to be allowed to go
16 forward would say to this community that we do
17 not deserve the same level of education, the
18 same level of opportunity, the same level of
19 resources, as other residents on Staten Island,
20 and I say it better [clapping].

21 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you, Councilwoman Rose.
22 Ms. Cavalleri, thank you very much. I'd like to
23 welcome you to - - at this time.

24 MS. LAURA CAVALLERI: Hello? Hello. I'm
25 Laura Cavalleri. I'm PTA president of IS49.

1 Don't colocate the school. - - its council,
2 the president's council. We're open to the PTA
3 presidents and I met Tina. Tina and I looking
4 as stressed out as we did, holding each other,
5 looking at each other, 'We got to be here
6 tonight.' I mentioned at the president's
7 meeting that the school needs to do a language
8 program to go K through 8 and I says, 'Wow, that
9 was fabulous,' because I heard something about
10 air conditioners being lost and I said, 'Well,
11 gee, we're going to stand to lose the new
12 science lab, the new computer lab, common
13 space.' I said, 'But - - K to 8 because of dual
14 language?' This is what we want. I walked in
15 with Sam Pirozzolo just now, into the meeting,
16 and mentioned that to Sam. I said, 'Sam, this
17 morning, I just came from the president's
18 council,' so I'm very glad that Sam has now
19 picked up at this hour to do the K to 8 dual
20 language. It's because parents talk. It's
21 because we're talking to each other. - -
22 communication. I'm hoping these guys can come
23 out to 49 'cause we're a little concerned about
24 having an all-boys school and not addressing the
25 girl's council. We have a lot of strength, too.

1 I wish we had a dual language program that you
2 could send kids over to IS49 because as of now
3 we're registered 39 percent Hispanic, 11.4
4 Asian, 35 percent black, and 12.9 white. 50% of
5 the school is a second language learner and we
6 need those languages and that community to know
7 that. The representation of our school is only
8 based on one community and not the whole
9 community. This whole community wants a K to 8
10 for their dual language and I wish I had that
11 middle school for you to pour into.

12 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you, Laura.

13 MR. AARON BOGAD: Good evening. My name is
14 Aaron Bogad. I'm the co-president of the Staten
15 Island Federation of PTAs. I'm here tonight to
16 show my support for PS16 and the PS16 PTA, PS16
17 community. I would like to now address how co-
18 location is beneficial for our students. How
19 does it benefit our kids? PS16 has already been
20 split up and currently shares a library and gym
21 and auditorium with PS74. Now you're asking
22 them to split up again and to split these common
23 areas with a third school. How is that going to
24 be safe? How is that beneficial for our kids?
25 How is that going to be beneficial for our kids?

1 How does that increase classroom space? All
2 you're doing is taking one school, splitting it
3 up, and now there are two schools. It's like
4 giving a child a - - to somebody, a young child,
5 four quarters, or \$1. That child is going to
6 take the four quarters because it looks like
7 it's a lot more money than just that \$1. It
8 seems like you just want to add numbers and make
9 a new school. What's the rush? Why don't we
10 consider this? It was mentioned that nine years
11 ago, PS16 started a dual language program which
12 has been successful to my understanding and was
13 promised an intermediate school with dual
14 language. Dual language, foreign language is
15 virtually non-existent in intermediate schools
16 these days. I feel that this would be a real
17 benefit to the community, to the school. It
18 would be safe. I hear a lot about choice.
19 Parent choice. I think it's clear tonight that
20 the choice for these parents is to keep PS16 as
21 PS16 and to make it a K through 8 school instead
22 of [clapping] K through 6 - - school. Thank
23 you.

24 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you, Aaron. Nancy?

25 MS. NANCY ALMAZO: Good evening. My name is

1 Nancy Almazo and I am a parent of a daughter
2 that graduated from this school and from the
3 dual language program. She's currently going to
4 graduate junior high and she wasn't able to
5 continue with the dual language program because
6 it wasn't available. I have two more children
7 that are in the dual language program in this
8 school and I would like for them to be able to
9 have that option. It is well quite known that
10 the more languages you know, the better, and if
11 we continue to - - the dual language program, it
12 will be the best thing for our kids. We don't
13 need three elementary schools in the same block.
14 We don't want an A and B option. We want the
15 school to be an A grade school. We don't want
16 it to be just an A; we want it to be an A plus
17 by continuing the dual language program in our
18 school. We don't want two schools. We want
19 one. - - to be Hispanic and to speak Spanish as
20 a lot of our parents are part of this school.
21 We want them to be able to have two languages to
22 continue on for a better education, better
23 opportunities, so please help us. Let us stay K
24 through 8 in continuation of the dual program.
25 Thank you.

1 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you. Next is
2 Cassandra Perrera, and I also want to call up
3 our last two speakers. Sean Rotkowitz and Laura
4 Guerrero. We also still have a spot open for if
5 Martin Rodriguez gets here. Go ahead,
6 Cassandra.

