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

Unity Prep Charter School - 12/6/12

**P.S. 44 Marcus Garvey
432 Monroe Street
Brooklyn, NY 11221**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. LILY HASKINS: First thing I want to
3 introduce myself. My name is Lilly Haskins. I
4 work with the Office of Portfolio Management and
5 I will be acting as the facilitator for
6 tonight's joint public hearing. We have asked
7 that the District 13 community education council
8 and the school leadership team of P.S. 44,
9 Marcus Garvey, to participate in this joint
10 public hearing tonight. This is a joint public
11 hearing of the Department of Education,
12 Community Education Council CC13, and the school
13 leadership team to discuss the following
14 proposal. The proposed opening and co-location
15 of a new public charter school, Unity Prep
16 Charter School of Brooklyn, with existing school
17 P.S. 44, Marcus Garvey, in building K044,
18 beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.
19 Tonight's proceedings will be recorded and
20 transcribed. Before we begin the hearing, as I
21 said earlier, we ask that anyone who wishes to
22 speak during the public comment portion of the
23 evening sign up at the table in the back. It's
24 directly through the center of the doorway.
25 Sign up will end at 6:20, 15 minutes from now.

1 Only those who have signed up to speak will be
2 able to participate in the public comment
3 period. All panel participants were asked to be
4 here no later than 5:30 p.m. Now that we have
5 started, if a panel participant arrives late, he
6 or she will be given the time to speak at the
7 first opportune moment. We want to be
8 respectful of everyone's time here tonight.
9 There may be elected officials who arrive at
10 different times throughout the course of the
11 evening. If they wish to speak, we will do our
12 best to accommodate them at our first opportune
13 moment. Those who are here at the start of the
14 public comment segment will be asked to speak
15 first. So I want everyone to know that the
16 hearing is officially beginning right now at
17 6:07 p.m. Unity Prep has been approved by its
18 charter authorizer, the New York State
19 Department of Education, or SED, to open a new
20 public charter school in Community School
21 District 13. Although this proposal has not yet
22 been approved by the panel of educational
23 policy, referred to as the PEP, SED is required
24 to hold a facilities hearing to receive feedback
25 on the proposed co-location of Unity Prep with

1 P.S. 44. As such, this joint public hearing
2 will also serve as the facilities hearing.
3 There is a representative from SED in
4 attendance. If you have any questions or
5 comments on the charter itself, Mr. Jamal Young
6 of SED will now tell you how to submit questions
7 and comments. Mr. Young, if you want to come
8 give a statement?

9 MR. JAMAL YOUNG: Good evening. So
10 actually, let me just give you a little bit of
11 context. I just want to set for you the stage
12 in terms of why the State Education Department
13 is here and just reference the law. If you do
14 have questions or concerns about the
15 application, I believe there may be a
16 representative from the school here. Is there a
17 rep from the school here? Okay, great. So we
18 have a representative from the school here, who
19 I imagine will be here and able to field
20 questions for you after the hearing has
21 concluded. And that would be the best way for
22 you to start. Then if you have any additional
23 questions, I'll be here as well after this
24 meeting. So again, let me start from the
25 beginning. My name is Jamal Young and I'm with

1 the Charter School Office of the New York State
2 Education Department. We're the administrative
3 arm for the Board of Regents and the Regents are
4 responsible for the general supervision of all
5 educational activities in New York State. The
6 Board comprises 13 members elected by the state
7 legislature for five year terms, one from each
8 of the state's 13 judicial districts and four
9 members who serve at large. The Regents are
10 unsalaried and they are reimbursed only for
11 travel and related expenses in connection with
12 their official duties. The authority for the
13 Regents to issue charters to the boards of
14 trustees, which then establish charter schools,
15 comes from Article 36 of the New York State
16 Education Law. The law was originally passed in
17 1996 and most recently updated in 2010. The law
18 requires the Board of Regents to conduct public
19 hearings to discuss co-locating charter schools.
20 Tonight's hearing is to discussed the proposed
21 co-location of Unity Prep Charter School. While
22 the Board of Regents sets educational policy,
23 and SED serves as its administrative arm,
24 neither the Board of Regents or SED have any
25 authority over the placement of charter schools

