

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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

**Opening of Icahn
High School at X144**

**10/7/13
5:30 p.m.**

1 [START TAPE JPH_X144_AUDIO]
2 FEMALE VOICE: - - to middle school - - 144
3 and Pelham Gardens middle school, which is also
4 known as - - campus - - X144. So I have
5 something I need to read for this - - official
6 meeting - - , so please - - I want to make sure
7 I capture everything. Before we begin, I just
8 want to welcome certain people who are here. I
9 just want to highlight certain names. I would
10 like to say welcome to Senator Klein [phonetic]
11 is here. We have Representative Kane
12 [phonetic], Assemblyman - - . We have a
13 representative from Mister - - office, who is
14 that? - - . Thank you so much. We have Jeremy
15 Wright [phonetic] from Community Board 11 and we
16 also have Patricia Williams from Community Board
17 12. Monica - - is here from the Bronx Borough
18 President's office. We have - - Jackson from -
19 - teacher's union. We also have, to my left, we
20 have our CEC president, who is here, and we also
21 have a representative from SUNY who is - -
22 charter schools - - later. So I would just like
23 to - - about what the proposal is going to be
24 about - - in the - - and then there is going to
25 be - - opportunity for public comments, comments

1 will be limited to two minutes. There is the
2 speakers' sign-in sheet. I will - - and after
3 that - - anyone who - - . So - - here - -
4 videotaping - - want to know that many of you -
5 - not - - in addition to that - - no - - please.
6 With that said I will also begin the hearing
7 process. This is a - - called - - Department of
8 Education, Community Education counsel and - -
9 high school grade - - one. - - two, - - three,
10 - - four, - - five, - - six, and - - seven - -
11 middle school - - F44 beginning - - . - - .
12 Okay. So - - that are part of - - school - -
13 and I'm going to read the names of - - Henry - -
14 and - - here tonight. And again - - and our CE
15 - - 11. The Department - - provide comments
16 about - - . Before - - opportunity to provide
17 your input. All those who wish to speak must
18 sign up - - sign up area - - available by the
19 auditorium. The sign - - as - - be given - -
20 trying - - all - - will be limited to two
21 minutes. - - meeting - - already here. If they
22 wish to speak - - . All - - in the - - public
23 comment will be published - - in the panel - -
24 education policy - - . That vote is scheduled
25 for October 15th. And - - any time before - - .

1 The email - - where comments may be made are -
2 - proposals at schools at NYC dot, gov, and 212-
3 374-5159. So this is the summary of proposals.
4 New York City Department of Education - - known
5 as - - Bronx - - one, - - two, - - three, - -
6 four, - - five, - - six, and - - seven.
7 Collectively known as - - and will be - - 144,
8 beginning in 2014 - - 2015. Building - - 144 is
9 located at 2545 - - Avenue, Bronx, New York,
10 11459 and - - . If the proposal is approved - -
11 will be - - junior high school 144, Michael
12 Angelo and - - middle school. Both - - district
13 middle schools. - - mention at this time that -
14 - hearing was - - with - - schools - - housed
15 here as tonight - - . In 2014/2015 the first
16 year of the proposal - - will serve 40 to 50 - -
17 students and it will add one grade each year - -
18 students - - nine through 12. One - - into the
19 building and those - - are - - state enrollments
20 - - high school - - projected to serve
21 approximately 600 to 640 students. According to
22 the 2011/2012 enrollment - - report, also known
23 as the - - , children at X144 have been - -
24 1,559 students. During the 2013/2014 school
25 year the building serves as home of

1 approximately 1,007 yielding a building
2 utilization rate of approximately 65%. When all
3 school reach - - enrollment in 2023/2024 - -
4 high school - - 144 and - - will collectively
5 serve approximately 1,635 to 1,735 students in
6 the X144 building with yields projected
7 utilization rates of approximately 105 to 111%.
8 Although projecting utilization rates is an - -
9 make - - utilize - - overcrowded and - - year
10 this - - program - - more efficient - -
11 production in the utilization calculation. In
12 addition - - based on - - different use - -
13 state - - contributive - - utilization rates - -
14 will not impact - - utilization of the - -
15 traditional - - . - - allocation - - building -
16 - proposal. These supplements will be handed
17 out - - as - - . The proposed - - location - -
18 build X144 - - sure that the school has
19 sufficient - - current - - students the
20 opportunity to complete their high school
21 education within the - - network. Come the - -
22 schools four - - appropriate 2011/2012 - - one
23 through four - - overall - - 2011/2012. Icahn
24 five, six, and seven are - - and are not yet
25 eligible to receive - - . Therefore the - -

1 believes - - working at a high quality - -
2 students. This proposal is not expected - -
3 impact enrollment - - or - - options at - - 144
4 or - - . That concludes - - proposal. At this
5 time I am going to call people up to speak. - -
6 please let me have that now, but in the meantime
7 I'm more than happy to have you talk to us a
8 little bit about the process - - .

