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

**Re-siting of Global Neighborhood  
Secondary School from M117 to M096**

**February 12, 2015, 5:30pm**

**Building M117  
240 East 109th Street  
New York, NY 10029**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 [background noise]

3 MS. ALEXANDRA ESTRELLA: Good evening.

4 We're going to begin with the joint public  
5 hearing. Before we begin I want to give all of  
6 the panel participants an opportunity to  
7 introduce themselves.

8 MR. DAVID PRETTO: David Pretto, principal  
9 of PS96.

10 MS. ESTRELLA: Alexandra Estrella,  
11 superintendent of District 4.

12 MR. LUIS GENAO: Luis Genao, principal of  
13 Global Neighborhood Secondary School.

14 MS. LAURA LUGAL: Laura Lugal [phonetic],  
15 acting president of CEC-4.

16 MS. WENDY MERCEDES: Wendy Mercedes,  
17 principal for Esperanza Preparatory Academy.

18 MS. JEANETTE CESAR: Jeanette Cesar,  
19 principal of the Talented and Gifted School for  
20 Young Scholars.

21 [background noise]

22 MS. ESTRELLA: Good evening. I'd like to  
23 welcome everyone to today's joint public  
24 hearing. Before I begin I want to take a moment  
25 to commend the staff and personnel from 04 and

1 96 as well as Global Neighborhood for having an  
2 amazing joint public hearing on Monday. They  
3 engaged in a really positive conversation of  
4 collaboration moving forward, if the PEP  
5 approves this proposal. In addition to that I  
6 want to make everyone aware that today's joint  
7 public hearing is to discuss the colocation of  
8 04 and 96 and Global Neighborhood as well as the  
9 departure of Global Neighborhood from 117. This  
10 is not the... The purpose of this meeting is not  
11 to discuss space. That is a matter that will be  
12 discussed if the PEP is approved. If the PEP is  
13 approved, I have engaged in conversation with  
14 space planning so that the PTA president of each  
15 school will participate in the conversation of  
16 how space will potentially be allocated in this  
17 building amongst the three schools. So again,  
18 good evening, everyone. This is a joint public  
19 hearing of the Department of Education,  
20 Community Education Council, and the School  
21 Leadership Teams with the proposed re-siting and  
22 colocation of Global Neighborhood Secondary  
23 School, 04-381 with PS96, Joseph Lanzetta, 04-  
24 M096 in building M096 beginning in the 2015  
25 through 2016 school year. I am superintendent

1 Alexandra Estrella. We have asked the District  
2 4 Community Education Council and the School  
3 Leadership Teams of PS96 and Global Neighborhood  
4 to participate in this joint public hearing. I  
5 am joined tonight by PS96 principal David  
6 Pretto, Global Neighborhood president Luis  
7 Genao, TAG Young Scholars principal Jeanette  
8 Cesar, Esperanza Preparatory Academy Wendy  
9 Mercedes, P138M--we invited them to participate  
10 in today's event but unfortunately no one is  
11 here; if they arrive, I will give them an  
12 opportunity to speak once they arrive--as well  
13 as Laura Lugal, representing the district four  
14 Community Education Council. This hearing is  
15 being audio and video recorded. The purpose of  
16 this hearing is for you provide comments about  
17 the proposal. Before I describe the proposal, I  
18 want to make sure you are all aware of the  
19 opportunity to provide your input. All who wish  
20 to speak must sign up in the speaker signup area  
21 located just outside the auditorium. The signup  
22 list will close in 15 minutes. Speakers will be  
23 given the floor in the order that they signed  
24 up. All comments are limited to two minutes.  
25 There may be elected officials who arrive at

1 different times throughout the evening. If  
2 they wish to speak, we will do our best to  
3 accommodate them at the first opportune moment.

4 Those who are...

5 [background noise]

6 MS. ESTRELLA: Those who are here at the  
7 start of the public comment segment will be  
8 asked to speak first. If anyone needs  
9 interpretation services, interpretation services  
10 are available for those individuals who need it.  
11 I'll wait a moment just in case anyone needs  
12 interpretation services. Would the interpreters  
13 also translate what I just stated?

