

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**  
**New School at X127**

1 [START 290\_218]

2 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: Good evening everyone.  
3 I'm happy to say good evening when the sun's  
4 out. Isn't it great? So my name is Elizabeth  
5 White and I am the community superintendent for  
6 District 11 and we are gathered here for a joint  
7 public hearing about a proposal for co-locating  
8 a new school. So I'm going to start. I've  
9 introduced myself and I just want to introduce  
10 the people who are sitting to my left.

11 First we have our CEC President Petra  
12 Poleon, would you like to say a few greeting  
13 words or hello? No? You're good? Good. And  
14 then to her left, we have the PA Presidents for  
15 our Middle School 127, Lakesha - and I'm going  
16 to pronounce her name wrong - Stuldivant?

17 MS. LAKESHA STULDIVANT: That's good enough.

18 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: That's good enough.  
19 Excellent. And we have Gail Anderson. Can you  
20 -

21 MS. GAIL ANDERSON: Oh, okay.

22 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: - come sit with us.  
23 She's an SLT Member for Middle School 127. And  
24 the following people can I have you raise your  
25 hands? Ms. McFadden? Thank you. Ms. Posceir

1 [phonetic]?

2 FEMALE VOICE: She stepped out.

3 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: And Ms. Morris. Okay  
4 these are parents who are SOT members for PS  
5 106. Thank you for coming. Okay so I'm going  
6 to begin and I'm going to ask your forgiveness  
7 as we begin because there's certain things I  
8 have to read so I won't be looking directly at  
9 you at some times, I have to look down.

10 So once again, good evening. We've asked  
11 the CEC for District 11, Junior High School 127  
12 and Public School 106, the school leadership  
13 teams, to participate in tonight's joint public  
14 hearing. I would like to say thank you for Mr.  
15 Harry Sherman and Eugenia Montalvo for joining  
16 us. They are the principals of the schools I've  
17 just mentioned. This hearing is being recorded  
18 and I'd like to remind you that translation  
19 services are here if anyone is in need of them.  
20 We had two of our translators earlier ask if  
21 anyone needed assistance both in Spanish and - -  
22 .

23 So the purpose of tonight's meeting is to  
24 provide you an opportunity to give us comments  
25 about the proposal. Before I describe the

1 proposal, I want to make sure that you're all  
2 aware of the opportunity to provide input. All  
3 of you who wish to speak must sign up in the  
4 speaker sign up area, located just outside the  
5 auditorium doors. The sign-up list will close  
6 in five minutes now so if you haven't signed up  
7 already, please do so.

8 Speakers will be given the floor in the  
9 order that they signed up and the comments are  
10 limited to two minutes. There may be elected  
11 officials who arrive at different times  
12 throughout the evening, and if they wish to  
13 speak we will do our best to accommodate them at  
14 the first opportune moment. Those who are here  
15 at the start of the public comment segment will  
16 be asked to speak first.

17 All of the comments this evening will be  
18 addressed and the analysis of public comment to  
19 be published and provided to the Panel for  
20 Educational Policy on the evening before the  
21 Panel votes. That vote is scheduled for April  
22 26, 2012, at 6 P.M. The Panel for Educational  
23 Policy's meeting will take place at the Prospect  
24 Heights Campus, located at 883 Classon Avenue,  
25 Brooklyn, New York 11225. In addition, we

1 welcome any comments and feedback you may have  
2 at any time before the Panel votes on this  
3 proposal. The email address and phone number  
4 where comments may be made are  
5 D11proposals@schools.nyc.gov and the number is  
6 212-374-5159. There are copies of the proposal  
7 with information on that I just gave you on the  
8 email and numbers at the desk as you entered if  
9 you did not receive a copy.

10 So now our proposal summary. The New York  
11 City Department of Education or DOE is proposing  
12 to co-locate a new elementary school which will  
13 be, if the proposal passes, named PS 567 in  
14 Building 11X127, located at 1560 Purdy Street,  
15 Bronx, New York 10462 in District 11.

16 If this proposal is approved by the Panel  
17 for Educational Policy or PEP, the new  
18 elementary school will be co-located in Building  
19 11X127 with the junior high school 127 and  
20 existing middle school currently serving  
21 students in sixth through eighth grades. And PS  
22 106, an existing elementary school, split-sited  
23 between 127 and Building 106, which is located  
24 on 2120 St. Raymond's Avenue, Bronx, New York  
25 10462.

