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

**Co-Location of New School  
Achievement First  
North Brooklyn Preparatory  
5-8 at K299**

**October 23, 2013  
5:30pm**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. LILI HASKINS: This is a joint public  
3 hearing with the Department of Education  
4 Community Educational Council, CEC 32, and the  
5 School Leadership Team of P.S. 299 Thomas Warren  
6 Field to discuss the following proposal, the  
7 proposed co-location of grades 5-8 of  
8 Achievement First North Brooklyn Prep with the  
9 existing school, P.S. 299, in building K299  
10 beginning in 2015/16. Tonight's proceedings  
11 will be recorded and transcribed, and anybody  
12 that needs translation services, right over here  
13 - - in the front row. Before we begin the  
14 hearing, we ask that anyone who wishes to speak  
15 during the public comment portion of the night  
16 sign up at the table in the back hallway. Sign  
17 up will end in 15 minutes, 6:15. Only those who  
18 have signed up to speak will be able to  
19 participate in the public comment. All panel  
20 participants were asked to be here no later than  
21 5:30 p.m. Now that we've started, if a panel  
22 participant arrives late, he or she will be  
23 given the time to speak at the first  
24 opportunity.

25 We want to be respectful of everybody's

1 time. There may be elected officials who  
2 arrive at different times throughout the  
3 evening. If they wish to speak, we will do our  
4 best to accommodate them at the first opportune  
5 moment. Those who are here at the start of the  
6 public comment section will be asked to speak  
7 first.

8         Tonight's format will include a presentation  
9 of the proposal and a presentation of hearing  
10 participants followed by the public comment  
11 period. Speakers - - signed up at the table in  
12 the lobby. To remind everybody, public comments  
13 may be no longer than two minutes each. The  
14 time will be kept by my colleague, Gabrielle, in  
15 the front row right here. She's going to have a  
16 sign that will let you know that you have 30  
17 seconds remaining, and when your time is up.  
18 Because of the number of people that we have  
19 signed up to speak and the number of children  
20 that we have here, we want to be conscious of  
21 everybody's time.

22         Achievement First has been approved by its  
23 charter authorizer, the State University of New  
24 York - - , or SUNY, to open a public charter  
25 school in community school district 32.

1 Although this proposal has not yet been  
2 approved by the Panel for Educational Policy,  
3 SUNY is requiring - - facilities hearing to  
4 receive feedback on a proposed co-location of  
5 Achievement First Brooklyn Prep with P.S. 299.  
6 As such, this joint public hearing will also  
7 serve as a facilities hearing. There's a  
8 representative for SUNY in attendance.

9 If you have any questions or comments on the  
10 charter itself, Ms. Maureen Murphy at the end of  
11 the table, from SUNY will now tell you how to  
12 submit those questions or comments.

13 MS. MAUREEN MURPHY: Good evening. My name  
14 is Maureen Murphy. I'm the director of charter  
15 accountability of the SUNY Charter School  
16 Institute. I'm here tonight to hold a public  
17 hearing on behalf of the Board of Trustees of  
18 the State University of New York, or SUNY. SUNY  
19 is the authorizer of the charter schools we are  
20 discussing today, and that means that the SUNY  
21 trustees approved the application to create this  
22 school.

23 My organization, SUNY charter schools  
24 institute, will visit the school, report on its  
25 progress to parents. As the school gets older,

1 we will also make recommendations to the SUNY  
2 trustees about whether or not the school - - to  
3 stay open. Today our focus is on where that  
4 school will be located.

5 Education law requires SUNY to hold a public  
6 hearing anytime one of the schools it authorizes  
7 might open in a district public school building.  
8 I'm here tonight to listen to your comments  
9 about the proposal, to locate grades 5 through 8  
10 of Achievement First Brooklyn Prep charter  
11 school in part of building K299 beginning in the  
12 fall of 2015.

13 SUNY is holding its hearing now at the same  
14 time that the DOE is holding its hearing so that  
15 we don't have to ask parents and community  
16 members to attend two different hearings on the  
17 same subject. We want to be sure that we have  
18 the opportunity to hear from as many parents,  
19 teachers, school leaders, members of the  
20 community as we can. I do want to note that  
21 SUNY has to make its own decision regarding the  
22 school using the proposed space.

23 I will be taking notes on all comments made  
24 tonight. In addition, you can give me any  
25 written comments you may have with you. You can

1 email comments to charters@SUNY.edu. You can  
2 mail comments to 41 6 Street, Suite 700, Albany,  
3 New York, 12207. Or fax comments to (548) 427-  
4 6510. I have extra copies of - - with me that  
5 include all of our contact information. SUNY  
6 will accept comments through November 4, 2013.  
7 We set this deadline for five days after the  
8 meeting of the Panel for Educational Policy  
9 where this co-location will be discussed. That  
10 way, if there's any information that you get as  
11 part of the conversation at the PEP meeting that  
12 you wish to share with us, you have time to do  
13 so. SUNY will make a decision on the co-  
14 location after the close of comment period.

15 In advance, I want to thank you for your  
16 comments tonight. We appreciate you taking the  
17 time to be here.

18 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. I'd now like to  
19 introduce the panel, which has been assembled  
20 for this evening's joint public hearing.  
21 Firstly, District 3 superintendent Ms. Lillian  
22 Druck. Secondly, CEC 32 president, Ms. Victory  
23 Lugo. Third, Ms. Eletta Stocks of CEC 32.  
24 Four, Ms. Elaine Rogers-Cruz of CEC 32.  
25 Principal Kirk of P.S. 299, Ms. DeNeil Campbell

1 of the School Leadership Team at P.S. 299, Ms.  
2 Michelle Hughes of the School Leadership Team at  
3 P.S. 299, and lastly, Ms. Maureen Murphy of  
4 SUNY. I will now turn the program over to the -  
5 - with me, Superintendent Lillian Druck, who  
6 will present the proposal.