1 within facilities owned by the Department of
2 Education. Nonetheless, we remain concerned
3 about public sentiment pertaining to the co-
4 location of region's authorized charter schools.
5 This evening, I'll be gathering comments from
6 the school community pertaining to this co-
7 location. These comments will be summarized and
8 shared with the Board of Regents. SED will
9 continue to receive comments for five calendar
10 days until after the PEP has met. The PEP
11 hearing will be on December 20, 2012. Five days
12 after December 20 is Christmas Day, so we will
13 continue to receive comments until December 26,
14 which is the Wednesday. Written statements that
15 you may choose to make may be submitted at the
16 conclusion of this hearing or mailed to my
17 attention, Mr. Jamal L. Young, at 55 Hanson
18 Place, Room 400, Brooklyn, New York. The zip
19 code there is 11217. Or you can fax it to 718-
20 722-2215. And if you need that information at
21 the end of this hearing, I'll be here to provide
22 that to you again. So thank you for your time
23 and I'll turn it back over to Lily.

24 MS. HASKINS: Thank you so much. Tonight's
25 format will include a presentation of the

1 proposal and presentation by hearing
2 participants, followed by public comment.
3 Speakers should have already signed up at the
4 sign in table in the lobby there. If you have
5 not yet signed up, there are eight minutes
6 remaining. Public comments can be no longer
7 than two minutes each. The time will be
8 strictly followed and speakers will be informed
9 when their designated time has ended. I would
10 now like to introduce the panel members before
11 me, who have assembled for this evening's joint
12 public hearing. Firstly, we have Superintendent
13 Barbara Freeman, we have Principal Taylor of
14 P.S. 44, and I would also like to acknowledge
15 members of her school leadership team, Assistant
16 Principal Holder; Valerie Taylor, Principal;
17 Helena Johnson Mackenzie--and I apologize if I
18 pronounce any of these incorrectly--Patricia
19 Cokley, Sharion [phonetic] Brown, Deborah
20 Summersill [phonetic], Kimberly Wallace, Luella
21 R. Gordon, Rosalie Hayward, Diara [phonetic]
22 Martin, Sobhana Rahim, Kristina Jackson, Anita
23 Petaway, Lillian Serretini [phonetic], Darlene
24 Joyner, and Teresa Rush. I'm also joined by
25 David Goldsmith, President of CEC 13. We have

1 no elected officials at this time but if any
2 are to join us, I will make sure to introduce
3 them accordingly. I will now turn the program
4 over to Chancellor's designee, Superintendent
5 Barbara Freeman, who will present the proposal
6 to you.

7 MS. BARBARA FREEMAN: Okay. Good evening.
8 So this is the proposal summary. The New York
9 City Department of Education is proposing to co-
10 locate Unity Prep Charter School of Brooklyn, a
11 new public charter school that will serve
12 students in sixth through eighth grade, with
13 P.S. 44, Marcus Garvey, in Building K044 in
14 Community School District 13 beginning 2013-
15 2014. Building K044 is located at 432 Monroe
16 Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11221. A co-
17 location means that two or more school
18 organizations are located in the same building
19 and may share common spaces like the auditorium,
20 gymnasiums, and the cafeteria. If the proposal
21 is approved, beginning in 2013, Unity Prep will
22 be co-located in K044 with P.S. 44, Marcus
23 Garvey, an existing zone school that serves
24 students in kindergarten through fifth grades
25 and offers one section of full day pre-

1 kindergarten. P.S. 44 is the only existing
2 school in this building. If this proposal is
3 approved, Unit Prep will open in September,
4 2013, and will serve 115-145 students in grade
5 six and will add one grade each year until it
6 reaches full scale in 2015-16. At that time,
7 Unity Prep will serve approximately 322-412
8 students in sixth through eighth grade. The
9 school will admit students via its charter
10 lottery application process, with preference
11 given to District 13 residents, and is set aside
12 for students who receive free and reduced lunch
13 and for English Language Learner students.
14 Earlier in the fall of 2012, the New York State
15 Education Department, SED, approved Unity Prep's
16 application for charter authorization and
17 authorized Unity Prep to serve students in sixth
18 through tenth grade. The proposal to open and
19 co-locate Unity Prep only allows Unity Prep to
20 site its sixth through eighth grades in K044.
21 If Unity Prep wishes to site its ninth and tenth
22 grades in public space, Unity Prep will be
23 required to apply to DOE for available space.
24 Any resulting proposal involving a significant
25 change in the school utilization will be the

