

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 New District Middle
School @ K196
October 21, 2013**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. LILI HASKINS: All right, everyone.
3 Please take your seats so we can begin. There's
4 a lot of people signed up to speak so I want to
5 make sure that we start promptly. It's 6:00
6 p.m. so we're going to officially begin this
7 hearing. To introduce myself my name is Lili
8 Haskins. I work with the Office of Portfolio
9 Management and I'll be facilitating tonight's
10 hearing. Everybody please take your seats so
11 that we can begin. Thank you very much.

12 So again thank you everyone for coming out
13 tonight. This is a joint public hearing of the
14 Department of Education Community Education
15 Council CC14 and the school leadership teams of
16 PS 196 and MS 582 to discuss the following
17 proposal; the proposed co-location of a new
18 district middle school 14K-766 with existing
19 schools PS 196 and MS 582 in building K-196
20 beginning in the 2014-2014 school year.
21 Tonight's recordings will be--tonight's
22 proceedings will be recorded and transcribed.

23 Before we begin the hearing we want to ask
24 that anyone who wishes to speak during the
25 public portion of the evening sign up at the

1 table in the hallway. It's 6:02 so public
2 comment signup will end in 15 minutes at 6:17.
3 Only those who have signed up to speak will be
4 able to participate in the public comment
5 period. All panel participants were asked to be
6 here no later than 5:30 p.m.

7 AUDIENCE: [Chanting] No co-lococo, no co-
8 lococo, no co-lococo, no co-lococo, no co-lococo, no co-
9 lococo, no co-lococo, no co-lococo, no co-lococo.

10 MS. HASKINS: Now that we have started if a
11 panel participant arrives late he or she will be
12 given the time to speak at the first opportune
13 minute. We want to be respectful of everyone's
14 time.

15 AUDIENCE: [Chanting] No co-lococo, no co-
16 lococo, no co-lococo, no co-lococo, no co-lococo, no co-
17 lococo, no co-lococo, no co-lococo, no co-lococo.

18 MS. HASKINS: There may be elected officials
19 who arrive at different times throughout the
20 evening. If they wish to speak we will do our
21 best to accommodate them at the first opportune
22 moment. Those who are here at the start of the
23 public comment section will be asked to speak
24 first.

25 AUDIENCE: [Chanting] No co-lococo, no co-

1 loco, no co-loco, no co-loco, no co-loco, no
2 co-loco, no co-loco, no co-loco, no co-loco.

3 MS. HASKINS: So I'm about to go through
4 tonight's format of the presentation, so for
5 those who want to hear how that goes, tonight's
6 format will include a presentation of the
7 proposal and presentations by hearing
8 participants. Speakers should have already
9 signed up at the sign-in table in the lobby and
10 if you have not yet signed up yet there are 14
11 minutes left to do so. Public comments can be
12 no longer than two minutes each. The time will
13 be strictly followed and speakers will be
14 informed of when their designated time is
15 rendered.

16 AUDIENCE: [Chanting] No co-loco, no co-
17 loco, no co-loco, no co-loco, no co-loco, no co-
18 loco, no co-loco, no co-loco, no co-loco.

19 MS. HASKINS: So I want to introduce
20 everybody that's sitting on the dais tonight
21 from left to right, starting with Superintendent
22 Winnicki, a superintendent of Community School
23 District 14, Ms. Tesa Wilson, the president of
24 CEC 14, Principal Colon of PS 196, Principal
25 Walsh, MS 582.

1 AUDIENCE: [Chanting] No co-loco, no co-
2 loco, no co-loco, no co-loco, no co-loco, no co-
3 loco, no co-loco, no co-loco, no co-loco.

4 MS. HASKINS: Ms. Maria Ortiz-Farley, a CEC
5 14 member, Ms. Debbie Feiner, CEC 14 treasurer,
6 Mr. Mario Aguila, CEC vice president, and Mr.
7 Ramon Peguero, CEC member. I would also like to
8 announce that we have a number of elected
9 officials here with us this evening.

10 AUDIENCE: [Chanting] No co-loco, no co-
11 loco, no co-loco, no co-loco, no co-loco, no co-
12 loco, no co-loco, no co-loco, no co-loco.

13 MS. HASKINS: Those include Council Member
14 elect Antonio Reynoso, Assembly Member elect
15 Maritza Davila, Community Board One member
16 Esteban Duran and Brian Delvale from CSA
17 district 14. So I'm now going to turn the
18 program over to Superintendent Winnicki. She is
19 going to present the proposal so I would
20 encourage everyone to hold so that they can hear
21 the details of the proposal. Thank you.

22 MS. ALICJA WINNICKI: Good evening,
23 everyone.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good evening.

25 MS. WINNICKI: I am Alicja Winnicki and I am

1 the--

2 [Applause]

3 MS. WINNICKI: I am the Chancellor's
4 designee tonight. I will read the proposal for
5 the co-location of the new school in this
6 building. So please listen. This is the
7 proposal summary. The New York City Department
8 of Education is proposing to co-locate a new
9 middle school in building K-196.

10 AUDIENCE: [Yelling].

11 MS. WINNICKI: Beginning in the 2014-2015
12 school year. Building K-196--

13 MS. HASKINS: [Interposing] I'm sorry to
14 interrupt, but those who are receiving
15 translation services cannot hear the proposal
16 summary with the cheering in the background so
17 if you could just hold until this--

18 AUDIENCE: [Yelling].

19 MS. WINNICKI: Building K-196 is located at
20 207 Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn in Community
21 School District 14. If this proposal is
22 approved, the new district middle school will
23 open in the 2014-2015--

24 AUDIENCE: [Yelling].

25 MS. WINNICKI: Serving sixth grade and will

1 add one grade per year. Let me finish reading
2 the proposal.

3 AUDIENCE: [Yelling].

4 MS. WINNICKI: This school will add one
5 grade per year until it reaches full scale
6 starting sixth through eighth grade in 2016-
7 2017. The school will be co-located with two
8 other schools in building K-196.

9 AUDIENCE: [Yelling].

10 MS. WINNICKI: PS 196 and MS 582, the other
11 academy. The new district school will be a
12 limited unscreened middle school that admits
13 students through the middle school application
14 process. Limited unscreened schools give
15 admissions priority to students who demonstrate
16 interest in the school by attending an
17 information session, attending an open house
18 event, or visiting the school's exhibit--

19 AUDIENCE: [Yelling].

20 MS. WINNICKI: The DOE has identified the K-
21 196 building as an underutilized building.

22 AUDIENCE: [Chanting] Save our school, save
23 our school, save our school, save our school,
24 save our school, save our school, save our
25 school, save our school, save our school, save

1 our school, save our school, save our school,
2 save our school, save our school, save our
3 school.

4 MS. WINNICKI: Okay, let me continue. The
5 DOE has identified the K-196 building as an
6 underutilized building.

7 AUDIENCE: [Yelling].

8 MS. WINNICKI: According to the 2011-2012
9 enrollment capacity utilization report, building
10 K-196 has the capacity to serve 1,016 students.
11 In the coming--

12 AUDIENCE: [Yelling].

13 MS. WINNICKI: In the coming 2013-2014
14 school year, the two schools in the concourse
15 are serving combined approximately 653 students.

16 AUDIENCE: [Yelling].

17 MS. WINNICKI: This yields a utilization
18 rate of approximately 64%, which indicates that
19 the building is underutilized and has space to
20 accommodate additional students.

21 AUDIENCE: [Yelling].

22 MS. WINNICKI: Ladies and gentlemen, let me
23 finish reading the proposal because the speakers
24 will then take the floor.

25 AUDIENCE: [Yelling].

1 MS. WINNICKI: If the proposal is approved,
2 in 2016-2017, once the new middle school is
3 fully phased in, the new middle school is
4 projected to serve approximately 255 to 285
5 students in sixth through eighth grade.

6 AUDIENCE: [Chanting] Save our school, save
7 our school, save our school, save our school,
8 save our school, save our school, save our
9 school, save our school.

10 MS. WINNICKI: At that time, PS 196 is
11 expected to serve approximately 304 to 364
12 students, while MS 582 is expected to serve
13 approximately 285 to 315 students. In all, the
14 three schools are expected to serve a total of
15 844 to 964 students yielding a building
16 utilization rate of approximately 83% to 95%.

17 AUDIENCE: [Yelling].

18 MS. WINNICKI: This proposal was developed
19 in response to feedback from CEC 14 over
20 multiple years about interest in an additional
21 middle school option for district 14 families.

22 AUDIENCE: [Yelling].

23 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. So I
24 want to be very clear that everybody is here, we
25 are all here tonight to hear each other's

1 comments. And those that are receiving
2 translation are unable to participate with the
3 screaming. So when we get to public comment if
4 that continues we will have to hold until it
5 stops to ensure that everybody here can hear.

6 AUDIENCE: [Yelling].

7 MS. HASKINS: So we have 81 people that are
8 signed up to speak and I want to make sure that
9 everybody, including all of the children that
10 are here have a chance to do so.

11 AUDIENCE: [Chanting] This school is our
12 school, this school is our school, this school
13 is our school, this school is our school, this
14 school is our school, this school is our school.

15 MS. HASKINS: So I'm going to turn it over
16 to the first speaker on the dais this evening,
17 CEC President Ms. Tesa Wilson.

18 [Applause]

19 MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen, now is
20 the time we want to listen. Each of us will
21 have a chance to speak. You can cheer between
22 speakers, but let's listen to each speaker up
23 here as well as us. Thank you.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. TESA WILSON: First I would like to say

1 I'm extremely proud of my District 14
2 community.

3 [Applause]

4 MS. WILSON: I am proud of you guys because
5 there are many occasions where things happen to
6 this--to communities of color. They will tell
7 you no one comes out because no one cares. And
8 I'm saying a full building speaks loud and clear
9 that we care.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. WILSON: We care about the children.
12 Now I'm just going to ask that you bear me out
13 because I need to read a very important
14 statement from an anonymous staffer who came and
15 said, "Would you please read this statement for
16 me before you make your comments?" And I said,
17 "I would feel honored and privileged to read
18 this on your behalf." So this is a dedicated
19 educator who works in this building.

20 "When I came to PS 196 in 1999, it was the
21 lowest performing school in the district. Over
22 the past decade it has become one of the highest
23 performing schools in District 14."

24 [Applause]

25 MS. WILSON: "We call ourselves the hidden

1 gem of District 14. How did this happen? The
2 answer is sitting in the seats of this
3 auditorium. Through the hard work and
4 dedication of our teachers, support and
5 involvement of the generosity of our partners,
6 together we have worked hard toward developing
7 and transporting--transitioning PS 196 into a
8 school that provides a quality education. What
9 is a quality education? If you ask the kids,
10 they will tell you it is not only about good
11 teaching and reading, writing and math, but
12 having music, art, gym, yoga, theater, and fun
13 opportunities outside the classroom.

14 With this proposed co-location, our children
15 will not receive a quality education. They will
16 be confined to one classroom all day. The
17 Office of Portfolio Development looks at a piece
18 of paper called a "footprint." They never go
19 into a building to see the people in it or the
20 learning that takes place. This office is not
21 interested in the programs and activities that
22 we provide for our children daily. While there
23 may be interest in the need of an additional
24 middle school in our community, the community
25 clearly does not want another middle school

1 housed at PS 196, MS 582."

2 [Applause]

3 MS. WILSON: Let me go on. "The Office of
4 Portfolio claims that parents want more choice.
5 What choices can schools offer parents when they
6 have no room or money to offer anything? The
7 home page of the Department of Education says,
8 'Children First Always.' And I'm sorry to say
9 that the Department of Education is not doing
10 that today for the students of PS 196 and MS
11 582, and we would clearly like to know why." An
12 anonymous, dedicated educator.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. WILSON: Now I cannot be as eloquent as
15 that dedicated educator, but this is where I
16 have my say. I see this is an issue of
17 discrimination. And the reason why I see--say
18 that this is an issue of discrimination, because
19 in wealthier communities if you saw what the DOE
20 has the nerve to call "luxury classrooms," they
21 are considered a right for children of
22 privilege. Why is it that black and brown
23 children are told that you cannot have the same
24 thing other communities have?

25 [Applause]

1 MS. WILSON: This is new-fangled
2 segregation. It's new-fangled segregation.
3 It's a new spin on Jim Crow. And for those of
4 you who don't know what Jim Crow is, Google it.
5 Because that's exactly what this is.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. WILSON: I'm going to tell you that the
8 community education council has asked for a
9 middle school, however we have never asked for
10 it in this location, and at no point did anyone
11 from Portfolio Development ask us prior to this
12 where we would like to see this happen. It
13 wasn't until the EIS was put forth for this
14 building that we began to say that there are
15 other locations within District 14 that would be
16 better served by a middle school, not here at
17 196 or 582.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. WILSON: I would also like to say that
20 this is part of the insanity that has been
21 pushed on us from the tweed suits and this mayor
22 who thinks he's the sun god.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. WILSON: Now when he gets up in the
25 morning and he decides what he would like to

1 lord to the surfs in the streets of New York,
2 that we should bow over and say, "Thank you very
3 much." I say not in this community. We know
4 what's best for our community. We didn't ask
5 for it here and we don't want it here. And
6 last, but not least, I would like everyone to
7 take a look around. I'm sure you notice all of
8 the security and the police officers that have
9 been assigned to this hearing tonight. I say
10 it's disgraceful when you expect parents and
11 children to riot.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. WILSON: This is not a police state. We
14 have just as many--just as much right as any
15 other community to voice our opinion without
16 being harassed and without being over-policed.
17 So with that said, I'm going to say to you, and
18 children this is bad spelling, but D-O-E spells
19 N-U-T-S.

20 [Applause]

21 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. Our next speaker
22 will be Ms. Ortiz-Farley, CEC member. No? No,
23 you don't have to. Are you speaking?

24 MS. DEBBIE FEINER: Hi everybody, I'm Debbie
25 Feiner and I'm another member of the CEC. I

1 have to say I'm really inspired to see you all
2 here fighting for what you deserve, which is
3 your school.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. FEINER: Your art, your music, your
6 space, and not to be undermined. You know, you
7 guys deserve to be supported. Your kids deserve
8 a quality education. And I've only been on the
9 CEC for a few months, but I haven't really been
10 liking what I'm seeing in terms of the DOE
11 undermining schools that need support and
12 pitting people against each other and not giving
13 full information to the parents.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. FEINER: It's disgraceful and I'm so
16 happy and proud to be here and see you guys
17 fighting for this and we're here with you.