9 RALPH: Thank you. Thank everyone for
10 coming out. I'm Ralph - - . I'm executive - -
11 director and general counsel of the student
12 charter schools institute - - . The - - of New
13 York is - - authorizing, which - - allow schools
14 to open and oversees those schools to - -
15 education department. When it comes to building
16 issues - - has - - prior responsibility and one
17 of the responsibilities under the statute is
18 that if charter school want to go into any
19 district school space not just - - space, we
20 have to hold a hearing. So we hold our hearing
21 tonight, along with - - so you - - the benefit
22 of the comments from the DOE and the people in
23 the audience. We have to make the decision on
24 the - - charter - - and whether or not to allow
25 the - - school to use the space, in this case

1 schools and also we - - hold a hearing so they
2 can occupy the space. We could hold that
3 hearing much later, because as I said - - hold
4 it - - benefit of this - - public process and
5 most people are here to give their comments and
6 ultimately this will be - - . Our comment,
7 period, is open for five days - - and that is
8 until October 20th, 2013. There are three ways
9 you can make comments - - besides in person here
10 tonight. - - . By email to the charters at
11 SUNY.edu. That's Charters, plural, at SUNY, S-
12 U-N-Y, dot-edu. You can also write to us at - -
13 SUNY charter schools - - institute at 41 State
14 Street, Suite 700, Albany, New York, 12207, or
15 you can fax to (518) 427-6510. There are sheets
16 up front at the table that have the information
17 on it, you can copy the information down from
18 them. The SUNY Charter Schools Institute serves
19 a staff to the City board of trustees and to
20 it's charter schools - - which makes a lot of
21 decisions regarding the charter schools, and in
22 this case - - hearing - - we report back on the
23 hearings to our committee during next week - -
24 October 28th. I don't know how the - - open but
25 - - . We welcome the public comments. We

1 welcome comments - - official for being here.
2 We thank - - representative - - for being here.
3 All of those comments - - left - - summarized -
4 - to our trustees before making a decision
5 regarding the charter schools - - . I noticed
6 the final - - number of years because the
7 youngest - - charter schools number seven only
8 has kindergarten and first graders this year.
9 It will take quite a few years - - high school -
10 - . I'm also available for a brief time after
11 the hearing to answer certain procedural
12 question - - . Thank you.

13 MS. PAMELA JOHNSON: Good evening everyone.
14 My name is Pamela Johnson. I am the CEC
15 president of District 11. I am also a borough
16 president appointee and I am - - position. So
17 the co-location of 144--I mean of the charter
18 school of 144. Even is - - state that it
19 doesn't affect enrollment, but it does affect
20 enrollment because 1,000 students applied to
21 come to the school, and they want to have that
22 opportunity to do that. The Icahn charter
23 school will follow their children from K through
24 8 to the high school that will be located in the
25 building. We will move - - in this district.

1 Considering that the schools that we have here
2 - - and 144 they're turning the schools around.
3 They were - - Christian and - - and they need to
4 be given a chance. They need - - three year
5 phase of turning the schools around and - - the
6 second year of turning the school around. The
7 proposal also states that it's - - overcrowded
8 over 115%. So that means that your - - high
9 school to come in here to an overcrowded school.
10 The co-location and engagement of the community
11 has not been done. The principal has not been
12 engaged, the SOT has not been engaged, and there
13 is only one meeting that I know of outside of
14 the meeting - - residents - - that we've had the
15 public meeting. The community, even though we
16 are - - has not been engaged and that has been
17 the problem. So I would say to you you're
18 sitting in this audience, please if you're in
19 opposition to it please put your name on the - -
20 sheet and make sure that your voice is heard, if
21 not now, then when. So tonight is the night for
22 you to say what you need to say so that - - they
23 have your information of what you said in
24 reference to the opposition to the - - high
25 school - - 144. The last thing is I'm sitting

1 here and I just can't sit here, because I feel
2 like I'm part of the problem if I sit here. I
3 need to really, really be in the audience, be
4 with the people that I'm looking at and be a
5 part of support in our position of the - - so
6 I'm - - here. Thank you.

7 [Applause]

8 FEMALE VOICE: - - opportunity - - 12 and
9 also - - charter network - - thank you for being
10 here. So - - if there are any - - members who
11 want to speak from junior high school 144 at
12 this time? - - . Okay. So we have two people
13 - - . At this time - - .

14 MS. TURNER: Good evening, ladies and
15 gentlemen. My name is - - Turner, and - - staff
16 at 144. I am amazed at what a - - for our
17 school. Right now from - - been said that - -
18 not only that, middle school kids and high
19 school kids that struggle - - who is going to
20 take care of those - - issue? How? What
21 parents - - when their children come home and -
22 - high school kids are saying to the - - and
23 they can - - impression - - they're there. I
24 don't think - - should be - - . Thank you very
25 much.

