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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF  
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**  
**Opening and Colocation of ES @ Q040**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 DR. BEVERLY FFOLKS-BRYANT: Good evening.  
3 This is a--I'll wait. This is a joint public  
4 hearing of Department of Education Community  
5 Education Council and the School Leadership Team  
6 for the proposed opening and colocation of a new  
7 district elementary school 20Q312 with existing  
8 schools PS40, Samuel Huntington, 28Q040  
9 beginning in the 2014/2015 school year.

10 I am District 28 superintendent Beverly  
11 Ffolks-Bryant. We have asked the District 28  
12 community education council and the school  
13 leadership team from PS40 to participate in this  
14 joint public hearing. I am joined tonight by  
15 Nicole Martinez, Gloria Goring [phonetic],  
16 Keisha Thomas Ellis, Kelly Harris, Rosalie  
17 Munez, Ronald Williams, and - - from the SLT,  
18 and Mrs. Deborah Dillingham from the CEC as well  
19 as community members, parents and friends.

20 This hearing is being recorded. The purpose  
21 of this hearing is for you to provide comments  
22 about the proposal. Before I describe the  
23 proposal, I want to make sure you are all aware  
24 of the opportunity to provide your input. All  
25 those who wish to speak must sign up in the

1 speaker sign up area located just outside the  
2 auditorium. The sign up list will close in 15  
3 minutes. In 15 minutes only. Speakers will be  
4 given the floor in - - time. All comments are  
5 limited to two minutes.

6 There may be elected officials who arrive at  
7 different times throughout the evening. If they  
8 wish to speak, we will do our best to  
9 accommodate them at the first opportune moment.  
10 Those who are here at the start of the public  
11 comment segment will be asked to speak first.

12 All comments will be mentioned in the  
13 analysis of public comment to be published and  
14 provided to the Panel for Educational Policy the  
15 evening before the panel votes. That vote is  
16 scheduled for October 30, 2013. In addition, we  
17 welcome any comments and feedback you may have  
18 at any time before the panel votes at this  
19 proposal.

20 The email address and phone number where  
21 comments may be made are  
22 D28proposal@schools.nyc.gov, and (212) 374-7621.  
23 Again, email address is  
24 D28proposal@schools.nyc.gov, and the phone  
25 number is (212) 374-7621.

1           The proposal summary. The New York City  
2 Department of Education is proposing to colocate  
3 a new district elementary school 28Q312 that  
4 would serve students in grades kindergarten  
5 through five in building Q040 located at 109-20  
6 Union Hall Street, Queens, New York, 11433 in  
7 New York School District 28 beginning in the  
8 2014/2015 school year. 28Q312 will be colocated  
9 in Q040 with PS40, Samuel Huntington and  
10 District Elementary School for students in  
11 grade kindergarten through five, which also  
12 offers a pre-kindergarten program. A colocation  
13 means that two or more school organizations are  
14 located in the same building, and they share  
15 common spaces like auditoriums, gymnasiums and  
16 cafeterias.

17           PS40 is a zone elementary school that serves  
18 approximately 540 students in kindergarten  
19 through grade five, and the prekindergarten  
20 program in building Q040 during the 2013/2014  
21 school year. A student's zoned school is  
22 determined by his or her home address.

23           28Q312 is a new elementary school that if  
24 this proposal is approved, will open in  
25 September 2014 in building Q040, where it will

1 be colocated with PS40. 28Q312 will be a zoned  
2 elementary school that would give priority to  
3 students residing in the Q040 zone, and will  
4 grow to serve students in kindergarten through  
5 fifth grade. 28Q312 and PS40 will share a zone,  
6 and - - students in that shared residential zone  
7 will have admissions priority to go to a school  
8 in the zone, in accordance to Chancellor's  
9 regulation A101.

10 In 2014/2015 society, 28Q312 will enroll  
11 approximately 45 to 55 students in kindergarten.  
12 In 2019/2020, 28Q312 will complete its phase in,  
13 reaching full scale and serving approximately  
14 270 to 300 students in grades kindergarten  
15 through five. Once 28Q312 reaches full scale in  
16 2019/2020, the Q040 building will serve  
17 approximately 706 to 906 students, yielding an  
18 estimated building utilization rate of 89-102%.  
19 Thank you.

20 Our next presenter will be Mrs. Deborah  
21 Dillingham of the CEC. Mrs. Dillingham is also  
22 the president of the District 28 CEC.

23 MS. DEBORAH DILLINGHAM: Thank you Dr.  
24 Bryant and to the DOE for hosting this. I am  
25 here representing District 28's Community

1 Education Council. I am here to tell you that  
2 District 28 CEC opposes the proposed colocation.  
3 Our CEC has met condition 005 unanimously on  
4 October 3, 2013 in opposition to the colocation.  
5 I am extracting some of that resolution here  
6 tonight.

7       There has been almost no public involvement  
8 in the DOE decision. - - there was no request  
9 from the school community for additional  
10 elementary seats other than for pre-K, and  
11 whereas the CEC requested that the DOE postpone  
12 any further discussions until the progress  
13 report on PS40 was available to the public. And  
14 whereas a majority of students from PS40 would  
15 not be able to attend the proposed 28Q312  
16 school. And whereas there is no clear  
17 educational direction as to the purpose of the  
18 new proposed elementary school 28Q312. And  
19 whereas multiple schools sharing a building  
20 makes necessary coordination and scheduling of  
21 shared space, for example cafeteria, gymnasium,  
22 auditorium - - and starting and ending times for  
23 school days challenging. Whereas future  
24 enrollment for PS40 may be impacted, given that  
25 28Q312 will share the 28Q040 zone, and the two

1 schools together will utilize all the excess  
2 space in 28Q040. And whereas utilization of  
3 rooms for extracurricular activities and  
4 partnerships will be affected by displacing or  
5 sharing space. And whereas projected  
6 utilization for the colocation of 28Q312 with  
7 28Q040 will exceed 100%. And whereas small  
8 schools are not proven to perform significantly  
9 better. And whereas the Office of New Schools  
10 is under the - - CEC until after the PEP voted  
11 on October 30, 2012. Therefore be it resolved  
12 that the Community Education Council, District  
13 28, opposes the proposed opening and colocation  
14 of new district elementary school in building  
15 Q040 beginning in 2014. And be it further  
16 resolved that Community Education Council  
17 District 28 hereby calls upon New York City  
18 Department of Education, the Panel on  
19 Educational Policy, the Chancellor of the New  
20 York City Schools to reject any request to  
21 colocate a new district elementary school within  
22 PS40. Thank you.