1 subject of future EIS in accordance with
2 Chancellor's regulations A190. The DOE has
3 identified Building K044 as an underutilized
4 building. The Building K044 has the capacity to
5 serve 989 students but in 2012-13, P.S. 44 is
6 projected to serve 316 students in Kindergarten
7 through grade five and 18 students in pre-
8 kindergarten. This yields a building
9 utilization rate of approximately 34%, which
10 demonstrates that the building is underutilized
11 and has space to accommodate additional
12 students. If this proposal is approved, in
13 2015-16 building K044 will serve 645-795
14 students from Unity Prep and P.S. 44
15 collectively, which yields a projected
16 utilization rate of 65-80%. Thus building K044
17 has sufficient space to accommodate the proposed
18 location.

19 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. I would also like
20 to introduce Principal Taylor again, who would
21 like to read remarks.

22 MS. VALERIE TAYLER: Good evening. I must
23 begin by thanking my P.S. 44 family for this
24 showing of support tonight. And this is a
25 display of your support and the passion that you

1 share for P.S. 44. P.S. 44, as many of you
2 know, has had a long history of successes that
3 we are very proud of. The parents, faculty,
4 staff, both present and past, have worked very
5 hard to create a culture here at P.S. 44 that is
6 filled with truth and supports the development
7 both academically and personally of our
8 children. And I know many of you have your
9 concerns tonight and you will get an opportunity
10 to share them. But I am here to tell you as a
11 building leader that I am here, I will stay
12 committed to this community, to ensure that
13 every child who walks through these doors have
14 the opportunity to succeed at the highest level
15 possible. And I will assure you that whatever
16 it takes, I will be championing their cause to
17 make sure that they have the space to thrive and
18 develop and be the best they can be. So you can
19 count on me and my commitment. And I know you
20 will stand behind me to support, because the
21 children of this community deserve only the
22 best. Thank you.

23 MS. HASKINS: Thank you, Principal Taylor.
24 So the next presenter will be David Goldsmith,
25 CEC President of 13.

1 MR. DAVID GOLDSMITH: Good evening,
2 everyone. So I, as President of the CEC 13, am
3 here to represent the Council. And we're here
4 to support Principal Taylor and the school
5 community here. We too remain and will remain
6 committed to making sure that whatever the
7 outcome in terms of the proposed co-location
8 that P.S. 44 continues to get support that it
9 needs to thrive and to flourish. We've seen co-
10 locations that can work and we've seen co-
11 locations that don't work. And it takes to make
12 them work, it takes a lot of collaboration and a
13 lot of vigilance and activity. And we encourage
14 the P.S. 44 community to remain involved and
15 support your Principal and support your children
16 and be involved in the school. And that is
17 really ultimately the only way that you can
18 ensure that your children receive their full
19 right to a great education. We're here to help
20 with that. We're here tonight to hear and are
21 eager to hear testimony from and comments from
22 the P.S. 44 community. We're often disappointed
23 by the processes. This is a conversation that
24 we think should have been going on for a long
25 time, as P.S. 44 started to face challenges of

1 underutilization. But here we are. And that
2 being said, we do acknowledge that there is
3 space in this building for the possibility of a
4 co-location. We are grateful that the students
5 that may come into this building are not the
6 same grade so that there won't be competition
7 for the same students, that being it would be a
8 middle school. And we've heard--actually, I'm
9 not a big fan of charter schools. I think
10 that's well known. But we have heard positive
11 feedback about the leadership of this school.
12 And we're eager, like I say, the leadership of
13 Unity Prep and their commitment to children. So
14 we're eager to hear from you tonight. And we
15 plan to work collaboratively for appositive
16 result and make sure that all the children in
17 this building get what they need. Thank you.

18 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. So we
19 have now concluded our formal presentation
20 section. I ask that the following people line
21 up for public comment. We have nine speakers in
22 total and public comment has now officially
23 closed. So would the first, since we only have
24 nine, let's come up in three. So would the
25 first three speakers please line up? The

1 microphone is right here in the front and my
2 colleague Sonya Hooks will be keeping time. Pat
3 Cokley, Janice Beatley [phonetic]--I'm sorry if
4 I can't read this--Yaocov Abraham. Yaocov
5 Abraham, excuse me. Please, go ahead.