1           A co-location means that two or more school  
2 organizations are located in the same building  
3 and may share common spaces like auditoriums,  
4 gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

5           Junior High School 127 is a zoned district  
6 middle school that serves 723 students in sixth  
7 through eighth grades. Students are admitted to  
8 the sixth grade in Junior High School 127  
9 through its zoned and choice programs.

10          The Zoned program uses admission process for  
11 students who reside in the Junior High school  
12 127 zone. And the school's choice program is  
13 open to students residing in District 11 through  
14 the middle school choice process.

15          PS 106 is a zoned district elementary  
16 school and serves 1209 students in Kindergarten  
17 through fifth grades, and in four sections of  
18 half-day pre-Kindergarten. Of the total  
19 students enrolled in PS 106 217 students and  
20 pre-Kindergarteners and Kindergarteners  
21 currently serve in the Junior High School 127  
22 building.

23          Building 127 has a targeted capacity of 1144  
24 students. In the current 2011-2012 school year,  
25 Building 127 is serving approximately 940

1 students, yielding an estimated utilization  
2 rate of 82% of target capacity. If this  
3 proposal is approved, once PS 567 has completed  
4 its expansion, there will be a total of 1076 to  
5 1,176 students served collectively by Junior  
6 High School 127, PS 106, and PS 567, yielding a  
7 total utilization rate of 94 to 103% in Building  
8 127. There will be sufficient space to serve  
9 these students in the 127 building.

10 Alone a utilization rate in excess of 100%  
11 of suggested yield will be over-utilized or  
12 over-crowded in a given year. This rate does  
13 not account for the fact that rooms may need  
14 program for efficient or different uses than the  
15 standard assumptions in the utilization  
16 calculations as described above.

17 If this proposal is approved, New District  
18 Elementary School PS 567 will serve students  
19 Kindergarten through fifth grade at scale. PS  
20 567 will begin serving a total of 95 to 115  
21 Kindergarten and first grade students in the  
22 2012-2013 school year in Building 127. In 2016-  
23 2017, when the school has reached full scale, PS  
24 567 will serve a total of 295 to 355 students in  
25 Kindergarten through fifth grades.

1           The new district elementary school will  
2 accept students for 2012-2013 by a District 11  
3 application. The DOE will continue to engage  
4 with the community education counsel, or CEC 11,  
5 in an effort to create a zone for PS 567 by  
6 rezoning the southern portion of the district.

7           Okay, so that is the end of the summary of  
8 the proposal and I thank you for coming and  
9 we're going to call off of the sign-in sheet  
10 those who wish to speak. I remind you that  
11 comments will be limited to two minutes and at  
12 the end of speakers, I will then repeat the  
13 information for offering comments online or by  
14 telephone. So I'm going to first call up Danny  
15 Figueroa. Danny Figueroa.

16           MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: Mr. Figueroa, who do  
17 you represent?

18           MR. DANNY FIGUEROA: Assemblyman Peter  
19 Rivera.

20           MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: Thank you. Who  
21 represents Assembly Peter Rivera's office.  
22 Thank you. I believe the mic is still up there.  
23 Thank you. Yes.

24           MR. DANNY FIGUEROA: Good evening everyone.  
25 My name is Danny Figueroa, in for - - . I'm

1 Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Peter Rivera and  
2 to represent Assemblyman Pete Rivera. First  
3 thing I will share with you is the issue of  
4 closings and co-locating schools. We have  
5 testified at 102 and 125 and the auditoriums  
6 were standing room only. I'm not quite sure  
7 what happened here with the council of 106 and  
8 127, but it looks like - - . That's the first  
9 thing.

10 Second thing is that it is our position that  
11 we gave full control to the mayor and the  
12 Department of Education that they would also  
13 allow involvement in the community. We have  
14 seen that where the community has objected to  
15 recommendations of proposals of - - Department  
16 of Education, that education policy is not  
17 exactly the proposal requested. So that they  
18 effect our impact of our joint hearing in our  
19 opinion are repressive and false.