7 MS. LILLIAN DRUCK: Good evening. The  
8 proposal summary is as follows. The New York  
9 City Department of Education is proposing to co-  
10 locate grades five through eight of Achievement  
11 First North Brooklyn Prep with P.S. 299, Thomas  
12 Warren Fields, in - - K299 beginning in  
13 2015/2016. If this proposal is approved,  
14 Achievement First North Brooklyn Prep will be  
15 co-located with P.S. 299 Thomas Warren Fields,  
16 an existing - - K to 5 school in Brooklyn K299.  
17 P.S. 299 also offers two sections of a full day  
18 kindergarten program. Beginning in the  
19 2015/2016 society, Achievement First North  
20 Brooklyn Prep will begin to phase in and serve  
21 fifth grade students and - - year until it  
22 reaches full scale serving fifth through eighth  
23 grade students in K299 by the 2018/2019 school  
24 year.

25 In October 2012, Achievement First North

1 Brooklyn Preparatory charter was authorized by  
2 the State University of New York Trustees to  
3 serve students in kindergarten through 8th  
4 grade. Achievement First North Brooklyn  
5 Preparatory will be managed by Achievement First  
6 Schools, a Charter Management Organization. On  
7 June 19, 2013, a proposal was approved to co-  
8 locate Achievement First North Brooklyn Prep  
9 kindergarten through fourth grades in building  
10 K377 located in District 32.

11 Under this proposal, Achievement First North  
12 Brooklyn Prep will begin enrolling fifth grade  
13 students in K299 for the 2015/2016 school year,  
14 continuing to add one grade each year until it  
15 serves students in fifth through eighth grades  
16 in 2018/2019. At that point, it will serve its  
17 elementary school grades K through 4 in building  
18 K377 and its middle school grades five through  
19 eight in building K299. According to the  
20 2011/12 Enrollment Capacity Utilization Report,  
21 K299 has the capacity to serve 618 students. In  
22 2013/2014, the building is projected to serve  
23 351 students, yielding a utilization rate of  
24 57%. If this proposal is approved, K299 is  
25 projected to serve approximately 406-481

1 students from Achievement First North Brooklyn  
2 Prep, and P.S. 299 during the 2015/2016 school  
3 year yielding an estimated building utilization  
4 rate of 66% to 78%. At full scale in 2018/2019,  
5 K299 will serve approximately 646 to 766  
6 students from Achievement First North Brooklyn  
7 Prep and P.S. 299, yielding an estimated  
8 building utilization rate of 102% to 124%.

9 Although a utilization rate in excess of  
10 100% may suggest that a building will be over-  
11 utilized or over-crowded in a given year, this  
12 rate does not account for the fact that rooms  
13 may be programmed for more efficient or  
14 different uses than the standard assumptions in  
15 the utilization calculation. In addition,  
16 charter school enrollment plans are frequently  
17 based on larger class sizes than target  
18 capacity, contributing to building utilizations  
19 above 100%, while not impacting the utilization  
20 of the space allocated to the traditional  
21 district school.

22 That concludes the proposal summary.

23 MS. HASKINS: Thank you, Ms. Druck. Now I'm  
24 going to turn the presentation to member of the  
25 dais. I'm going to ask that before you start

1 your presentation - - announce yourself.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. VICTORY LUGO: Good evening. My name is  
4 Victory Lugo. My - - Community Education  
5 Council of District 32. As advocates for  
6 parents of District 32, I have an issue with - -  
7 capacity of 618 students within the 299  
8 building.

9 [Applause]

10 MS. LUGO: - - states that they estimate  
11 building utilization rate at 66% to 78%, a full  
12 scale - - 2018/2019. You're stating that  
13 estimate will be of the utilization rate, 105%  
14 to 104%. I think that next paragraph should not  
15 even replace it with simple - - problem that's  
16 within our school. This is taking away from  
17 students already placed within the building.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. LUGO: We do not have an issue as far as  
20 giving options, we have a problem with co-  
21 locating within our building. Thank you.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. ELETTA STOCKS: Good evening. My name  
24 is Eletta Stocks. I am the president of the  
25 CEC. I'm also a parent of a one-grader at this

1 school. I have an issue with co-location. I  
2 have - - another school, and there's six schools  
3 in that building. But my child's there each and  
4 every day. She has no gym time. The time for -  
5 - . The auditorium time is lifted, so - - do  
6 not want that here. - - issue.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. STOCKS: - - we have supported our  
9 students at this school, and - - . I don't want  
10 to think of eighth graders in the same building  
11 using the same bathroom that first graders do.  
12 - - with that. We - - because - - I have an  
13 issue with that.

14 [Applause drowning out voice]

15 MS. STOCKS: I also have an issue with  
16 Brooklyn - - . They - - come in. This  
17 auditorium - - for our music class. Our - -  
18 teacher, he also teaches the special needs  
19 children. Special needs children need extra  
20 room - - to teach anyone - - so I have an issue  
21 with that.

22 MS. ELAINE ROGERS-CRUZ: Good evening  
23 parents. My name is Elaine Rogers-Cruz. - -  
24 vice president of the CEC, I'm also PTA  
25 president of P.S. 299.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. ROGERS CRUZ: I feel that this building  
3 is not built for middle school kids. Our  
4 bathrooms are for little kids. Those big kids  
5 have - - our pre-K and kindergarten children to  
6 go to the bathroom. - - not in my school. No -  
7 - . We have no space. The space that we have  
8 is utilized. We have children here. We have  
9 children that--we do not turn away no child.  
10 Any child - - in this building.

11 I feel that co-locating, if we wanted co-  
12 location, we would accept our children six  
13 through eighth grade, no - - .