23 [Applause]

24 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Our next presenter will  
25 be Alison Branker from the SLT.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. ALISON BRANKER: Good evening fellow  
3 staff, families, politicians, faculty and  
4 scholars. Thank you for coming out this  
5 evening. PS40 vehemently opposes the colocation  
6 proposed for the 2014/2015 society. We have  
7 already experienced a colocation in the past,  
8 and we already know it's a lose-lose situation  
9 for both schools involved. Thank you.

10 [Applause]

11 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Next will be Ronald  
12 Williams from the SLT. Nicole Martinez from the  
13 SLT.

14 MS. NICOLE MARTINEZ: I just have to say  
15 that we are in opposition of this. It's going  
16 to raise a lot of different issues, a lot of the  
17 issues that we have to share common spaces,  
18 including the bathrooms. That's going to raise  
19 a sanitary situation because they didn't say  
20 they were going to bring in new janitors or  
21 their own custodial staff. We have already our  
22 own custodial staff, and therefore the  
23 cleanliness is going to be an issue. So that's  
24 what I have to say.

25 [Applause]

1 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Rose Quinones from the  
2 SLT?

3 MS. ROSE QUINONES: Good evening, everyone,  
4 parents, scholars, members of the community and  
5 representatives of the educational policy. My  
6 name is Rose Quinones. I am here to represent  
7 the teachers at PS40. I'm a - - teacher at PS40  
8 and a member of the school leadership team. I'd  
9 like to share this quote with you. It was  
10 mentioned in Congress this year by Dr. Seuss,  
11 All the Places You'll Go. Part of the book  
12 reads like this.

13 All the places you'll go. You'll be on your  
14 way up, you'll be seeing great sights, you'll  
15 join the high fliers who soar in high heights.  
16 You won't be left behind because you'll have - -  
17 you'll have the whole day, and you'll soon take  
18 the lead. Whenever you fly, you'll be the best  
19 of the best. Wherever you go, you will top the  
20 rest.

21 That's just one part of the book, a book  
22 that we read always to our children, our  
23 students, and they grow up hearing those words.  
24 They can go wherever they want to go. They can  
25 be whoever they want to be. The message about

1 colocation is not - - that to our children.  
2 We tell them to be college and career ready. By  
3 placing a new school in our building and  
4 overcrowding our spaces. We are holding them  
5 back from going wherever they want to go. We  
6 are taking away space from the gym, from the  
7 library, from the cafeteria. We are taking  
8 resources away from them that will help them  
9 form the foundation that they need to go to all  
10 those places they can go. A colocation is not  
11 an option. A colocation is holding our students  
12 back, and they will not be able to go to all the  
13 places they could go. Thank you.

14 [Applause]

15 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Mr. Nathaniel Hezekiah,  
16 III from - - . Oh, Mr. Reuben Wills. - -  
17 Councilman.

18 MR. LEROY CAMRIE: Good evening, everyone.  
19 I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome.  
20 I want to say this, let you know that this is a  
21 horrible plan. This shouldn't have happened,  
22 and--

23 [Applause]

24 MR. CAMRIE: I want to - - all of you for  
25 being here. I want to encourage you to write

1 letters to the council and letters to the  
2 mayor. You should know that throughout the  
3 borough, they want to do 30 different  
4 colocations, and they're all stupid. I'm trying  
5 to be brief because I got to run over to another  
6 location where they're having a hearing where  
7 they want to put another school in, but - -  
8 elementary school in a junior high school. They  
9 want to put an elementary school in - - . None  
10 of this makes sense. All of it is wrong, and we  
11 must stop it.

12 DOE does not have the right, and they extend  
13 their purview to beyond the - - this year. A  
14 new administration is starting January 1. How  
15 dare they try to - - .

16 [Applause]

17 MR. CAMRIE: How dare they try to - - the  
18 school. We just got rid of a school out here.  
19 Colocation of schools don't work. So I'm - -  
20 tell you to let you know that there are parents  
21 all over the wings that are with you. I'm going  
22 to ask you to don't let this be your only - - .  
23 Don't let this be your only effort to protest.  
24 You need to write letters, you need to send  
25 emails, you need to raise the bar, you need to

1 write letters to the editor. We need to let  
2 DOE know that they're beyond their purview,  
3 they're out of their minds. They need to stop  
4 this because the - - our children.

5 We have - - .

6 [Applause drowning out speaker]

7 MR. CAMRIE: --in the building, and they're  
8 doing the same exact thing. This is crazy,  
9 having a zoned school in a zoned school, taking  
10 care of the same population from the same  
11 neighborhood makes no sense. Put it all under  
12 one purview. This school, this administration,  
13 this - - can handle 800 students in a heartbeat.

14 [Applause drowning out speaker]

15 MR. CAMRIE: - - with her for the same  
16 children. It's unfair to your teachers, it's  
17 unfair to the people that are trying to do the  
18 right thing here, and it must be stopped. I'm  
19 sorry I can't stay. I apologize to the senior  
20 elected official that - - , but I do need to run  
21 to two other schools this evening to say the  
22 same thing.

23 Please help us fight this. Thank you very  
24 much.

25 [Applause]

1 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Councilman Ruben  
2 Wills.