6 MS. PAT COKLEY: Good evening. I have a
7 couple concerns. My - - is the lottery process.
8 I would like to know about the students who are
9 currently enrolled in this school and where they
10 stand in terms of application and their
11 admittance into the Unity Prep School along with
12 their siblings. Secondly, I have a big concern
13 in charter schools. What I've heard and I - -
14 over the year, I'd like to know what do you all
15 have in place, Unity Prep, have in place to make
16 sure that the culture of P.S. 44, the building,
17 remain. 'Cause there's a sense that we're a
18 family here, not only the teachers, the staff,
19 the team, we are family here. That's first and
20 foremost. Anyone that sends their child here,
21 you know we have a history, that these are our
22 children. [applause] and run with the biggest
23 events and all that. So we are about children.
24 So I hope that Unity Prep will come in with the
25 same culture to join in. Because that is where

1 the problems lie when we co-exist, co-locate
2 with a current school and a charter school. So
3 we do not go into this differentiated stuff,
4 this type of child, or whatever. When we come,
5 we are totally family. And I just hope that
6 this is first and foremost. Thank you.

7 MS. HASKINS: Thank you. I want to deviate
8 from the list of public speakers for one moment
9 because we've been joined from a representative
10 from Assembly Member Robinson's office, Michael
11 Smith. If you would like to come give remarks.
12 Thank you so much.

13 MR. MICHAEL SMITH: Good evening to
14 everyone. I wanted to take the opportunity to
15 bring greetings from your State Senator, Annette
16 Robinson, who is currently in Washington, D.C.
17 But she did call me and ask me to attend this
18 event this evening. Let me preface my remarks
19 by saying that, as I'm looking around, I'm
20 having flashbacks because I am actually a
21 graduate of this school. I remember and it was
22 quite a while ago, but I do remember the great
23 times I had in this school and all the friends
24 that I made. I can even run off all the
25 teachers I had from first grade to sixth grade.

1 That's how much of an impact P.S. 44 has had
2 on me. Let me say this. The Assemblywoman will
3 be in direct contact with our Superintendent and
4 Principal Taylor. But I've asked you, because I
5 can't stay for the entire session tonight, and I
6 would ask you to call our office the next couple
7 of days and just let me know how you feel about
8 this. The Assemblywoman is very concerned about
9 charter schools. She is not against charter
10 schools but she is concerned about charter
11 schools when it comes to co-locating in any of
12 the schools. And we do have a few of those in
13 the 56 assembly district. So we want to monitor
14 this as carefully as possible. We want to have
15 as much of an open mind as possible to this.
16 Charter schools can do some marvelous things.
17 But they shouldn't do marvelous things at the
18 expense of the existing school. And that's the
19 key issue. So thank you all for coming out
20 tonight. I'm really interested and I'm going to
21 stay as long as I possibly can to hear your
22 comments. Again, the Assemblywoman will be in
23 direct contact with everybody who is making
24 decisions regarding the placement of this
25 charter school into P.S. 44. And again, it is

1 good to be back in this place. Thank you very
2 much.

3 MS. HASKINS: Thank you, Mr. Smith. We've
4 also been joined tonight by first Vice President
5 Benjamin Greene from CEC 13, so I want to give
6 him a chance to make some remarks.

7 MR. GREENE: Good evening, everyone. I'd
8 just first like to say that we've been hearing
9 positive things about P.S. 44. We at the CEC
10 are here to support all our district schools,
11 including P.S. 44. And just to let you know, I
12 am a member of the community. I've lived in
13 Bedford-Stuyvesant for the last 30 some odd
14 years. So I do hear you. Please understand
15 that this is not the last position that you can
16 make, express your concerns for or about your
17 schools. So please, we need to hear from you at
18 the CEC. And please, if you're no on the
19 proposal, there is email address that you can
20 also address it. But we would like, at the CEC,
21 to also hear your concerns so that we can
22 forward that to the Chancellor and also to the
23 Department of Education. Thank you.