14 [Applause]

15 MS. KIRK: Good evening, everyone. I think  
16 most of you know me. I'm the principal of this  
17 great school.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. KIRK: Yes, P.S. 299, Thomas Warren  
20 Field school. I have been the leader of this  
21 school for the past seven years, and also this  
22 is the principal - - . I have seen a lot of  
23 good things happen in this school. This is a  
24 wonderful school, pre-K to five, and I know that  
25 good things are going to continue to happen at

1 Thomas Warren Field school. - - .

2 At this time, I'm not going to say anything  
3 more because our school community has a voice.  
4 And I'm going to leave it up to them to voice  
5 their opinions about the co-location. Thank  
6 you.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. DENEIL CAMPBELL: Good evening, I'm - -  
9 Campbell, and I've been here at P.S. 299 since  
10 1980, and - - . I want to stay positive in this  
11 process, positive for P.S. 299. What are we  
12 going to have to do? I believe the deal has  
13 been made at our expense for the convenience of  
14 the charter and not for P.S. 299.

15 Why is it okay and acceptable to displace  
16 us? Why is it okay and acceptable to limit our  
17 resources all while increasing the charter's  
18 space in our school? Why is it okay and  
19 acceptable for you to come in here with the  
20 erroneous presumption that the existing school,  
21 our school, P.S. 299 is not adequate in its  
22 delivery of quality education? Is it sound  
23 educational policy to in effect demonstrate to  
24 our children that there is something wrong with  
25 the school as it is now? Therefore, by bringing

1 another school into a building, furthermore,  
2 when they come into your building, there are  
3 rules you must follow and places you can't go.  
4 You can't go everywhere that you used to go in  
5 your own building. You can no longer use this  
6 entrance, go to this bathroom, - - our students.  
7 There is nothing you can tell me that can  
8 convince me that this scenario will - - space as  
9 - - would have you believe.

10 In my son's - - middle school, a charter  
11 school was given the green light to go up to the  
12 already overcrowded school. Here, it's already  
13 - - classrooms - - . They are forced to share  
14 an extremely small cafeteria, gym and  
15 auditorium, spaces that - - its own students.  
16 We sat and watched the charter get new - - paint  
17 jobs, - - there may be, but the emotional impact  
18 on public school students is real. What makes  
19 them better than us? How - - students?

20 [Applause]

21 MS. CAMPBELL: - - I am trying very hard to  
22 - - but I am having difficulty seeing how we,  
23 P.S. 299, could benefit from this - - process.  
24 The share implies that things will be equal,  
25 that both parties will participate in and enjoy

1 - - , but you and I both know that equality is  
2 not a consideration in this process. Things  
3 will not be shared, as you would like us to  
4 believe. It is - - equal. It is not to be  
5 convenient and - - .

6 [Applause]

7 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. We have  
8 been joined by a councilmember - - Antonio  
9 Renoso, so we're going to give him the chance to  
10 come up and speak before we go - - . Mr.  
11 Renoso?

12 MR. ANTONIO RENOSO: Thank you. Hello,  
13 everybody. My name is Antonio Renoso, and I'm  
14 the councilman elect of the 34th district, and  
15 P.S. 299 is in my district.

16 [Applause]

17 MR. RENOSO: I would - - let me say one of  
18 the things I'm excited about is P.S. 299. Let  
19 me tell you, this is one of the better  
20 performing schools in the district. And for the  
21 Department of Education to think about  
22 disrupting that - - they need to get more  
23 resources - - split one school into two  
24 buildings in some weird way, shape or form  
25 doesn't make sense. Nothing's going to happen -

1 - and nothing's happened - - . Everything is  
2 going to be forced.

3 Especially when it comes to the charter  
4 schools, and a charter school that's coming in  
5 2016? You know, we're tired of Bloomberg. - -  
6 .

7 [Applause]

8 MR. RENOSO: This is happening in 2013, so  
9 whatever's happening in 2014 on, you guys - -  
10 somebody else. But the DOE, we're going to sit  
11 here, and we'll all - - and we're all going to  
12 talk about what's important. We're going to  
13 hope they hear us. They're not going to hear  
14 you. I want to tell you something very quickly.  
15 They're not going to hear you, but you need to  
16 be on the record so that when the next mayor  
17 comes in, and he's - - and he overturns it, - -  
18 .

19 [Applause]

20 MR. RENOSO: - - turn it around. While I'm  
21 here - - listen, we need quality schools, but we  
22 don't need quality schools interrupting other  
23 quality schools.

24 [Applause]

25 MR. RENOSO: Also, it's about participation.

1 I would welcome a process in which the  
2 Department of Education would ask the parents  
3 what they want first, and then they go and - - .

4 [Applause]

5 MR. RENOSO: This is a procedural thing. So  
6 once again, my name is Antonio Renoso. I'm  
7 going to be your councilmember. I'm working  
8 hard to make you proud, and I will be here.  
9 I'll be at the - - meeting. I'll be - - . I'll  
10 be fighting it come 2014 to make sure it doesn't  
11 happen. Thank you.

12 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. - - .

13 MALE VOICE: Good evening, my beautiful  
14 people. I just have to say I'm super proud of  
15 everybody, all the - - parents. I love - -  
16 school. I think - - . I'm from this  
17 organization called Make Your Move New York.  
18 It's a city - - organization - - and so I just  
19 wanted to say a few things about what's  
20 happening.

21 First of all, the way the Bloomberg  
22 administration has set up education, it's not  
23 only the - - parents because - - parents - -  
24 charter schools and all this stuff and denying  
25 people from our neighborhoods. These charter

1 schools - - some classes for - - students, and  
2 they have--they're super picky about what kind  
3 of students - - . So the argument isn't really  
4 that charter schools are better or public  
5 schools are better. We want to make sure that  
6 resources are available for all schools, and  
7 this school is one of the more--like the higher  
8 performing schools in - - , and definitely has  
9 engaged our parents. All the parents are  
10 engaged, and so it's super beautiful to see.