3 MR. RUBEN WILLS: Good evening, everyone.  
4 So we have - - . I was a little nervous on my  
5 way here because I really, really - - people in  
6 this audience, but I am so happy that we have  
7 supported - - turned out and packed up this  
8 auditorium. But as Councilman Camrie said, we  
9 can't make this the only time we pack this place  
10 out.

11 Everybody has seen this report the school  
12 has. I'm a little bias because I'm from this  
13 school, so we see - - , we see that - - from  
14 PS140 is here. We see that - - office is here,  
15 Councilman Camrie came himself, but I came to  
16 let you know that we are in full support of  
17 shutting this down. I just wanted to let you  
18 know the DOE understands that we are not the  
19 community of dummies, and we understand - - .

20 How many people here have the Educational  
21 Impact Statement, - - , how many people here  
22 have it? Okay. Good. Let's just walk through  
23 a couple of things because anything you want to  
24 hide, you hide it in a book - - right? So let's  
25 just go through something, and let's show how

1 the DOE is trying to hide a lot of the things  
2 that they're telling us here today. If you go  
3 to page two on the EIS, it says - - utilization  
4 rate in excess of 100%, and they suggest that a  
5 building will be over-utilized or overcrowded -  
6 - . How can over 100% suggest that the building  
7 will be over utilized? How can you say that  
8 when on the same - - , you look at the back of  
9 the statement, if you look at page 14 in the  
10 back of this statement, it says - - proposal - -  
11 , which is a five-year capital plan, but  
12 there's nothing - - for the money that I give -  
13 - . It does not mention two dance studios, it  
14 does not mention the communication studio, it  
15 doesn't list anything that our kids need in this  
16 community. So how can you on the other hand say  
17 that 100% may suggest overutilization but you  
18 don't - - utilization rate we pay for. - -  
19 stuff we pay for it. This is your money that is  
20 going to the school. - - .

21 [Applause]

22 MR. WILLS: - - that the - - when this stuff  
23 is done will be anywhere from 89% to 102%, which  
24 is a 13% difference, but what they hide in their  
25 numbers is they're trying to decrease the

1 enrollment by 120 students. So that is 120  
2 children from South Jamaica houses, 120 - - .  
3 120 from on the other side of - - all the way  
4 down to - - that will not be able to go to this  
5 school. So if they can't go here, where are  
6 they going to go, right? They want to say there  
7 are educational options, but the last time I  
8 checked, PS48 was a four blocks away from - - .  
9 Everything's - - . How many more options do we  
10 need in this community?

11 We need options that we pick. We need more  
12 programs that we know is good for our children  
13 and is good for the school. If you guys - - to  
14 fight, - - call the office, make sure you call  
15 my office - - because we already have a lawsuit  
16 ready to go. This is not a state lawsuit with  
17 DOE to convince them not to have a - - until  
18 they feel like the opportunity is already there.  
19 This is a federal lawsuit where we're asking the  
20 judge for immediate justice, an immediate  
21 injunction and immediate relief for our  
22 students. Call the office. Call the office and  
23 say - - . Call the office of Carlton - - .  
24 Call the office of - - . But most importantly,  
25 call this - - chancellor and tell him that he

1 will not do that.

2 Any time they holler information for us is a  
3 lie. Can everybody say it's a lie? So DOE,  
4 we're here to tell you that we know - -  
5 everything you try to do to this community is--

6 ALL: A lie.

7 MR. WILLS: Thank you very much.

8 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: - - Vivian Cook.

9 MS. VIVIAN COOK: I want these nice people  
10 to hear me very clearly. My name is Vivian  
11 Cook. I am the - - member here. I'm also a  
12 state representative, as someone said a few  
13 minutes ago, when it goes - - not a state issue,  
14 it's a federal issue. Well, let me tell you,  
15 you see that man on the wall, Martin Luther  
16 King? I come from Rock Hills, South Carolina  
17 where students went to jail. Jail no bail. So  
18 you tell them there and everybody else, I know  
19 how to do this.

20 [Applause]

21 MS. COOK: - - in this community telling  
22 people what to do. We will go back. Ask your  
23 mothers, ask your fathers what we used to do.  
24 We don't have a problem with doing it, and I  
25 don't have a problem with being in the front

1 lead. So ladies and gentlemen, one of the  
2 things that's most important is the education of  
3 our young people. We must educate our young  
4 people, and - - have to go back to basics, and  
5 that's where I come from. Reading and writing  
6 and arithmetic. All computers, that's great,  
7 but our kids need to read, they need to  
8 understand, and they need to be able to write.  
9 There's no more - - writing like the doctors.  
10 You can't read anything they write, okay?

11 So I'm here because I am - - to let you know  
12 that this is home, I'm here, I'm with you.  
13 Whatever we need to do, we will do that, and I  
14 will be out there leading the march. And thank  
15 you.

16 [Applause]

17 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: - - office, Nathaniel  
18 Hezekiah, III.

19 MR. NATHANIAL HEZEKIAH, III: Good evening,  
20 everyone. First, I want to say I apologize - -  
21 unfortunately he is not - - . He is down in - -  
22 dealing with the federal shutdown that's  
23 occurred with our nation, and he's trying - - in  
24 the House and the Senate to get this country  
25 back - - . But what he did do tonight was send

1 up a statement for me to read to the parents  
2 here at PS40. He wanted to let you know that  
3 he's with you and will win this fight. So we  
4 can continue to keep this school for one school,  
5 and not two schools in one.

6 [Applause]

7 MR. HEZEKIAH: So this letter reads, I am  
8 writing to express my deep displeasure with the  
9 New York City Department of Education last-  
10 minute proposal to colocate new schools,  
11 including new charter schools, in PSIS259,  
12 PS176, PS993, IS72, IS226, Martin - - and - -  
13 August Warren High School, which already houses  
14 - - Prep. In the past, the DOE submitted  
15 colocation proposals in the second half of the  
16 year, with the decision making process taking  
17 two months alone. This length of time allowed  
18 advanced notice. This advanced notice allowed  
19 notice of public hearings to give parents,  
20 community, educators, elected officials and  
21 other interested parties ample time to prepare  
22 thoughtful input. I'm - - as to why the DOE  
23 apparently considers it urgent to short serve  
24 the collocational process. It seems that little  
25 has been learned from controversies and ill will

1 that colocation have engendered.

