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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**
Truncation of 30Q084
from K-8 to K-5

June 4, 2013

5:30pm

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. SARA KAUFMAN: We'll get started.

3 Before we do this in case anybody has - - we - -

4 .

5 FEMALE VOICE 1: [Spanish audio].

6 MS. KAUFMAN: Thanks. Thank you. So, good
7 evening, this is a joint public hearing of the
8 Department of Education, the community education
9 council and the school leadership team here with
10 the proposed truncation of PS84 from a K to 8
11 school to a K-5 school beginning in 2014-2015.
12 I'm Sara Kaufman, I'm the chief portfolio
13 officer in the office of portfolio management at
14 the Department of Education and the state's
15 office on - - easier. We've asked the district
16 30 education council and the school leadership
17 team - - board to participate in this hearing.
18 And I'm joined tonight by members - - thank you
19 all tonight for coming, Dominique Armando,
20 Jennifer Kusacks, Caroline Has, Sara Helton,
21 Nancy Polario and - - forget anybody?

22 FEMALE VOICE 1: Ciquita Huffs.

23 MS. KAUFMAN: Ciquita Huffs and Denise
24 Newhome from the school leadership team and the
25 - - home from the - - and Michelle Norris from

1 the CEC and - - principal of - - . So, thank
2 you again all for coming tonight to this
3 hearing, it is being recorded. The purpose of
4 this hearing tonight is for - - public comment
5 about the proposal. Before describing the
6 proposal I want to make sure we're all aware.
7 I'd asked the committee to provide input.
8 Anyone who wishes to speak should sign up on the
9 speaker sign up list that we have over there and
10 the sign up will close in 15 minutes. Speakers
11 will be given the floor in the order that they
12 signed up and all comments will be limited to
13 two minutes. If there are elected officials who
14 show up this evening who arrive on - - we will
15 do our best to accommodate them and once we - -
16 public comment. Those who are available - -
17 will be asked to speak first. All comments will
18 be mentioned in the analysis of public comment
19 to be published and provided to the Panel of
20 Education Policy on the evening before the panel
21 votes. The vote for this proposal is scheduled
22 for June 19th. In addition, we welcome any
23 comments and feedback you may have at any time
24 before the panel votes on both proposals. The
25 email address and phone number for comments to

1 be made is d30proposals@schools.nyc.gov. And
2 (212) 374-7621 and those - - . So, describing
3 the proposal. The New York City Department of
4 Education is proposing to implement grade
5 truncation of the middle school grades here at
6 PS84 Steinway. If this proposal goes through
7 PS84 will no longer enroll 6th grade students
8 after the conclusion of this 2013-2014 school
9 year. We will no longer accept 7th grade
10 students following the 2014-2015 school year and
11 will no longer accept 8th grade students in 2015-
12 2016. In 2016-2017 and beyond, PS84 will
13 continue - - in kindergarten through 5th grade
14 and will continue to offer - - programs, of
15 course subject to funding and - - . Current
16 students in grades six through eight will be
17 served - - by the Department of Education at the
18 - - conclusion of middle school while remaining
19 at PS84. Teachers - - PS84 eighth grade
20 students will be supported through the city wide
21 admission process - - for high school. In cases
22 where students do not meet the minimum
23 requirements and must repeat a grade no longer
24 offered by PS84 may be served in alternative
25 district - - schools. The proposed grade

1 truncation is - - school year - - .
2 Representatives - - students currently enrolled
3 in the elementary school criteria - - . For
4 example, middle school enrollment must reduce
5 the number of students currently at the - - and
6 in other middle school in the district - - sixth
7 grade. Also by enrolling middle school the - -
8 that students PS84 more opportunity to - - high
9 school preparatory - - offered at - - . The DOE
10 did not participate in this proposal about PS84
11 - - continues to offer any particular - - first,
12 program - - school. That said, the availability
13 of certain programs and certain offerings at the
14 school will inevitably be cut both - - and the
15 school implements it's grade truncation service
16 in the elementary - - . With respect to
17 academics, PS84 will continue to offer all
18 necessary classes to support the students as
19 they - - requirements. As total enrollment in
20 the middle school program shrinks back the
21 school may scale back the special programs in
22 addition to regular classes for grades six to
23 eight. It's difficult to predict how those
24 changes will be implemented as decisions will be
25 made by school administrators who made this - -

1 demand as well as the staff and other
2 considerations at the school. The proposal to
3 truncate PS84 is not expected to impact students
4 - - at PS84. PS84 will continue to serve grades
5 kindergarten - - and is adding a prekindergarten
6 program subject to re-examining the demand in
7 2010 and before when they city - - funding and -
8 - has been in compliance. That concludes the
9 summary of this proposal that we're here to
10 discuss tonight. We look forward to hearing
11 anymore feedback and comments. The first
12 presenter - - community education council.