18 [Applause]

19 MR. MARIO AGUILA: Let me say one thing. My
20 name is Mario Aguila and I'm the first vice
21 president but I've got to give credit to our
22 president. She really said it the way it is.

23 [Applause]

24 MR. AGUILA: And let me say one thing. Like
25 she stated before, we did ask that we need a

1 middle school, but they never consulted us
2 where they wanted to put the school at. And
3 that's why we are frustrated tonight, because
4 they are doing things without consulting with
5 the Community Educational consult. It's a
6 disrespect to us and it's a disrespect to the
7 community. And it's a disrespect to the
8 parents.

9 [Applause]

10 MR. AGUILA: So you know what? And it's
11 time for DOE, and I'm hoping with this next
12 mayor, I'm not saying things are going to be
13 perfect, but somebody's got to listen to this
14 community.

15 [Applause]

16 MR. AGUILA: We've had enough of this.
17 Thank you.

18 [Applause]

19 MR. RAMON PEGUERO: My name is Ramon
20 Peguero. I'm also a member of the CEC. And for
21 the past nine years I've been a member of the
22 CEC and we have been fighting the Department of
23 Education with all of the charter schools that
24 they have been putting into our community. And
25 we have been demanding middle schools. And this

1 is a very wicked way to get back at us for
2 fighting for our community.

3 [Applause]

4 MR. PEGUERO: To say, oh you want middle
5 schools? We're going to shove it down your
6 throat in a way that you don't like. [Spanish].

7 [Applause]

8 MR. PEGUERO: [Spanish]

9 [Applause]

10 MR. PEGUERO: Not one single elected
11 official at any level of government, not one
12 single CEC member, not one single parent, not
13 one single neighbor has stated that they want
14 this plan to go forth. So why is the DOE trying
15 to push this and shove this down our throat? It
16 is time for us to say enough is enough. And let
17 me tell you Tessa, if they continue they might
18 not have enough police officers to stop this
19 community.

20 [Applause]

21 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. As I said, we are
22 joined by a couple of elected officials tonight.
23 I would like to call forward Council Member
24 elect Antonio Reynoso.

25 [Applause]

1 MR. ANTONIO REYNOSO: Here we go again,
2 guys. Here we go again. The Department of
3 Education has an inability to understand the
4 importance of community involvement. Don't call
5 us after the fact, after you put the school in
6 this building you call us. That is extremely
7 disrespectful and unacceptable. And this
8 community is going to make sure that you hear
9 them today loud and clear. And I have to tell
10 you guys, our problem is our mayor, Mayor
11 Michael Bloomberg.

12 [Applause]

13 MR. REYNOSO: Because all of these folks
14 that you see here from the Department of
15 Education don't--they can't do anything. They
16 are going to sit here. They are going to act
17 like they're listening to us, but none of it
18 matters. Because the only person that can do
19 something about this right now is Mayor
20 Bloomberg. And that's a big problem. So what I
21 want to tell you is November 5th is the
22 election. Let's get rid of Bloomberg and bring
23 in--

24 [Applause]

25 MR. REYNOSO: Now I want to chant, I want

1 you guys to chant at the end of this, so I'm
2 going to give you a chant later on. But I do
3 want to say that this school has two very good
4 schools, this building has two very good schools
5 that are starting to work together, have figured
6 out the system, have worked with our community
7 for years, have used the rooms effectively, have
8 one of the highest concentration of special
9 needs students, has one of the highest
10 concentration of ESL.

11 [Applause]

12 MR. REYNOSO: But Portfolio Planning doesn't
13 walk through the school while that's happening.
14 They walk through a school when it's empty and
15 they look at a room. And that is unacceptable.
16 So what I want you guys to say is, "Vote for
17 Bill, vote for Bill, vote for Bill."

18 AUDIENCE: [Chanting] Vote for Bill, vote
19 for Bill, vote for Bill, vote for Bill, vote for
20 Bill, vote for Bill, vote for Bill.

21 MR. REYNOSO: Because he's going to make it
22 happen. Let's hope the next mayor pays
23 attention to us. And I'm very proud of you.
24 Keep up the good work, my people.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Next
2 we have Assembly Member elect Maritza Davila.

3 [Applause]

4 MS. MARITZA DAVILA: Well, I am extremely
5 proud of all of you. Because I have been a
6 community activist for 25 years and I've never
7 seen such a packed auditorium.

8 [Applause]

9 MS. DAVILA: There are still, as I
10 understand it, people outside of the doors
11 trying to get in. But of course, it's a little
12 bit overcrowded. But I have to say to the
13 Portfolio Committee the buck stops here. I am
14 Maritza Davila. I am the Assembly Woman elect.
15 With all due respect, the buck is going to stop
16 here. We are going to fight.

17 [Applause]

18 MS. DAVILA: So coming from this
19 neighborhood it is not new to me to fight,
20 because that's what we do.

21 [Applause]

22 MS. DAVILA: All I can tell you, I'm going
23 to reiterate what Antonio said. You go on
24 November 5th and you vote with your conscience.
25 You vote for the people who you know are going

1 to take care of business, okay? Because we're
2 not going to let this happen. God bless all of
3 you and let's stay together and let's fight this
4 battle together.

5 [Applause]

6 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. Next we have Mr.
7 Esteban Duran from Community Board One.

8 MR. ESTEBAN DURMR. REYNOSO: Good evening,
9 everyone.

10 AUDIENCE: Good evening.

11 MR. DURAN: As was announced, my name is
12 Esteban Duran and I've been on the local
13 community board for the last eight years. I
14 chair the Education and Youth Committee, and I'm
15 so proud of everyone for coming out tonight to
16 say no to this co-location plan.

17 [Applause]

18 MR. DURAN: I--this is really all about you.
19 I was glad that on October 8th at the community
20 board some of the parents and some of the
21 teachers, they came to the community board, they
22 expressed what was happening. And they talked
23 about again they were at the education council
24 meeting. They learned about this plan in the
25 beginning of the year and they've been

1 organizing against it and obviously you are
2 all here so that's very important.

3 I just want to make sure that as was
4 mentioned before that you all know that our
5 community needs a middle school but we don't
6 need it like this, okay? We don't need it like
7 this and the process is important. So trying to
8 jam this down our throats is not the way to get
9 things done. I just want to talk a little bit
10 about 20 months ago, here in this community we
11 were also fighting co-locations and we were
12 saying the same thing.

13 We were saying listen to us, work with us.
14 We know what's best. And I'm very glad to hear
15 that in this school, both schools 582 and 196
16 have been co-existing and they've been thriving.
17 So why are we going to disrupt that? Are we
18 going to let them disrupt that?

19 AUDIENCE: No.

20 MR. DURAN: Exactly. So with that said, I
21 just want to say a last few things. First of
22 all, it's that if you want to email or you know
23 somebody that wants to email Portfolio
24 Management, their email address is
25 OPM@schools.nyc.gov. Send an email. Everybody

1 has smart phones. It takes two seconds.
2 Again, the email address OPM@schools.nyc.gov.
3 We have until next week. Let's send a lot of
4 emails so they get the message that we're going
5 to fight this.

6 Now last but not least two things; next
7 Tuesday we are going to have the Education
8 Committee meeting at the Community Board. You
9 are welcome to come to that. It's at 6:30.
10 It's at 435 Grand Avenue [phonetic]. You are
11 all welcome. I'll make sure the parent
12 coordinator here and everybody has that
13 information. You are welcome to come. But if
14 you can't make that meeting there is another
15 important meeting too, and that's the Panel for
16 Educational Policy which is on October 30th,
17 next Wednesday. And it's going to be on Clawson
18 Avenue [phonetic] in Brooklyn.

19 I know not everybody can go to all of these
20 meetings, but if some of you can go you should
21 come. You should bring a friend, because
22 together with numbers we speak. And as they say
23 in Espanola, the people united will never be
24 defeated. [Spanish] So thank you so much.
25 We're going to keep fighting this. No co-loco,

1 no co-lococo, no co-lococo.

2 [Applause]

3 AUDIENCE: [Chanting] No co-lococo, no co-
4 lococo, no co-lococo, no co-lococo, no co-lococo, no co-
5 lococo, no co-lococo, no co-lococo, no co-lococo.

6 MS. HASKINS: So next I want to correct one
7 piece of information. You should all send us
8 emails, but the correct email is
9 D14proposals@schools.nyc.gov. That's where you
10 should email us and we will get everything. So
11 next I want to call up Mr. Brian Delvale from
12 CSA 14.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. BRIAN DELVALE: I'm going to be a little
15 brief because I am a principal. Would you mind
16 if I stood behind this? It's more...I heard
17 someone refer to the emperor as the "sun god."
18 Now I go to church every Sunday and it sure
19 isn't Bloomberg that I'm praying to. And I see
20 we have a gentleman here, Pastor Priest
21 [phonetic] is here from Saint Johns.

22 [Applause]

23 MR. DELVALE: Did I miss something at church
24 last Sunday? Did somebody declare Bloomberg a
25 sun god? I don't know, I missed that lecture.

1 All of these nice people from Portfolio, I
2 hope you find unemployment in January, good
3 benefits and a nice place to work because you
4 have destroyed our community intentionally for
5 the last 12 years and it's over.

6 [Applause]

7 MR. DELVALE: Somebody from that office went
8 to PS 157 about two weeks ago. And they're
9 walking through the building. And I love these
10 people. They all say, you know, I wanted to do
11 something in education, man. But I didn't want
12 to teach anybody. Isn't that nice they want to
13 be educators but they don't want to teach. None
14 of them teaches anything. They go into the
15 school and they say--this is a quote. "Your
16 building is under-utilized." The principal
17 says, "What do you mean my building? I have a
18 middle school here."

19 "Well you have science labs. You don't need
20 science labs. Excuse me, you don't need a
21 science lab, that's a luxury." So I guess
22 because our kids are black and brown they don't
23 deserve science labs.

24 [Applause]

25 MR. DELVALE: But if you go out, if you go

1 upstate and up to Long Island where all the
2 Westinghouse scholars [phonetic] are coming
3 from, they get--and that's an enrichment. But
4 over here they want to take away dance, take
5 away computers, and put your kids in a single
6 room. Are you proud of yourselves, Portfolio?
7 Is this what you got into education to do, is
8 take away space from children? Well it's not
9 what I got into this 28 years ago for.

10 [Applause]

11 MR. DELVALE: We are blessed to have a
12 community education council. I could not speak
13 this freely. I'm a union representative. I
14 represent the principals and APs of this
15 community who give blood, sweat and tears for
16 your children. And we were doing it before
17 privatization and charter schools came in. And
18 we will continue to do it when Bloomberg is
19 gone.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. DELVALE: But we cannot speak out so
22 bravely without the support of these people up
23 here. These are the people who should run your
24 schools. It comes down to a difference in
25 philosophy. The sun god thinks he owns this,

1 hence he named the office "Portfolio," because
2 he thinks this is his personal real estate
3 portfolio. He actually named an office
4 "Portfolio" so he can put condos wherever he
5 wants, move people around. We see the community
6 education counsel as the stewards of these
7 schools.

8 These are your elected parent members who
9 come out here for no money but to support your
10 schools and give what's best. Outside New York
11 City everyone has a school board. They make
12 these decisions. Why are we allowing some
13 little tyrant with \$25 billion dollars to come
14 in and dictate? It shouldn't happen. [Spanish]

15 [Applause]

16 MR. DELVALE: They tell you, they have the
17 audacity to tell you [Spanish], now you hear
18 what we're saying? They understand, everyone is
19 yelling at you. [Spanish] So don't come and
20 tell us you are fighting for ELLs and you want
21 them to hear. They do hear you and they don't
22 like what you're selling. As a matter of fact,
23 Mr. Peguero said it perfectly. Our community is
24 united, newcomers, black, white, Hispanic, we
25 don't play that in District 14.

1 This is about equity. Every child
2 deserves space to grow to their fullest
3 potential.

4 [Applause]

5 MR. DELVALE: These people are on their way
6 out. I hope they have health, success, wealth
7 and other good stuff, but they go away and just
8 leave us alone. Because we will be here caring
9 for our children, which is what we signed up to
10 do. Thank you all.

11 [Applause]

12 MS. HASKINS: So we now have concluded the
13 formal presentations and we're going to move on
14 to public comment. I--oh, okay.

15 [Pause]

16 MS. HASKINS: Ms. Velazquez, did you want to
17 speak? Please.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. EVELYN CRUZ: Evelyn Cruz representing
20 Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez. How is everyone?

21 [Applause]

22 MS. CRUZ: Is PS 196 in the house?

23 [Applause]

24 MS. CRUZ: Oh, I love it. I love the
25 energy. Good evening, everyone. Good evening,

1 Ms. Winnicki, Ms. Tesa, Ramon, Mario and all
2 the board members, thank you for being here
3 today and getting a firsthand look at the
4 community of 196. This is a school--and 582, of
5 course, of course. This is a school where we
6 come to celebrate career day every year, a
7 wonderful program between the--both principals,
8 Ms. Colon and the others, the faculty working
9 and introducing our children to higher learning
10 and career paths. [Spanish]

11 [Applause]

12 MS. CRUZ: Congresswoman Velazquez is not
13 here this evening. And she--children, children,
14 children, you need to give two, three minutes of
15 listening for me. Will you do that? Thank you,
16 we are here for you. As an advocate for
17 education, nothing pleases the Congresswoman
18 more than giving our children the education that
19 they deserve. Giving our children a fair shot
20 at getting out of poverty through public
21 education.

22 We cannot continue to support, and Nydia
23 Velazquez does not support the ongoing co-
24 locations of schools in our district, whether
25 it's for a charter school or a choice school, as

1 that has been proposed here, which has an idea
2 of claim that says "unlimited enrollment
3 method." We don't know what that means,
4 "unlimited," if you read the proposal. The
5 Congresswoman acknowledges that we have a pool
6 of children that are special.

7 We have different ethnic groups, a large
8 immigrant community. We have children who live
9 in the foster care agencies that come to this
10 school, children that are living in
11 unfortunately residential centers that come to
12 the school. And we have teachers that nurture
13 our children day in and day out at MS 82 and at
14 PS 196. And what these children need and what
15 these educators need is more space. We need
16 smaller class sizes, don't you agree?