2 I'm also not persuaded enough in that  
3 thinking about all the - - to these proposals.  
4 For instance, one of the proposals would have an  
5 elementary school colocated in a high school.  
6 Then there are the inequalities that will  
7 inevitably lead to resentment and tension as  
8 better-resourced incoming schools are colocated  
9 with resource-starved existing schools.

10 Given the bitterness and misunderstanding  
11 that arose in response to some of the past  
12 colocations, particularly in connection with  
13 charter schools, I do not see how much decisions  
14 will create a cooperative atmosphere for  
15 incoming schools.

16 I urge you to intervene and ensure that the  
17 DOE's upcoming colocation decisions adhere to  
18 practice in a - - routine followed in the past.  
19 Thank you.

20 [Applause]

21 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Adrienne Adams,  
22 Community School Board Chairperson. I'm sorry,  
23 - - .

24 MS. ADRIENNE ADAMS: Good evening, and  
25 before I give my statement, I'm going to

1 apologize also because the DOE is giving us so  
2 much work to do that our heads are spinning  
3 right now. We're spinning out of control. In  
4 Queens, we're spinning out of control, in  
5 Southeast Queens, and yes, there are several  
6 meetings taking place at the same time as yours  
7 tonight. How disgraceful, DOE. How  
8 disgraceful. Then again, what I said last week,  
9 I'm going to say again to the DOE. How many  
10 times do you have to get 100% of the community  
11 to say no to your foul practices before you take  
12 a step back and listen to us? How many times?

13 The school districts and community boards as  
14 well are a part of a detrimental colocation  
15 landscape that the Bloomberg administration is  
16 determined to carry out prior to his leaving  
17 office at the end of the year, and we are faced  
18 with the possibility of multiple colocations  
19 within our elementary, middle and high schools.

20 Under the guise of underutilization,  
21 educators have been notified that their schools  
22 must make way for DOE-deemed high quality  
23 schools. This - - is not only unproven, but  
24 highly offensive to anyone associated with the  
25 existing schools. Colocating schools and

1 sharing common spaces within a building, many  
2 of which are designed for a specific grade, is  
3 fundamentally disadvantageous practice, which  
4 usually causes gross inequity to the existing  
5 school.

6 Of most concern, the plans for southeast  
7 Queens are four proposed colocations, one  
8 colocation which is yours, which is an  
9 elementary, two colocations within two  
10 intermediate schools that have already in  
11 colocated environments, and one colocation of a  
12 kindergarten through fourth grade elementary  
13 school within a high school consisting of adult-  
14 aged students. This proposal is the most  
15 irresponsible, detrimental venture of all.

16 Colocations typically squeeze the life out  
17 of schools and draw much needed resources away  
18 from them. Community board 12 vehemently  
19 opposes all applications, all RFPs, all requests  
20 associated with any colocations in Southeast  
21 Queens. Thank you for your time.

22 [Applause]

23 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: We have now concluded  
24 the formal presentations. We will now open the  
25 floor for public comments. Speakers will be

1 given the floor in the order that they signed  
2 up. All comments are limited to two minutes.

3 Our first speaker is Tylil Shands.

4 MR. TYLIL SHANDS: - - I've attended this  
5 school since kindergarten. Not only do I go  
6 here, but all my siblings - - my brother who's  
7 13 to my little sister who is five, my family  
8 has grown up in this school. PS40 has given me  
9 some great opportunities, from - - programs - -  
10 computer game - - where I am surrounded by a - -  
11 . I really - - my day at PS40. I also - - .

12 There are so many things I - - at PS40. - -  
13 really look out for me. I am safe - - here at  
14 PS40. - - in third grade. - - . However, it  
15 is - - going to be - - don't bring another  
16 school into ours. We need to use your resources  
17 combine with ours - - .

18 [Applause]

19 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Please forgive me if I  
20 misspell or mispronounce your name. I'Deshe  
21 Pittman. I told you to forgive me. You're  
22 next.

23 MS. I'DESHE PITTMAN: My name is I'Deshe  
24 Pittman. I want to be a doctor. I am in  
25 kindergarten.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. PITTMAN: [repeating mother] I don't  
3 want another school in my building because I  
4 need room to grow.

5 [Applause]

6 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: And I'Deshe's brother,  
7 Steven Pittman.

8 MR. STEVEN PITTMAN: My name is Steven  
9 Pittman. My name is Steven Pittman, and I  
10 wanted to let you know how I feel about a new  
11 school coming into my building. We are a few  
12 years - - in our building, and they took our  
13 lunch time, our gym period and our science lab.  
14 If they had a new school come into our building,  
15 we might not pass the state test.

16 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Ms. Rheanna Greer.

17 MS. RHEANNA GREER: Hi, my name is Rheanna  
18 Greer, and I am in the 2nd grade at PS40. I  
19 have gone to this school since pre-K. I really  
20 love it here. Some of my favorite subjects are  
21 math, social studies, reading and science. I  
22 think I have one of the best teachers in the  
23 whole world. Ms. London makes it so fun to  
24 learn.

25 I have great friends, and I love coming to

1 school. It is just the right fit for me.  
2 Speaking of right fits, I think - - the three  
3 bears. You are looking for another place for  
4 another school, but I am sorry. We are not the  
5 right fit. We need our room for our science and  
6 all the other classes we - - . Like Dr. Ing, I  
7 want to be - - into a small space. Let's do  
8 some math.

9 One plus one equals two. Many problems, but  
10 two take away one is much more fun. Thank you  
11 for - - .

12 [Applause]

13 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Amanda Elgin.