20 We believe our system is broken and  
21 something needs to be done but oftentimes it's  
22 not what you say but how you say it and if you  
23 going to ask our opinion, then you should take  
24 it seriously. And that is not - - to a - - in  
25 our city. And we find that very offensive, so

1 as a result of the insensitivity of our  
2 Department of Education on the New York State  
3 level, we have two bills to address this issue.

4 We have to choose two bills for last year's  
5 report for a moratorium of school closings so we  
6 can study the impact that they have on the long  
7 term because clearly - - measures you cannot  
8 truly say it's preventative. And when we look  
9 into these - - , I'm pretty sure we didn't  
10 improve the graduation rate in our public school  
11 system.

12 So we are looking for a more serious and a  
13 more participatory process and we are requesting  
14 a moratorium on school closings. That did make  
15 it through the Senate. After the assembly we  
16 posed it at this hearing and this session 2012.

17 As we saw the large number of co-locating  
18 and school closings that - - plays on the  
19 community, parents and teacher, we also  
20 introduced a bill this year that was sponsored  
21 by Assemblyman - - and co-sponsored by  
22 Assemblyman Pete Rivera that would actually  
23 empower community education councils to have  
24 decision-making authority when - - education  
25 policy needs it, because what they did is they

1 gave us authority on paper but in reality we  
2 have no say so in the matter of making policies  
3 and decisions.

4 In fact, what they tell after bending the  
5 rules is that they usually get public comments  
6 right up until the night before the decision's  
7 going to be made. Now many voices is that? Do  
8 you really think that's a substantive  
9 announcement that you made based on an opinion  
10 that I gave you the night before that is going  
11 to affect our children for generations to come?  
12 Don't you need a little more time to take those  
13 things into consideration?

14 So we are not in our opinion being taken  
15 seriously, - - is not a real part of the  
16 process. And what we happen to believe and the  
17 administration has to believe, and the teachers  
18 believe it that we have our system and we have  
19 to believe in our principles.

20 I raised my children in this district and  
21 they attended PS 106. I can tell you from  
22 personal experience that a problem in this  
23 community probably - - easily 20 years. - - my  
24 base review. So I will tell you not because I  
25 work for an assemblyman and I - - testify at

1 other hearings, but because I lived this  
2 experience. And will tell you it's not fair,  
3 we're not seriously taken into consideration of  
4 trying to save our - - by trying to fix the  
5 problem so that we can be taken into  
6 consideration.

7 So what we'll do in here today, what we  
8 believe needs - the issues needs to be  
9 addressed, we believe that we are not taking  
10 this - - without serious consideration of - - ,  
11 the parents, the teachers - hence the teacher I  
12 will do that for the record.

13 We believe - - respect - but what we believe  
14 is that the decisions that are being made are  
15 not taking us into account, therefore we should  
16 not be making these decisions right now until we  
17 take our opinion to - - office.

18 We are prepared to take it to the  
19 legislature on behalf of the community and we  
20 hope - - Board of Education policy, our  
21 chancellor, our mayor, and to the - - school  
22 superintendent. Thank you very much.

23 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: Thank you. Okay -  
24 this is not on. There it goes. Okay, so thank  
25 you Mr. Rivera - Figueroa, sorry, for Mr.

1 Rivera. The next speaker we have on our list  
2 is Sarah Alleyn.

3 MS. SARAH ALLEYN: Do you have anybody here  
4 who is a Board of Ed employee - - ?

5 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: Okay so I'm a Board of  
6 Ed employee and there are some people from  
7 Portfolio. However, this is a commentary  
8 session, which means it's for you to make  
9 comments.

10 MS. SARAH ALLEYN: Hi, my name is Sarah  
11 Alleyn. I am a parent in this community. I am  
12 at - - , that's why I'm out here fighting on  
13 behalf of my children. But let me say this. I  
14 cannot believe that they have an order to add  
15 upon a new school in 127.

16 I had a lot of issues, I don't have the  
17 answers to these questions that I have asked  
18 because the last time the guy was here from the  
19 Board of Ed, he got really upset and he snapped  
20 off his mic and he ran out of the building.

21 Now, - - in their community where all our -  
22 - officials come here - - . They come for our  
23 home, - - for our children, they are not here to  
24 support us. I see there the rep from - -  
25 representing - - Zimmer. - - should have been

1 here. And their comments are not here.