1 [Applause]

2 JOANNE: Good evening. My name is Joanne -
3 - I am a staff member of Helen Garden's middle
4 school and I want to reiterate the points that
5 have been made about opposition to Icahn schools
6 coming into this campus. Just to add a point
7 that hasn't been made the data on the Icahn
8 school in particular doesn't bear witness to the
9 - - that Elizabeth White mentioned. I took a
10 look at a couple of the schools - - for
11 2012/2013 and those students aren't doing as
12 well as we would hope and so I just wanted to
13 make that point. Thank you.

14 [Applause]

15 FEMALE VOICE: So what we're going to do now
16 is I'm going to open up an opportunity four - -
17 questions - - Michael - - school - - ?

18 MR. MIKE JOHNSON: Yes. Good evening,
19 everyone. My name is Mike Johnson. I'm - -
20 some - - against - - proposal - - this school
21 was created - - servicing - - kids - - middle
22 school kids. I'm sure we all know how high
23 school kids act and their demeanor, their
24 attitude, but most importantly their size, and
25 it's inappropriate to mix high school students

1 with middle school students.

2 FEMALE VOICE 2: They're bullies.

3 MR. JOHNSON: They bully. That's for
4 certain. It really is absurd. Lastly, I just
5 want to say that - - have been--he's - - and
6 I've said that, but it's important to note that
7 the kids who are going to be here they don't
8 deserve - - this is something, at least - - this
9 isn't something that they should have to get
10 accustomed to. This is something that is just
11 inappropriate for them and unfair for them. So
12 I ask you to reconsider and to keep the school
13 the way it is. Thank you.

14 [Applause]

15 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. - - Assemblyman -
16 - speak - - ? - - please - - .

17 [Applause]

18 ASSEMBLYMAN: Thank you everybody. I want
19 to thank everyone for coming out tonight because
20 - - time - - opportunity to express our opinion
21 - - I stand before you today not only as the
22 State Senator representing this community - -
23 144, but as a proud graduate of Michael Angelo
24 at 144.

25 [Applause]

1 ASSEMBLYMAN: I won't give you the year,
2 but I'll give you a hint. Richard Nixon was
3 president.

4 [Laughter]

5 ASSEMBLYMAN: It was a while ago. But
6 still, I think the community really deserves to
7 be heard, and, again, I think it's unfortunate,
8 because one of the things I know throughout my
9 career in public life is when I go to the state
10 capital it's very clear, we want the best for
11 our young. We want to be sure that we have a
12 public education system that's second to now.
13 Teachers work hard - - accomplish that, but one
14 of the things we always ask about is we need to
15 - - parents. We need to make sure parents are
16 heard loud and clear about this decision making
17 when it comes to their kids. And here we are
18 for the first time engaging the parents that's
19 wrong, that's not the way it's supposed to be.
20 And I think the way we need to do this is to
21 first of all understand what this - - is all
22 about. I'm not opposes to Icahn charter. I
23 have - - in my district, actually four. They do
24 an outstanding job. I visited a couple of the
25 schools. And I don't even think this is really

1 an issue necessarily about co-location,
2 because I think in some cases it could work.
3 But to put kids as young as 144 as 11-years-old
4 side-by-side with kids of 18-years-old is wrong.
5 It's not what the parents want. It's not - -
6 education and I think we all have to - - .

7 [Applause]

8 ASSEMBLYMAN: You know, the second reason,
9 you know, I had an opportunity just a couple of
10 weeks ago to visit IS 144, sit down with the
11 principal, who I think is doing an amazing job,
12 and - - .

13 [Applause]

14 ASSEMBLYMAN: And I think he has a real plan
15 for this school. He has - - he wants to - -
16 maybe even bring this school to K to 8 - - real
17 community school for our kids, expand gym, shop
18 and everything else. How is he going to do that
19 if we're taking away a major space for a charter
20 school here in - - 144? It can't be done. So I
21 think we have to go back to the drawing board.
22 I think we have to reject this - - start all
23 over again. Listen to the parents. Listen to
24 the community more. Listen to the teachers and
25 the administrators. And figure out a way that

1 we can continue to have IS 144 as our
2 neighborhood schools and continue to grow IS 144
3 as our neighborhood school, - - find another
4 location. I'm sure there's other locations - -
5 .

6 [Applause]

7 ASSEMBLYMAN: You know, I'm sure - -
8 communities around the borough, probably right
9 here in District 11, I bet would love to have
10 the Icahn High School. - - parents, who
11 actually send their kids to charter schools. -
12 - positive result who say, hey, - - a high
13 school - - in my - - . That's something we can
14 do. I think a charter--I think - - charter is
15 really not - - here. They want to locate
16 someplace, they want to have - - high school, I
17 really think this is - - Department of
18 Education, which once again is not - - parents,
19 not communicating, rather - - , not engaging in
20 any community. It's wrong - - this doesn't
21 belong in our neighborhood. Thank you.

22 [Applause]

23 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. Okay.