17 [Applause]

18 MS. CRUZ: We need, at this school, we need
19 our children to learn in a smaller class,
20 English language learners in smaller classes,
21 pre-K in a smaller class. We need science
22 laboratories in these schools.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. CRUZ: The children of this school, of
25 this school building, all of them, as we move on

1 nationally to promote science, technology,
2 math, engineering, stem, we need to give these
3 faces, our kids, minorities here, Latinos and
4 African-Americans and Asian and whites all alike
5 an opportunity to rise from poverty and to be
6 comfortable with understanding science. Science
7 in the form not of a video game, maybe they
8 could be the next designer of a video game.

9 [Applause]

10 MS. CRUZ: They could learn, they should be
11 learning robotics. We need a science room,
12 science rooms that offer robotic training.
13 Imagine that? Your child building a bridge
14 robotically, electronically, because he
15 understands science. That is what Congresswoman
16 Velazquez is asking the--is asking DOE. We are
17 asking DOE and we are urging all the parents
18 here to call on DOE and urge a moratorium, a
19 moratorium on co-locations of any school in this
20 district.

21 We need to follow moratorium. We have a new
22 mayor coming in in January. We need to sit down
23 with that mayor and let them know that parent
24 participation, your input, the teacher's input,
25 a principal and educator's input is more

1 valuable than bureaucrats and any tweed
2 building, okay?

3 [Applause]

4 MS. CRUZ: That is what the Congresswoman is
5 asking. We need to have a better process of
6 evaluating the needs of co-location. We know
7 that that will take up more space in this
8 school, any school, any new school will reduce
9 or eliminate any successful programs we have
10 here. And I don't think our parents and our
11 children deserve that. Again, [Spanish].

12 [Applause]

13 MS. CRUZ: Okay, [Spanish]

14 [Applause]

15 MS. CRUZ: I see Councilwoman Diana Reyna,
16 another advocate here.

17 [Applause]

18 MS. CRUZ: What we are saying, [Spanish].
19 I'm going to make it short. Because let me say
20 this. You know, when we travel the district to
21 the CEC members as you know in DOE, when
22 Congresswoman Velazquez travels the district or
23 Councilwoman Diana Reyna, or me on behalf of the
24 member, when you walk into these classrooms you
25 see so much energy, so much potential. But you

1 also see that they are limited by their tools
2 and resources. This week we were out of school
3 a few blocks from here, PS 18, a wonderful
4 school, parents.

5 These children, the infrastructure in the
6 school is not up to par. These children don't
7 even have running water in their school. No
8 running water. My god. How can this happen?
9 We need to change that, and co-location doesn't
10 help that. Co-location does not invest in
11 infrastructure.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. CRUZ: We have to change that. And we
14 strive today. I have the report card. We do
15 read report cards in Congress. This is an A, an
16 A for 196, an A.

17 [Applause]

18 MS. CRUZ: And what we're saying is we need
19 to, we need to, we need to--are you listening
20 children? Do you want another school in your
21 building?

22 AUDIENCE: No.

23 MS. CRUZ: Do you need a science lab in your
24 building?

25 AUDIENCE: Yes.

1 MS. CRUZ: Do you need to learn more about
2 robots, robots and technology?

3 AUDIENCE: Yes.

4 MS. CRUZ: That's what we have to push. We
5 need that in this school. We need to co-locate
6 no one. We need to expand classrooms so that
7 children, we don't have to see 20 or 21 kids in
8 a classroom. We have to do like the charters
9 do. They put 13 kids in a classroom. Of course
10 they will succeed.

11 [Applause]

12 MS. CRUZ: We need to replicate that in
13 public schools. And that's what Congresswoman
14 Nydia Velazquez is saying. We are saying no to
15 co-location, let's call on a moratorium, let's
16 get our new mayor in office and let's work for
17 our kids, our future educators, our future
18 engineers. Thank you very much.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. CRUZ: I'm so sorry, 582 I know you're
21 in there. I get caught up on 196, I'm here all
22 the time. But listen, Ms. Winnicki, I don't
23 have to tell you this. Your schools in this
24 building are phenomenal, the parents, they
25 embrace the teachers, they work hard, they work

1 on career days, they have projects. They are
2 doing so much with so little, and for that we
3 say thank you.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. CRUZ: So DOE, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Walsh and
6 Ms. Colon are doing a phenomenal job. And I
7 know the parents are here. We are ready to go
8 October 30th to say no to this plan and keep up
9 the fight against co-location. Councilwoman
10 Diana Reyna is here. She is leading the charge.
11 I want to call her up. Councilwoman, it's your
12 stage. And we need to keep the fight. Say no
13 to co-location, [Spanish].

14 [Applause]

15 MS. DIANA REYNA: Buenos noches. Good
16 evening to everyone, to the CEC, the Department
17 of Education and to you, my parents of PS 196
18 and MS 582. This has been a long time coming.
19 This is your council member speaking, Diana
20 Reyna. I have stood on the forefronts for 12
21 years working hand in hand with the school
22 leadership team, led by both principals, making
23 sure that we stabilize this school, pleading
24 with the Department of Education, making sure
25 that we did everything right.

1 There is a history that's getting lost
2 here. It is a history of us as a community
3 calling upon the Department of Education with a
4 plan, a plan of action. To date, that plan has
5 been ignored.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. REYNA: When it's been ignored because
8 this community has been targeted. It has been
9 targeted as the cleansing community where
10 schools can be introduced, pushed on us without
11 our input. And it doesn't matter how much we
12 say we have a plan of action, it simply is
13 ignored. That has to change, and it can change
14 tonight.

15 [Applause]

16 MS. REYNA: Our pleading with the Department
17 of Education to stop this co-location, to
18 support our schools. I want to thank the
19 parents both PS 196 and 582.

20 [Applause]

21 MS. REYNA: This school building has a pre-K
22 to eighth grade model. We have lost 10,000
23 families in this district alone. Those families
24 may be in homeless shelters today and continue
25 to travel from the Bronx to this school, making

1 sure that their students are going to continue
2 to go to school. If they are committed, why is
3 the Department of Education not committed?

4 [Applause]

5 MS. REYNA: I want to thank the leadership
6 of Ms. Colon, Mr. Walsh, our district
7 superintendent Ms. Winniki, who just in less
8 than two years has been challenged to take on
9 this district under an emergency situation. We
10 lost a beloved superintendent who was just
11 starting. Unfortunately he was not able to
12 finish his tenure, but we were blessed to have
13 one of our own principals step up to the plate.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. REYNA: Who understands all of our
16 needs. That came as a petition to the
17 Department of Education qualified individual
18 from our district. Why can't we do the same for
19 our schools? It is important that we recognize
20 as a community, and we want to hear from you as
21 parents. And I don't want to take over more of
22 this time to speak to you, because you are the
23 converted. But I want to give you that sense of
24 strength. I stand with you by your side. I
25 have so for 12 years and I have seen the

1 changes.

2 And it begins with all of us, all of us
3 telling the Department of Education they cannot
4 make choices without us. Choices without us
5 equates to chaos and our children are suffering
6 for it.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. REYNA: Minutes ago, before this joint
9 hearing commenced, parents and community members
10 who are dissatisfied by the proposed co-location
11 of a third school, a third school in this
12 building is not the answer. Rally outside of
13 these walls, together we demand that the
14 Department of Education make community a
15 partner. We are begging to be heard when
16 deciding the academic future of our own kids.
17 We cannot afford the extra tutoring of Kuman
18 [phonetic], of Fast Track, and yet this is a
19 school which has built a partnership with those
20 private tutoring institutions to come in and
21 help your kids.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. REYNA: Not the Department of
24 Education, it's the leadership of this school.
25 That's the type of contracts resources we need

1 for our students. This school houses one of
2 the largest populations of self-contained
3 special education and special needs students in
4 the district. We had to stabilize the school.
5 We worked with the school leadership team to
6 bring more pre-K slots. Why? Because if you
7 don't have enough students here, you don't have
8 enough money. And if you don't have enough
9 money, you have no resources.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. REYNA: So we have to develop a plan
12 from the beginning when our children are small.
13 And we have to take into account that if we have
14 one pre-K, is your school going to grow? No,
15 no. You have to have not one, not two, but
16 three pre-K classes. Our voices were heard and
17 the Department of Education approved it just
18 last year. We just started to get heard. Yes,
19 we need a middle school, performing middle
20 school. We need to give them resources. We
21 have to work with our local schools to approve
22 them, not push them to the side and say it's
23 been written off.

24 That is what we're asking here today.
25 Adding a third school jeopardizes the quality

1 and facilitation of such services, by
2 modifying class size and compromising the
3 physical space in which these classes are a
4 part. The claim that the cause of this proposal
5 is once again underutilization is just another
6 tactic to justify the Department of Education's
7 exclusive maneuvering. We need a partner. Our
8 community cannot work alone if it's not heard
9 with a partner across the table. And that
10 partner is the Department of Education.

11 You cannot explain performance and claim
12 that you're a willing partner when you're
13 forcing things in our community. And so this
14 fight continues. Our co-location issue gets
15 worse. And where do our children get pushed to
16 is the question that no one has answered. And I
17 can tell you our children leave with their
18 families because they cannot find any housing.
19 Housing is a direct correlation to this
20 equation.

21 And I can tell you we have hundreds of
22 families being replaced by single individuals in
23 our community. Those single individuals are
24 making Williamsburg [phonetic] their home.
25 Where are their children going to go to school?

1 We have to plan for the future of this
2 district and I implore on the Department of
3 Education work with us as your partner. Make
4 sure that you support our CEC. We are asking
5 you to listen to our plea. We are asking you to
6 work with us. Help us improve our schools.
7 Help us expand our schools, not by throwing
8 three and four schools in one campus.

9 Look at what you've done with the School of
10 Legal Studies, the School of Progress, the
11 School of EBT. Those schools began as 600
12 student capacity. Today they are each at 1,100
13 students, overpopulating that building. We are
14 not planning for our future. We are dumping on
15 our future.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. REYNA: Thank you very much. God bless
18 you all.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. REYNA: And thank you for the parents
21 and schools leaders.

22 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. We are now going
23 to move to the public comment section. I did
24 want--we have over 95 speakers tonight, so I
25 want to let everybody know that we will be

1 keeping closely to the two minute time limit
2 to ensure that everybody has a chance to have
3 their voice heard. This gentleman right here,
4 can you raise your hand for everyone David, will
5 be keeping time. He will give you a flag when
6 you have 30 seconds remaining and again when
7 your time is up.

8 This gentleman here will be helping
9 reinforce the time again to ensure that we are
10 able to move through our speaker list. So I'm
11 going to call people in groups of ten. You will
12 line up next to the microphone in groups of ten
13 and then go back to your seat. So starting with
14 speakers who have the numbers one through ten,
15 can you please come forward and line up by the
16 mike?

17 [Pause]

18 MS. HASKINS: Also please bring your number
19 with you to the front of the room so you can
20 hand it in at the microphone. Thank you so
21 much.

22 [Pause]

23 MS. HASKINS: So again, speakers one through
24 ten, if you can come forward to the front. I
25 believe speaker one is Robert Borsten

1 [phonetic], speaker two, Roseanne. Speaker
2 three, Michael Burrow [phonetic], speaker four,
3 Kathy Breve [phonetic], speaker five Nancy
4 Chavez [phonetic], speaker six, Lena Dielgo
5 [phonetic], speaker seven, Glen Cober
6 [phonetic], speaker eight, Aracilia Cruz
7 [phonetic], speaker nine, Jolie Recarmen
8 [phonetic], speaker ten, Fatima Martelli
9 [phonetic]. So speaker one?

10 MR. ROBERT BORSTEN: Hello. Shush, before
11 you begin my two minutes, because this is not
12 commentary, parents and students it is important
13 that you stay and do not leave. Now is our time
14 to speak and listen to fellow community members.
15 So please, I know some of us are leaving. It's
16 a long day and evening. But please make an
17 effort to stay and speak and listen. Thank you.

18 The Department of Education, I want to
19 commend the Office of Portfolio. I think it's
20 an incredible thing that they've done here, in
21 my 26 years of teaching at this school I have
22 never seen such a unified community.

23 [Applause]

24 MR. BORSTEIN: They helped to unify this
25 community against an absurd proposal. Now our

1 voices will be heard tonight. I want to
2 present to the Department of Portfolio letters
3 from students, parents, teachers, business
4 leaders, the CEC, the community board and many
5 others. Let me make this presentation to you.

6 [Applause]

7 MR. BORSTEIN: Thank you. I would like to
8 ask this Office of Portfolio, how did you decide
9 to come into a building that has two excellent
10 schools, two schools that are quality schools
11 and decide that we're underutilized, as you put
12 it. Are you looking at quantity or quality? Do
13 you want three diminished schools or two quality
14 schools? We need to keep the schools that we
15 have, support them, enhance them, meet any
16 challenges they have and build on any successes
17 that they've had. That's the way you build an
18 education structure.

19 [Applause]

20 MR. BORSTEIN: Not coming in and dividing
21 two schools. MS 582 currently is under-
22 enrolled. Why aren't they making an effort to
23 get more students to them instead of creating an
24 unfit and unnecessary competition? So on behalf
25 of all of us in the community, we have to stay

1 together and let our voices be heard in this
2 forum and others. Of course, as Mr. Delvale
3 indicated before, the people who made this
4 decision don't really look at education. But we
5 have to tell them no co-loco. Thank you.

6 AUDIENCE: [Chanting] No co-loco, no co-
7 loco, no co-loco, no co-loco, no co-loco, no co-
8 loco.

9 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. Speaker number
10 two?

11 MS. ROSEANNE RANDAZO: My name is Ms.
12 Randazo [phonetic] and I am here to represent my
13 students, my children and say we need space.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. RANDAZO: We not only provide an
16 excellent education, but we provide experiences.
17 We need our block room, we need our computer
18 room, we need our science lab. Whose school is
19 this?

20 AUDIENCE: Our school.

21 MS. RANDAZO: Our school. Whose school?

22 AUDIENCE: Our school.

23 MS. RANDAZO: We are going to say it, hey we
24 need our space to give our children the best
25 possible that we can give. Whose school?

1 AUDIENCE: Our school.

2 [Applause]

3 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Speaker
4 number three?