24 MS. HASKINS: Thank you, Ben. So reverting
25 back to the speaker's list, next we have Janice

1 Beatley. No? Okay. So moving onward.

2 Yaocov Abraham? Yaocov Abraham. I apologize
3 again. Three times in a row.

4 MR. YAOCOV ABRAHAM: No apology is needed.
5 I've been the school counselor here for 13 years
6 and a school counselor in district 13 since
7 1986. And one of the things that is really
8 important to me is I know the change and
9 transition is extremely difficult for everyone.
10 It is difficult for us, the adults, the
11 administrators, the teachers that are here. It
12 is especially difficult for children to deal
13 with change, especially that they aren't
14 prepared for. And as a school counselor, one of
15 the things I feel really, really deeply is we
16 have to hear the children's voice in this
17 dialogue. They are the ones, the children are
18 going to be the ones dealing with the - - and
19 this proposition. And I see colleagues and
20 community people here and I am really grateful
21 to see some children here. But I feel not this
22 as an individual school counselor that that
23 should be a part of the agenda, that there has
24 to be some way to prepare the children, both
25 from the charter school and from our school so

1 that we can hear what they have to say. And I
2 want to give an example, a personal example,
3 very quickly, of how seriously we take helping
4 children stay focused on their work. Tonight we
5 are going to hear from Sarah Martino, who is the
6 President of the SGO, the student government
7 here, and one of the captains of the Peace
8 Patrol. We have a Peace Patrol in grades one
9 through five where children can sign up.
10 They'll be on the playground. They will be in
11 the hallways. And their little job is to try and
12 help each other, even when adults may not be
13 apparent in or out, they have a better and a
14 peaceful school. And when we get kids, we make
15 this feel like it's their school, that we care
16 about you. That's when we have a nice, peaceful
17 school. Thank you.

18 MS. HASKINS: Next I would like to introduce
19 Ms. Rahim from the SLT.

20 MS. SOBHANA RAHIM: Hi, my name is Sobhana
21 Rahim. I am a member of the School Leadership
22 Team. And I brought my daughter here a year
23 ago, so this is her second year. And I'm here
24 from Pennsylvania and I was very concerned when
25 we moved to Brooklyn. I was concerned with

1 sending her a really good school. So I looked
2 around at many schools and then I thought, let
3 me check my neighborhood school. And I did. I
4 came here and I met the Principal and I met the
5 - - leader, and the secretary. And they have
6 been there for years and it felt like I was a
7 member of the community. I saw them in shopping
8 centers when I walk around. They knew my name
9 the next time I came. What struck me was when I
10 did commit to finally check my daughter in, this
11 woman came in after me and she said that she had
12 just recently relocated to New York. And the
13 secretary remembered her. She said, "Aren't
14 you, weren't you here like 10 years ago or
15 something?" And she said, "Yes. I did go to
16 this school." And she was bringing her
17 daughter. So when we talk family, it really,
18 really is family. I remember once, I came up
19 every single day the first two weeks because I
20 was concerned about my daughter, because I'm
21 from Pennsylvania. So I walked in and she said
22 to me, "Oh, I was wondering when you would come
23 in. I knew you'd be here." And so I do
24 understand the concerns about having another
25 school co-locate here. And one of my concerns

1 is that, the resources, the resource sharing.
2 I'm looking at the schedule for the library, for
3 instance. And I know that when my daughter
4 came, she needed a lot of help and she got that
5 help. And she got the resources. And so I just
6 want to make sure that those resources are still
7 available for the children here because this is
8 a good school and the people do care. And I
9 want to make sure that those resources are
10 available so that we're not slowly eating away
11 at those resources and the children's grades
12 start falling because the resources aren't
13 there. And that's a concern of mine. But I'm
14 sure we can work it out and I look forward to
15 working it out. But I am really concerned about
16 - - . Thank you.

17 MS. HASKINS: I do want to address one issue
18 that was raised in your comment, Ms. Rahim,
19 about the shared space schedule. So I do want
20 to clarify that the shared space schedule that
21 is in the building utilization plan, that is
22 just a shared space schedule that was drafted by
23 our office to make evident that there is
24 sufficient space and ability to accommodate the
25 shared spaces amongst the two schools. That

1 being said, the decisions are ultimately left
2 to both principals to make. And that is one
3 that Principal Taylor and the Principal of Unity
4 Prep will be making together. I just wanted to
5 clarify that. And next I will call up the
6 President of Student Government, Sarah Martino.

7 MISS SARAH MARTINO: Thank you, invited
8 guests, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Holder, faculty,
9 parents, and community members. My name is
10 Sarah Martino of - - 5301 and I am the President
11 of Student Government here at P.S. 44. Tonight
12 I will speak on behalf of my peers as I speak
13 about our school. P.S. 44 is a school where the
14 teachers are nice and work hard to provide us
15 with a good education. The administrators and
16 support staff care about us. Our school is an
17 important and necessary part of our community
18 that has a history of preparing its students for
19 life. I am a third generation student. Both of
20 my siblings, my sister--18 years old--and my
21 brother--25 years old--went here. We believe I
22 this school. We hope that all decisions made
23 here tonight will not only be in the best
24 interest of Unity Prep, but also the students of
25 P.S. 44. Thank you and good night.