11 I will say this. I - - with the last - - in  
12 May, and in the first few months - - co-  
13 locations. They have been - - specifics of this  
14 school - - , but I can say this, is that as - -  
15 we will be at the table in determining whether  
16 or not this school becomes co-located - - school  
17 or not, and so with that, what we need is this.  
18 We need to keep up the pressure because you all  
19 know without the pressure, they just do whatever  
20 they want.

21 So I'm super proud of - - there. My niece  
22 is right there, my father's there somewhere, but  
23 this is beautiful, and thank you all - - of this  
24 school.

25 MS. HASKINS: Thank you - - representative

1 from Councilmember - - office, Ms. Jennifer  
2 Gutierrez [phonetic].

3 MS. JENNIFER GUTIERREZ: Hello, hello.  
4 [Speaking foreign language]. - - councilmember  
5 - - Marina, - - we've been here to - - testimony  
6 to the - - school - - co-location - - PTA, Ms.  
7 Sanchez, - - . A number of - - speak from our  
8 heart. It has - - the last 12 years have been -  
9 - the DOE has not. This proposal for co-  
10 location, especially a charter school, should be  
11 - - . Our children should be first, your  
12 opinion should be first. Sorry. - - speak loud  
13 - - .

14 So - - co-location, and I want to urge you,  
15 the parents and the students, to continue to be  
16 active, to continue to be loud against this  
17 front. And so, I urge all of you to attend the  
18 PEP, which is October 30. Ms. Sanchez can give  
19 you some more information. Please - - the only  
20 school out of that - - DOE. So thank you all  
21 once again. - - .

22 [Applause]

23 MS. HASKINS: Thank you - - . So before - -  
24 there are some speakers that I want to call up  
25 one by one. The microphone that you guys should

1 use is right there. I will adjust it and - -

2 .

3 So if I say your name incorrectly, make sure  
4 you correct me when you speak tonight. So  
5 starting with Camilla Bison and also Abigail  
6 Cruz - - .

7 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening. Our names are  
8 - - .

9 MS. CAMILLA BISON: Camilla Bison.

10 FEMALE VOICE: We are in the third grade,  
11 and we want to tell you how we are feeling about  
12 having another school in our building, but first  
13 we want to say a little bit about P.S. 299.

14 MS. BISON: I have been here since pre-K,  
15 and I love it--and I have - - . Whenever I have  
16 a problem, they help me. The teachers work hard  
17 to make sure we learn everything we need to  
18 learn, not just for the - - grade, but our - - .

19 FEMALE VOICE: This school is a small  
20 school, and to add another school here - - big  
21 kids - - like to pick on little people--

22 [Applause]

23 FEMALE VOICE: - - in this building is also  
24 bringing in a bully.

25 [Applause]

1 FEMALE VOICE: Why would you do that?  
2 Instead of putting another school in P.S. 299,  
3 give us more money to have more programs.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. HASKINS: - - .

6 MS. ABIGAIL CRUZ: - - my name is Abigail  
7 Cruz.

8 MS. HASKINS: - - Abigail.

9 MS. CRUZ: And I am - - . My name is  
10 Abigail Cruz, and I am in fourth grade - - . I  
11 think sixth graders shouldn't be - - because  
12 they might not - - to P.S. 299. They just start  
13 fights with the lower grades. They shouldn't  
14 come because we won't have access to the fourth  
15 floor. I don't want them there because - - keep  
16 them safe. We don't want to get bullied by  
17 middle schoolers. I like my school the way it  
18 is, and I don't want it to change at all.

19 Not even - - . I like P.S. 299 because of  
20 the teachers. I say that because they are nice  
21 and - - . Also - - , but I mostly like having  
22 access to all the floors in the school. I don't  
23 want anything to change.

24 MS. HASKINS: Our next speaker is Jason  
25 Jeggs [phonetic].

1           MR. JASON JEGGS: Good evening. My name  
2 is Jason Jeggs. I am in the fifth grade. My  
3 class is right at the top of - - . I have a  
4 problem with a new school coming in our school.  
5 We have no - - space. They would bully us, and  
6 this school would no longer be a safe place.  
7 Also, the kids are big, and they will - - us.  
8 They will bully us. They have no control, and  
9 they don't know how to we act - - our school  
10 rules. This school will no longer be an A  
11 school. We - - a schedule - - our gym - -  
12 auditorium. I have a problem with this. I like  
13 the school the way it is. They should not come  
14 here. If they decided--if they try to - - us,  
15 we will stand up for ourselves. We will not  
16 give up, and we will - - .

17           [Applause]

18           MS. HASKINS: Thank you. Our next speaker  
19 is Janae Diaz [phonetic].

20           MS. JANAE DIAZ: Good evening. My name is  
21 Janae Diaz. I'm - - P.S. 299 I totally disagree  
22 with a middle charter school coming into P.S.  
23 299 elementary school. The middle charter  
24 school - - of sixth, seventh and eighth graders  
25 are - - co-located - - .

1 [Applause]

2 MS. DIAZ: We - - I don't want to share our  
3 space with bigger - - charter school of  
4 students, especially that we don't even know.  
5 We would be afraid to go to the bathroom - -  
6 also the lunchroom. We will no longer feel safe  
7 here at P.S. 299 with all the big middle charter  
8 school kids - - . Please don't put middle  
9 charter school here - - . My family, community  
10 schools where I am safe.

11 MS. HASKINS: - - .

12 VANESSA: Hello, everybody. My name is  
13 Vanessa - - , and I am - - P.S. 299. I don't  
14 think it's a good idea to bring a charter school  
15 to P.S. 299 because they can start fights, and  
16 they can say bad words. And mostly, they can  
17 pick on little kids - - . And I think our  
18 school is safe as it is.

19 I don't want - - no middle school kids in  
20 our school. - - and we'd rather be in a school  
21 with those little kids. And what if those kids  
22 are mean to us?

23 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. - - Daniel  
24 Morales.