24 Assemblyman - - .

25 ASSEMBLYMAN 2: Good afternoon.

1 SEVERAL VOICES: Good afternoon.

2 ASSEMBLYMAN 2: You know I look at the crowd
3 and this is not a true reflection of the
4 community, and I know that because over the last
5 week or so I received dozens of calls - -
6 complaints of concerned parents that did now
7 want this to happen in our school. So I - - all
8 that was said by the Senator it was clear
9 opposition. My constituents have spoken, you
10 have spoken, the parents of the students have
11 spoken. Overcrowded - - is not the answer.
12 We've heard the complaint - - 115% that's going
13 to create a problem down the road. I have
14 concerns with high schools - - students - -
15 metal detectors. It's not something that our
16 children need, especially in the kindergarten
17 and early ages to see and be exposed to. They
18 should feel safe - - .

19 [Applause]

20 ASSEMBLYMAN 2: The point is also not
21 considering the--what we hope to be the next
22 Mayor of New York City's - - . That has to be
23 taken into consideration - - program - - for
24 this school and that - - utilized by Icahn. I,
25 myself, am not opposed to Icahn high school, - -

1 the Senator. I think - - collectively find a
2 place for - - charter school high school. This
3 is not the location. With that I sit on the
4 side of many of you and - - . Thank you.

5 [Applause]

6 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. - - .

7 COUNCILMAN KING: Good evening. I'm
8 Councilman - - King and I represent the 12th
9 District of the Bronx - - across the street and
10 - - here - - . The concern that I have here
11 this is good. This is really - - but we don't
12 need them to tell us what we already know. 17-
13 year-old and 11-year-old develop at different
14 rate and - - different worlds. You put them all
15 in one environment and tell them that they all
16 should learn together is just ridiculous, and I
17 think we as responsible adults, - - responsible
18 decisions when it comes to educating children in
19 our own communities. I - - wonderful job in
20 educating young people, but I would - -
21 principals - - wonderful job in turning around
22 the schools - - --

23 [Applause]

24 COUNCILMAN KING: --so I stand confident and
25 - - with my colleagues in government, with the

1 community that's asking us to find another
2 alternative to making sure this school - - grow
3 - - back community schools. Let's bring back
4 families that - - and not to split families up
5 and sending children to one school and one to
6 another school when we have enough space right
7 here to grow. So I'm asking you all and I'm
8 asking you Icahn we'll work with you to find
9 another location, IS 144 - - Michael Angelo is
10 just - - that we just don't want to see vanish.
11 So - - saying - - .

12 [Applause]

13 COUNCILMAN KING: Thank you. And thank you
14 - - .

15 [Applause]

16 FEMALE VOICE: So we have several community
17 board members from - - Michael Angelo in - -
18 next. After - - Michael Angelo will be Diana -
19 - .

20 MALE VOICE 1: Thank you - - . Good
21 evening. I'm - -. Most important thing for a
22 parent they send their child to charter school -
23 - education - - worry about is the safety of
24 their child. And I can't understand a
25 Department of Education who's - - children would

1 think of putting children ages 11 and 18 in
2 the same area is a good idea. It makes
3 absolutely no sense. We've heard our
4 Assemblymen, our Senators, our local leaders,
5 our parents, this gentleman is, obviously,
6 turning this school around. I don't know, much
7 about 144, but everything I hear about is he's
8 doing a great job. Why take that away from them
9 and start - - turning this school around so - -
10 leader of this community. The Board of
11 Education has to learn to meet the needs of the
12 community, not the - - 65% of the school - -
13 it's time to let this gentleman - - this school
14 with neighborhood children so that they have a
15 legal education. Again, thank you - - . And
16 thank you - - .

17 [Applause]

18 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

19 DIANE: Good evening, everyone. My name is
20 Diane - - I want to say that I oppose the - - .
21 The - - of this - - for the simple reason to, as
22 everyone else said, - - children to high school
23 children I don't think it's going to work. I
24 strongly oppose it. I don't agree with it. I
25 don't think the environment will produce - -

1 children - - and I ask - - been in meetings -
2 - myself have been in meetings with the
3 principal. He is trying to do his best and turn
4 the school around. This - - school, and it is
5 struggling. The children need a chance. They
6 need a chance and - - concerns of the community.
7 We don't want - - opposing - - and we are
8 against it.

9 [Applause]

10 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you - - . I'm sorry.
11 - - . - - . Yeah? - - we have - - .

12 MALE VOICE 2: Thank you. We also have our
13 chairman, Tony - - back there.

14 [Applause]

15 MALE VOICE 2: Sylvia is our treasurer. And
16 - - spoke - - our co-chair - - and we have our -
17 - chair - - back there as well.

18 [Applause]

19 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you - - .

20 MALE VOICE 2: I just want to let you know
21 that me and the board did vote on this issue at
22 the last general meeting, September 26th, 2013.
23 The 35 members present and able to vote
24 unanimously voted to oppose the co-location.