14 MS. AMANDA ELGIN: Good evening, everybody.  
15 Okay. I'm a parent at PS40. My children and I,  
16 we were relocated here from Hurricane Sandy. We  
17 lived in Long Island, and it was a very big - -  
18 for our children, and PS40 has welcomed us, and  
19 it's been such a ride with PS40. You know, to  
20 see another school come into this children - - .

21 I think it's - - it's ridiculous. I want to  
22 know what kind of school would you put in?  
23 Would it be one of the charter schools, - -  
24 school? You know, why even bring in another  
25 school? Why not just bring your kids here?

1 Because they're a zoned school and we're a  
2 zoned school, just bring your children to this  
3 school. So I - - attend this kindergarten. If  
4 you're going to - - attendance, why pay money  
5 for more principals and more teachers. Just  
6 bring them in because - - last year, and we can  
7 use them because I saw these children smile and  
8 grow and grow. Last year, there was 400 kids -  
9 - only want to see that continue. I say no.

10 [Applause]

11 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Kathy London. - - .

12 MS. MARICA MYRIE: Good evening, everyone.  
13 My name is Marica Myrie, and I'm a teacher here  
14 at PS40, and this is my colleague Kathy London,  
15 and we would just like to share some words from  
16 our math coach, Ms. Sherry Hayes. She was  
17 unable to be with us tonight.

18 MS. KATHY LONDON: First, there are several  
19 reasons why collocating another school will be a  
20 deterrent to our scholars and our community and  
21 ourselves. It was mentioned 546 students could  
22 come here. Reason one, it would cause  
23 overcrowding. Our building already houses over  
24 700 people because we include the students, we  
25 include the staff, and we include our dedicated

1 parent volunteers.

2 According to the 2011/12 enrollment capacity  
3 utilization--excuse me, I'm nervous--report, in  
4 other words called - - , PS40 has the capacity  
5 to serve 886 students. If we add even 100 more  
6 students from another school, not including  
7 staff members, this will include extreme  
8 overcrowding, especially during transition  
9 times.

10 For example, think about lunch, - - arrival  
11 time, dismissal time, and not to mention fire  
12 drills. This is a great safety issue.

13 MS. MYRIE: But on that, computer lab, this  
14 auditorium, cafeteria, gym, bathrooms and  
15 library will have to be all shared spaces. How  
16 will we be able to schedule our days to  
17 accommodate another school without overlapping?  
18 Our scholars will be overrun with the mass  
19 amount of students that will be added into their  
20 lunch periods, sharing the only four sets of  
21 student bathrooms in the entire building.

22 MS. LONDON: It was mentioned that the  
23 proposed elementary school, 312, if it's  
24 approved, will open September 2014 in this  
25 building, where it would be colocated - - .

1 This new school will be a zoned elementary  
2 school that will give priority to the students  
3 residing in the Q40 zone, and will grow to serve  
4 students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

5 PS312 and PS40 will share a zone. This is  
6 illogical since parents in this zoned school  
7 already have the choice to send their children  
8 to this building, why purpose does it serve to  
9 have two zoned--two schools taking space in one  
10 zone to share the same building? Does that make  
11 sense? We're looking forward to expanding  
12 enrollment as it was mentioned earlier.

13 With this progress, why would the DOE want  
14 to put another school in this building? It pits  
15 parents against parents, splitting - - like a -  
16 - .

17 MS. MYRIE: Future student enrollment at  
18 PS40 may be impacted, given that the new school  
19 will share the 40 zone, and that the two schools  
20 together will utilize excess space in this  
21 building. Is this a deliberate phasing out of  
22 PS40? It seems so. Again, what purpose does it  
23 make?

24 MS. LONDON: We know that the new addition  
25 schools are provided with the fixed school

1 allocation funds to start up - - staff, in  
2 other words, OTPS - - based on that current one-  
3 time allocation for the new school, 28Q312 will  
4 receive a fixed allocation of \$80,000,  
5 approximately \$17,595--

6 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: I'm sorry, your time is  
7 up.

8 MS. LONDON: We share this time.

9 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: She gave you four  
10 minutes.

11 MS. LONDON: Okay. Well, thank you.

12 [Applause]

13 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Assemblyman James  
14 Saunders is here, if you'd like to take the mic.  
15 Oh, Senator. State Senator James Saunders. I'm  
16 sorry.

17 SENATOR JAMES SAUNDERS: I've been called  
18 worse. I'll speak without the mic. I'm very  
19 interested in this issue. I have several  
20 concerns. I want to make sure that whatever we  
21 do does not negatively impact on the situation  
22 of our school here. However, I'm also  
23 interested to know how will this improve the  
24 academic ability of all of the proposed schools.  
25 I'm going to sit at the back door a little bit -

1 - listen before speaking. I look forward to  
2 hearing from you later on so you can tell me  
3 what your views are as I look forward to sitting  
4 down with you and hearing your views. Thank you  
5 very much.

6 [Applause]

7 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Sharon Clifford.

8 MS. SHARON CLIFFORD: My name is Sharon  
9 Clifford, and I'm currently a teacher for 11  
10 years at PS40. I was wondering, since the new  
11 school you are planning on placing in PS40 is  
12 going to be a small elementary school, only two  
13 classes per grade, and the students who will be  
14 attending this new school will be from our zone,  
15 why doesn't the Office of Student Portfolio add  
16 these two new classes to our school? Invest in  
17 the school that's already here. This school - -  
18 increase PS40's register that you claim is so  
19 low, and use the space that you claim that we  
20 have. Thank you.

21 [Applause]

22 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Ebonie Matthews.

23 MS. EBONIE MATTHEWS: [Off-mic] Testing,  
24 testing, one, two. I'm Ebonie Matthews, and I  
25 disapprove of the DOE colocation because I feel

1 that public school 040 already struggles - -  
2 to keep its children's grades up. I think it's  
3 thoughtless, I think it's inconsiderate and  
4 inappropriate.

5 [Applause]

6 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Khadijah Jeanty.