25 MR. DANIEL MORALES: My name is Daniel

1 Morales, and I think - - charter school to our  
2 school because where - - go? Where will - - go?  
3 - - and the charter school will break every rule  
4 that Ms. Kirk has made - - school, and if the  
5 charter school is here, this won't be an A  
6 school.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. - - .

9 MALE VOICE: Good evening. My name is - - ,  
10 and - - the middle school kids should come to  
11 P.S. 299. They will take away all the space on  
12 the fourth floor, and - - and they - - , and the  
13 third graders will have to move down to the  
14 second floor, and they will - - students in - -  
15 .

16 [Applause]

17 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. Our next speaker  
18 is Joey Santiago [phonetic]? - - .

19 MR. JOEY SANTIAGO: Good evening. My name  
20 is Joey Santiago. I don't think it's a good  
21 idea for charter school - - to be in P.S. 299  
22 because if pre-K kids go out and play outside,  
23 if the--they will be safe. If they go outside  
24 with the pre-K kids, the pre-K kids don't be  
25 scared. The pre-K kids be scared if the charter

1 school kids pick them up. That's not good for  
2 pre-K kids to be bullied up.

3 It's not good. So when pre-K kids come to  
4 2nd grade like me, they will bully us up.  
5 That's why I think nobody from charter school  
6 will be here.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. Our next speaker  
9 is Juan Hernandez. - - .

10 MR. JUAN HERNANDEZ: My name is Juan  
11 Hernandez, and - - charter school - - should not  
12 come because they might bully us and there will  
13 be no space for - - I don't know - - and other  
14 people, and - - eighth grade because they're big  
15 and they might beat - - up and - - our school  
16 with eighth graders because I know charter  
17 school kids are bullies and - - because they  
18 don't care about the rules, and they don't like  
19 little kids, and they - - here to fight and to  
20 not give up.

21 [Applause]

22 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. Our next speaker  
23 is Ms. Ebony Durant.

24 MS. EBONY DURANT: - - Ebony Durant, and I  
25 would like to speak. - - charter school because

1 in the charter schools they - - that they'll  
2 be focusing on bullying us - - we don't want  
3 charter schools in here. We will say go home  
4 charter school.

5 [Applause]

6 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. Our next speaker  
7 is - - . I think - - ? We have Naseed. He's  
8 next, but--oh, there you go. Thank you. - -  
9 not yet. They're - - .

10 MALE VOICE: I don't want them here because  
11 they - - .

12 [Applause]

13 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much - - . Next  
14 - - .

15 MALE VOICE: Good evening. My name is - -  
16 P.S. 299. I just wanted to say that I do not  
17 like the middle school here. It will - - all  
18 our time, all our budget, and we will never pass  
19 our grades. We will never achieve our goals of  
20 being the best students that ever - - P.S. 299.

21 [Applause]

22 MALE VOICE: I just wanted to say that this  
23 would not be good. We all need our own space.  
24 Kindergarten and pre-K will never have the same  
25 - - . It will always be - - . Never - -

1 happen, never.

2 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. - - . Everyone  
3 quiet down so we can hear her comment.

4 FEMALE VOICE: I want to talk about bringing  
5 a charter school into this school. - - . If a  
6 charter school came into this school, this  
7 school might change. It might have - - students  
8 - - middle school and - - scared, and if they go  
9 outside, they might--and the middle schoolers -  
10 - go outside, they might get pushed down, and  
11 they might end up crying - - . This school will  
12 be split in half, and nobody wants that to  
13 happen. If the middle schoolers came here, it  
14 would be a lot of confusion.

15 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. - - public comment  
16 portion, so we'll call people up in groups of  
17 five. So those of you--what's up? Your name -  
18 - speak. What is it? Does he - - speaking  
19 before we move on.

20 MALE VOICE: Good evening parents, teachers,  
21 students and guests. My name is - - my class is  
22 - - , and I have been in P.S. 299 since  
23 kindergarten. This is my last year in P.S. 299,  
24 and it has been brought to our attention that -  
25 - bringing in a charter school in a couple

1 years, and to be honest with you, I cannot - -  
2 because this school - - have space at this  
3 school.

4 I - - that we the students - - . Before we  
5 - - gym classes - - 45 minutes, and - - 45  
6 minutes in gym class. I also feel that it is  
7 not right to change our lunch time when - -  
8 school. If this happens, our lunch period will  
9 either be too early in the morning, then we will  
10 go hungry during the day, or we will be eating  
11 in the afternoon - - when it's already time to  
12 go home.

13 - - leave our school just the way we are.  
14 If - - charter schools here, we would be - - to  
15 share - - teachers - - sharing materials - - oh,  
16 and let's not forget that sharing - - school - -  
17 .

18 [Crosstalk]

19 FEMALE VOICE: - - that this is my last year  
20 in school - - I should be able to voice my  
21 opinion of the future of this school - - .  
22 Please - - is change for the better - - change -  
23 - . Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank  
24 you all for coming tonight and taking the time  
25 to - - change that will not only affect the

1 future, but - - future of the children, but  
2 the future of - - . Thank you again.

3 [Applause]

4 MS. HASKINS: - - .

5 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening. My name is - -  
6 grade two. - - it won't be good.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. - - .

9 FEMALE VOICE: - - because they might - -  
10 and - - take so long. - - .

11 [Applause]

12 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Thank  
13 you all students - - . So next we're going to -  
14 - public comment question. I'm going to call  
15 speakers up - - crossed out, so starting with  
16 speakers two through six. If you could come  
17 forward and line up by a microphone, we're just  
18 - - gentleman right here.

19 Again, keeping the time limit to - - speak  
20 tonight to two minutes for public comment.  
21 You'll be flagged when you have 30 seconds  
22 remaining, and then again when your time is up.  
23 These are the number - - signed up to speak, and  
24 - - be respectful of that time. Thank you. So  
25 starting with speaker number two.