25 [Applause]

1 MALE VOICE 2: The reasons were - - most
2 of them were already discussed. The differences
3 among the students, the ages. Age difference.
4 It was also a concern by the students living
5 within school district 11 not being accepted
6 into the Icahn charter system. And there's also
7 concern about the high school requiring more
8 space than the building here currently allows.
9 That in the general meeting we had several
10 members of the public speak. - - proposed - -
11 which also includes the board's decision. In
12 fact, since 2011 this is our highest attended
13 meeting - - so far. Thank you very much.

14 [Applause]

15 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. Is there any
16 other community board member wanting to speak or
17 - - ? I have another - - here and - - so please
18 - - .

19 [Applause]

20 MS. LINDA WHITE: Hi. My name is Linda
21 White. I'm the co-chair of - - education
22 committee - - .

23 SEVERAL VOICES: The mic's not on.

24 MS. WHITE: Can you hear me now? I'm going
25 to get to the nitty-gritty. We - - and - -

1 friend - - but I'm going to say it's about - -
2 . That's about - - as - - but he doesn't - -
3 building - - school. He wants to - - this is
4 what we're told. Okay. So why not go into a
5 space that's - - utilized. It's under-utilized
6 - - this is a school that's turning around. - -
7 if you saturate us how can - - students get
8 better if you keep pushing - - , unless you push
9 - - out of the whole building. I mean - - .
10 Okay. We don't want to lose 144. We don't want
11 - - . - - a tremendous job with our children
12 and I've got news for you, your children and the
13 high school children will never - - see each
14 other except outside - - segregate. They come
15 in different entrance, they will not come in the
16 same entrance as your children. They are in a
17 different program. So why should - - in front
18 of the child, who's morality - - brought up by -
19 - people, that they would never be - - . So - -
20 you haven't started kindergarten. SO even as
21 Mr. Garcia - - meeting they can go into one of
22 the - - schools - - or whatever. There's a
23 waiting list of 1,000 people long for these
24 schools. So how is your child going to sign up
25 in that school who is not - - this school? - -

1 curriculum so your child would have to - - to
2 catch up with what they're - - . We want to
3 keep what we have. We want what we have - - .
4 Money to us is not a problem. Our children are
5 the problem. Our children is what we're
6 fighting for and that is why we - - .

7 [Applause]

8 MS. WHITE: Thank you - - .

9 FEMALE VOICE: Okay. So I will now - - .
10 Yes. Okay. So - - is - - please come up and -
11 - .

12 MALE VOICE 3: Good evening everyone - - I
13 apologize - - . - - making - - the last few
14 years - - taken place at Michael Angelo - - high
15 school. We've got - - school - - proficient in
16 - - . We have an increase in safety for all - -
17 75%. We also have - - in the school - -
18 rejecting. We - - both - - and several others.
19 All of this - - be gone - - . - - such a short
20 span of time - - anyone - - safety - - education
21 of our students, but the overall - - all work so
22 hard to get. I - - school - - our school - -
23 our own personal - - . - - this building and
24 that's already done. - - putting three shirts
25 on one hanger. We - - don't have - - shirt. It

1 gets smothered and never sees the day of
2 light. You can't do that to our kids. It takes
3 but a simple man who - - realize that this idea
4 is doomed - - . - - to read this. I - - grade
5 student - - this school. - - I would pack up
6 everything I own. There is no way my little
7 girl at the age of 11 is going to share a
8 building with an 18-year-old adult. That's not
9 going to happen and - - let that happen. Anyone
10 - - propose - - . Thank you.

11 [Applause]

12 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. Emily - - , Jack
13 - - .

14 MS. EMILY GIBLIN: Good evening. My name is
15 Emily Giblin and I'm a teacher here at 144.
16 It's no secret that our middle schools are in
17 crisis, but that's not the case for 144. We are
18 the recipient of MS - - who drastically improved
19 our school. Your - - we are happier, we are
20 learning and we're functioning. Why should we
21 be uprooted because of the expansion of the
22 charter network? 144 and MSQ - - recipient
23 currently we are the model school for other - -
24 we're the school that often consultants come to
25 videotape best practices to show around the

1 country. We're the school that people are
2 looking for to show in the model for turnaround
3 schools. Our principal Jerry Cavanaugh was just
4 asked to critique at actually in New Mexico
5 regarding our acceleration in our group. This
6 is not the time to uproot us. This is not the
7 time to stop all of the beautiful things that
8 we're doing here. Some say that the charter
9 school would be about choice, and I can
10 understand that, but that's not the case with
11 Icahn charter schools. As it was already
12 mentioned you have to be an attendee of the
13 middle school in order to get to that high
14 school. So it's really not a choice for our
15 kids and their admissions are, I think below 5%,
16 which means that our kids would not have that
17 much of an opportunity to come to this high
18 school, if at all. It's not about choice. Our
19 school currently we have new curriculum, we have
20 new technology. We are implementing - - we are
21 doing everything we can to serve with all of the
22 children of our community, not just some, not
23 just a few. Co-location would jeopardize - -
24 that. It could cause a fight for space, for - -
25 leadership. And furthermore, it's just

1 inappropriate for high school students to mix
2 with middle school students, particularly when
3 they're in the developmentally - - spectrum.
4 It's not going to happen - - . Our school has
5 truly embraced the Federal and National mission
6 of creating deep thinker, and kids - - college
7 and career ready, and not just some kids, but
8 all kids, whether they have the ability or
9 English language learned, we take them all and
10 we service them all completely. And we do the
11 best that we can here. And I think that - -
12 with that we'd be detrimental to our community.
13 Thank you.