7 MS. KHADIJAH JEANTY: Good evening,  
8 everyone. Just give me one minute to set up.

9 My name is Khadijah Jeanty. For the boys  
10 and girls in the school, yes, I am - - . That's  
11 probably the first time they heard my first  
12 name. I've had the honor of teaching in this  
13 building for 11 years. I have had the pleasure  
14 of knowing all the wonderful families that are  
15 here today, and I'm here to point out some of  
16 the highlights. I want the mayor to know what  
17 we do in our building and why our building is  
18 important.

19 This presentation will address - - presented  
20 in the Educational Impact Statement - - our  
21 school data and the many highlights that bring  
22 joy to the many students we serve on a daily  
23 basis. Excuse my - - .

24 Looking at - - perspective, the numbers  
25 speak for themselves. 546. The student

1 register projections cited in the educational  
2 impact statement from the 2013/2014 school year  
3 that puts us as an underutilized school. 576.  
4 The number that represents the actual student  
5 enrollment at the end of the 2013 school year.  
6 607. As of today, October 2013 - - enrollment  
7 PS40 and counting.

8 Highly qualified teachers with at least one  
9 - - ? Yes, 100% of us. This chart shows how  
10 our learning environments earn results. As you  
11 see, out of three of the four categories, we  
12 scored higher than city average. Let me break  
13 it down for you.

14 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: You have 30 seconds.

15 MS. JEANTY: - - presentation that - - from  
16 2011/2012 when the - - now it's 80%. Three,  
17 PS40 outperformed the citywide average on three  
18 out of the four LES categories. - -  
19 expectation, communication and - - that we  
20 learned from the LES, - - we have taken the  
21 following action steps.

22 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: All right. Time is up.  
23 Mr. Christian Mullens.

24 MS. CHRISTIAN MULLENS: - - safety and  
25 respect, we have taken the following action

1 steps. Hiring a full time dean - - , had  
2 conditional safety agent Johnson - - period just  
3 to kindergarten classes, grouped similar grand  
4 bans together at lunchtime, reviewed GRP  
5 [phonetic] drills on a regular basis, and  
6 contracted KFK Foundation to provide weekly  
7 bullying - - workshops to - - . The school  
8 psychiatrist and social worker provide staff  
9 with ongoing social and emotional training to  
10 address the various needs of students. School  
11 wide adoption of the - - methods.

12 Following the 2012/2013 proficient  
13 2011/2012, we did have - - 2010/2011,  
14 proficient. 2009/2010, proficient, and  
15 2008/2009 school year, proficient as well.

16 State accountability steps. In 2011/2012 we  
17 were in good standing. Same thing in 2010/2011,  
18 and same in 2009 and 2010. We recognize the  
19 concern. We understand the implications - -  
20 addressing issues. We are positioning PS40 for  
21 success. We - - our professional development  
22 workshop - - .

23 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: 30 seconds remaining.

24 MR. MULLEN: - - three components of - -  
25 workshop instruction and discussion techniques

1 using - - . Money, money, money. Thank you  
2 Councilmember - - for providing with a grant  
3 funding for technology and building  
4 improvements. With a portion of these funds,  
5 we've renovated the auditorium, obtained new  
6 laptops and also upgraded all classrooms and  
7 upgraded our science lab. With the remaining  
8 funds, we are investing in a new computer lab -  
9 - with new computers - - installed in every  
10 classroom in grades two to five, in this year,  
11 and more next year.

12 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Thank you, Mr. Mullen.  
13 Elle Redfield. Elle Redfield?

14 MS. ELLE REDFIELD: Good evening everybody.  
15 - - there tonight. - - we are not - - . I say  
16 that because that's the way I felt when I found  
17 out after the fact that the DOE - - portfolio  
18 management decided without reporting to me or  
19 the - - about this colocation of the school. I  
20 know education here for my children, and I'm  
21 sure the rest of these parents feel the same  
22 way.

23 I have three kids that - - this building.  
24 Because of this - - here at PS40, my son is the  
25 top of his class in - - High School. My

1 daughter, - - right here - - . It is - -  
2 success is not an option here at PS40. - - .

3 [Applause]

4 MS. REDFIELD: It is not an option. Parent  
5 here today - - like Ruben said - - all the time,  
6 - - let them know it's not an option for our  
7 children here at PS40. - - .

8 [Applause]

9 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Robin Picarello.

10 MS. ROBIN PICARELLO: - - skills needed for  
11 college and career readiness and social  
12 emotional growth. - - classroom, tennis, - -  
13 management, KFK Foundation Bullying Prevention  
14 Series. They came today. We have the  
15 highlights. Monthly class parent days, monthly  
16 spirit days, grandparent day breakfast, ESL  
17 parent orientation, breakfast reading program,  
18 read for the record program, - - day parade, - -  
19 program, upper and lower grade art afterschool  
20 program, music, art, drama after school, ballet,  
21 monthly parent workshops, students of the month,  
22 Thanksgiving turkey, student government,  
23 president's council, Studio in the School, which  
24 is art, co-ed basketball, boys in charge,  
25 spelling bee, - - , - - success program,

1 educating a book club, community service, city  
2 harvest, - - food drive, - - harvest, bully  
3 prevention workshops, New York College  
4 Partnership, - - mentoring program, - - girls  
5 mentoring program, partnership with - -  
6 fraternity, - - graduate chapter, literacy, hip-  
7 hop - - , girl scout troupes, urban art  
8 partnership, - - museum of art partnership,  
9 vision education media of New York partnership,  
10 - - ELA after school, math after school, student  
11 Halloween party, holiday workshops, trim the  
12 tree, community service projects, family movie  
13 night, field days in June, recycling, debate,  
14 track, tennis, educated mentoring, - - story,  
15 monthly essays, black history month, - -

16 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: You have 30 seconds.

17 MS. PICARELLO: - - and the useful - -  
18 takeaway station with parent residency programs  
19 - - future residency programs - - directly  
20 impact the preparation needed to ensure that  
21 PS40 scholars are college and career ready.  
22 Save our school.