14 FEMALE VOICE 1: Of course.

15 [Spanish Audio 00:04:53 -- 00:05:25]

16 [background noise]

17 MS. ESTRELLA: So no one at this time needs  
18 interpretation? All comments will be mentioned  
19 in the announcements of public comment to be  
20 published and provided to the Panel for  
21 Education Policy on the evening before the panel  
22 votes. That vote is scheduled for February  
23 25th, 2015. In addition, we welcome any  
24 comments and feedback you may have at any time  
25 before the panel votes on this proposal. The

1 email address and phone number where comments  
2 may be made are: D04proposals@schools.nyc.gov  
3 and (212) 374-3466. I'm going to provide you  
4 with a proposal summary. Global Neighborhood is  
5 an existing middle school that serves students  
6 in sixth through eighth grade. Global  
7 Neighborhood is currently collocated with three  
8 other schools in building M117: the Talented and  
9 Gifted School for Young Scholars, 04-M012;  
10 Esperanza Preparatory Academy, 04-M372; and one  
11 site of a multisite district 75 program, P138-M  
12 at M117, 75-M138. Building M117 is located at  
13 240 East 109th Street, New York, New York, 10029  
14 in District 4. Currently Global Neighborhood  
15 operates across three separate floors in  
16 building M117, posing challenges related to  
17 supervision, the logistics of students moving  
18 between classes and the cultivation of the  
19 cohesive school culture. Under this proposal,  
20 Global Neighborhood will be re-sited and  
21 collocated with PS96 in building M096 located at  
22 216 East 120th Street, New York, New York,  
23 10035, approximately 0.7 miles away from  
24 building M117. Here, Global Neighborhood will  
25 be able to operate within contiguous space on a

1 single floor in building M096. PS96, the  
2 school with which Global Neighborhood would be  
3 collocated currently serves students in  
4 kindergarten through eighth grade, with one  
5 section of a pre-kindergarten program. PS96 is  
6 a zoned elementary school and uses screened  
7 admission for its middle school program. Under  
8 this proposal, beginning in the 2015-2016 school  
9 year, Global Neighborhood will be re-sited to  
10 building M096 which will serve as Global  
11 Neighborhood's long-term site. Global  
12 Neighborhood will no longer serve any students  
13 in building M117 following the conclusion of the  
14 2014-2015 school year, creating additional space  
15 in the building and potentially reducing the  
16 building's current utilization rates of 87%.  
17 Esperanza Preparatory Academy is still fazing  
18 into the M117 building which is why the building  
19 utilization rate may not decrease despite  
20 additional space created by Global  
21 Neighborhood's re-siting. Global Neighborhood  
22 will continue to serve students in the sixth  
23 through eighth grades when it moves to building  
24 M096. During the 2014-2015 school year,  
25 building M096 serves 455 students yielding a

1 building utilization rate of 62%. If this  
2 proposal is approved, M096 will serve  
3 approximately 548 students through 668 students  
4 from both Global Neighborhood and PS96 in the  
5 2015-2016 school year resulting in a projected  
6 utilization rate of 74% to 91%. PS96 and Global  
7 Neighborhood will receive at least their  
8 baseline allocation of space pursuant to the  
9 citywide instructional footprint. Accordingly,  
10 the DOE believes that there is sufficient space  
11 to accommodate the proposed collocation of Global  
12 Neighborhood with PS96. So at this time I'm  
13 going to give the opportunity for participants  
14 of the panel to speak, so I would like to ask  
15 the CEC member to please present.

16 MS. LUGAL: Good evening. I've been given  
17 the opportunity to speak to the liaisons of both  
18 schools and we are in favor of this collocation  
19 taking place, and we want every parent to know  
20 that the CEC is available to make this  
21 transition as successful as possible. Thank  
22 you.

23 MS. ESTRELLA: At this time, we would like  
24 to give the opportunity to representatives of  
25 the SLTs of the schools. Do we have

1 representatives present today?

2 [background noise]

3 MS. ESTRELLA: Even though representatives  
4 of the SLT were invited at this point we don't  
5 have any at the panel to present. I would like  
6 to now give an opportunity to the principals of  
7 the schools to present.

8 MS. PRETTO: My name is David Pretto,  
9 principal of PS96. I am excited about this  
10 potential collaboration with Global Neighborhood  
11 and the re-siting of their school to the M096  
12 campus. I look forward to being able to share  
13 resources and other collaborative practices in  
14 the building to further the achievement of all  
15 students at building M096. Thank you.

16 [background noise]

17 MR. GENAO: Luis Genao, founding principal  
18 of Global Neighborhood Secondary School. I see  
19 many familiar faces in the audiences--faculty  
20 and staff members of both TAG and EPA. It's  
21 been seven wonderful years. I want to thank you  
22 for supporting and being our partners in this  
23 building. It's been great. I move not because  
24 I do not love what we have together--I move  
25 because of the opportunities that the space will

1 give to my family and children. Thank you  
2 very much.