1 MS. GARCIA: Good evening. My name is - -  
2 Garcia.

3 MS. HASKINS: Everybody, please quiet down  
4 so we can hear the speakers.

5 MS. GARCIA: Good evening. My name is - -  
6 Garcia - - two students at - - . I'm here  
7 tonight to - - other parents. Not only do my  
8 kids attend the school that - - chose - - make  
9 me feel so secure - - I know that they're  
10 learning, I know that they're - - and that's  
11 something that when I went to school, I - - .  
12 That's something that I want for my kids.

13 My kids are - - science - - that's something  
14 that should parents from all the schools want.  
15 Why? Because our kids are not - - where will  
16 they end up, we don't know, but to me, I think  
17 that - - the best choice for us parents to have  
18 a choice of - - but a choice is better than just  
19 sending your kids to your local school, your  
20 community school.

21 So once again, - - and I support charter  
22 schools. Why? Because - - and college.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much. Speaker  
25 number three - - . We have speaker number

1 three? Okay. Speaker number four. We have a  
2 speaker number four? Yes, - - . Everybody,  
3 please quiet down so we can hear our speakers.

4 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening, ladies and  
5 gentlemen. My name is - - support Achievement  
6 First.

7 MS. HASKINS: Okay. We have to be  
8 respectful of everybody - - this evening.

9 FEMALE VOICE: I want you to know - - .

10 [Crosstalk]

11 FEMALE VOICE: We're also proud of our  
12 charter school. We also share a school with - -  
13 school - - , and one of the things I can say is  
14 we work together. It's up to the parents. It's  
15 up to the teachers. It's up to the students to  
16 all work together. My daughter - - in the  
17 school--

18 [Crosstalk]

19 FEMALE VOICE: One of the things that I can  
20 say about the school is we learn to work  
21 together. We - - children - - each other or  
22 working - - in our school. We teach our  
23 children to love - - DOE - - we also - - every  
24 second - - of the month, we go into the  
25 community, and help our community by picking up

1 our community, and that's on the Saturdays.  
2 We also go to the senior citizen homes, and we  
3 teach our children to read, and we teach our  
4 children to say, listen, - - because this is not  
5 just your - - school, this is the community - -  
6 all ours. We can all - - .

7 One thing I can say about Achievement First,  
8 we teach our children to respect others as well  
9 as ourselves and teach our children to say  
10 everyone matters, not just one person, we all  
11 matter. - - and that's the most important  
12 thing. If we teach our children how to respect  
13 each other, they will do so. If we teach our  
14 children how to fear each other, that's what  
15 they will learn.

16 - - charter school - - now.

17 MS. HASKINS: I believe your time is up.

18 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you.

19 [Applause]

20 FEMALE VOICE: Achievement First - - .

21 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much. Speaker  
22 number five? We have a speaker number five.  
23 Thank you. Diane - - ?

24 DIANE: Yes.

25 MS. HASKINS: Thank you.

1           DIANE: - - P.S. 299 - - charter school  
2 should not be here in P.S. 299. I do have - -  
3 our kids they - - . They don't want - - here.  
4 They're afraid about bullying, and they're too  
5 dumb to - - . I think - - bullies - - bullying,  
6 and I believe that - - our building. My  
7 daughter loves the school. She don't want - -  
8 in the school, she don't want - - school, and  
9 I'm proud of my daughter, and I'm proud of this  
10 school.

11           [Applause]

12           MS. HASKINS: Thank you. - - .

13           FEMALE VOICE: Good evening, everyone. I -  
14 - parents - - P.S. 299, and I do feel like we do  
15 not need this school, and it's unsafe to - -  
16 kids. I respect any charter school that - - .

17           [Applause]

18           MS. HASKINS: Thank you. - - speaker number  
19 seven? Thank you.

20           FEMALE VOICE: Good evening. I am - - . I  
21 - - charter school - - because - - this school  
22 is - - . It is a very good school. This school  
23 has my children, and they have very good grades.  
24 They principal and teachers are very concerned  
25 about the students - - . This school has all

1 the - - school. They - - come here - - .

2 Because they - - about the grades, they can  
3 learn. And because - - because they are - - and  
4 safe. Thank you.

5 [Applause]

6 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. Our next speaker  
7 is speaker number eight, - - .

8 MS. ANGELA BELL: Good evening, everyone.  
9 My name is Angela Bell [phonetic], and I'm - -  
10 two students here at P.S. 299. I have a second  
11 grade - - and I also - - my baby who is one year  
12 old, and by the time she's - - she'll be going  
13 into grade eight, and - - charter school coming  
14 into this school because the bullying percentage  
15 is very high as it is, and when middle schools  
16 come into an elementary school, it will be  
17 higher.

18 Also, I'm against - - Bloomberg - - . - -  
19 they should just - - . So if he wants to get  
20 out of it, then he should - - money and build  
21 new schools - - .

22 Also, - - charter schools, it's not fair.  
23 You know why? Because these charter schools,  
24 they get all this funding from you guys, but the  
25 students don't have an education level where - -

1 . So - - always bullies - - education for  
2 our kids - - .

3 [Applause]

4 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. - - Fernandez?

5 MR. FERNANDEZ: Hello, - - Fernandez, and -  
6 - . Exactly was said, everybody else is saying  
7 that it takes a village to raise a child. We  
8 are the - - educate our kids, teaching our kids  
9 that they - - education if they put their minds  
10 to it. The teachers here, the principals here,  
11 every staff that works here in this school has  
12 to provide that for these children. With that  
13 being said, I say charter schools are not  
14 allowed to come to this building because we have  
15 been doing a fine enough job without it.