1 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much Miss
2 Martino. Our next speaker is Hemant
3 Ventkataraman.

4 MR. HEMANT VENTKATARAMAN: Good evening,
5 everyone. Good evening, everyone. My name is
6 Hemant Ventekataraman and I am a cofounder and
7 the Director of Culture and Enrichment of Unity
8 Preparatory Charter School. I would love to
9 address some of the important questions that
10 have been raised tonight regarding our lottery
11 process, our approach to school culture. In
12 fact, I am very happy to stick around as late as
13 anyone would like to discuss those things. In
14 two minutes, I just wanted to express our
15 commitment to some of the things that have been
16 raised tonight, our commitment for positive
17 school culture and the sense of family. What I
18 could tell you is that our leadership team met
19 with Principal Taylor, Principal Greene of the
20 CEC, Superintendent Freeman a few weeks ago.
21 And we really walked out of that meeting feeling
22 optimistic that our two organizations could work
23 together. We're members of the community. We
24 were New York City Public School DOE teachers
25 who decided to design a great school for this

1 community that we really want to serve. We
2 would love to see your students in our school in
3 the near future. In fact, we actually looked
4 into whether it was legal for us to give
5 preference to P.S. 44 students in our lottery
6 process. We were told we couldn't prefer a
7 particular school. But in our lottery, we did
8 choose to express a preference for families
9 eligible for free and reduced price lunch. As
10 that represents about three-quarters of the
11 district, we wanted to make sure that they had
12 options. When Superintendent Freeman told us
13 that half of the families in the district don't
14 go to a school in the district, but they seek
15 options elsewhere. So all we want to do is
16 create a great option to this district. I can
17 tell you that when Principal Taylor went to our
18 website, unitprep.org, and she read a lengthy
19 description that we provided about what we
20 envision a day in the life of a student being at
21 Unity Prep, at that meeting she said, "Wow, it
22 sounds like you're reading my mind. This is
23 like my model. This is what I care about:
24 character, taking care of the entire child,
25 talking about social and emotional learning

1 along with curriculum." It's not just math
2 and science. It's all about teaching our kids
3 how to solve problems peacefully. And so I
4 really appreciate the remarks by Sarah of the
5 student government as well. So I can assure you
6 that I would love to stay around and discuss
7 with any interested parents, community members,
8 or representatives at the school today our
9 approach to all of the things that you brought
10 up. And I really do believe that we'll have a
11 successful partnership going forward. Thank
12 you.

13 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much. Next we
14 have, I believe, the father of the President of
15 the student government, Guillermo Martino.

16 MR. GUILLERMO MARTINO: Good evening,
17 everyone. I am the father of Sarah. And she is
18 third generation. We had three kids that were
19 grown up in this school. And one thing I did
20 learn that I could not find a better school for
21 my children. - - being a successful, Sarah is
22 just in the fifth grade, but she is blessed by
23 being in a school like this. My two other kids,
24 one is in college and the other one graduated.
25 He's in the navy and he is very proud of what

1 the teachers have done with this school. One
2 thing I can tell you about the teachers here,
3 they're not only teachers but they are family.
4 One thing I can understand why the government,
5 which is so eager to bring another school here,
6 is not concerned about what is going on in the
7 neighborhood. Something is not right when the
8 children cannot make it into school. So I think
9 that before we go into deeper studies, the
10 government can find out what is the need in the
11 community that they can help out the people in
12 the community. And bring in family resources to
13 come into the school. - - Principal Taylor, she
14 has been an inspiration for my daughters and my
15 son. And all of the teachers that they are such
16 a great team. The staff, all of you, God bless
17 you. We pray that we would make the right
18 decision tonight. God bless you.

19 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much, Mr.
20 Martino. Our next speaker is Ms. Rush from the
21 SLT of P.S. 44.