3 MS. ESTRELLA: Now Wendy Mercedes from  
4 Esperanza Preparatory Academy.

5 MS. MERCEDES: Good afternoon everyone. I'm  
6 one of the principals that actually works with  
7 Luis in the building and - - in the building and  
8 one advantage to actually working together is we  
9 collaborate by sharing teachers. We currently  
10 share, for example, a music teacher which allows  
11 us to use the budget money in other areas that  
12 we may need for both schools. Thank you.

13 [background noise]

14 MS. CESAR: I'm Jeanette Cesar. I'm the  
15 principal of the Talented and Gifted School for  
16 Young Scholars. Yes, Mr. Genao and my school,  
17 we collaborate daily. We share staff and  
18 resources and we are going to miss you dearly.

19 [background noise]

20 MS. ESTRELLA: We have concluded the formal  
21 presentations. We will now open the floor for  
22 the public comment. Speakers will be given the  
23 floor in the order that they signed up. All  
24 comments are limited to two minutes. Our first  
25 speaker, John...

1 MR. JOHN BRALEY: Braley [phonetic].

2 MS. ESTRELLA: Say again?

3 MR. BRALEY: Braley.

4 MS. ESTRELLA: Braley. Come on up.

5 [background noise]

6 MR. BRALEY: Good evening everybody. This  
7 is one of my first attendances of any one of  
8 these panels so I'm a little nervous, so bear  
9 with me. I am a parent at Talented and Gifted  
10 School for Young Children and my son Logan is in  
11 kindergarten and I felt it relevant to come  
12 tonight to hear the proposal because I'm  
13 catching up because it's my first year in  
14 school. It sounds like you guys have gone to  
15 great lengths to collaborate and come up with  
16 great solutions to solving obviously an ongoing  
17 problem with space in the educational system and  
18 I commend you for that. I mostly came out of  
19 concern out of the fact of the impact that this  
20 will have on my son's school and it seems at  
21 this point right now that this proposal can only  
22 benefit it. I just hope that any ongoing  
23 discussions regarding space anywhere else is  
24 open to a public forum such as this. It would  
25 be a really great thing and I know that myself

1 and probably any other parents in all the  
2 schools within the complex would like to have a  
3 say in it, so thank you very much.

4 [background noise]

5 MS. ESTRELLA: Laura Hong? Did I say your  
6 last name right? Wong [phonetic]?

7 MS. LAURA WONG: Good evening. My name is  
8 Laura Wong and I am a parent at TAG. My son  
9 Jeremiah is in the fourth grade and I also  
10 spoke--some of you may have remembered me when I  
11 spoke three years ago also during a joint  
12 hearing. So in general, I guess our concerns  
13 would--it affects parents of both schools, the  
14 idea of making sure that the space is shared  
15 equitably, that a lot of our concerns about  
16 common space facilities, phys. ed., the library,  
17 the cafeteria... I still remember my son having  
18 lunch at 10:10 AM in the morning and how that  
19 impacts, so just in general, the common use--  
20 it's the use of common space, especially  
21 afterschool, sharing the gym because one  
22 afterschool program has - - another after school  
23 program. You know, and then of course adequate  
24 space for the high school as well--being a  
25 former high school science teacher I'm very

1 aware of all of the different regulations, you  
2 know, when you're setting up a science lab, for  
3 example. And so that's my--just my coming here  
4 to express a lot of my concerns is to make sure  
5 that my son's not going to be stuffed like  
6 sardines in a tiny can. But at the same time,  
7 yeah, I actually welcome any kind of  
8 collaborative projects as well too. I actually  
9 work with a lot of social service agencies and I  
10 was happy to talk with both Mr. Genao and Mr.  
11 Pretto about how we can continue to provide more  
12 social services to support families really for  
13 all forces, and more types of public education.  
14 But at the same time, there's always that issue  
15 of adequate space. Currently - - has 40 minutes  
16 a week of phys. ed. even though state  
17 regulations say three--I mean, 120 minutes,  
18 which I know every DOE school is pretty much out  
19 of compliance with but it is my concern, you  
20 know, making sure that he has enough phys. ed.  
21 So that's pretty much my--I came here to speak  
22 is to... You know, I'm sure that this transition  
23 is as smooth as possible and all four schools  
24 are sharing school equitably, fairly and they  
25 can come up with a plan where the use of common

1 space benefits both--well, obviously this  
2 building benefits both schools.

3 MS. ESTRELLA: So I just want to comment  
4 that the purpose of this proposal is to make  
5 sure that we acquire additional space in this  
6 building for all three schools so moving Global  
7 Neighborhood to a different location will  
8 provide opportunities for all schools to acquire  
9 additional space. I'm having a hard time  
10 reading the next name. I don't know if it's  
11 Cammy or Cathy [phonetic].