16 MS. HASKINS: - - . When I call your name -  
17 - . Thank you, - - .

18 FEMALE VOICE: As a - - student of the - - ,  
19 I cannot - - any charter schools coming into our  
20 - - school environment because of the - -  
21 preteens and teenagers who act out - - all the  
22 time. They - - should not have to - - . Also,  
23 the common areas - - we share with those older  
24 students aren't even located on the first floor  
25 - - students who are three and four years old -

1 - five years old - - . At some point in time,  
2 they middle charter school - - students of P.S.  
3 299 - - P.S. 299 and frighten kids - - .

4 This - - small school, - - bathroom - -  
5 library, - - school building or even the school.  
6 This - - educational - - . By forcing a middle  
7 charter school into P.S. 299 elementary school,  
8 that makes - - in one school building is a very  
9 poor choice. P.S. 299 - - middle charter school  
10 - - here in this building. The school is not  
11 built to accommodate these students - - .

12 It's very sad - - impact. This middle  
13 charter school aged students will have - - .  
14 The first priority should always be - - the best  
15 interests of the - - . Please - - . Do not put  
16 the middle charter school here at P.S. 299  
17 elementary school.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. - - .

20 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening. My name is - -  
21 charter school - - .

22 [Applause]

23 MS. HASKINS: - - .

24 MALE VOICE: Good evening, my name is - - ,  
25 and - - middle charter school at P.S. 299 - - is

1 not - - co-location and - - .

2 [Applause]

3 MS. HASKINS: - - Rosa--I can't read the  
4 second to last name. - - starts with an M.  
5 Here? Okay. So number 15, Reggie Twitty  
6 [phonetic]. - - ? Okay. Speaker number 16,  
7 Beverly Twitty?

8 MS. BEVERLY TWITTY: - - schools make me  
9 very proud. There's too many children - - boys  
10 in the school building, it's a lot. - - charter  
11 schools, why shouldn't your child be - - ? If  
12 your charter - - program accepted into the  
13 school? That's - - you already - - . Not - -  
14 our school. We - - kids to get out. You  
15 shouldn't be accepting as a lottery - - . This  
16 school right here, we're teaching our kids, you  
17 know? That's number one. This school, it's a  
18 safe place - - school. It's also a community  
19 school. We don't need no other school in here.  
20 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

21 MS. HASKINS: - - speaker 17, - - Lenstrum  
22 [phonetic].

23 MS. LENSTRUM: I'll make it short, sweet and  
24 to the point. I'm a - - teacher - - . As a - -  
25 teacher, I've had the privilege of working here

1 for the last six years. This is a terrific  
2 school. And - - amazing. - - the first day of  
3 school was the pits. We had to turn things  
4 around, the next year, - - the next year, I'm  
5 quite sure that our principal - - . How many -  
6 - . We have - - co-location coming in - - .  
7 Also, we need to remember, pre-K's a very  
8 important program. That's your foundation. We  
9 have - - . We are so proud - - our preschool  
10 and kindergarteners. They're sophisticated.  
11 They're intelligent. They carry themselves very  
12 well. - - is so important. They need their  
13 space.

14 Like - - let us - - .

15 [Applause]

16 MS. LENSTRUM: Another thing, - - students -  
17 - safety and bullies. The - - word is safety.  
18 Our students are afraid, and this is something  
19 we need to listen to. Like, if - - you need to  
20 listen to us. - - I'll be done in a second.  
21 We're not saying - - quite sure they did, and  
22 I'm quite sure that they - - , but our students  
23 are afraid, so there is not - - .

24 [Applause]

25 MS. HASKINS: - - thank you.

1 MS. IRENE WILSON: Hello, everybody. My  
2 name is Irene Wilson, and I have a daughter that  
3 graduated from here. She's in her third year of  
4 college, so - - you here, how all the students -  
5 - now, they got to share their lunchroom, and  
6 that's not fair to them. Thank you.

7 MS. HASKINS: - - . So we have - - ?  
8 Speaker 21, Clarabelle Varga [phonetic]?

9 MS. LAVINIA BROWN: My name is Lavinia  
10 Brown. I've been a teacher at P.S. 299 for 16  
11 years.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. BROWN: - - school is located, it's - -  
14 to me. This is blatant disrespect to our  
15 students and - - our students - - in our own  
16 building? It's not only unequal, it is  
17 destructive - - . All that money you have to  
18 build - - their school, our children - - that  
19 money with our kids - - their own building.  
20 This is our school, P.S. 299, - - one building,  
21 one school.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. - - . Thank you.  
24 Is the translation service still here?

25 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening. I wanted to

1 say that P.S. 299 is a very good community,  
2 it's a great family. Our children - - our  
3 children are going to be safe because they - -  
4 they're not - - the - - room. And it's very  
5 important that - - . It's - - to eat. I don't  
6 think that it's fair to our children - - . We  
7 don't want another school in this space.

8 MS. HASKINS: Thank you - - . That was her?  
9 - - Marcettas [phonetic]? Okay. What's her  
10 name? Okay. But yeah, - - . Can you say your  
11 name into the microphone for me?

12 MS. RHONDA JENSEN: Hi, my name's Rhonda  
13 Jensen [phonetic].

14 MS. HASKINS: Okay. Thank you.

15 MS. JENSEN: Welcome all. My daughter was -  
16 - this school since pre-K. This school is a  
17 tremendous school. - - charter school don't  
18 need anything because the - - . No child - - is  
19 a must. I don't deny your kids an education,  
20 but this school is not built to have another  
21 school within the facility. First of all, it's  
22 too much - - exposing all children because - -  
23 teachers. So different ethics, different kids  
24 is going to be chaos - - fight or something.  
25 All the kids coming in on the stairs, and that's

1 not fair.

2 Ms. - - , Ms. Sparrow [phonetic], Ms.  
3 Jarvais [phonetic], anybody - - is a must, and  
4 she said--what did she say - - ?

5 [Crosstalk]

6 MS. JENSEN: - - school here - - .

7 [Applause]

8 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. - - .

