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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION  
DIVISION OF PORTFOLIO  
PLANNING  
Grade Expansion of PS 236  
from K-2 to K-5**

**November 9, 2011**

**6:00 p.m.**

**499 East 175 Street  
Bronx, NY 10457**

1 [START 259\_096]

2 MS. DELORES ESPOSITO: Good evening  
3 everyone. Um, today is a joint public hearing  
4 of the Department of Education, Community  
5 Education Counsel, and the School Leadership  
6 Team of PS 236. Does everybody know about  
7 translation? You want me to say that?

8 FEMALE VOICE: They have the device but, you  
9 know, that - - .

10 MS. DOLORES ESPOSITO: Sure. Before we  
11 continue, um, if anybody needs translation,  
12 [Foreign Audio Spoken], please see Mr. Roseles  
13 [phonetic] [Foreign Audio Spoken]. Anybody  
14 translation? So please go over there [Foreign  
15 Audio Spoken]. So we're just going to wait for  
16 a few minutes to make sure everyone has  
17 everything that they need. [Foreign Audio  
18 Spoken].

19 [Crosstalk]

20 FEMALE VOICE: [Background noise] there's  
21 another meeting halfway through.

22 MS. DOLORES ESPOSITO: Okay. So let's  
23 begin. Good evening everyone. Today is a joint  
24 public hearing of the Department of Education,  
25 the Community Education Counsel, and the School

1 Leadership Team for the proposed sixth grade  
2 expansion of PS 236 to a K to 5 school building  
3 in buildings X236 and X173 beginning in 2012 to  
4 2013. Yes. I am the Superintendent of  
5 District, Delores Esposito. We have asked the  
6 District 9 Community Education Counsel and the  
7 School Leadership Team of PS 236 to participate  
8 in this joint public hearing. I am joined  
9 tonight by the school leadership team chair  
10 which is Ms. Anna Vasquez. Where is Ms.  
11 Vasquez?

12 MS. ALICIA VASQUEZ: Alicia.

13 MS. DOLORES ESPOSITO: Alicia Vasquez and  
14 the Marilyn Espada, the CC president. Okay.  
15 This hearing is being recorded. Alicia Vasquez.  
16 This hearing is being recorded. The purpose of  
17 this hearing is for you to provide comments  
18 about the proposal to expand PS 236. Before I  
19 describe the proposal, I want to make sure that  
20 you are all aware of the opportunity to provide  
21 your input. All of those who wish to speak must  
22 sign up in the speaker sign-up area located just  
23 outside. And the sign-up list will close in 15  
24 minutes. Speakers will be given the floor in  
25 the order that they signed up. All comments are

1 limited up to two minutes. Thank you. There  
2 may be elected officials who show up at  
3 different times throughout the evening. If they  
4 wish to speak, we will do our best to  
5 accommodate them at the first opportune moment.  
6 Those who are here at the start of the public  
7 comment segment will be asked to speak first.  
8 In addition, we welcome any comments and  
9 feedback that you may have at any time before  
10 the Panel for Education Policy votes on this  
11 proposal on November 17<sup>th</sup> for 2011. The email  
12 address and phone number where comments may be  
13 made are D09 proposals at schools dot NYC dot  
14 gov. And 212-374-5159. All comments that are  
15 made at today's hearing and throughout the DOE's  
16 dedicated phone number and email address for  
17 this proposal, will be discussed in the analysis  
18 of public comment that the DOE will publish and  
19 provide to the panel before the panel votes on  
20 this proposal. So let me share the proposal  
21 summary. PS 236, the Langston Hughes, is an  
22 existing choice elementary school split sided in  
23 the buildings X236 located at 499 East 165<sup>th</sup>  
24 Street, Bronx, New York 10457. And X173 located  
25 at 1871 Walton Avenue, Bronx, New York 10453 in