14 [Applause]

15 FEMALE VOICE: - - . - - initial G. Wanda
16 G.

17 WANDA: That's me. Sorry.

18 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

19 [Laughter]

20 FEMALE VOICE: If you could please come up
21 and speak?

22 WANDA: I'm a singer, so I can speak--I can
23 project my voice.

24 FEMALE VOICE: Oh, good.

25 WANDA: I don't need a microphone. Can

1 everyone hear me?

2 SEVERAL VOICES: Yes.

3 WANDA: Good evening. I'm a parent. My
4 son--I came to both open house. I went to the
5 open house for 144 and then I went to the open
6 house for - - garden. I love them both. I love
7 the way the principal spoke, especially 144 he's
8 changed the school around. His ideas. He came
9 from, my understanding, he came from a school
10 where everyone wanted to get into 181, so I
11 said, wow. This guy is bringing good stuff.
12 And I applied to both of them. My son currently
13 attends - - Gardens. He is happy. I explained
14 to him I opposed this. He agrees. He says,
15 Mommy, we're crowded as it is. I don't know
16 where these kids are going to go. And what
17 about security? You talk about security having
18 the kids come in, well, what about when they go
19 to the restroom, what about when they leave the
20 school, when they have to take the bus. A
21 person, a student, at 18-years-old is thinking
22 differently than a child at 11. And I was
23 thinking of bringing my other two kids that will
24 be graduating soon and now I'm having second
25 thoughts if this goes through, because I'm

1 thinking of the safety of my son. And I'm
2 sure a lot of parents are of why are they taking
3 a school that has made a large turn around in
4 the last year or so and not look for another
5 school that has high school students and that
6 they can intermingle and then let our kids, when
7 they're ready for high school we'll decide, as
8 parents, what school they go to. And that's
9 what I have to day.

10 [Applause]

11 FEMALE VOICE: - - have Michael - - CEC11 as
12 - - like to speak and so please come to the mic.
13 Thank you.

14 MR. MICHAEL MIRRO: Hello, everybody. My
15 name is Michael Mirro, CEC member for the four
16 months, but a police officer for almost 20 year,
17 so I'm speaking solely on safety issues. Okay.
18 Pro or con Icahn coming into X144, cons first.
19 - - 11-year-olds should not engage with high
20 school students. They have enough on their
21 plate to deal with being the youngest kids - -
22 the seventh and eighth graders. You throw in
23 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th Graders in there and they're
24 just going to get lost. They're going to be
25 scared and it's going to cause fear, bullying,

1 big robbery, assault, and we don't want to
2 even say, but maybe sexual assault. High school
3 can be intimate, and I wouldn't want my 6th
4 Grader, or any of your children to be witnessing
5 what's going on with teenagers with teenage
6 behavior. The possibility of middle schoolers
7 learning teenage behavior is there, the possible
8 of middle school children being exposed to drugs
9 is more than likely. So I say - - fair
10 education is what we all want then our children
11 should be schooled with the appropriate age
12 groups. Thank you.

13 [Applause]

14 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. - - 11.

15 MALE VOICE 3: Good evening every one - -
16 district - - graduated from Michael Angelo - - .

17 [Applause]

18 MALE VOICE 3: So I think tonight I feel
19 compelled - - very simply even looking - - the
20 plan - - it doesn't take into account the - - .
21 It is saying that we know - - children - - that
22 they haven't even gotten to their 8th graders.
23 You don't know what - - expect - - what's
24 happening. You don't know what's happening - -
25 don't have - - more people are going to want - -

1 so - - the - - now. We only know - - middle
2 and high school - - . But Icahn has a lot of
3 resources, right? They have - - high school
4 buildings - - purchase your own property and
5 find - - high school and put Icahn - - school
6 that - - . I - - right now so guess what - -
7 look at what - - school - - . My - - school - -
8 she's - - . So academically I'm looking at the
9 best for her in middle school and high school.
10 Needless to say, there's no way in - - that she
11 would be coming here if a high school were co-
12 located here. You will lose that type of
13 attention in your own community - - school - -
14 force - - . How would that - - what does it - -
15 higher level - - ultimately what we're trying to
16 do. Everything is - - just to be - - so what
17 are we doing - - and not - - . - - that's what
18 it is. So far all the - - is the - - feedback
19 form the community - - so really take that - -
20 somebody really needs to take - - into
21 consideration. Thank you very much.