5 MR. MICHAEL WANNUM: Thank you. Good
6 evening. My name is Mike Wannum [phonetic]. My
7 history with this district goes back 44 years.
8 I happen to know that you have plenty of space
9 in other parts of this district where you can
10 locate a school. There is a building on 70
11 Tomkins Avenue [phonetic] that is practically
12 empty. That's where I started my career.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. WANNUM: I wanted to congratulate Ms.
15 Colon and Mr. Walsh for working together and
16 doing such an excellent job for this school
17 community. You have an excellent school. The
18 one thing you learn in education is when
19 something works, don't mess with it.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. WANNUM: So this is working, so now
22 they're going to mess with it. It makes no
23 sense. Junior high school is a special age.
24 Sometimes they're adults, sometimes they're
25 babies, but they come in big bodies. When you

1 put another junior high school in this
2 building, it doesn't take a crystal ball to
3 figure out what's going to happen. Maybe School
4 Portfolio doesn't know, but anybody who taught
5 in a junior high school, you know what's going
6 to happen.

7 You'll see it at 3:00. You will see it in
8 the lunchrooms. You are going to hear it when
9 the boys go looking for their girlfriends and
10 somebody else is standing there. It goes with
11 the age. Why cause a problem when you don't
12 have one? Why make it worse?

13 [Applause]

14 MR. WANNUM: Your school is successful,
15 leave it the way it is.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Speaker
18 number four?

19 MS. KATHY PARENT: Good evening. My name is
20 Kathy Parent [phonetic]. I've been an educator
21 for 44 years, 35 of them in this district. I'm
22 here tonight on behalf of my sister, Maureen
23 Selecki [phonetic] who was a kindergarten
24 teacher here.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. PARENT: She cannot be here tonight to
2 express her opposition to imposing another
3 middle school in this building that she so
4 dearly loved. I am speaking on her behalf. She
5 would be opposed to it. PS 196 has innovative,
6 academically sound programs that have been
7 successful. Eliminating them would be
8 detrimental, taking away the rooms that are so
9 needed for the extra programs, totally unfair to
10 the children, to the parents, to the teachers.
11 It's merely another whim of a soon to be ex-
12 mayor who would impose his will on us and every
13 aspect of our life.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. PARENT: The children are our number one
16 priority. They need to be educationally happy
17 and please don't allow a co-location here.

18 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. HASKINS: Speaker number five? Thank
21 you.

22 MS. NANCY CHAVEZ: Good evening. I'm Nancy
23 Chavez and I've taught many of your children.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. CHAVEZ: I've taught every grade in this

1 building from sixth grade when we only went to
2 sixth grade down to pre-K. And every one of
3 those children deserves love and attention. And
4 if we have 35 children in a classroom they're
5 not getting it. I'm lucky. I work with special
6 needs children, so I get smaller classes. I
7 have to tell you, there isn't a child here,
8 special ed or general ed who doesn't benefit
9 from a classroom where there's at least one
10 adult who can give them quality time while
11 they're here in the building.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. CHAVEZ: We don't need more children.
14 We need the same amount with more adults who can
15 give them more time and more attention. You'll
16 learn best when you're loved and when you have
17 attention from every adult in your life, not
18 sometimes but all the time. Thank you.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. CHAVEZ: I'm sorry the mayor isn't here.
21 It's a shame his office has to be here for him.
22 I'm sorry the Chancellor isn't here. They
23 should be listening to this, not his
24 representatives. Because it's not your fault
25 that you work with them.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much.

3 [Applause]

4 MS. HASKINS: Speaker number six?

5 MS. LENA DELTO: Good evening ladies and
6 gentlemen. My name is Lena Delto [phonetic] and
7 I'm the school secretary for PS 196. This
8 evening I would like to address the people of
9 the Office of Portfolio. So you would like to
10 put a second school in our building. Did you
11 take into account the fact that we would all
12 have to share one auditorium, one cafeteria, one
13 library and one computer lab? PS 196 has
14 provided its students with many special after
15 school programs that have been both fun and
16 educational.

17 Many of these programs require the use of
18 various spaces. A third school would limit the
19 amount of programs we would be able to offer the
20 students. It was my understanding that
21 administration was supposed to focus on student
22 curriculum and education. The opening of a
23 third school would cause the administrators to
24 have to spend unnecessary time each day having
25 to coordinate schedules and school space so

1 there would be no conflicts between each
2 school.

3 This would be a total waste of valuable
4 time. So you say that our building has the
5 capacity to serve 1,016 students and that the
6 building is being under-utilized. This is not
7 about a math equation, folks. PS 196 is a
8 school that services regular ed students as well
9 as students with special needs. We provide such
10 services as occupational therapy, physical
11 therapy, speech, hearing, counseling and ESL.
12 Doesn't that mean anything to you guys? All of
13 these services require separate spaces where
14 students can be taught one on one and in small
15 group sessions.

16 Did you take into account the safety risks
17 of our students when three schools are trying to
18 evacuate during a fire drill? And we're
19 supposed to evacuate in three to five minutes.
20 Talk about total chaos. That's our kid's lives
21 in jeopardy. If you take into account all that
22 we have--that I've mentioned here, you would see
23 that this would be detrimental to both PS 196
24 and MS 582. Don't destroy what we have worked
25 so diligently to establish.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Speaker
3 number seven?

4 MR. GLEN COBER: Good evening, everyone. My
5 name is Glen Cober. I am a parent. I have
6 three children going to this school.

7 [Applause]

8 MR. COBER: One in 196 and two in 582. I
9 just want to let everyone know that from the
10 time that I've been coming to this school and my
11 boys it's been around nine years now. And every
12 year that I've been coming, I feel that my
13 children are getting well educated. And also
14 every beginning of the school year, I feel that
15 I'm making one step forward, and my boys one
16 step forward towards their education. However,
17 if they bring another school here, I believe
18 that we are going to be going two steps
19 backward.

20 Do not let another school occupy this
21 building, please Mr. Bloomberg and Mr. Wolcott.

22 [Applause]

23 MR. COBER: No co-locate, no co-locate.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Speaker

1 number eight?

2 ARACILIA CRUZ: Hi. My name is Aracilia
3 Cruz. I'm against the co-location. The reason
4 why is because the capacity of the building is
5 just a number, however the service is what
6 counts. Our capacity to grown and learn is what
7 matters. We need to grow our minds and by doing
8 that this--by doing this we need a library. We
9 need our one on one face with our teacher, not
10 crowded classrooms. I ask individuals that
11 stand by the Chancellor and mayor in this co-
12 location decision, if I was your child, would
13 you want a building capacity to determine my
14 future of higher education? Please reconsider
15 your decision.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much. Speaker
18 number nine? Nine and ten are going together.
19 Speaker nine and ten.

20 MS. JOLIE RECARMEN AND MS. FATIMA MARTELLI:
21 Hi. I am a fifth grader. I'm in Ms. Booth's
22 [phonetic] and Mr. Zala's [phonetic] class. I
23 am in Ms. Watson's [phonetic] class. My name is
24 Fatima. My name is Jolie. This school is a
25 family school. We work well together and it

1 teaches us wonderful things and helps us
2 realize our dreams. Even though I am a
3 graduating senior, I want to make sure that all
4 students have a wonderful educational
5 experience. Please do not co-locate my school.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Can we
8 now have speakers 11 through 20 come to the
9 front of the room? If you have number 11
10 through 20, please come forward towards the
11 microphone. You can line up in any of these
12 seats right here. Thank you so much. Speaker
13 11 is starting with Wendy, I believe it's Gomez
14 [phonetic].

15 [Pause]

16 MS. HASKINS: Do you want to, you can use--
17 will that go down that far? Speaker 11, please
18 come forward. Thank you so much.

19 MS. WENDY GOMEZ: Hi. My name is Wendy
20 Gomez. This is my son Gabrielle. He is a
21 student here at PS 196 in the fifth grade. He
22 is a special education child in the ICT classes
23 that they have here in the school. The first
24 thing I want you to know about my son is we
25 don't live here in this district, but because of

1 the wonderful principal Ms. Janine Colon, I've
2 been able to keep him here since he attended the
3 pre-K superstar program, where he phased out of
4 CPSC and CSE.

5 I went to Ms. Colon and expressed my
6 concerns and explained to her why I want to keep
7 him here, because I needed to get permission
8 from her because I didn't live in this district.
9 I explained to her why I was very satisfied with
10 the way the school ran. She told me not to
11 worry because when--she didn't want my son to
12 leave, because he is one of the most lovable
13 kids she has ever met, always wants to give her
14 a hug hello every morning and she would miss
15 that. Now that my son is graduating, he wants
16 to stay in the school and move upstairs to the
17 upper academy, MS 582.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. GOMEZ: Which will be my first point
20 when I get my application, because I have the
21 actual district 14 and district 32 middle school
22 where I live. Oh crap, hold on.

23 [Laughter]

24 MS. GOMEZ: I just lost my--I just lost my
25 speech. Hold on. Oh no, no, no, no, hold on,

1 hold on, I just lost my speech. Hold on, I
2 have another place where it's written. Sorry,
3 sorry, sorry. Now okay, he has become familiar
4 with the staff of both MS 196 and he's already--
5 and it's in my best interest to keep him here
6 because something you need to know about him,
7 he's ADHD. He has PBD and he has Apraxia
8 [phonetic]. If he has--if he doesn't go to MS
9 582 next year, where is he going to have his
10 speech therapy that he receives, his
11 occupational therapy that he receives?

12 [Applause]

13 MS. GOMEZ: Okay, he has special needs. He
14 is a special needs child.

15 [Applause]

16 MS. GOMEZ: Where are you going to put these
17 kids if you put another school in this building?
18 They have needs, okay? They have needs.

19 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much.

20 [Applause]

21 MS. HASKINS: Speaker number 12. Moving on
22 to speaker number 13?

23 MR. JOHNATHON ROWE: Hi. I am Jonathon
24 Rowe. I am--

25 MS. HASKINS: [Interposing] Everybody please

1 quiet down so we can hear Jonathon speak.

2 MR. ROWE: I am Jonathon, a former fifth
3 grader who is determined to help stop the co-
4 location. I have a cousin in first grade named
5 Aidan. Aidan is a hard working, well behaved
6 student. And if this co-location happens, his
7 future will be ruined by this co-location. If
8 anything, our school should become a K to eight
9 school. Ms. Marlin [phonetic] and Ms. Detivere
10 [phonetic], how would you feel if you were
11 Aidan, losing your future little by little, due
12 to the overcrowded learning environment?

13 That's not good. You guys might want to do
14 the right thing and instead of making our
15 school's beauty turn into ugliness, we--you can
16 turn it into more beauty with--by leaving out
17 the co-location. Thank you. Thank you for your
18 time and patience.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. HASKINS: Thank you Jonathon. Speaker
21 number 14, Emily. Emily, make sure you talk
22 right into the microphone.

23 MS. EMILY GALARZA: Hi, my name is Emily
24 Galarza [phonetic]. Today is a special day
25 because it is my tenth birthday. My tenth

1 birthday wish is that you reverse this
2 proposal. We don't want another school because
3 that will take up too much space. Also with
4 another school there will be a lot of noise
5 going on and we won't be able to concentrate on
6 what the teacher is teaching us. Now I am
7 talking to the Office of Portfolio, Ms. Martin
8 [phonetic] and Mr. Jembion [phonetic]. There
9 are way too many students in one building.

10 In addition, I have a little brother Aidan
11 in this school and I want him to have a great
12 education like I have had since pre-K.
13 Similarly we already have an elementary and
14 middle school in this school in this school, so
15 what is the point of having another middle
16 school? Also a co-location--if a co-location
17 occurs, we can use the block room that was
18 dedicated to Marie Ann Solecki [phonetic].
19 Please don't add another school in this
20 building, sincerely Emily Galarza.

21 MS. HASKINS: Thank you Emily and have a
22 great day.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. HASKINS: Speaker number 15, Julie
25 Burnye [phonetic].

1 MS. JULIE BURNYE: Hi. I'm Ms. Burnye,
2 and as the students like to call me, I'm Ms. B.
3 That was my son Jonathon who has been here since
4 he was four years old in preschool with Ms.
5 Janice. He has had the best teachers in this
6 school throughout his years here. When I was
7 looking for a school for him, I was looking for
8 a place that was very friendly and home, and a
9 place that would love him and call him their
10 own. And throughout his years here he has
11 progressed a lot.

12 And I do thank the people here who have
13 taken up the time to take care of my son and
14 provide him with such a great education. Now
15 with the education also came things such as
16 singing and dancing and playing with Legos and
17 the block room and building things, things that
18 he learned in history and in science and was
19 able to walk into the science lab and work on,
20 or walk into the block room and create a scene
21 from a movie or a book that he's read. That's
22 going to be taken away from him.

23 Now who is in charge of this co-location?
24 People who have no idea how to work with
25 children, no idea.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. BURNYE: So here we are once again at
3 the mercy of Mayor Bloomberg who is about to be
4 out in a few days.

5 [Applause]

6 MS. BURNYE: And this man has no idea how to
7 stand before our children and get to know them.
8 He has no idea. So this is why it doesn't work,
9 because Mayor Bloomberg is used to dollar signs
10 and our children do not equal dollar signs for
11 him.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. BURNYE: So we need to do what we need
14 to do to save our school and tell Mayor
15 Bloomberg that this is our school.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. BURNEY: Our school.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much. Speaker
20 number 16, Ms. Sarah Strong [phonetic].

21 MS. SARAH STRONG: My name is Sarah Strong.
22 I've been a teacher at this school for eight
23 years. All I want to say is that this school is
24 filled with teachers who care about the
25 students. We put in our best. We have an

1 administration that already cares about our
2 students. We have parents that care about our
3 students. And we have students that care about
4 their own education. And we are an A school and
5 it's working the way it works. We shouldn't
6 mess with a good thing. Find another place to
7 put a school.

8 [Applause]

9 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. Speaker number 17,
10 Rachel Bailey [phonetic].

11 MS. RACHEL BAILEY: Good evening, everyone.
12 My name is Ms. Bailey. And I decided to speak
13 tonight.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. BAILEY: Because I represent the staff
16 here at MS 582. And we are the number one
17 staff, teaching staff, number one administration
18 staff and we care about our students. We love
19 our students and it's shown by the
20 representation here tonight. And we work very
21 hard every single day to implement all of the
22 changes that have been put upon us. And we
23 create an environment that says we want our kids
24 to work in excellence. And we're asking you do
25 not mess with something that's already working.