1 Community School District 9. PS 236 is an  
2 early childhood center that currently serves  
3 students in kindergarten through second grade  
4 and offers a pre-kindergarten program. The  
5 ECC's are small elementary schools that focus on  
6 early child education typically kindergarten  
7 through second grade. This is a proposal to  
8 implement a great expansion whereby PS 236 would  
9 expand to serve students in kindergarten through  
10 fifth grade at full scale. The Department of  
11 Education anticipates that the proposed  
12 expansion of PS 236 would continue its pre-  
13 kindergarten program as it currently operates.  
14 If this proposal is approved, students currently  
15 enrolled in kindergarten, first, and second  
16 grades would be able to continue at the school  
17 for third, fourth, and fifth grades. In 2012  
18 and 2013, PS 236 would begin to serve third  
19 grade. PS 236 would grow to serve one  
20 additional grade level each subsequent year  
21 until September, 2014. At which point the  
22 school would be full scale and would serve  
23 student in kindergarten through fifth grade. PS  
24 236 will be able to serve the instructional  
25 needs of all elementary school students in, in

1 kindergarten through grade five. Moreover,  
2 buildings X236 and X173, the two buildings in  
3 which the school is split sided, have  
4 appropriate facilities and sufficient space to  
5 support this proposed grade reconfiguration. PS  
6 236 currently shares space at X173 with La  
7 Peninsula Community organization which is a non-  
8 profit development program that operates several  
9 Headstart Centers in the Bronx including a  
10 program in the X173 building. This proposal  
11 would not impact La Peninsula's Headstart Center  
12 at X173. And La Peninsula's Headstart Center at  
13 X173 would continue to operate out of the same  
14 number of rooms it currently has been allocated.  
15 The DOE strives to ensure that all students in  
16 New York City have access to a high quality at  
17 every stage of their education. The DOE is  
18 proposing to expand PS 236 because having  
19 elementary schools that terminate in different  
20 grades, for example, K to 2 versus K to 5,  
21 creates challenges for students who must leave  
22 the elementary schools after second grade and  
23 move to other elementary schools for third  
24 through fifth grades. In addition,  
25 matriculating second graders are limited to

1 those schools that still have available third  
2 grade seats. As a result, some PS 236 students  
3 may not be able to enter their preferred  
4 elementary school after they leave PS 236. The  
5 proposed grade expansion at PS 236 would allow  
6 the school to provide its students with a  
7 continuous elementary school experience from  
8 kindergarten through fifth grade, reduce the  
9 number of transitions PS 236 students are  
10 required to currently make during the elementary  
11 school years, and would provide PS 236 students  
12 with similar access to attend school options as  
13 compared with other district peers. Currently,  
14 elementary schools in District 9 can attend  
15 their zoned elementary schools, apply to PS 236  
16 through a school based random selection process.  
17 Or apply to city wide or district wide gifted  
18 and talented programs through the gifted and  
19 talented application process. Under this  
20 proposal, PS 236 would remain a choice school  
21 and an elementary student--and elementary  
22 students in the District Nine would retain all  
23 of the above options. At this point, we'll hear  
24 from some of the hearing participants. Thank  
25 you. The next presenter will be Marilyn Espada

1 of the C-C if she would like to say a few words  
2 to you?

3 MS. MARILYN ESPADA: Hi, I'm Marilyn Espada  
4 and I'm here to represent the Community  
5 Education Counsel and I just wanted to thank all  
6 the parents for attending today's meeting.

7 MS. DOLORES ESPOSITO: Thank you. Um, I'd  
8 like to introduce the S--School Leadership Team  
9 Members that are present. Um, first, I want to  
10 recognize the PA President Bola Hernandez  
11 [phonetic]. Bola Hernandez, if you could stand  
12 up. Let's give her a hand. We also have Alicia  
13 Vasquez. And if we have the UFT, Marina Davis  
14 [phonetic] here. Marina Davis. And at this  
15 point, if anyone from the School Leadership Team  
16 would like to say anything?

17 MS. ALICIA VASQUEZ: Um, according to the  
18 meeting that we had in the, uh, was it October?

19 MS. DOLORES ESPOSITO: Yeah.

20 MS. ALICIA VASQUEZ: In October. Um, we had  
21 a very good response from the parents, um, in  
22 reference to wanting to extend the, the class--  
23 the classes up to fifth grade. So I mean we  
24 have to do what the community wants and what the  
25 community needs. So we are in support of the

1 expansion from K to 5.

