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

Temporary Partial Re-Siting of X056

January 14, 2014

5:30pm

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. MELODY MASHEL: Good evening, everyone,
3 and thank you for coming. This is a joint
4 public hearing of the Department of Education
5 Committee Education Council and school
6 leadership team for the proposed temporary
7 partial re-siting of PS56 Norwood Heights with
8 the school 10X77 and District 75 school 75X in a
9 new building for two years beginning in the
10 2014/2015 school year. I am the - - school
11 District Superintendent for District 10, Melody
12 Mashel. I will be facilitating tonight's
13 meeting. We have asked that the District 10
14 Committee Education Council of the school
15 leadership team from PS56 to participate in this
16 joint public hearing. I am joined tonight by
17 Principal Sheeran from SLT and Marvin Shelton
18 and Valerie Greaves from CEC, Community
19 Education Council. This hearing is being
20 recorded. The purpose of this hearing is for
21 you to provide comments about the proposal.
22 Before I describe the proposal I want to make
23 sure that you are all aware of the opportunity
24 to provide [Background Noise] all those who wish
25 to speak this evening must sign up in the - -

1 sign up area located just outside, in this case
2 right in the back, if you choose to speak. The
3 sign up will close in 15 minutes. Speakers will
4 be given the floor in order of which they have
5 signed up. All comments are given 2 minutes.
6 [Background noise] There may be elected
7 officials who arrive at different times
8 throughout the evening. If they wish to speak
9 we will do our best to accommodate them at the
10 first opportune moment. Those who are here at
11 the start the public comments again will be
12 asked to speak first. All the comments will be
13 mentioned and responded to in the analysis of
14 public comments. This proposal will no longer
15 be voted on at the PEP, the Panel for
16 Educational Policies January 22, 2014.
17 Additional information regarding scheduling will
18 available shortly. In addition we welcome any
19 comments and feedback you may have at any time
20 before the town votes on this proposal. The
21 email address and phone number where comments
22 may be made are d10proposals@nyc.gov and
23 (212)374-5159. The proposal summary. The New
24 York City Department of Education or DOE is
25 proposing to temporarily partially re-site PS56

1 Norwood Heights to the new building at X177
2 which will be located at 3177 Webster Avenue,
3 Bronx, New York 10469. Beginning in the
4 2014/2015 school year PS56 will be re-sited at
5 X177 with 10X77 a new elementary school that
6 will open with kindergarten and add one grade
7 each year until it serves kindergarten to fifth
8 grade and District 75 schools. In re-siting - -
9 students will attend classes in a different
10 building than previous years. When two or more
11 school - - are located in the same building and
12 they share public spaces like the auditoriums,
13 school gymnasium, libraries, cafeterias. - -
14 PS56 a - - elementary school primarily serves
15 student here in building x56 although its second
16 grade it is currently being served at a nearby
17 St. Brendan Building for a few years. As
18 approved by the Panel for Educational Policy on
19 November 26, 2013. Building X56 is currently
20 undergoing construction of an addition that will
21 substantially increase the capacity of the
22 building as a whole. This construction in its
23 magnitude will be completed in time for
24 2016/2017 school year. Originally it was the
25 DOE's, the Department of Education intention for

1 PS56 to serve the students at the X56 as a
2 brand new building during the construction of
3 the addition and then beginning in 2016-2017
4 serve all the students in a new addition for two
5 years while the structure is to proceed on the
6 main buildings. In that scenario all the
7 structures would be completed in time for the
8 2018/2019 school year. At which point PS56 will
9 have full access to all of X56 including the
10 main building and the new addition. The DOE has
11 since found an alternate site for PS56 students.
12 The new X177 building. By re-siting students
13 for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 school years the
14 construction on the addition and the facilities
15 upgrades to the main building can be completed
16 simultaneously so that the entire construction
17 project can be completed—sorry so that the
18 entire construction project can be completed by
19 2016/2017 school year, two years earlier than
20 planned. During the course of this proposal's
21 implementation PS56 will continue to serve one
22 grade level in the same Brendan building and its
23 remaining grades will be served at X177. PS56
24 will be outfitted at least the same amount of
25 space in X177 as it currently utilizes at X56

1 and will share additional common areas like
2 gym, cafeteria with the other school. 10X77 and
3 district 75 programs will receive their full
4 footprint allocation of space. The DOE believes
5 that the placement of PS56 in building X177 for
6 two years will expedite the construction of the
7 X56 building while ensuring all these schools in
8 the building are able to meet the instructional
9 needs of their students over the course of this
10 proposal. The next presenter will be Marvin
11 Shelton, Valerie Greaves of the Community
12 Education Council.

13 MR. MARVIN SHELTON: Thank you. I'll be
14 brief. I support the proposals to move PS56 in
15 the new X177 building for the two years so that
16 they can speed up construction on the original
17 56 site.

18 MS. VALERIE GREAVES: I also support the
19 move to give them time to build a new building
20 and get all the kids back to school.