22 MS. TERESA RUSH: Good evening, everyone.
23 My name is Teresa Rush. My son has been going
24 here since he was in kindergarten. And my
25 biggest concern is that we are here not for us,

1 for the children. That is my biggest concern,
2 it is not politically. These are our children.
3 We have to stick together to - - . This is our
4 school, our community. This is our family.
5 When I need somebody to bring my son to school,
6 Ms. Sherwin is helping me. We are family. My
7 son has teachers here, still here, I was told to
8 bring my son here by somebody who my son is
9 going to daycare with. Their children, their
10 grandchildren, their adult children, went here.
11 So see, when people tell you to bring your
12 children here, it's for a reason. And - - what
13 I was going to say so - - . I'm just expressing
14 my feelings. We, this is for our children, not
15 for us. And I'll just say, this is a family,
16 one, big, loving family. So like Sarah said,
17 this, she loves this school. She loves the
18 teachers. So please make the right decision for
19 our children. Thank you.

20 MS. HASKINS: Thank you very much, Ms. Rush.
21 Our last speaker of the evening is Ms. Anita
22 Petaway from the SLT of P.S. 44 as well.

23 MS. ANITA PETAWAY: Hi, my name is Anita
24 Petaway. My main concern is that they've talked
25 about that they researched the school, that

1 we're underutilized and they decided to put
2 the school in here. However, I have a third
3 grader in the school. And if you bring a sixth
4 grader into the mix, you know, that's the age
5 and everything. And I worry about how they are
6 going to coexist. You talk about sharing space,
7 how are you going to share space? Are you going
8 to bring a seventh grader down to the same floor
9 as a second grader? I don't understand that. I
10 mean, I think of it more like a marriage and you
11 have your kids here already and you're bringing
12 in step kids. And as far as I'm concerned, most
13 marriages, it's going to take kids a long time,
14 a long time, to coexist. And I don't understand
15 how you all did not take that into the picture.
16 How is that in the picture? You talk about
17 space. You talk about underutilized. You talk
18 about how many kids you want to bring in here.
19 You talk about a lottery and District 13.
20 District 13 is huge. And if the kids are going
21 to remain as a family, how far are you going to
22 go out to bring these kids in in District 13? I
23 don't understand that. Because, like, everyone
24 has been staying. I can go to a grocery store,
25 I can go to a Laundromat, I can go to a movie,

1 and I'll see somebody from this school. You
2 know? And what's going to happen once you mix
3 all that in together? I don't understand. So I
4 need to get something documented how the kids
5 are going to coexist. Because I have other
6 nieces and nephews in schools, not charter, but
7 upper graders, and they do not coexist there.
8 It's not coexisting. You're talking about
9 you're trying to bring a middle school in that's
10 going to help us. But other middle schools that
11 are in the public schools. The problems are the
12 kids aren't getting along. So we need to really
13 figure out how to let these kids coexist.

14 MS. HASKINS: Thank you, Ms. Petaway. I do
15 want to address quickly in terms of co-locations
16 and underutilized buildings. Over 50% of our
17 school buildings in New York City are utilized
18 by more than one school organization's time. As
19 we talked about with the programming of the
20 shared spaces, that ultimately comes down to
21 Principal Taylor and the Principal of Unity
22 Prep. And the strength of those two leaders
23 will determine the programming of the space.
24 And Principal Taylor will have one of the says
25 in the building council presiding over that one

1 programming the shared space. I also wanted
2 to say that that is the last speaker of the
3 night. So we have concluded our public comment
4 section. I will be staying afterward if any of
5 you have any other comments or questions that
6 you want to ask me, please feel free to do so.
7 So we have heard many significant comments this
8 evening. We do appreciate your feedback and
9 contributions to this hearing. The information
10 will be shared as the panel of the B Educational
11 Policy, which will have its hearing on December
12 20, 2012, at six p.m. at the High School of
13 Fashion Industries. That school is located at
14 225 West 24th Street, New York, New York 10011,
15 to vote on this proposal. As Ben mentioned
16 about submitting comments, the email address and
17 phone numbers where you may submit comments are
18 d13proposals@schools.nyc.gov. You may also
19 submit comments via phone at 212-374-0208. Did
20 everyone get that? Do you want me to say either
21 again? Okay. Again, the email address is
22 d13proposals@schools.nyc.gov and the phone
23 number again is 212-374-0208. Thank you all
24 very much for coming tonight. This joint public
25 hearing is officially adjourned.

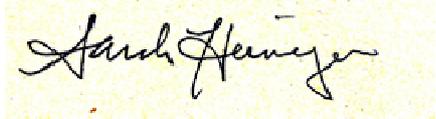
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Signature

Date__12/10/12