1 We work together well with PS 196 and we're
2 telling--we're saying to you that our kids here
3 at MS 582 and 196 deserve the best.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much. Speaker
6 number 18, Jerome Logan [phonetic].

7 MR. JEROME LOGAN: Good evening, everyone.
8 My name is Jerome Logan. I'm a special needs
9 teacher.

10 [Applause]

11 MR. LOGAN: And I heard the talk about the
12 Office of Portfolio. But this is what I didn't
13 hear. I didn't hear why you don't deserve a
14 science lab. I didn't hear why--you can't
15 become scientists? I didn't hear why you don't
16 deserve a library. Is--why is that? You're not
17 proficient readers? I didn't hear why you don't
18 deserve a computer room. Is that because you
19 can't become tech people as you go on? I don't
20 understand this. I've been in this building ten
21 years. I come here for one reason and one
22 reason only. I love the children at PS 196.

23 [Applause]

24 MR. LOGAN: And when I say that, I don't say
25 it frivolously or, you know, just off the top of

1 my head. I say it because I mean it and I
2 hope the children when they see me, they know I
3 mean it.

4 [Applause]

5 MR. LOGAN: You should determine what goes
6 on in your school. Ask them to put in writing
7 why you don't deserve a science lab. Ask them
8 to put in writing why you don't deserve a
9 library. Ask them to put in writing why you
10 don't deserve a computer lab. Just one more
11 thing I wanted to say to show how well our
12 children work. Look at how orderly they were
13 for this event.

14 [Applause]

15 MR. LOGAN: Fantastic, no problem. You
16 don't need security. They know what to do.
17 They know the right thing. They know how to
18 act. They know how to be respectful. Why?
19 Because they come here and they're taught to be
20 respectful. They're taught.

21 [Applause]

22 MS. HASKINS: Speaker number 19. Speaker
23 number 20.

24 MR. ROBERT SELECKI: I wasn't going to speak
25 tonight but when I came in a young boy gave me

1 the sign. Well, he gave it to my sister-in-
2 law. And Gabrielle Gomez [phonetic] was so
3 proud of the sign he made himself. It says
4 "Save our block room for Ms. Selecki." I'm
5 Robert Selecki.

6 [Applause]

7 MR. SELECKI: I'm here speaking on behalf of
8 my wife, as all of you know passed away last
9 year. She loved her school. She would never
10 want co-location here. She was very proud of
11 all the children here. She made friends here.
12 I made friends here. My problem is I look
13 around here. I see signs. Maybe Mr. Bloomberg
14 should be here. I see signs saying our students
15 count, our teachers count, our community counts,
16 our school counts. Let's give Mr. Bloomberg a
17 message. No co-location in this school.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Can we
20 now have speakers 21 through 30 come forward?
21 If you have numbers 21 through 30 please come
22 forward and file up to these seats here.
23 Starting with number 21, Tara Charles
24 [phonetic], you can stand right by the
25 microphone here.

1 [Background noise]

2 MS. HASKINS: Speaker number 21?

3 [Background noise]

4 MS. HASKINS: Can we have speaker number 21?

5 Everybody, if you could please quiet down so we
6 can hear Ms. Tara Charles.

7 [Background noise]

8 MS. HASKINS: Go ahead, Tara.

9 MS. TARA CHARLES: Hi. My name is Tara
10 Charles and I'm--

11 MS. HASKINS: [Interposing] Hold on one
12 second. Everybody, if you could please quiet
13 down so we can hear Ms. Charles' remarks? Go
14 ahead.

15 MS. CHARLES: My name is Tara Charles and
16 I'd like to read my speech about why there
17 shouldn't be another school at MS 582 at 196.
18 The school MS 582 is already crowded and for
19 another school to come in here would threaten
20 our chance of getting a quality education.
21 There might be over 1,000 kids in this building.
22 The space we have is not a lot. I don't want to
23 lose my computer lab, art room, and science lab.
24 I want to have more of those classes, not less.
25 To be honest, I Tara Charles, do not want to be

1 part of an overcrowded school because that
2 would decrease my time of learning. This school
3 will be chaotic only because of the
4 overcapacity. I also don't want to lose my
5 regiment and especially - - program due to a
6 lack of space. The lack of space just makes
7 everything harder for everyone to get around.
8 Please accept this letter as my plea and
9 reconsider placing another school in my
10 building. I love MS 592 just the way it is.
11 Sincerely, Tara Charles.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. HASKINS: Thank you Tara Charles.
14 Before we have speaker number 22 we're going to
15 have Mr. Anthony Zalat [phonetic] from the SLT
16 at PS 196.

17 [Applause]

18 [Background noise]

19 MR. ANTHONY ZALAT: Good evening everybody.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. ZALAT: I speak on behalf of a proud
22 teacher here at 196 where I spent the last eight
23 years of my life, the best years of my life. My
24 whole family has been involved in education. My
25 mother spent 42 years teaching in this district.

1 I am currently a fifth grade teacher here, UFT
2 chapter leader, the chairman of the SLT team.

3 I come to you today with opposition on the
4 DOE's proposal of a new middle school planned
5 for this building. We already have a middle
6 school in this building and do not need another
7 one. Another middle school is just going to
8 lead to increased competition for resources,
9 overcrowding the school. Our gym is going to be
10 taken away and cafeteria time. PS 196 is a
11 growing school. As you heard the politicians
12 mention before, we were given a brand new pre K
13 this year and in the hopes of every year to add
14 one additional class on each grade. But, with
15 the new middle school in this building, we will
16 not be able to do that. Our classes will be
17 stretched to capacity. We will not be able to
18 have the small class sizes that we need.

19 You, the Office of Portfolio Planning, claim
20 that our building is underutilized but your math
21 is wrong. You say each room can house up to 35
22 students but you fail to take in account that we
23 have a class size limit, a binding agreement
24 from the state and the United Federation of
25 Teachers. There are 18 students for pre K, 25

1 for kindergarten, 32 for grades one through
2 five, and 12 students for self-contained special
3 ed. There are many other schools in this
4 district that have more than enough room to
5 house another school.

6 The DOE claims that the community wants
7 another middle school. While this is true, they
8 never said they want it co-located here inside
9 of 196. Maybe you should have asked the
10 community and parent's input before you decide
11 on where to place the schools. It would seem
12 only logical if the parents and the community
13 want another school just ask them where they
14 want it. So I'm begging you to please
15 reconsider your proposal. Thank you.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. HASKINS: Next we have speaker number
18 22, Tina Torres [phonetic] and I believe - - .
19 This is Ms. O'Reilly-Torres.

20 MS. REILLY TORRES: My name is Reilly
21 Torres.

22 MS. HASKINS: Reilly Torres, sorry.

23 MS. REILLY TORRES: And we can't have
24 another school in this class. It might take
25 away our block room, our library, our gym time

1 and our lunch time. So we can't have another
2 school in this class, in PS 196.

3 [Applause]

4 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much. Tina
5 Torres, did you want to speak?

6 MS. TINA TORRES: Good evening everyone, Ms.
7 Colon, Ms. Casey, Mr. Walsh, teachers, students,
8 staff, and visitors. Reilly--my name is Tina
9 Torres and I am one of the many concerned
10 parents. I am very disappointed what we have to
11 face today, however I am very proud to be a part
12 of this community. It is disturbing that Mayor
13 Bloomberg has continued to draw us down. Today
14 that is not the case. My brothers and my
15 sisters, who is now 40-years-old--I'm sorry,
16 excuse me. My brother and my sister, who are
17 now 40-years-old, have attended PS 196 the 10X
18 school. My nephews, my son who graduated last
19 year, my son Corey who currently is attending,
20 and we will not allow for this to happen. We
21 will not allow for another school to put in
22 place to what can be vacant for art, music,
23 computers, dance, or many extra other curricular
24 activities. If the mayor's goal is to do
25 anything productive, what he needs to do is give

1 us the money to save our school and start--

2 [Applause]

3 MS. TORRES: I'm going to say that one more
4 time. If he wants to do anything productive, he
5 needs to give us the money to save our school.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. TORRES: Instead of building condos and
8 bike lanes, he should build that. He needs to
9 put our children first because they need and we
10 need them. They are our future and they need
11 these curricular activities to grow and flourish
12 as beautiful young people. Please, Mr.
13 Bloomberg, no co-local. No co-local.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. HASKINS: Next we have speaker number
16 24, Ms. Jessica Rosa [phonetic].

17 MS. Jessica ROSA: Thank you. Okay. Good
18 evening. My name is Jessica Rosa and I'm a
19 parent of a first grader here at PS 196. I am
20 extremely opposed to the addition of a school
21 here for September 2014. Stated in the
22 community section of the New York City
23 Department of Education co-location proposal, it
24 states that Department of Education supports
25 parent choice and strives to ensure that all

1 families have access to high quality schools
2 that meet their children's needs. Well, this
3 co-location will not support this statement. As
4 a parent, I am not being given the choice to
5 whether I want my first grader to attend with
6 not only one middle school but two. How will my
7 child's needs be met when the classrooms will be
8 taken away from her? Staten Island proposal for
9 co-location has been withdrawn, stated in an
10 article, after the decision was made due to the
11 drumbeat of the opposition to the plan from
12 students, parents, residents, and elected
13 officials.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. ROSA: Chancellor Walcott stated in the
16 article that "Listening to feedback from
17 families is important to me and my staff."
18 Well, we are here, parents, students, residents,
19 elected officials from a predominantly minority
20 school. Will our concerns and voices be heard
21 as well? One auditorium, three schools. One
22 cafeteria, three schools. One library, three
23 schools. One computer lab, three schools.
24 Where do the numbers add up here? Where does
25 the--where does the safety of the younger

1 children come into play of now having two
2 middle schools? It is unfair and ludicrous.
3 Every child deserves an equal and fair
4 opportunity to learn. It seems to me that the
5 Board of Education needs to practice what they
6 preach.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Speaker
9 number 25, Amanda Nunez [phonetic].

10 MS. AMANDA NUNEZ: What quality of education
11 are these children going to have if you guys are
12 trying to cram 35, 40 kids in one classroom when
13 it's like everybody knows that kids learn better
14 in smaller classes? How dare you disrespect us
15 like that? I have a child at MS 582 and I've
16 got to say she loves coming to school every day.
17 You bring in another junior high, she's going to
18 hate coming to school every day. Every kid here
19 is going to hate it. They're not going to like
20 it. They're going to get into issues with the
21 other kids. They need more. They need more.
22 More is better. You've got to do quality over
23 quantity. Stop worrying about the numbers.
24 Worry about how the kids feel. And you know
25 what? You know that none of these kids want

1 another school in here. Go by what they say.
2 They don't want to come here every day. Do what
3 they want.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. Our next speaker
6 is 26. Go ahead.

7 KIMBERLY: Hi, my name is Kimberly. I'm
8 here today because me and the PS 196 staff and
9 students community disagree with this co-
10 location. If we have another school in this
11 building, there would be less space than we
12 already have. Think about the future
13 generation. My little sister Kelsey is in
14 preschool. In two years she will be--she will
15 probably be coming to PS 196. I would want her
16 to have the same great experience that I had.
17 Remember that we already have another middle
18 school upstairs and barely have any room in this
19 school building. Imagine having another school.
20 It's actually unimaginable. If you--if you
21 think of it, there is nowhere to put an extra
22 school. We are learning the Common Core
23 standards to become college ready students.
24 Please help us continue using the process. Our
25 future depends on it.

1 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much.

2 [Applause]

3 MS. HASKINS: Next is speaker number 27,
4 Adolmira Felice [phonetic].

5 MS. ADOLMIRA FELICE: Hi. I am a fifth
6 grader at PS 196 and my name is Adolmira Felice.
7 I am very against the co-location. I am
8 outraged. If the co-location occurs, we will
9 not have a computer lab, a gym, or a block room
10 dedicated to Maureen Anne Selecki. Currently,
11 we are learning the Common Core standards to be
12 college ready. How are we supposed to be
13 college ready with overcrowded classes?

14 [Applause]

15 MS. FELICE: Our teachers will have less
16 one-on-one time to pull out small groups to help
17 us with things we need help on. I want you,
18 Office of Portfolio Planning, Ms. Meriman
19 [phonetic] and Ms. De Habanero [phonetic], to
20 think about the future of the younger students.
21 Overcrowded classrooms, no computer lab, no gym.
22 Think about the future third, fourth, and fifth
23 graders taking state tests. Next year's state
24 test will be on the computer and if computer lab
25 is cut the children will not know how to type

1 and - - .

2 [Applause]

3 MS. FELICE: PS 196 will never be the same
4 the way I love it, and I've been in the school
5 since I was in pre K. I mean think about the
6 kids in the other school. They will have to
7 adapt to a new school, new classes, new
8 teachers, new students. Everyone will suffer if
9 this co-location takes place. Please reconsider
10 your decision. Don't let Mayor Bloomberg and
11 the Office of Portfolio determine your future.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Number
14 28, Ariel Week [phonetic].

15 MS. ARIEL WEEK: Hi, my name is Ariel Week.
16 I am against the co-location. This is--these
17 are the reasons why. My teacher is teaching us
18 the Common Core standards and with another
19 school we will not be able to learn. We will
20 not be able to have what the ideal what she is
21 teaching us. My cousins Corey and Jeremiah are
22 in kindergarten and one is in second grade. I
23 would like them to have the same process I had--
24 I went through. I'm asking you now, Office of
25 the Portfolio Planning, Ms. Meriman and Ms. De

1 Habanero, put yourself in my shoes. You're
2 the fifth grader and I'm putting another school
3 in your school. How would you feel? I'm
4 counting on you, please. I've been in this
5 school for six years and I will not let this
6 happen to my school. Whose school is this? Our
7 school.

8 [Applause]

9 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Next we
10 have speaker number 29, Jocelyn Week [phonetic].
11 Okay. So speaker number 30, Danielle Rodriguez-
12 Valez [phonetic]. Go ahead. Make sure you
13 speak right into the microphone.