2 MS. DOLORES ESPOSITO: I also want to thank  
3 the Principal Ms. Ellis who is with us tonight.

4 MS. BEVERLY ELLIS: Thank you, Delores. Um,  
5 I'm very happy to be sitting here tonight. Um,  
6 I think it's a dream come true for many of the  
7 parents in the neighborhood for as long as, uh,  
8 for as I can remember, parents have always said  
9 can't you go any higher? So this is our chance  
10 to now expand from K to 5. I'm very happy that  
11 we have the really the support of our parents  
12 who are very excited and we have the support of  
13 our staff members. We have staff members here  
14 tonight, um, uh, we have other members of the  
15 school leadership team here to support and also  
16 would like to introduce our Assistant Principal  
17 who sits on, on the other side of the building  
18 most of the time. Ms. Robinson would you please  
19 stand? Okay. Thank you. Um, and this is a  
20 very exciting but also a very challenging time  
21 for us.

22 MS. DOLORES ESPOSITO: Thank you. And now  
23 at this point, we have now concluded with all of  
24 the formal presentations. We will now open the  
25 floor for public comments. The speakers will be

1 given the floor in the order that they signed  
2 up. All comments are limited to up to two  
3 minutes. So I am told that we do not have any  
4 one on the speaker's list. Do you want to--get  
5 it? It's up to you. If you want to. Whatever  
6 you want. Whatever you want.

7 MS. ALESIA SOLOMON PERRY: I just want to  
8 know what [Background noise]. Hello can you  
9 hear me? Good evening parents, mothers and  
10 fathers and aunties whoever is here. But I just  
11 would really appreciate if everybody just put a  
12 little more effort to showing up to the meetings  
13 and partic--I see you Alesia [phonetic]. How  
14 you doing baby? To participate more. Because  
15 they're really trying to, you know, to me I  
16 think it'd be better for our kids. Third grade  
17 is--fifth grade is normally now when you  
18 graduate. And just participate--look, I live  
19 across the street and sometimes my daughter is  
20 late. And that's sad 'cause I live right across  
21 the street so you know but just for us to do a  
22 little more. Please. And that's embarrassing.  
23 I'm right across the street. How can I be late?  
24 But anyway, please just try to participate in  
25 the things and what I see you Alesia, you can

1 put your hand down. To more to participate in  
2 a community of things, the, the meetings and  
3 what not. Even if it's--you come for 15  
4 minutes. Just show your name. It at least  
5 shows, you know, we take an initiative. For the  
6 record, that is my daughter. But everybody,  
7 have a blessed holiday. But please let's try to  
8 do more for our kids. Please. By the way, my  
9 name is Alesia Solomon Perry [phonetic], aka  
10 Lely [phonetic].

11 MS. DOLORES ESPOSITO: Thank you. This  
12 speaker's list is now exhausted. Um, at this  
13 point we once again want to welcome any comments  
14 and feedback that you may have at any time  
15 before the Panel for Educational policy votes on  
16 this proposal at its November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The  
17 email address and phone number where comments  
18 may be made are D09 proposal at schools dot NYC  
19 dot gov and at 212-374-5159. I'll say that one  
20 more time. Uh, the email address and phone  
21 number where comments may be made are at D09  
22 proposals at schools dot NYC dot gov. And the  
23 phone number 212-374-5159. I want to thank  
24 everyone from the School Community, all the  
25 parents, all the students, the principal, the

1 network leader, Maria Quail, uh, the CC  
2 President, all of those that are here to show  
3 your, to show your support and to share your  
4 voices that are important to the Department of  
5 Ed. So on behalf of the Chancellor, I thank all  
6 of you. Have a wonderful evening. The meeting  
7 has been adjourned. Thank you.

8 [END 259\_096]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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6           Signature:           Lynn M. Reuland          

7           Date: November 11, 2011

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