21 MS. MASHEL: MS. Sheeran would you like to
22 give comment on behalf of SLT.

23 MS. SHEERON: Of course I will. [Laughter]
24 [Crosstalk] We have to worry - - because it is
25 always plastic because we are in an elementary

1 school. [Laughter] - - I want to thank
2 everybody for coming and I want to recognize
3 those members of our school - - for being here.
4 Assistant Principal - - and Assistant Principal
5 - -, teachers and I also want to address those
6 parents that are very, very supportive and very
7 much aware of the overcrowding that we have had
8 in our school for many, many years. Each year
9 we always make do and we make arrangements and
10 we have a way of making sure that all of our
11 students are successful in their learning and
12 making sure that they are getting the best of
13 everything. The space issues have never ever
14 dampened that and for that we are very proud and
15 we will continue because our focus is always the
16 children. When this opportunity came up almost
17 2 years ago for us to have an extension, it was-
18 -believe me--it was June 14, Flag Day, 2012 and
19 I said will never forget that Flag Day because
20 it was just a wonderful exciting thought that we
21 were actually going to have an enough space to
22 have all of our children in the same building.
23 It has never happened. So here we are, thinking
24 it is going to be a wonderful thing and as the
25 plans moved on we came to realize that there

1 were so many things that had to be upgraded in
2 the main building that the job got bigger and
3 bigger and bigger. Although they would have
4 allowed us to stay here and work on the other
5 building we would have lost students because we
6 would have had to shut down classrooms in order
7 for the work to be done in a safe manner. Those
8 things that would have had to been done would
9 have taken at least 4 to 5 years. So we would
10 have been here under those conditions and moving
11 along trying to make do in our instruction
12 during that time. When this wonderful
13 opportunity came up that the construction at 177
14 was complete and that the opportunity for us to
15 be able to share the building with them and not
16 interfere with their learning and their school.
17 It was an opportunity of a lifetime. It
18 afforded us the opportunity to only spend 2
19 years under construction as opposed to 4 or 5
20 and we can't pass that up. It is a great
21 opportunity for our children. It is one that
22 will really afford us the opportunity to come
23 back to a space where everybody has a very, very
24 good space to be learning and we are happy to do
25 that because it's worth the sacrifice of making

1 the move in order for us to have that end
2 results in a short period of time. So I support
3 it, my school leadership teams supports it and
4 we believe that parents will support it as well
5 because it is all for the right reasons. It is
6 for the good of our children. Thank you.

7 MS. MASHEL: We have now concluded the
8 formal presentations. We will now open the
9 floor for public comments. Speakers will be
10 given the floor in the order that they signed
11 up. All comments are limited again to 2
12 minutes. - -

13 MALE VOICE: - -

14 MS. MASHEL: - - recorded. So our first
15 speaker is - -.

16 FEMALE VOICE: Good evening. I understand -
17 it's actually my grandchildren that go to this
18 school and I - - since they have been coming
19 here I have observed the things that have been
20 happening and I just want to make sure I
21 understood what you all were saying. They are
22 going to move to the other school, right? And
23 they are not going to be there by -is there
24 another school, that 177?

25 MS. MASHEL: There will be a district 75

1 school beginning and then each year they are
2 going to add a grade to

3 FEMALE VOICE: [interposing] to our 77.

4 MS. MASHEL: You are not going to be there
5 for that long period of time.

6 FEMALE VOICE: So in that process of moving
7 they--my granddaughter says that second grade
8 they aren't going to fit. Will they be
9 separated? Because right now they are both here.
10 We just want to know if they - - . Correct?

11 MS. MASHEL: Correct me if I am wrong
12 Pricilla second grade is being held there,
13 right?

14 MS. SHEERAN: At St. Brendan's building?

15 MS. MASHEL: Right.

16 MS. SHEERAN: Yes.

17 FEMALE VOICE: So if your child is probably
18 in second grade they will be in third grade so
19 yes they will be going over to the new building.

20 FEMALE VOICE: Right.

21 MS. MASHEL: And your other child is
22 currently in-

23 FEMALE VOICE: [interposing] right here.

24 [Crosstalk]

25 MS MASHEL: So they will be together in the

1 same building.

2 MS. SHEERAN: So you pose a good question
3 because if the difficulty in terms of moving
4 from one building to another but unfortunately
5 we have to try to make some sacrifices for a few
6 years because we really want - -.

7 FEMALE VOICE: Well I am sure that it will
8 also speed up the work here and that's what the
9 [Crosstalk]. Okay I understand. I guess - -.
10 I agree with that. I agree that they should.
11 If that's going to keep them out of danger
12 because also when we leave this school we see
13 the kids go over there and they go over there.
14 So that would be a - - . So thank you.

15 MS. MASHEL: So I am going to editorialize a
16 little bit - - the norm but Principal Sheeran
17 has maintained every step to ensure the safety
18 of the children in this school and one of the
19 prime concerns in her mind was while
20 construction is going on how am I going to be
21 able to manage all of this. So this is a fairly
22 good plan, a viable plan for the safety of all
23 the children and it will also speed up
24 construction. The speakers list is now
25 exhausted. Again we welcome any comments and

1 feedback you may have before the Panel for
2 Educational Policy votes on the proposal. As
3 noted earlier this proposal will longer be voted
4 on January 22, 2014 meeting of the PEP.
5 Additional information regarding scheduling will
6 be available shortly. The email address and
7 phone number where comments may be made are
8 again D10proposals@schools.nyc.gov or call
9 (212)374-5159. Thank you for your
10 participation. This joint public hearing is now
11 closed.

12 [END RECORDING]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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7 Signature 

8 Date January 16, 2014-----
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