14 ALICIA: What?

15 MS. HASKINS: Make sure you speak right into
16 the microphone.

17 ALICIA: Hello. My name is Alicia. I am a
18 fellow student that attends PS 196. I'm here
19 today to say that I am very displeased to hear
20 that the chancellor wants to put another school
21 in PS 196. I hope he changes the decision.
22 This will affect the students in many ways. One
23 way this will affect the students is that the
24 students will have less time for their classes,
25 which means they will have less time for the

1 skills that they need to learn to survive and
2 be a productive adult in the long run.

3 [Applause]

4 ALICIA: My name is Alicia and I hope that
5 the chancellor doesn't shed our school to the
6 bones. And I would like to thank each and every
7 one of you for your support. Bye.

8 [Applause]

9 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much, Alicia.
10 So what speaker are we--is this speaker number
11 32? Shaylynn Romero [phonetic]? 31? Can you
12 say your name into the microphone for me?

13 MARIAM: Hi, my name is Mariam [phonetic].
14 I very much not like this co-location thing.
15 Obviously Bloomberg is being very serious.
16 There is no explanation to this and there is--
17 and this is a situation no one would want to go
18 through. I like to--I mean our school is just
19 fine the way it is, so why would he like to put
20 another school in there? They are going to ruin
21 our school. I don't want to be rude, but I hope
22 they chose a better mayor. I'd like to thank
23 all parents and teachers that are here today.
24 Ms. Colon and Ms. Hernazo [phonetic], thank you
25 for teaching me in this school.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much. So 32?
3 Okay. Can we call the next 13 speakers up? So
4 32 through 45, if you could please come forward
5 and make your way to these seats right here?
6 Starting with speaker number 32, Shaylynn
7 Romero. Again, if you have numbers 32 through
8 45.

9 [Background noise]

10 MS. HASKINS: Speaker number 32?

11 MS. SHAYLYNN ROMERO: Hi. I'm Shaylynn
12 Romero and I want to say last year I had a blast
13 and last year I really remember the talent show
14 and how fun it was. But, if they add another
15 middle school here, we won't have any fun
16 privileges like the--like the block room, which
17 is in memory of Ms. Selecki. And also we won't
18 have any more dances or any more fun at all
19 here. So it will be much more boring. So then
20 it will be very overcrowded. So many of us will
21 have to leave and I'm not sure if I can find a
22 better school than this one.

23 [Applause]

24 MR. ANJELES ROMERO (THROUGH INTERPRETER):

25 Good everyone. My name is Anjeles Romero

1 [phonetic]. On today's day, I know that as
2 parents we ask each other why is this going on
3 in my son's school. I also know that many of
4 the teachers present here tonight, they have the
5 same question. Why my students? But I do know
6 if this continues forward, to all the respect to
7 the school, if this happened with the
8 representation here present, I know she will ask
9 herself the same question. Why is this
10 happening in my son's school? Why bother with
11 harmony and the tranquility that we have with
12 the excellent job that the teachers are
13 performing in this school? Thanks a lot.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. HASKINS: Our next speaker is speaker
16 number 34. Do we have a speaker number 34?

17 MALE VOICE 1: Good evening folks. We've
18 done a great job winning this battle tonight but
19 it's just the first battle. We've let the DOE
20 know that we know how to take care of business
21 when they disrespect us. How dare they waste
22 our time telling us what we already knew when
23 they came in here, that they're going to co-
24 locate a school in here? That's absolute
25 nonsense. And now here we are going on 8:00 and

1 they should have gone last and we should have
2 gone first.

3 [Applause]

4 MALE VOICE 1: So the next battle is on
5 October the 30th. We're going to have to do
6 this all over again because last week those DOE
7 people passed all the co-locations and they're
8 planning on passing this one too because they
9 don't give a hoot about our kids, only the
10 dollars, like we've already been told. So we're
11 going to do this next week to Chancellor Walcott
12 who doesn't get it either like these folks from
13 the DOE don't get it. But we've got to be there
14 in numbers. A lot of people will be coming out.
15 We've got to do it all over again. Yes, the co-
16 location will get voted. Yes, but we've got
17 battle three then. Next we go to Tish James
18 [phonetic] and Bill Dimasio [phonetic].

19 [Applause]

20 MALE VOICE 1: This week me--I'm a deacon at
21 St. John's Church over on Martha Street
22 [phonetic] and a retired teacher from
23 Brownsville. So I've seen the system for a long
24 time, came to the community in 1960 when there
25 were no black and Latino teachers and

1 administrators.

2 MS. HASKINS: Sir, please be - - .

3 MALE VOICE 1: Ms. Wilson [phonetic], Tessa
4 Wilson and I hopefully will be seeing Tish
5 James' people this week to let them know about
6 this outrage that they're planning here.

7 MS. HASKINS: Sir, please begin to wrap up.

8 MALE VOICE 1: Yeah. And then we'll go to
9 Dimasio. And if he doesn't reverse this--but I
10 kind of think he will--we will take care of
11 business and do what we did in the '60s and shut
12 this system down.

13 MS. HASKINS: Thanks so much.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. HASKINS: Next can we have speaker
16 number 35, please, Melissa Nieves [phonetic]?
17 Do we have a speaker number 35? Okay. Then we
18 have a member of the SLT that would like to
19 speak. Ms. Booz [phonetic] from the SLT. Thank
20 you so much. No, you don't have to run. Don't
21 worry. It's okay. Thank you, Ms. Booz.

22 MS. SANDY BOOZ: Okay. Good evening. I'm
23 just going to speak from the heart. My name is
24 Sandy Booz. I'm a fifth grade teacher at PS
25 196. I just want to say that five years ago I

1 worked here for one year. I thought it was
2 the best place that I had ever been, and
3 unfortunately they didn't have space for me so I
4 had to go somewhere else. And for that year all
5 I did was say, "Please, when an opening opened
6 up again, please call me." Because this is the
7 best administration in New York City. This is
8 the best school community, and I love our kids.
9 They're my kids. I have my kids but these are
10 my kids too.

11 I do whatever I can for the school and for
12 the kids on my own time. I put a lot of effort
13 into it. Administration does so much that you
14 are all unaware of. New York City does not pay
15 for a lot of these programs that we offer. They
16 do it on their own and they find funding on
17 their own to give your kids the very best, our
18 kids. So remember we don't need something fixed
19 if it isn't broken. So whose school is it? Our
20 school. Whose kids are it? Our kids. Thank
21 you.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Our next
24 speaker is speaker number 36, Abraham Pena
25 [phonetic]. Do we have a number 36? Okay.

1 Speaker 37, Christie Nelson [phonetic]?

2 MS. CHRISTIE NELSON: Hi. My name is
3 Christie. I'm a member of the Brooklyn
4 community and I love the school. What I see
5 happening here are kids being used as pawns in a
6 political game, and this game stinks. These are
7 two A rated schools. They're already doing
8 great. If it ain't broke, why fix it? The
9 mayor, why would the mayor choose to harm two
10 schools that are already doing great, that are
11 already rated A on his own system? How does
12 this benefit the kids that he is supposed to be
13 serving?

14 Mayor Bloomberg says that he is all about
15 creating choice for parents and choice is a good
16 thing. We all know that. But not when the
17 choice is between three overcrowded schools with
18 limited resources. Overcrowded schools are bad
19 for the community. They're bad for the
20 teachers. And most importantly they're bad for
21 our students.

22 What was the--I want everybody to think back
23 to what their favorite things were about school.
24 Was it art class? Experiments in the science
25 lab? The library? All of these things are

1 going to be damaged or cut with this terrible
2 co-location. This decision makes no sense.
3 It's crazy. Vote against it. No co-loco.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Our next
6 speaker is speaker number 38, Augustus--
7 Augustine Junior [phonetic].

8 AUGUSTUS JUNIOR: Good evening everyone. My
9 name is Augustus and I'm a proud parent of my
10 baby girl Abigail and my little boy Juarde
11 Augustus [phonetic]. It's a sad day when our
12 city is compromising our safety and educational
13 environment for profit. I have lived in this
14 community for 26 years and even went to the
15 school in this community, and I've never seen
16 such irresponsible effort in putting multiple
17 schools in one building. The city is
18 implementing a more rigorous and challenging
19 coursework but we don't have the--they're trying
20 to take the rooms and the space from us. What
21 is it we're supposed to do in this situation?
22 We're trying to utilize the space and meet--and
23 meet these standards that you all implemented on
24 us. It doesn't take a genius to realize the
25 injustice our community schools and parents are

1 facing.

2 It is important for me to produce
3 productive, ambitious, and cultural students who
4 are our future. You know, we're trying to
5 provide a community where we're being productive
6 in our world, you know. And right now I feel
7 it's unfair, well, what's happening tonight and
8 what's happening in our future. I think, you
9 know, it's a beautiful thing when you see all
10 these kids come up and speak on their behalf.

11 You know, this is what they're trying to
12 take away from us and we have to stand together,
13 stand united as a community, as one, as parents
14 and kids and staff, to make sure that this does
15 not happen ever again in our community. I would
16 like to also say that this co-location got to
17 stop. This cannot happen again. This, we have
18 to stand together and stand united. No co-loco.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. Speaker number 39,
21 Adelo Guspín [phonetic].

22 MS. ADELO GUSPIN: Hello. I'm the proud
23 mother of Jabary, Abigail, and Jeremiah Guspín.
24 They both attend--well, Jabary attended 196 and
25 he graduated. My two younger kids attend here

1 and I'm happy to say that, you know, the
2 teachers, the principal, they've been a support
3 system throughout the years that I've been here.
4 And without them I couldn't have flourished as a
5 parent and teach my kids the way, you know, they
6 should go and be I guess, you know, a productive
7 citizen in the community and leaders. So no co-
8 loco.

9 [Applause]

10 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Speaker
11 number 40, Jamilli Vasquez [phonetic], Jamie Lee
12 [phonetic].

13 MS. JAMIE LEE: My name is Jamie Lee and I
14 am the proud mother of two very vibrant and
15 educated, energetic children. If you sit those
16 two in a classroom all day, they're going to
17 drive the teachers crazy. My son graduated last
18 year with the most excellent grammar school
19 education that I could ever ask for. I've moved
20 out of Brooklyn and back to Brooklyn and out of
21 Brooklyn and back to Brooklyn, and I will travel
22 an hour, an hour and a half, however long it
23 takes to bring my children to PS 196.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. LEE: I've seen Ms. Burnier [phonetic],

1 an awesome teacher, whom we still communicate
2 with and talk to and consult with on a daily
3 basis, struggle to educate her 20-plus children
4 in a small setting, to get these children to
5 want to come to school, to get them into
6 enrichment classes, to do extended day in the
7 morning for basketball, track. My son has won
8 medals for the school. There was a talent show
9 last year that without extra auditorium time and
10 gym time and after school won't be possible.
11 You have to be able to come to one of these
12 school's Christmas shows to see what
13 organization there is and what dedication there
14 is to these children. If there is another
15 school on top of the two that are here, you're
16 going to compromise my child's safety. I am a
17 single working parent. I want to go to work and
18 ensure that my children are safe here at Public
19 School 196, that I don't have--PS 196 and the
20 smaller kids are not the minority in the school,
21 that I don't have 13, 14, 15-year-olds--sorry.
22 Okay. So my time is up but the point is we
23 don't need another middle school here. PS 106
24 and MS 582 are great the way they are. Leave it.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much.

2 Speaker number 41, Natalia Rios [phonetic].

3 MS. NATALIA RIOS: Hey. I'm Natalia.

4 ISAIAH: And I'm Isaiah.

5 MS. RIOS: We believe that we need our own
6 space and there is already two schools.

7 ISAIAH: Why do we need three? Thank you.

8 [Applause]

9 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much. The next
10 speaker, number 42, Janet Anderson [phonetic].
11 Do we have a speaker number 42? 43, Louis
12 Anderson [phonetic]?

13 MR. LOUIS ANDERSON: Good evening. My name
14 is Louis Anderson. I am in fifth grade. I have
15 been in this school for seven years. During
16 this time, I have many--

17 MS. HASKINS: [Interposing] Hold on, please.
18 Can everybody please quiet down and be
19 respectful of Louis' time? Thank you.

20 MR. ANDERSON: During this time I have had
21 many wonderful memories such as first day of
22 school, Olympics - - , career day, - - shows,
23 among many others. My little brother is
24 presently in kindergarten. I want him to have
25 the same memories. If all of our space is taken

1 away, how can he have the same experiences?
2 Please reconsider this co-location. We the
3 students are absolutely against it.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. HASKINS: Thank you, Louis. Speaker
6 number 44, Leslie Felice [phonetic].

7 MS. LESLIE FELICE: Hi. I'm a fifth grader
8 in PS 196 and I have been here for seven years.
9 I'm against co-location because I had a fabulous
10 experience. I have a cousin here and I want him
11 to have the same experience like me. My
12 favorite experience was working with--

13 MS. HASKINS: [Interposing] Everybody please
14 be quiet so we can hear her speak.

15 MS. FELICE: Because we made a music video.
16 I love to sing and this program made me take
17 music very seriously. I know I might be a child
18 but I love this school and I don't want to fight
19 for space. Don't you think sharing one
20 cafeteria and one library and one school
21 building is hard? I love the school just the
22 way it is. Please do not co-locate this school.
23 I love this school just the way it is, so
24 reconsider putting another school in my school
25 building.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Speaker
3 number 45, Roxy Anthelis [phonetic]? Speaker
4 number 45, Roxy Anthelis.

5 MS. ROXY ANTHELIS: So hello everyone. I
6 just wanted to say that it just worries me sick
7 to think of another school just coming here.
8 Two is enough. Three is a crowd. And basically
9 it's going to just take away from the programs
10 that we have now. We need our students to keep
11 growing and for them to have extra time, if any,
12 not less time.

13 Basically, I have my daughter here and I've
14 been absolutely happy and at the same time sad
15 because my nephew still has a few years to go in
16 the school and I have one on the way. I would
17 love to send this baby here, not have to--not
18 have to worry about extra students. You know,
19 it could get a little crazy now as it is. Can
20 you imagine a third school? That's just, you
21 know, ridiculous. So, in all, I just pray and
22 wish that you guys reconsider and don't add that
23 extra school because we want our children to
24 really enjoy the most out of what PS 196 can
25 offer.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much.

3 MS. ANTHELIS: Thank you.

4 MS. HASKINS: Can we now have speakers 46
5 through 65 come forward? If you have number 46
6 through 65, please line up in these seats right
7 here. We're going to start with speaker number
8 46, Glastine Russell [phonetic]. Do we have a
9 number 46? 46? Great.