7 MS. CASSANDRA PERRERA: Good evening
8 principal, staff, teachers, members of the PTA,
9 ladies and gentlemen and children of PS16. I am
10 Cassandra Perrera. I am 13 years old - -. I
11 came to PS16 from - - Academy and I went to
12 third grade here. The small - - of this great
13 school make me to believe - -. Coming from - -
14 Academy, it was very-- the principals, teachers,
15 and the wonderful peers made me feel at home.
16 They took time to teach me, guide me, and to
17 listen to me. I believe it was and it still is
18 a wonderful school. Though I'm on the - -. I
19 always think about my small family here at PS16.
20 The education I got here and all these - - who
21 work here work-- save abused children. That's
22 why I'm - - foundation and my mom, who is a big
23 advocate of education, let my younger brother
24 and sister follow PS16 after me. This school
25 study and education is really good for all of us

1 to appreciate. If we decide to bring another
2 school in this setting, I believe the
3 opportunity I got from PS16 - - have a chance to
4 attend a very good school like where I am today.
5 This is my family and it will be today and
6 tomorrow. I hope and pray that the right
7 decision that grown-ups make will be the right
8 one and not something my sister and brother will
9 - -. I believe PS16 students, teachers, and the
10 principals should stay the way it is.

11 MS. BARBOZA: We have Sean and Laura, and we
12 also still have Martin, if he's here.

13 MR. SEAN ROTKOWITZ: Hello. My name is Sean
14 Rotkowitz and I am the - - representative on
15 Staten Island and it is protocol for the Board
16 of Ed at a joint public hearing to not answer
17 any questions. None of the questions asked
18 tonight have been answered, nor will they. I do
19 want to point out Aaron's question. Aaron is
20 the president of the - -. He asked, what's the
21 rush? Since no question by the board, I'm going
22 to take the liberty of answering Aaron's
23 question. The Board of Education has a training
24 program for principals. It's called a Principal
25 Academy. Let's just call it a boot camp for

1 principals. All right? We know the current
2 administration is leaving. It is my belief that
3 all these co-locations are being designed to
4 empty out the principal academy candidates and
5 place them into positions before they leave.
6 Okay? Without any particular reason or
7 rationale. We've heard so many people tonight.
8 Staff, parents, our politicians, about why this
9 plan doesn't make any sense and - - and so proud
10 of everybody in this room and you should be
11 proud of yourselves. Senator Saliano talked
12 about - - legacy. That's principal - - as it
13 applies here at PS16 to this co-location
14 Assemblyman Titone talked about this meeting
15 tonight, on a Friday night of all nights. He
16 talked about the Sabbath. Why? It's my belief
17 that this is just to drive attendance down.
18 Look at this room. The attendance in this room
19 is better than so many people might have
20 expected on a Friday night. [Background noise]
21 The time line on a Friday night-- this vote is
22 going to take place by the PEP panel on
23 Wednesday. I guarantee you the comments tonight
24 will not be considered by the Board of Ed over
25 the weekend. They're not going to work over the

1 weekend. They're not going to consider our
2 comments tonight until Monday. What does that
3 mean? 48 hours for the leadership of this Board
4 of Education to consider your comments before
5 they vote in Brooklyn Monday night about this
6 co-location. The plan that you're putting
7 forward for a K to 8 has so much more merit than
8 this one. This one should be voted down by the
9 panel and they should really consider, seriously
10 consider the validity of having a dual language
11 program and this building going K to 8. Thank
12 you very much.

13 MS. BARBOZA: Laura Guerrero?

14 MS. LAURA GUERRERO: Hi. My name is Laura
15 Guerrero. I'm a mother, sister, aunt of
16 children in this school and I'm against co-
17 location. I just want the DOE know that - -
18 giving parents a choice, they're confusing them,
19 giving them the wrong message. I've heard
20 parents say once PS16 does co-location, we're
21 going to complete the school, but I just want to
22 let them know that PS16 has become a home to my
23 children, my brother, my nephews, my neighbors,
24 and walking through the hallways of a colocated
25 school will make their home a strange place.

1 Let's give the community an opportunity to
2 move forward. Today's my son's birthday and I'm
3 here because his future and - - are the most
4 important things for me as a mom, so please give
5 us and our children the opportunity to grow in
6 their community and let - - to the real world.
7 You complain so much about our youth. Let's get
8 it done. Think of the children because they're
9 our future. Give us K to 8.

10 MS. ROSE: Thank you. Thank you. I'm going
11 to do something I don't usually do. I'm going
12 to take like executive privilege. When I walked
13 in here, the only option that I was presented
14 with was the fact that a co-location of another
15 school was on the table. I've since been made
16 aware that a dual language K to 8 school has
17 been proposed and it has gained quite a bit of
18 confident energy and response, so understanding
19 the need for continuity, I think that it's a
20 great idea and I want to go on the record as
21 supporting in this location a dual language
22 program. [Background noise]

23 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you very much,
24 Councilmember Rose. The speaker list is now
25 exhausted. We're going to adjourn tonight's

1 hearing. I will locate some information about
2 the public comment on phone and e-mail address
3 as well as the location of the meeting. I
4 appreciate those who included that in their
5 comments tonight. Again, we continue to welcome
6 any comments - - that anybody has at any time
7 before the Panel for Educational Policy votes on
8 this proposal. That vote will take place at its
9 October 30th meeting which is taking place at the
10 Prospect Heights campus, 883 Wesson [phonetic]
11 Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. You can give
12 comments to our e-mail address. I'm going to
13 spell that out. It is
14 D31proposals@schools.nyc.gov. Again that's D-3-
15 1-p-r-o-p-o-s-a-l-s (at) schools.nyc.gov. You
16 can also call (212) 374-7621. You can e-mail or
17 leave messages in English and Spanish. We will
18 certainly translate those and include them as
19 well in the public comment. I appreciate
20 everybody coming out tonight and sharing your
21 thoughts. Tonight's hearing is adjourned.

22 [END RECORDING]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 The prior proceedings were transcribed from
3 audio files and have been transcribed to the
4 best of my ability.

5
6 Signature *Christine Maxwell*

7 Date: October 30, 2013
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