13 MR. ISAAC CATMIGNANI: Good evening
14 everyone. I'd just like to say as a CEC are in
15 support of the school community that is looking
16 to - - . I would say personally knowing how
17 much we need rooms or space - - requires - -
18 because - - in such a way felt the school is
19 performing. That being said, we certainly don't
20 want to starving a - - don't know how to put - -
21 that we need. So, if you know less how to
22 handle the school - - .

23 MS. KAUFMAN: The next presenter from the
24 school leadership team is Jennifer Casas - - .

25 MS. JENNIFER CASAS: Sure, five years ago we

1 started this program. We wanted to options
2 open to the - - school - - the school. As the
3 years gone by we noticed that we've been - -
4 something - - saying - - that's it not servicing
5 as many - - . We want to know why is that and
6 we see it happening - - . It was actually said
7 according to - - we initially wanted to call - -
8 school to go on - - with us - - . Most of the
9 parents that are here now - - middle school - -
10 will - - students graduating school - - grade -
11 - .

12 MR. CATMIGNANI: - - .

13 MS. CASAS: My question is you initially
14 said that this middle school - - served - - .
15 After checking online those parents - - how - -
16 .

17 MR. CATMIGNANI: - - .

18 MS. CASAS: - - so now - - we have - -
19 approximately - - . As - - participate - - . -
20 - there are - - .

21 MR. CATMIGNANI: Into what grade?

22 MS. CASAS: Into the sixth and seventh.

23 MS. KAUFMAN: So, I think it would be
24 probably finish the comments and the - - .

25 MS. CASAS: Okay.

1 MS. KAUFMAN: Additional comments? Is
2 there anyone else from the school leadership
3 team that would like to make a statement?

4 MR. JOHN BUFFA: Yes. Good evening, I'm
5 John Buffa, the principal of PS17. As Ms. Casas
6 has mentioned it was our intention with the
7 first starting middle school to provide options,
8 options for parents to - - school to allow them
9 the opportunity to finish grade eight at our
10 school. Over the past couple of years we
11 noticed a decline of enrollment in our middle
12 school classes and this is led then to us having
13 to reallocate some of funding sources to support
14 the middle school initiatives that are mandated
15 and we find that it can be a little complicated
16 in terms of providing one class per grade all
17 the myriad courses that are required. We have
18 managed to do that up until now. However, with
19 the reallocation of the funding our leadership
20 team has looked into ways to recruit more
21 students into the school and we've held a number
22 of recruitment fairs and attended the district
23 30 school choice fairs and we found that it's
24 increasingly complicated to meet all of the
25 needs especially now that we're focusing on - -

1 career readiness with the courses. So, that is
2 why the school leadership team has opted to go
3 with the truncation proposal because we found
4 that this way - - be a hindrance to our program
5 due to not providing all the required courses.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. KAUFMAN: Thank you. I don't believe
8 there are any - - sign up on the speaker sign up
9 list. Okay. So, that concludes the formal
10 presentation. Obviously, the formal conclusion
11 of - - conversation about - - . So, the speaker
12 list does not exist and again, if there are
13 additional comments that anyone has here or - -
14 community members that comments that you'd like
15 to provide the - - is now - - educational policy
16 proposal at 319, the email address and phone
17 number would be d30proposals@schools.nyc.gov and
18 the phone number is (212) 374-7621 and again,
19 we'll collect feedback and comments up until the
20 night before the panel - - . Thank you for
21 participating and for coming up tonight and this
22 public hearing is adjourned.

23 MR. BUFFA: Thank you.

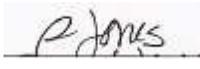
24 MS. KAUFMAN: Thank you.

25 [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 6/6/13