23 [Applause]

24 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: David Norment.

25 MR. DAVID NORMENT: Good evening, everyone.

1 My name is David Norment. I'm the principal  
2 at PS140. Last year, our went through a  
3 proposed phase out and we were able to stop it.  
4 So it is possible. One of the things that's  
5 powerful is the relationship that we all have as  
6 principals in District 28. You know, Alison and  
7 Pat Mitchell at PS40 and all the other  
8 principals, we work together as a unit. And  
9 this is about money. Every student that they  
10 bring in is \$4,000 that they're giving to PS40,  
11 so that could - - your programs that you've  
12 building here. You - - develop more after  
13 school programs and - - for this school.

14 So I disagree with the colocation. I  
15 support 140, I support PS40, and we need - -  
16 here. Thank you.

17 [Applause]

18 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: William McDonald.

19 MR. WILLIAM MCDONALD: Good evening. I'm  
20 William McDonald. I'm the chairman of the NAA -  
21 - Metropolitan Council - - . - - school for a  
22 long time, since my child was in the fifth  
23 grade. He's now in his third year of college.  
24 When I came here, and - - , I expected to see 25  
25 people. I am very impressed with what I see at

1 this school. Give yourself a hand.

2 One of the - - early and I signed up for  
3 close to last, I thought, was because I wanted  
4 to hear what you had to say. I'm hearing that  
5 you love your school. I'm going to tell you  
6 this, Mayor Bloomberg fooled us once four years  
7 ago when he got himself a third time. He's not  
8 going to fool us this time because we're telling  
9 Mayor Bloomberg - - that he got 90 days to get  
10 your resumes in.

11 [Applause]

12 MR. MCDONALD: Let me tell you something. I  
13 deal on a citywide level. We have one lawsuit  
14 with the DOE, and we - - lawsuits, but we are  
15 going to fight these colocations and school  
16 closings. You know this administration. You  
17 know what's coming next. We're going to fight  
18 both of them tooth and nail.

19 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: 30 seconds, sir.

20 MR. MCDONALD: Thank you. I'm going to end  
21 by telling you this. Come December 31, we are  
22 going to show the mayor and the chancellor the  
23 door. We're going to pack up their PEP and send  
24 them on. Come January 1, we're going to have a  
25 new mayor, we're going to have a new chancellor,

1 we're going to have a new PEP, and they have  
2 promised that there's going to be a moratorium  
3 on these colocations. So - - . Thank you.

4 [Applause]

5 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Cassandra A. Sanders.

6 MS. CASSANDRA SANDERS: Good evening,  
7 everybody. I am Sandra Sanders. I have been in  
8 this community for 15 years. This is home for  
9 me. - - I retired, and - - you can't allow them  
10 to do this to us again. We went this way  
11 already. It did not work.

12 I mean, - - this happened again, and they  
13 keep picking on PS40. What is it? - - or  
14 something? You know, go to some of the other  
15 schools. They have the same issues. We need  
16 the resources here to be able to put them into  
17 this school, not to come in and stop - - . Our  
18 administrators here work very hard and the staff  
19 work very hard to give the children what they  
20 need, and we can put our school against any  
21 other school in this district, and I know that  
22 parents here are - - proactive and come out and  
23 not allow this to happen again. We did this  
24 once. Let's not do it again. Enough is enough.  
25 Stop it now.

1 [Applause]

2 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Victoria Allen.

3 Victoria Allen? Robert Garns.

4 MR. ROBERT GARNNS: Good evening everybody.

5 My name is Robert Garns, and I have a - - to  
6 this school. She started last year in Ms. - -  
7 class, and we were inspired by her - - from the  
8 school. The staff - - and - - something that  
9 really inspired me and my mother. She wants to  
10 - - . Ever since that first day to this day  
11 today, she talks about what she wants to do, and  
12 there's nothing - - .

13 Her father - - this school, and she loved -  
14 - . Me and her mother love - - this school  
15 because of the fact that this school offers a  
16 lot of programs, and they might have to take it  
17 away for bringing in another school. I think  
18 that's unfair to my daughter. - - opportunity.  
19 As long as you live in this community, you  
20 wouldn't mind coming to the school because the  
21 school offers something that this child - -  
22 inspired to be. Not too many children is  
23 inspired to go to school - - , but when you find  
24 the child - - a school that she likes, don't  
25 take it from her. Because if you take it from

1 her or you make it hard for her to sit and  
2 learn, we lose her. We don't want to lose our  
3 children. I don't.

4 I'm 50 years old today, and I have five  
5 adults - - . You understand? My last - - .  
6 And I thank PS40 for being here, I thank the  
7 staff, and I pray to god that these people don't  
8 get their way, and that they - - take away from  
9 our children - - .

10 [Applause]

11 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: John Davis.

12 MR. JOHN DAVIS: Good evening, everybody.  
13 My name is John Davis. I'm a parent volunteer  
14 for about five years. - - school I see kids  
15 going - - . My grandson goes to school here,  
16 and - - and we should - - give up and do what we  
17 have to do - - .

18 [Applause]

19 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Mr. Davis, I apologize,  
20 that was John Davis, not Don. Keisha Wallace.

21 MS. KEISHA WALLACE: Hi, I'm Keisha Wallace.  
22 I'm a parent - - in this school. I grew up in  
23 this school, and this has been a great school.  
24 And the DOE was - - the other school - - we  
25 should not have another school here. The lunch

1 room was overcrowded. - - we will not - -  
2 another school. We say no to the proposal. DOE  
3 should come in and see the school when they had  
4 that other school. They would know, no way we  
5 should have another school.

6 [Applause]

7 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Tinesse Hixon?

8 MS. TINESE HIXON: Yes, ma'am. My name is  
9 Tinesse Hixon. I'm a crossing guard here. I  
10 also--my mother went here, I went here, my  
11 children went here, and now personally, my  
12 godson. I think they should not propose - - .  
13 If you want to put some money into a school, put  
14 it into this school right here to get some more  
15 music programs, some more things that these kids  
16 need to encourage them to be the best that they  
17 can be, and that's what this school does right  
18 here, right now. I stand on that corner on 109  
19 and 160. [crying] - - .