9 FEMALE VOICE: - - we are doing fine as we  
10 are, and as everyone said, there's going to be  
11 bullying, and I don't believe that it's fair  
12 that a charter school should be - - in here and  
13 - - in here. Our kids are doing good the way  
14 they're doing, and we don't need - - children,  
15 no art room and no gym, none of that. My son  
16 was doing - - principal and staff, my son - -  
17 from here. - - 299, the students from 299 are  
18 better than any other - - in first grade,  
19 anyway, and I don't want my kids sharing no  
20 school with no charter school. You have to go.  
21 I'm - - .

22 [Applause]

23 [Chanting drowning out speakers]

24 MS. HASKINS: - - .

25 FEMALE VOICE: My name is - - . Honor roll

1 is - - six out of - - I want our - - to focus  
2 on our - - school. I swear you can - - . I  
3 love you all.

4 [Applause]

5 FEMALE VOICE: I'm so - - I love it here, I  
6 love my school. So we don't - - school. The  
7 bad, this is what I'm really hurting about. Six  
8 - - graders - - I want to say - - first grade  
9 and second grade, they don't want - - . They  
10 don't want them here. They don't want these  
11 teenaged - - they got to go. They - - . Thank  
12 you all.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. HASKINS: Thank you.

15 [Chanting]

16 MS. HASKINS: - - . Last call, Shawn  
17 Middleton. That's your son? Shawn Middleton?  
18 Next is Manuel Scoto. Yvonne Rocky.

19 MS. YVONNE ROCKY: My name is Yvonne.  
20 People don't realize - - child. None of - -  
21 north central - - . All students in K to 12  
22 must attend their - - physical education  
23 program. P.S. 299 has a small gym area. Just  
24 think about having a charter school in here.  
25 What would our - - students? They're expected

1 to have 120 minutes per week for gym. There  
2 is no way that the charter school will also have  
3 that.

4 I am concerned that our students may become  
5 obese, and we know that obesity - - disease - -  
6 . We do not want that for our children. We  
7 want our children to be healthy children. Mine  
8 - - physical education. I - - to learn that - -  
9 . So we need our school just the way it is. I  
10 want to be assured that the students of P.S. 299  
11 will have - - PE time. In light of the fact  
12 that we only have one gym and we do not want to  
13 share that space. Thank you very much.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. - - Rodriguez. -  
16 - Rodriguez. What was that? - - thank you.

17 MS. RODRIGUEZ: My name is - - Rodriguez. -  
18 - this school, I used to come to this school,  
19 and I have a sense of peace with kids I know  
20 from this school. Now, yes, this is a community  
21 school, and the community - - this school. - -  
22 allow people to come in here and mess up this  
23 school. We were doing just fine - - charter  
24 schools - - here. Why do you have to come and  
25 mess up a school - - you don't pay us money, you

1 don't come in here - - check out the kids.

2 You guys don't do anything.

3 So you come, you take our rights away, you  
4 take our keys, you - - you make us show our  
5 children what we have to do, to fight to keep  
6 our - - , and you know what, we are not going to  
7 allow it. I will fight tooth and nail to get -  
8 - my child comes to this school - - and I have  
9 to say that her teacher is amazing, amazing,  
10 amazing. So please, don't take our rights away  
11 from us. Don't take this school away from our  
12 children. We're not going to allow it.

13 So I want you guys to - - see everybody  
14 fighting this. We will fight tooth and nail.  
15 We need peace - - sixth grade and the eighth  
16 grade, you don't - - . Our students don't need  
17 - - guarantee. - - build a new school - - .  
18 I'm going to fight tooth and nail - - our  
19 community's going to fight, our - - going to  
20 fight. - - we're fine just the way we are. - -  
21 we don't need another - - . Thank you.

22 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. - -  
23 speaker 32, Andy Orna [phonetic]? Speaker  
24 number 32, Andy Orna? Does anybody in this room  
25 have a piece of paper who was not called yet?

1 Okay. So the last speaker is Linda O'Toole.

2 MS. LINDA O'TOOLE: Good evening, everybody.  
3 299 is a very oriented school. The people and  
4 children that are involved in day by day  
5 activities. The teachers and the staff of this  
6 school love them to death.

7 I have a grandson, and he is graduated. He  
8 is now in his second year of college. I have -  
9 - children. One is a marine, and one is in  
10 aviation. This school has a high graduation  
11 rate. I don't know - - children to go to. The  
12 - - this school is about raising your child to  
13 go on to be somebody, - - child that.

14 - - Bloomberg got to go, and you all got to  
15 vote. You all got to vote. - - teach our  
16 schools how to - - you all got to vote. That's  
17 number one. Number two, you just going to have  
18 to wait. Number two, there's a lot of things  
19 that you can do because like she said, you're -  
20 - coming in, everybody will lay down on the  
21 ground - - . Those - - . They don't need to be  
22 - - things that they don't need to know.

23 - - this school, - - . I will - - and  
24 support - - this school, I will - - .

25 [Applause]

1 MS. HASKINS: - - we've heard many - -  
2 this evening. We appreciate your guys'  
3 contributions to this hearing. The information  
4 will be shared with the Panel for Educational  
5 Policy, which will have its hearing on October  
6 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the Prospect Place campus,  
7 which is located at 883 - - Avenue in Brooklyn.  
8 That's the - - proposal.

9 The email address and phone number where you  
10 can submit your comments by phone or by email is  
11 - - . Email address is D, like dog,  
12 32proposals@schools.nyc.gov.  
13 D32proposals@schools.nyc.gov. If you want to  
14 submit comments by phone, you can do that as  
15 well, at (212) 374-0208. Again, that's (212)  
16 374-0208. Thank you all for coming tonight.  
17 This public hearing is officially adjourned.

18 [END RECORDING]

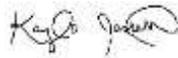
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature



Date October 28, 2013 \_\_\_\_\_