2 Senator Ruby - - is not here. This has got to  
3 stop.

4 We came to appeal to the Board of Ed - -  
5 with our children. And we have to stop -  
6 somebody lay track that this is happening in  
7 this community. Parkchester is not a fly-by-  
8 night community, okay? This is why anyone come  
9 here to get on this. And what I want to know,  
10 we had no input into this proposal here. The  
11 community had no involvement in this proposal.  
12 We don't even know what's in it. How can the  
13 Board of Ed vote on this on April 26th without  
14 the community being involved in this?

15 And I know my time is limited, they're  
16 showing me a little time, but let me say Mr.  
17 Sherman made this school. He can run this whole  
18 school. We don't need another school in this  
19 building for all the kids that we haven't been  
20 able to see. Where are all these kids coming  
21 from? With the deep - - problems that we have  
22 with 106? What can't we work with our children?  
23 We have 33 kids in one class? Don't you know?

24 Let me tell you something. I don't want my  
25 - - just people who love him because first of

1 all the people who - - are not here and they  
2 are already made the stand that this needs to  
3 stop. We should not - - .

4 And where are these kids coming from? And  
5 why - - a whole principal? And we're going to  
6 need for them to come and pay this guy? They -  
7 - going down and they have an open school so - -  
8 ? They can't - - no money. Unless the mayor's  
9 going to put it up.

10 And I think that before you all make the  
11 decision on this proposal, I think you need to  
12 get the community together, in this community,  
13 and that community has the input to what's in  
14 this proposal because these are our children and  
15 we do not need a handful of people from the  
16 Board of Ed to come in to make a decision for  
17 us. Enough is enough.

18 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: Thank you Ms. Alleyn.  
19 Next we have Shantell Quils. Did I pronounce  
20 that right?

21 MS. SHANTELL QUILS: Yes.

22 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: Okay.

23 MS. SHANTELL QUILS: Good evening. My name  
24 is Shantell and I'm the Vice President of the  
25 Parent Association and - - here. And I don't

1 agree with this decision because I feel that  
2 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade should be kept  
3 separate from elementary where it has - - .  
4 We're accommodating - - as it is. Obviously I  
5 attended this school; this was the best years of  
6 my life in elementary school. And I just have  
7 one question which is how are sixth, seventh and  
8 eighth grade commenting with PS 567? That's the  
9 only question I have.

10 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: Thank you Ms. Quils.  
11 You're next. Would you like to speak next?

12 MS. LAKESHA STULDIVANT: Yes.

13 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: Okay next we have Ms.  
14 Lakesha Stuldivant, PA President.

15 MS. LAKESHA STULDIVANT: Good evening  
16 everyone. My name is Lakesha Stuldivant. I am  
17 the President of Parent Association here on 27.  
18 I'm not going to take a lot of time because I  
19 know this proposal has already been made, it's  
20 going to the Panel already. But I just wanted  
21 to give my - - a proposal that if students are  
22 going to come into 127, let them be a part of  
23 127.

24 Mr. Sherman and Ms. Eugenia have turned this  
25 school around, and to put another school in here

1 is just going to create a division of  
2 everything that - - . So I just say if you're  
3 going to bring another school in, make a  
4 decision to want to 127. Ask them - one big  
5 school. Don't separate them. That's it.

6 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: Thank you. Ms. Wendy  
7 McSpadden is next. Wendy McSpadden.

8 MS. WENDY MCSPADDEN: I'm Wendy McSpadden, I  
9 have a son, Bill, in 106. I really put my name  
10 down to ask a question, but while I was  
11 listening a question came up, someone asked for  
12 me. My concern is we already have an elementary  
13 school, PS 106.

14 As someone already said it's over-crowded.  
15 I am living here, I sit in the classroom  
16 sometimes, and I see the teachers - -23  
17 sometimes 26, 27 students in class. And to have  
18 another school within a school - and we are  
19 suffering over there.

20 These students needs smaller class sizes.  
21 We don't need another school to - we don't need  
22 another school. What we need - we don't need  
23 another school to staff to another principal.  
24 We need to support the principals we already  
25 have. And we need to have maybe bigger rooms in

1 106 so that we can help [background noise].  
2 It's impossible. I see what goes on; I'm  
3 speaking first hand. It's impossible.