10 [Background noise]

11 MS. HASKINS: One second. Again, anyone
12 with numbers 45 through 65, if you could please
13 come forward. Okay. Ms. Russell? Make sure
14 you speak right into the microphone.

15 [Background noise]

16 MS. GLASTINE RUSSELL: Hi. My name is
17 Glastine Russell. I'm a fourth grade student
18 and I have been here for six years. I'm against
19 the co-location because I had so many fun years
20 here since when I was little--since I was
21 little. And now I don't want the younger--the
22 younger kids to suffer because they won't have
23 the same wonderful school.

24 We don't want another middle school here
25 because we already have one. It's above our

1 elementary school. I want to learn but it
2 will be too crowded. We have been here for ten
3 years. We do well together. We don't need
4 another--we don't--we don't need any more space
5 taken away. I don't want--I don't want this co-
6 location to happen to our school. Thank you.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much, Glastine.
9 Number 47, Ms. Michelle Russell [phonetic].

10 MS. MICHELLE RUSSELL: Okay, everybody.
11 Have you heard what our children say? Our
12 children say they don't want this co-location.
13 We as parents are saying we don't want this co-
14 location. On Saturday, in the Daily News, Mayor
15 Bloomberg said that we had a problem and there
16 was overcrowding. So why all of a sudden is it
17 okay to overcrowd this school? Does anybody
18 know?

19 We've also been told that we have the
20 opportunity to voice our opinion about what we
21 want. Nobody asked me. Did they ask you?

22 MULTIPLE VOICES: No.

23 MS. RUSSELL: No, nobody said a word to me.
24 So let me tell you what I don't want. I don't
25 want my child eating breakfast--eating lunch for

1 breakfast at 9:30 in the morning because
2 that's what's going to happen if we have three
3 schools. Somebody got to eat at 9:30 in the
4 morning. I don't want it to be mine.

5 Then what happens to the programs that we
6 have in this building? They're deleted because
7 now we can't share a library three ways. When
8 are they going to go? Once a month? Maybe once
9 every two months? And if we're--if we're not so
10 lucky maybe once every three months because you
11 can't put that many people in one space. It
12 doesn't work.

13 Also, education is supposed to be complete.
14 It's supposed to be well-rounded. It's not
15 supposed to be measured in footage. My child
16 should have more than a two-inch square box to
17 put her feet in when she comes in this building.
18 She should be able to walk from her classroom to
19 the lunchroom, have some space to eat, have some
20 space to stretch, have a computer to work on
21 more than maybe once or twice a month. This is
22 a school. We are about education. We are about
23 educating our children and the last time I
24 checked my child's education was important to
25 me. Is it important to you?

1 [Applause]

2 MS. RUSSELL: Well, guess what? We don't
3 want a co-location in here because then that
4 means that our child's education has just taken
5 a back seat. Thank you very much.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Our next
8 speaker is 48, Sergio Vega [phonetic]. Do we
9 have speaker 48? 49, Jose Louis Cruz
10 [phonetic]?

11 MR. JOSE LOUIS CRUZ (THROUGH INTERPRETER):
12 Good evening to everyone. My name is Jose Cruz.
13 My daughters are Catalina and Carmela Cruz.
14 It's clear, precise, and concrete, my daughter,
15 she's in second grade. And my daughter,
16 Catalina, she's in pre K. The first one has
17 graduated with good scores but now I'm kind of
18 worried what is going on in the school, a school
19 that is first, with good teachers, but I'm
20 worried due to the situation that is going on
21 and the voice of all these parents that are here
22 present tonight. And I will tell you briefly
23 I'm not in agreement. I'm not in agreement. My
24 daughter's education is going to go down. This
25 is my voice. I'm not in agreement with it. I'm

1 with you guys. I'm with you guys.

2 [Applause]

3 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Okay.
4 Speaker number 50, do we have a speaker number
5 50? Speaker number 51, Alalina Aponte
6 [phonetic]? What number? Speaker 51? Oh,
7 okay. So you can--you can go now. It's
8 switched on the thing.

9 MS. ALALINA APONTE: Good evening everyone.
10 Please do not slow down. It is very clear that
11 the children and families that are in
12 economically disadvantaged, their education gets
13 compromised. The mayor and the DOE have made
14 decisions from behind a desk. These decisions,
15 they don't think them through because it doesn't
16 affect them. It affects our kids and our kids'
17 future. Placing another middle school in this
18 building will hinder the quality of education
19 that our children are entitled to.

20 It's funny because, even as the Office of
21 Portfolio Planning is speaking, they call us by
22 numbers. A proposal from a corporate
23 perspective is about numbers. Mayor Bloomberg,
24 this community is letting you know that our
25 children are not numbers. They are our future.

1 If the mayor wants to look at the numbers, let
2 him charge the charter schools rent and give us
3 the money to provide our children, our leaders,
4 our teachers with additional resources, with
5 professional development, with enrichment
6 programs.

7 What happened to the mayor's flyers on
8 respect for all? We all have to give them out.
9 We have to speak to our children about
10 respecting one another and respecting each
11 other's voices. Mayor Bloomberg, you have 70
12 days. Bow out gracefully. Don't mess with our
13 kids because you know what they say, karma is
14 a...

15 [Applause]

16 MS. HASKINS: Speaker number 52, Anna
17 Rodriguez [phonetic]. 52, I get it.

18 MS. ANNA RODRIGUEZ: Hello. My name is Anna
19 Rodriguez and I'm a student here at 582.

20 MS. HASKINS: Anna, make sure you speak
21 right into the microphone.

22 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Hi. My name is Anna
23 Rodriguez and I am here a student at 582. I'm
24 love computers. Computers is fun time. If you
25 take that away, I want to transfer. I don't

1 want to be here with no computers and art. I
2 want to show my imagination and my creativity.
3 Where am I going to show that? In a piece of
4 math paper? No, I want art. I don't want this
5 co-location thing to happen. This is our school
6 and we need to show that this is our school,
7 that we need art. We need computers. We need
8 libraries. How you want us to get more vocab
9 without reading? Hello? We need library. Come
10 on.

11 [Applause]

12 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Speaker
13 number 55, Elizabeth Hernandez [phonetic]?

14 MS. ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ: Hi, my name is
15 Elizabeth Hernandez. I have a son that's in
16 kindergarten and I have god daughters that are
17 also first, third, and fourth grade. And this
18 is--this is something very ridiculous that's
19 happening. This is nonsense and I think what
20 Bloomberg is doing, it's--how can I say this?
21 There's no words to describe. They think just
22 by tossing a coin here that they could just take
23 the opportunity and creativity of our kids, and
24 I think it's wrong. So I think--so I say no co-
25 location.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. HASKINS: Thank you Anna--Elizabeth,
3 sorry. Speaker number 56, Angel Soriano
4 [phonetic]. Soriano [phonetic], excuse me. Mr.
5 Angel Soriano.

6 MR. ANGEL SORIANO: My name is Angel Soriano
7 and I've been at this school for eight years.
8 As my teachers know me, I'm very creative and I
9 like to do my homework the best I can. I agree
10 with all of you just as much as everybody here,
11 but I do not like to argue in a loud tone. I
12 myself just wrote a quiet poem describing my
13 school.

14 School, a place where we the kids can all
15 hang out and play. And now, poof, another
16 school that takes it all away. Whoever thought
17 of this school thought up a creation. Please
18 don't let this school take away our education.
19 I've been in this school from pre K to eighth
20 grade but I now I know the school that away my
21 dreams will fade. All of this, my education is
22 free. This is a great place. My friends, why
23 don't you agree?

24 [Applause]

25 MS. HASKINS: Thank you Angel. Number 57,

1 Israel Rivera [phonetic].

2 MR. ISRAEL RIVERA: I can't do this. I
3 can't do this.

4 MS. HASKINS: Start with your name into the
5 microphone.

6 MR. RIVERA: Okay.

7 MS. HASKINS: Speak loudly. You've got it.

8 MR. RIVERA: My name is Israel Rivera. I go
9 to 582. I'm a sixth grader. We don't want this
10 school, another school, because it will take
11 away--take away stuff such as afterschool,
12 dance, and art and other stuff. That's it.

13 MS. HASKINS: Thank you.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. HASKINS: Number 58, Nicolas Vijega
16 [phonetic]? Please feel free to correct me if
17 I'm saying your names wrong. Okay?

18 MR. NICOLAS VIJEGA: - - .

19 MS. HASKINS: Yeah, of course. What--can
20 you just make sure to both say your names into
21 the microphone for us?

22 MR. VIJEGA: My name is Nicolas Vijega.

23 AMBER: My name is Amber.

24 MR. VIJEGA: I think that we should not have
25 a new middle school. I'll give you three

1 reasons why. Reason one is we would be too
2 crowded. Reason two is we already got sixth,
3 seventh, and eighth graders, plus us elementary
4 school. Reason three is we would not have any
5 gym or clubs. Thank you.

6 AMBER: The reason we don't need to have
7 another school is because we all--we already
8 have PS 196 at MS 582. We are going to lose our
9 classrooms. The hallway is going to be crowded.
10 We will lose gym time, computers. We will also
11 lose our library. That's it.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. HASKINS: Thank you guys. There is a
14 lot of - - . So the next speaker is speaker
15 number 60, Evelyn Rivera [phonetic].

16 ORLANDO: My name is Orlando. I go MS 582.
17 The people from Office Portfolio need to take--
18 need to take their nose out of our school and
19 leave it alone. This is our home, our school,
20 our education. And if we need to keep fighting
21 for our school rights we will with our parent
22 support. Thank you.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much. Speaker
25 number 61, Glorimar Hernandez [phonetic]?

1 MR. GLORIMAR HERNANDEZ: Hello everyone.
2 My name is Glorimar Hernandez. I am a parent of
3 three, two, in which Louis Hernandez, he is in
4 PS 196. And my daughter, she is in MS 582. I'm
5 also a member of the PTA at 582, also an SLT
6 member of 582 as well. I--thank you. I would
7 just like to know who in the world is this
8 principal. Who in the world is this mysterious
9 new middle school that's coming into this
10 building? That's what I would like to know.
11 Now, the other thing that I would like to know
12 is that why would they put them in such a
13 predicament. Why would they put them, this new
14 school that's coming into this building, without
15 even thinking the effects that this may have in
16 our children or the impact that this may cause
17 in our children? Have they thought of this?
18 Has anyone thought of this? That's what I would
19 like to know. Now, I want you guys to know, I
20 want everyone to know, I want the people that
21 are here to know that there are two excellent
22 schools in this building, PS 196 and 582. Do
23 you agree?

24 [Applause]

25 MS. HERNANDEZ: I also want everyone here to

1 know that we do not need them. We do not
2 need another MS 582. We don't know--we don't
3 know what name, whatever what it is. We don't
4 need another MS school. Do you agree? Do you
5 agree? We don't need another one.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. HERNANDEZ: Do we need it? Do we need
8 it?

9 MULTIPLE VOICES: No.

10 MS. HERNANDEZ: No.

11 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much. Speaker--
12 was that speaker number 62? Speaker number 63?
13 62?

14 MS. EUNICE HERNANDEZ: Hi. My name is
15 Eunice Hernandez [phonetic] and I go to MS 582.
16 The reason why I wanted to speak was because
17 putting another middle school is going to take
18 away our gym, recess, art, and even education.
19 I wanted to give an example. So you see my
20 shirt, right? The logo is "Make what you
21 believe in happen." So I wanted to say that I'm
22 going to say that what I believe in I want to
23 happen. So do not take my school away from me.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. HASKINS: Thank you, Eunice. Speaker

1 number 63, Maria Brunson [phonetic]?

2 MS. MARIA BRUNSON: Okay. You cannot give
3 kids another obstacle--

4 MS. HASKINS: [Interposing] Come a little
5 bit--a little bit closer to the microphone.

6 MS. BRUNSON: Okay.

7 MS. HASKINS: Thank you.

8 MS. BRUNSON: You cannot give kids another
9 obstacle with already limited resources and
10 expect them to succeed. This decision does not
11 only affect the children today, it affects the
12 children today and any future kids that walk
13 into MS 582 or PS 196. It creates a pile up
14 effect which in the future makes it more
15 difficult for us to keep our community and our
16 families in the changing and this changing
17 neighborhood. This is a decision being made in
18 the name of money and greed, and it's not in the
19 best interest of our children. Thank you.

20 [Applause]

21 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Speaker
22 number 64, Roseanne Lewis [phonetic]? Speaker
23 number 65, Hilda Sepulveda [phonetic]? Okay.
24 Can we call the next speakers from 65 to 80,
25 please? If you have numbers 65 to 80, please

1 come forward and make your way into these
2 seats here. Starting with speaker number 66, do
3 we have speaker number 66 in here? 66?

4 [Background noise]

5 MS. HASKINS: I know it's getting really
6 late. Thank you everyone for continuing to pay
7 attention for all those of us that are still
8 here and have still been waiting to speak at
9 this late hour. Go for it.

10 EDUARDO: Hi. My name is...

11 [Background noise]

12 EDUARDO: Hi. My name is Eduardo. I am
13 six-years-old. I've been at 196, pre K. I am
14 now in first grade. Please save our school so I
15 can grow and learn from the same teachers my
16 older cousins have. Please hear our voices.
17 Thank you.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much. Do we have
20 a speaker number 67? A speaker number 68? 69?

21 MS. BERTANIKA VASA: Good evening everyone.
22 My name is Bertanika Vasa [phonetic] and I have
23 with me a letter from a private donor who
24 donated our PS 196 block room to the school.
25 And I would like to read the letter that they

1 sent to us.

2 "To whom it may concern, as a supporter of
3 PS 196, I oppose the decision to co-locate a
4 second middle school along with the current
5 middle school and elementary schools already
6 utilizing these premises located at District 14,
7 at 207 Bushwick Avenue. No one would deny any
8 child the best education possible, but since
9 another middle school is not needed in this
10 sector of this school district, more children
11 will be relocated further from their homes.
12 Additional students, limited space and resources
13 will result in some of the programs and
14 activities provided to the current students in
15 being limited or curtailed, thus diminishing
16 these students' education. What's best for the
17 students should be our first concern. As a
18 corporation Aeropostale designates a day of
19 giving several times a year so that we can work
20 together to help others in our communities.
21 We've gone to PS 196 on several occasions and
22 helped them with various projects that would
23 create an environment the students would be
24 proud of. We painted walls and murals, and
25 helped with the gymnasium and exercise weight

1 room, as well as in other areas. We even
2 rallied some of our vendors to assist us in
3 giving back and build a block room for PS 196."