22 [Applause]

23 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

24 SHERYL: - - Sheryl - - for - - I just have
25 a few questions to ask to the - - right now I

1 want - - those sites. Their enrollment this
2 year is 700 kids so the - - that was issued is
3 saying that we're going to - - over 200 kids - -
4 nothing like that is in the plans. - - any kid
5 - - exists in this school. They're not - -
6 middle - - parents - - in the community. Why -
7 - ask is how - - that the - - saying that - -
8 already utilizing us? You're proposing that we
9 - - or - - that belongs to a public school that
10 - - opportunity to use - - . That's unfair to
11 our kids. We have so little resources as it is.
12 The - - that we've managed to - - opportunity to
13 compete with your - - Icahn - - take away and as
14 a parent I really think that is unfair. I have
15 nothing against Icahn, in fact, that they would
16 like to find a high school, I will help them
17 search. But the co-location at the middle
18 school that is - - kids are here - - teach - -
19 people have - - facility - - to mix them with
20 high school - - is really unfair. Thank you.

21 [Applause]

22 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. Next - - .

23 FEMALE VOICE 3: Good evening everyone. I'm
24 - - and I want to say - - talk about the
25 turnaround of the school. My son is - - being

1 looked at - - school in the country and he is
2 a product of 144 in the Bronx.

3 [Applause]

4 FEMALE VOICE 3: And - - works - - teachers
5 and principal has took it to. My son put two
6 and a half years here and I really oppose this -
7 - . The kids are - - my son are not given that
8 chance. They're not going to have - - . We
9 cannot - - stuff, and I use the word stuff, - -
10 a high school in 144.

11 [Applause]

12 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. - - .

13 MALE VOICE 4: Good evening, everybody - -
14 8th grade science teacher - - high school 144.
15 DOE proposed - - anti-bullying and junior high
16 school 144 takes it to another level. - - the
17 6th grade - - teacher and students about the - -
18 of bullying and as you can see from here we
19 don't - - classroom, but we - - . What's - -
20 building I think the DOE - - on behalf of - -
21 doing just this, bullying the kids in our
22 school. And - - .

23 [Applause]

24 MALE VOICE 4: I think this proposal is
25 being passed through - - . Because last year it

1 was the second - - of the term with first - -
2 took place and weeks later when the second
3 meeting took place - - we're having a meeting
4 today, and now next week the following - - for
5 our students what's - - take place, and - - not
6 even - - Bronx - - schlep all the way down to
7 south side Brooklyn haven't seen it. - - could
8 be wrong. I think because - - school - - not
9 allowed - - high school and this is a slap in
10 the face - - another instance of bullying if you
11 ask me. I think the kids in grades 6th through
12 12 - - wrong. I want to know who in the DOE
13 even voted - - 6th grade student with 12 grade
14 student. I doubt if any of my kids - - do this,
15 sharing resources is wrong. This is a wrong
16 decision. Who wants this? Not the parents and
17 - - not the - - counsel, just the DOE. Again,
18 why - - machine. So - - high school is wrong
19 for this building, I ask you to - - . Thank
20 you. You have a - - evening.

21 [Applause; cheers]

22 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

23 FEMALE VOICE 4: Good evening. I am not
24 representing community sports - - . I appear -
25 - activist from - - activist. I am here

1 tonight, my daughter is in college, but I
2 support the public school system, and this is
3 wrong. The DOE has lost their minds. Yeah.
4 They have - - and what I want to know tonight is
5 how they already made their decision, and
6 they're just pretending on having a meeting?
7 Because they have done it in the past. And I am
8 not - - my daughter went to high school when - -
9 middle school was there and didn't have - - .
10 There are a lot of incidents there. - - .
11 There are a lot of incidents that - - . All
12 right. And we are not going to allow this. I -
13 - make a chain around the school, they're not
14 coming in the school. All right.

15 [Applause]

16 FEMALE VOICE 4: They are not coming in our
17 school. Leave our - - . Let him do his job.
18 Let him work. Let him do. Let the teacher
19 teach. He's doing a hell of a good job here. I
20 don't - - anyone - - . Take - - we are not
21 disagreeing with the school - - take your school
22 elsewhere. Take your school elsewhere. Our
23 children need the - - and I'm sick and tired of
24 - - walk - - he should have been here tonight.
25 Okay. They're playing - - with my children.

1 And it stops here and now. Okay. So we are
2 going to fight this. We are going to make a
3 chain around this school. They are not coming.
4 So you - - looking for - - . Thank you.

5 [Applause; cheers]

6 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you. - - . - - will
7 be - - and - - Ward 12.