4 There's students in those classrooms who can  
5 learn and - they aren't stupid, they can learn,  
6 if given smaller classrooms. Thank you.

7 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: And next we'll have  
8 Frank Velez.

9 MR. FRANK VELEZ: Yes, my name is Frank  
10 Velez and most people now - - . So I would just  
11 like to send a message to the mayor to stop  
12 closing the schools. And it's got the best  
13 policy of schools. Reopen those schools with a  
14 different staff. Stop shoving the kids'  
15 education back. Embrace those schools because  
16 the kids have to learn. If you close the school  
17 down where are they going to go? They've got to  
18 start all over in another school.

19 So management when are you going to stop  
20 playing games with the students of the city?  
21 It's time for him to wake up and stop, take his  
22 dollars and go somewhere else, but you're not  
23 doing nothing for the city. And it's going to  
24 go back to the people, the parents, the schools,  
25 he's got to go too. Because like she said,

1 enough is enough. We need education, we need  
2 jobs; we're not stuck, we got game. And it  
3 looks like they do it on purpose. So we think  
4 you need to wake up before we wake up. They  
5 ain't going to like it when we wake up. Thank  
6 you.

7 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: Thank you. Thank you.  
8 So we've exhausted the sign-up list. Is there  
9 anyone else that would like to make a comment?  
10 In the yellow in the back, would you please come  
11 up?

12 LINCOLN: Good evening everyone.

13 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: Good evening. Can you  
14 tell us your name?

15 LINCOLN: My name is Lincoln. My son goes  
16 to - - PS 106. It's just I'm starting to look  
17 at we're sitting here now, after you guy had  
18 made the decision and one of our schools - - .

19 Education to all kids should be top priority  
20 on for me. This is all kinds of opposition and  
21 you still going through that. We have no say in  
22 where or what goes into our schools. Why is  
23 that? Why is that? Maybe stop. We are not a  
24 part. We are not something that can be  
25 positioned. I served in the Bronx, get a little

1 of this money where their schools are  
2 concerned.

3 Schools in the Bronx get the lowest of  
4 money. We have to be - - , the parents got to  
5 come together and we live on stuff to - -  
6 school. We need something to be changed here in  
7 the Bronx. We don't need a lot of school. We  
8 don't need a lot of school to act it on the kids  
9 - - classroom right now. The classes are too  
10 over-crowded, must - - I hold myself. One  
11 teacher per class for 30 kids, 27 kids, 26 kids.  
12 Come on now. When is it going to stop? When  
13 the kids are running in the street? The cops  
14 picking them off like flies. That's the  
15 position you guys have for us?

16 What is a - - ? We're on top of the list  
17 for one violin? This is crazy. Too crazy. And  
18 the only position that didn't fall to - -  
19 finish. Make mistakes. We have active parents  
20 holding - - kids to class, coming home, can't  
21 read at age seven, eight and ten.

22 We have to - - to go somewhere else for our  
23 kids to get a better education one half of the  
24 school year for teachers that teach your kids?  
25 One teacher can't do it. The present kids are

1 27 or 26 kids. What is she going to do? Many  
2 school teachers. Are you not - - school stigma  
3 separating classes. What other classes - - .

4 Do something different so all of us can  
5 learn and start at the school year. We don't  
6 need that writing on the walls. Take that  
7 [background noise]. We need to make a change of  
8 [background noise]. - - . Come on we need to  
9 stop this and if this will go on, trust me. We  
10 will stand in front of these classroom in front  
11 of the building in the school, not [background  
12 noise].

13 MS. ELIZABETH WHITE: Thank you. So again  
14 if you did not speak here or if there's anyone  
15 who could not attend this evening's meeting,  
16 they can have an opportunity to express their  
17 comments on this proposal through the  
18 [D11proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D11proposals@schools.nyc.gov) and at 212-374-  
19 5159. Again the Panel for Educational Policy  
20 will vote on this proposal April 26, 2012, and  
21 the meeting will be held at Prospect Heights  
22 Campus, located at 883 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn,  
23 New York 11225. Thank you for your  
24 participation this evening. This joint public  
25 hearing is now closed.

- 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

[ END 290\_218 ]

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julie Granger", is written over a horizontal line.

7  
8           Date April 5, 2012  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25