20 [Applause]

21 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Lakeisha Fraser.

22 Lakeisha Fraser? Vanessa Sparks.

23 MS. VANESSA SPARKS: Hi, good evening. My  
24 name is Vanessa Sparks. I was born and raised  
25 in this community, and my home is in this

1 community. I am also a former school board  
2 member for District 28, a former vice president  
3 for CEC 28, and I'm very familiar with what is  
4 going on now and what is going on under this  
5 mayor's tutelage at PS40. We went through this  
6 with the Young Men's Leadership Academy, we went  
7 through this when they were attempting to close  
8 this school - - years ago, and here you are now.  
9 I just spoke to Senator Sanders, and I'm asking  
10 you, Senator Sanders, to provide - - your  
11 resources with an order - - that will do another  
12 - - prior to the - - because the Bloomberg  
13 information is inaccurate. They are counting  
14 rooms that are not actual classrooms. They are  
15 closets, they are - - .

16 That's number one. Number two, you are  
17 pulling from the same pool of children. If this  
18 is going to be a zoned school, and PS40 is  
19 already a zoned school, who is going to  
20 determine who goes where when you're drawing  
21 from the same pool of children? Number three, I  
22 know you know it, Senator, but I'm going to let  
23 everybody else here know. Jamaica, Queens, this  
24 area from here going down to Jamaica Avenue is  
25 now becoming one of the hottest real estate

1 areas in the City of New York. And - - in the  
2 next 24 months, there will be three big hotels,  
3 another luxury apartment complex, another - -  
4 63rd. With that kind of information, I know  
5 that - - .

6 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: 30 seconds, Ms. Sparks.

7 MS. SPARKS: And lastly, some insider  
8 information. I want you to go back to the DOE  
9 and tell them the same way they tried to  
10 collocate a school in - - high school a couple  
11 years ago, and they rescinded it based on the  
12 information that - - community, they can do the  
13 same at PS40. Parents, get together, show up at  
14 the Panel for Educational Policy meeting this  
15 month in droves.

16 [Applause]

17 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: Ronald Williams.

18 MR. RONALD WILLIAMS: Good evening,  
19 everyone. My name is Ronald Williams, and my  
20 son goes here. He's in the 2nd grade. I'm also  
21 vice president of the PTA. I'm also SLT member,  
22 and I'm on the frontline. Just ask the teachers  
23 and administrators of PS40. We are here every  
24 day, rain, snow, shine, it doesn't matter. We  
25 are here.

1           If you put another school inside of PS40,  
2           that's not - - two communities in one. What it's  
3           going to do, it's going to bring rivalry against  
4           our children and segregate them mentally because  
5           we are a community that is surrounded around the  
6           same - - segregation. Our school is the safest  
7           place and community for our children.

8           [Applause]

9           MR. WILLIAMS: It's important in order to  
10          make decisions for our community that you be  
11          part of the community so that you can see the  
12          reality of the decisions that you make. If you  
13          use percentages and data, you miss the real  
14          people. I call that politics over people, and  
15          we're not going to stand for it. We're not  
16          going to allow it. Once the - - are gone, once  
17          the people are gone and - - our frontline  
18          soldiers, our teachers have to be here again and  
19          do it and do it and do it.

20          We as parents must make sure that we give it  
21          to our children. We owe it to our children to  
22          make sure that their education is top priority,  
23          and the best way for our kids to be the top  
24          priority is by supporting our teachers that  
25          bring their A game through that door every

1 morning.

2 [Applause]

3 MR. WILLIAMS: - - going to bring a top  
4 education here. Our teachers are going to do it  
5 because they're the ones that's with our  
6 children more than we are. But - - disrespect  
7 our teachers any way that they can. They don't  
8 want to pay them, they don't want to recognize  
9 them, and - - our children is our future. So  
10 what I'm going to leave with is to say today is  
11 not just a day for the - - school here. Today  
12 is a - - for all of us to support our teachers,  
13 support our school every day. Not just - - .  
14 We have to - - strong now because every other  
15 day of our children's lives is hanging in the  
16 balance of the DOE and the people that are  
17 trying to propose this colocation.

18 So I just want to say no to the colocation.  
19 We're going to do whatever we have to do as  
20 parents to stand up first and foremost before  
21 anybody else can stand up for us. We got to  
22 stand up for ourselves.

23 [Applause]

24 MR. WILLIAMS: So we say no to the  
25 colocation. We're going to say it now. We're

1 going to say it again. We're going to say it  
2 after the meeting, and I'm going to continue to  
3 say it. And I'd like to thank all the other  
4 schools, the principals that came to support  
5 PS40. I want to thank the - - community that  
6 don't even have children that go to this school  
7 that still represent because school and  
8 community is as one. If they fail in the  
9 community, they still have to come to school to  
10 learn. If they fail in the school, that means  
11 they got to go back to the community and - - .  
12 So we must mobilize every day for our children.

13 Boots on the ground - - soldiers. I salute  
14 you all. We support you all. We appreciate you  
15 all. Let's do this.

16 [Applause]

17 DR. FFOLKS-BRYANT: The speaker list is now  
18 exhausted. Again, we welcome any comments and  
19 feedback you may have at any time before the  
20 Panel for Educational Policy votes on this  
21 proposal October 30th. Now, the email address  
22 because it was - - is D28proposals, with an S at  
23 the end. D28 P-R-O-P-O-S-A-L-S@schools.nyc.gov.  
24 Or (212) 374-7621. That's (212) 374-7621.

25 Thank you for your participation, and this

1 joint hearing is now closed.

2 [Applause]

3 [END RECORDING]

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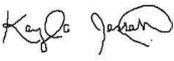
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature 

Date October 14, 2013\_\_\_\_\_