8 FEMALE VOICE 5: Thank you so much. I am
9 the CEC president but right now I'm just talking
10 as the community board - - representative, also
11 Anthony Reid, who is on the education committee
12 and as - - 12 is supporting the CEC and
13 community board 11 and they did unanimously vote
14 in opposition to the co-location at 144. What I
15 also wanted to say and someone brought it up,
16 that - - if you've ever taken a tour and I took
17 a tour last week. The bathrooms have to be
18 shared. I don't care if you stagger the time
19 that they come in and stagger the time that they
20 leave, they have to share. There's only one
21 bathroom on the floor, so they have to share the
22 bathrooms. And there have been a test sample of
23 this because I don't know if you remember, there
24 were trailers outside and of the high school
25 outside and the high school did not mix with the

1 middle school and it was awful and so they had
2 to go. And they needed their own building.
3 That's the same thing with the Icahn charter
4 school, you need to--we're not against the
5 charter school, you just need to be high
6 schoolers need to be with high schoolers.
7 Middle schoolers need to be with middle
8 schoolers. But what I want to say that you
9 don't know is that the Department of Education
10 offered this building to the Icahn charter
11 school without community engagement. They
12 offered the building. They offered it. So if
13 we're going to point fingers, let's point
14 fingers at the Department of Education because
15 they could have done in prior to this, even ask
16 what did we think of it, number one, we invited
17 them to come to community board 11. They didn't
18 even come to community board 11. It was like
19 one engagement with the CEC, they have not met
20 with the - - and they have not met with the FLT.
21 In this district in our school district CEC11 we
22 have middle school campuses so we have middle
23 schools with middle school that works. We have
24 the Altua [phonetic] campus, which had a middle
25 school that didn't work out. It was a high

1 school campus and it didn't work out. This is
2 a middle school campus and we'd like to keep it
3 that way. They also said that it has never been
4 done when they took a high school and put it in
5 a predominately middle school, this is the first
6 time. And when they talked to us they could
7 talk about districts, but we're talking about
8 this district and whatever happened to - - this
9 is about a cookie cutter fit for our community.
10 If it doesn't fit, it doesn't fit, and you can't
11 make it fit. I just want to say that they
12 really need to take this off the table. They
13 could take it off the table. - - on it. They
14 could take it off the table. We wouldn't even
15 be hearing about this. - - the people who the
16 Mayor - - appointed to the task is not even
17 going to be the - - December 31st. So there's a
18 lot of things that he's pushing before he
19 leaves. This one we have to fight tooth and
20 nail - - next week and I just want to say, thank
21 you for all of the politicians, thank you for
22 all the teachers, the representatives, that have
23 come out, and keep fighting, because we don't
24 want this to happen. Thank you.

25 [Applause]

1 FEMALE VOICE 6: Because I talked to other
2 parents and I'm strongly against it. How do we
3 get to vote if we can't - - .

4 FEMALE VOICE: - - until - - . So - - and -
5 - comments are still being taken and it can be
6 done in two ways, by email or the telephone if
7 you cannot attend a meeting. To email - - at -
8 - NYC, dot, gov - - the telephone number is
9 (212) 374-5159, and as stated before - - have -
10 - but - - educational policy where they will be
11 voting on - - will be on October 15th. Before I
12 close this evening there was one more speaker
13 that I did not call and - - sheet - - name on
14 it. So Brenda Watkins, please come on up to
15 speak.

16 MS. BRENDA WATKINS: Hi. Good evening, I -
17 - a little bit late, so that's why I'm not on
18 the list, but actually - - because I have grand
19 children from high school, middle school, and
20 elementary school. I have grandchildren. I
21 know Mr. Cavanaugh - - 181 - - great - - great -
22 - . But I've been to many of these and the
23 result is always the same. You get a lot of
24 people that rally, yea, yea, yea, clap, clap,
25 clap, about what everybody says is absolutely

1 true, but no disrespect to my former
2 colleagues, I've was on the CEC two years prior,
3 no disrespect to politicians or my ex-colleagues
4 and anyone here, but the DOE doesn't care. They
5 don't care what you think. They don't care how
6 many times you raise your hand and you have not
7 vote. And my advice would be to get an
8 injunction, and that's the only thing that they
9 understand, legally, this is what they
10 understand. All of this is for naught. I've
11 been to many of these, the result is a done
12 deal. So unless by tomorrow somebody gets and
13 attorney and gets and injunction against this,
14 it's going to happen. And that's all I have to
15 say.

16 [Applause]

17 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you.

18 MS. WATKINS: Thank you.

19 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you so much. - - thank
20 - - all - - especially - - but we - - reasons.
21 We have - - your voices heard and - -
22 opportunity to voice that at the end of the
23 meeting - - proposal - - October 15th. Comments
24 and other feedback can be taken - - the school -
25 - NYC, dot, gov and (212) 374-5010, 59 - - all

1 this information has - - and - - DOE websites.
2 www, dot, - - dot, com. Thank you for coming
3 out, we'll - - this - - .

4 [END TAPE JPH_X144_AUDIO]

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

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.



Date: October 14, 2013