4 Now, the DOE did not pay for these wonderful
5 vendors of Aeropostale to come in. PS 196 did
6 it on their own time. So all I have to leave
7 you with is 70 more days of Mayor Bloomberg.
8 That's it. Good night.

9 [Applause]

10 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Speaker
11 number 70? Speaker number 71?

12 MS. BARB LIEDER: Hi. My name is Barb
13 Lieder [phonetic] and I am the parent of two
14 children; one in kindergarten named Izari Perez
15 [phonetic], and the other fifth grade, Isaac
16 Perez. If this co-location happens, have you
17 thought about the children's feelings and their
18 health? This will be a health hazard to not
19 only our children but everyone in the building.
20 So listen to our children. Listen to their
21 feelings. Please listen to their feelings and
22 how they feel about this co-location. The
23 building - - is big enough. Three is a crowd.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much. Speaker

1 number 72? Speaker number 73? Speaker
2 number 74? Speaker number 75? Speaker 76? 77?
3 78? 79?

4 MS. LAURA CARONE: Hi. My name is Laura
5 Carone [phonetic]. I'm a teacher at PS 196 and
6 I just wanted to speak about overcrowding.
7 Overcrowding, which is what the proposed co-
8 location would cause in our school, puts those
9 involved in a situation where movement is
10 restricted, privacy secluded, and even hygiene
11 becomes an issue. The risks due to overcrowded-
12 -overcrowding include the spread of infectious
13 diseases, anxiety, frustration, and violence.
14 Is this conducive to learning? Would you put
15 your children in this situation? That's all I
16 have to say.

17 [Applause]

18 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Speaker
19 number 80? If we can now call forward speakers
20 81 through 95? Do we have a speaker number 81?
21 That's fine.

22 MS. MADELINE MEERS: Hi. My name is
23 Madeline Meers [phonetic] and I'm--

24 MS. HASKINS: [Interposing] Everybody please
25 be quiet so we can hear Madeline.

1 MS. MEERS: I'm a parent of three
2 beautiful children, two of which attend PS 196.
3 My youngest who is here, she is in pre K. And
4 my oldest, she is in second grade. Now, I know
5 that a lot of you have really busy schedules but
6 as a mom my schedule is even worse. I hardly
7 have time to do anything. With the help of PS
8 196, I don't have to worry about my child not
9 knowing how to do math, not knowing how to read.
10 They have these extracurricular activity
11 programs and specialized events that help
12 children.

13 My daughter who couldn't read in first
14 grade, she went to class early in the morning,
15 8:00, would get up before everybody in the
16 house, just so she can come so she can learn how
17 to read. And that was because she loved her
18 teachers. She loved that they gave her so much
19 attention and they helped her read the wonderful
20 books that would take her to a different place.
21 Now I can't stop. Now she's in the library all
22 day. Says all the time, "When can we go? When
23 we can we get a new book?" And I want that for
24 my youngest and I want that for my son who is
25 going to be coming into pre K next year.

1 I just want you guys to realize that this
2 is not just a school. This is a home. This is
3 a place. This is a safe environment for them to
4 be who they want to be. And I need you guys to
5 realize that this is going to hurt everyone, not
6 only them but it's going to hurt me as well.
7 It's going to hurt our students. It's going to
8 hurt our faculty. It's going to hurt our
9 community. And if you guys want to inflict
10 damage to someone, inflict it to yourselves.
11 Leave us alone. Leave us be the way that we
12 are. We need to thrive and help them thrive.
13 Thank you.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Speaker
16 number 82?

17 MR. ARLENE FELICE: Hi. My name is Arlene
18 Felice [phonetic] and this is my son Daniel.
19 He's in second grade. And I just wanted to say
20 that PS 196 is an excellent school. Please
21 don't fix what's not broken. This is the face
22 of the future and he has a lot of opportunity.
23 Do not take away the extracurricular activities
24 that help him. Do not suppress our children.
25 We have the opportunity and the right to

1 succeed. We need science. We need math. We
2 need all the extracurricular activities that
3 make our children grow and develop and be free.
4 He has the right to be successful in life and
5 early childhood education is where it all
6 begins. Do not limit our children. Please do
7 not suppress them.

8 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much.

9 [Applause]

10 MS. HASKINS: Speaker number 80--oh, do you
11 want to go ahead?

12 DANIEL: My name is Daniel - - . I'd like
13 to say that I don't think the other school could
14 not come in here because the second, first, and
15 kindergarten wants to experience clubs and all
16 the activities to make us learn and have fun.
17 And we can't take away library, music,
18 computers, or all the fun activities. So I
19 think the co-location has to stop.

20 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much.

21 [Applause]

22 MS. HASKINS: Speaker number 83?

23 MR. JOSE TORREZ: Good evening. My name is
24 Jose Torrez [phonetic]. I have three kids here
25 in the PS 196. I have a five-year-old, Ishmael.

1 I have an eight-year-old, Diana Torrez, and a
2 nine-year-old Isaiah Torrez. This school, we
3 have recently moved and we still bring our kids
4 here because we appreciate everything that the
5 school offers for them. And I believe that if
6 they can limit space and time--like my daughter,
7 she has--she takes yoga after school and she
8 gets home so happy and excited. "Look mom.
9 Look dad at what I did today." So I think they
10 need this time for--and space for all these
11 activities.

12 Also, now with these standardized tests
13 getting more difficult for them, I think they
14 need that little extra stuff that they could
15 get, like afterschool and art. And I just think
16 that they should--you guys should reconsider
17 maybe another location except besides here
18 because I think that our kids need all the space
19 they can get. Thank you.

20 [Applause]

21 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Speaker
22 number 84?

23 MS. DEMPSEY: Good evening. I am Ms.
24 Dempsey [phonetic], second grade teacher at PS
25 196.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. DEMPSEY: Let me just say I've had the
3 honor to teach at PS 196 for almost four years.
4 We have developed into a high quality elementary
5 school with an outstanding grade of A, and this
6 was earned by setting very high standards one
7 year at a time. We raised our test scores
8 because of quality teaching, engaged students,
9 and of course caring parents, and room to have
10 small, targeted groups of students work with ETS
11 and SETSS teachers. Don't remove our space.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. DEMPSEY: We need these classrooms to
14 maintain our going above and beyond school wide
15 expectations. Study after study shows students
16 engaged in the arts, show high performance
17 levels. Our students perform in two fabulously
18 produced shows every year. This would be
19 compromised if we had to share auditorium space
20 with two other schools. Don't take this away
21 from our students because of overcrowding. Many
22 of our students lack access to laptops at home
23 and they have to share auditorium--excuse me,
24 and minimal time to make a trip to the library
25 with their hardworking parents, who often have

1 two jobs to make ends meet. Don't take away
2 our time using school library for valuable
3 research and at this day and age much needed
4 technology skills. We should not have to share
5 library time with not one but two middle
6 schools. This would be unfair and detrimental
7 to our younger students.

8 Again, study after study shows how the early
9 years of a child's education impacts their
10 future to become the best they can be. Let's
11 not be hypocritical and act as if the powers
12 that be care about our future leaders of PS 196.

13 To quote a letter from two of my students,
14 Mia and Natalia, "I don't want another school at
15 our school. We will not have cooking club,
16 student government, or chess club." And I'd
17 like to quote Ms. Janice [phonetic]. "I'm
18 sending out an SOS, save our schools." Save our
19 schools.

20 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Our next
21 speaker, speaker number 85?

22 MALE VOICE 2: Speak up. Say what you got
23 to say. Don't let the--

24 MS. HASKINS: [Interposing] Do we have a
25 speaker number 86? A speaker number 87? A

1 speaker number 88? 89? 90? 91?

2 MS. TOBARIS: 90.

3 MS. HASKINS: 90, excuse me.

4 MS. TOBARIS: Hi. I'm Ms. Tobaris
5 [phonetic]. I teach kindergarten.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. TOBARIS: One of our parents was here
8 but she wanted to say something and she had to
9 leave because she has a child at home who needed
10 special care. She wanted to say that she's
11 concerned with the school already being crowded.
12 And she moved her son. Darius was in our class
13 so that she could participate more in his
14 education. Overcrowding will be dangerous and
15 overwhelming for the younger children if a new
16 school comes into our building. Please save our
17 space.

18 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. HASKINS: Do we have a speaker number
21 91? Speaker number 92?

22 MALE VOICE 3: They're just getting ready to
23 tell us the time is up already. People, we need
24 to get out of here. We need to tell these
25 people we don't want the school here. Why?

1 We've got overcrowded. We're going to sit
2 here and eat lunch at, I don't know, 6:00 at
3 night for dinner time. What are you kidding me?
4 These people got to come here. These kids got
5 to have room to breathe. If they don't have
6 room to breathe they're not going to learn
7 nothing because if you can't breathe you can't
8 learn. I'm sorry.

9 Take away the gym. Where are these kids
10 going to get any education? You can't go in the
11 middle of the street anymore and play
12 basketball. Are you kidding me? The only place
13 is in the gym. That's the only place that's
14 safe. They ain't got out in the school yards
15 police in there. We got 80 cops down here with
16 us right now, nobody in the school yards. The
17 kids can't go out there and play. They've got
18 to come here. They've got to learn and play
19 here.

20 I coach half these kids. Half these kids in
21 here are on my baseball team. I coach them.
22 It's either football, baseball, boy scouts. I
23 see these kids in the community. The only
24 reason why they come to these programs is
25 because there ain't nothing on the street for

1 them to be out there. There's nothing free
2 like when we were growing up, nothing free. Now
3 that you come here to get an education, oh,
4 we'll just send them along. Another ticket on a
5 number to punch. Let's go, another ticket on a
6 number to punch. It doesn't work like that.
7 You put 50 kids in a classroom, no one is going
8 to learn. That's all I got to say.

9 [Applause]

10 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much. Speaker
11 number 93? Do we have a 93? 94?

12 JENNY: Good evening. My name is Jenny and
13 I have a son in the fifth grade. When I was
14 looking for a school, my nephew was in this
15 school. His name was Heldell Santos [phonetic].
16 And I choose this school because I saw--he was
17 in special ed and I saw the dedication of his
18 teachers with him and I used to help him with
19 his homework because he had a lot of trouble.
20 And his teachers used to always tell me how
21 amazing and far along he was coming. And, when
22 I put my son in the school, his kindergarten
23 teacher was the Ms. Olecki [phonetic], and she
24 did a great job with my son as well as all the
25 other teachers that have worked with him ever

1 since.

2 So now all these programs that the kids
3 have, they have it because the school has had
4 the determination to get them these programs.
5 They have asked us to help to sign petitions to
6 work with the congress people that come here and
7 help us build these programs for them. And now
8 with another school--I understand there's other
9 children that need middle school and I'm all for
10 it, but we already have a great middle school
11 here. We have a great elementary. We have
12 great faculty here. They need the space that
13 they already have to be able to provide for our
14 children. And they've done a great job since my
15 son has been here and even before then.

16 You heard earlier today in the '90s this
17 school was not a very good school. We are at an
18 A standard. Why change that? So, like
19 everybody has said, why fix something that is
20 not broken? We don't need another school.

21 Thank you.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. HASKINS: Thank you for your comments.
24 That concludes our speaker list but I want to
25 turn the mike over to one member of the SLT. If

1 you would please introduce yourself?

2 MS. JENNIFER JANICE: Hi, good evening. My
3 name is Jennifer Janice and I'm a member of the
4 SLT for a few years now. I was also the
5 chairman for two years. I've been teaching for
6 15 years in this school and we've been co-
7 located for 10. I'm a little confused because
8 you're saying at the same time that 582 is
9 underutilized but also that you need to put a
10 middle school right here. If you have the kids
11 right here to go to middle school, send them to
12 582. I'm sure Mr. Walsh and his staff will be
13 more than happy to welcome them.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. JANICE: If we need a middle school in
16 the District, which it's clear from a lot of the
17 members of the CEC that we do, put it in the
18 area that the parents are asking for it.
19 They're not going to send the kids to this
20 location. If they were going to, they'd be in
21 582 already. 582 has the seats, right? So, if
22 they were going to bring them here, they'd
23 already be here.

24 Also, I know your office talks a lot about
25 how successful co-locations are. And we've been

1 very lucky. We've been very successful with
2 our co-location, but one of the problems is I
3 just heard the other day at a rally there's only
4 a 12% graduate rate for Hispanic and black
5 students, 12%. I can't--I don't have words for
6 that. It should be the other half of that. It
7 should be 88% graduation rate. So if co-
8 locations were so great and they were so
9 successful, why are the kids not graduating high
10 school? Thank you.

11 [Applause]

12 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. So that concludes
13 the public comment portion of the night. We've
14 heard many significant comments tonight and I--
15 we appreciate your feedback and contributions to
16 this hearing. There were 95 speakers tonight
17 and for all of you that have stayed, especially
18 for the students that we heard spoke, I really
19 appreciate it. We're all here, recording and
20 listening to your comments.

21 And I do want to assure you that every
22 letter that's on the table and every comment
23 that was issued tonight will be recorded and
24 will be addressed in the public comment section
25 of the report which will be posted online. I'll

1 talk about that in a second.

2 So all of the information, as I said, will
3 be shared with the Panel on Educational Policy,
4 which will have its meeting on October 30th,
5 2013, at 6:00 p.m., at 883 Classon Avenue,
6 Brooklyn, New York, 1125. Again, that's October
7 30th at 6:00 p.m. and it's going to be held at
8 883 Classon Avenue.

9 As I said earlier, I just want to correct
10 the statement about the email and the phone--in
11 terms of the phone line where you can submit
12 comments. That number is 212-374-0208. Again,
13 that's 212-374-0208. In terms of email, please
14 send your emails to
15 d14proposals@schools.nyc.gov. That is the
16 correct address, not opm@schools.nyc.gov. So
17 please direct all of your emails to
18 d14proposals. Thank you again for coming
19 everybody. This public hearing is official
20 adjourned.

21 [END RECORDING]

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

5
6 Signature:

Brandi Dean

7 Date: October 24, 2013
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25