12 MS. CATHY POWELL MANNING: It's Cathy Powell  
13 Manning [phonetic].

14 MS. ESTRELLA: Say that again?

15 MS. POWELL MANNING: Cathy Powell Manning.

16 MS. ESTRELLA: Cathy Powell-Manning. My  
17 apologies.

18 MS. POWELL MANNING: My daughter always  
19 tells me I need to write clearer, so... There it  
20 is. Good evening everybody--parents and the  
21 principals and the superintendent. I am a  
22 parent of a fourth grader. My daughter has been  
23 here since kindergarten. I like many parents  
24 here experienced the expansion of Esperanza a  
25 few years ago and we expressed a lot of concerns

1 and so when I saw this proposal I again was  
2 concerned. Kudos to you, principal, because I  
3 know that you are going to be in a better  
4 situation and I love the way that it got framed,  
5 that you were going to be able to have a better  
6 community because you would have contiguous  
7 space. And I think that as a parent of TAG  
8 students we want to feel the same way, that we  
9 have contiguous space and that we are able to  
10 maintain what I think is a very positive school  
11 community for students that are in K through 8.  
12 As many of the other parents expressed, I do  
13 have concerns about the size of the classrooms--  
14 the class size now is 30 students in my  
15 daughter's grade level. There are a lot of  
16 students. When they go to art or Spanish or  
17 music they are stuffed into those rooms and so I  
18 want to make sure that--and it is what it is for  
19 right now, but in terms of a classroom space,  
20 that the classroom space stays at least the same  
21 size--by some miracle it gets bigger. As a  
22 person who coordinates afterschool programs,  
23 enrichment activities here, space is a major  
24 concern so we work alongside the Y. There have  
25 been very few rooms and so the idea that there's

1 more space for the TAG community and the  
2 afterschool enrichment activities is very  
3 important as well. So as the first parent  
4 expressed, I hope that the decisions about space  
5 are not something that happens at the district  
6 level, that it's something that involves the  
7 school community and for the TAG school  
8 community that definitely involves the parents  
9 in addition to the administration that's here as  
10 well as the teachers.

11 [background noise]

12 MS. ESTRELLA: So that is the commitment.  
13 That is why I mentioned before we are focused on  
14 having the PTA representative join the  
15 conversation when we start speaking about space  
16 if the proposal is approved, because this is all  
17 pending the approval of the proposal. - -  
18 Ingrid...

19 MS. INGRID COBURN: Hi, everyone. I'm  
20 Ingrid Coburn [phonetic]. I'm a new parent here  
21 at TAG. My son just started kindergarten in  
22 September. I agree with everything Cathy said.  
23 I'm extremely concerned about space. I know  
24 we're already very challenged for space at TAG.  
25 Everyone's working really hard to deal with it

1 on all levels. In current classes,  
2 afterschool program enrichment classes are  
3 struggling to make things work and my biggest  
4 fear is this rumor that all our second floor  
5 classrooms are going to be shut down into the  
6 basement where classrooms are half the size and  
7 I don't know if there is any truth to that rumor  
8 but I sincerely hope that there is not because  
9 we're--like I said, extremely challenged for  
10 space already as it is. Those classes  
11 downstairs are smaller, noisy... Yeah. That's a  
12 huge concern of mine. No daylight down there,  
13 half the size of the classrooms--so I don't know  
14 where that came from but if that's true I'm  
15 extremely concerned. I don't want my son to be  
16 sent off to the basement and punished just  
17 because he happens to be a gifted and talented  
18 boy who ended up in a citywide gifted and  
19 talented school although we are not District 4  
20 voters. I don't know if there's any political  
21 agenda behind anything but just putting that out  
22 there. A huge, extreme concern and I know many,  
23 many, many of the other kindergarten parents are  
24 with me. So with that said, I sincerely hope  
25 that we'll get more space out of this if it

1 happens. That would be fantastic and very,  
2 very welcomed by everyone. Thanks.

3 [background noise]

4 MS. ESTRELLA: Next speaker, Stacey Coleman  
5 [phonetic].

6 MS. STACEY COLEMAN: Good evening. I'm also  
7 a TAG parent, first year kindergarten and I'm  
8 just going to pick back off of what Cathy and  
9 Ingrid have already spoken of. I'm very  
10 concerned about the spacing again.

11 Extracurricular activities are suffering because  
12 of lack of space and I'm happy that if this  
13 collaboration works for your schools, that it  
14 can also benefit our schools. I don't want to  
15 see--as again, pointing out the rumor that our  
16 students are placed in the basement. I'm very  
17 concerned about them being stimulated not just  
18 academically but through enrichment and we need  
19 the space so badly. So hopefully with this  
20 other school moving out that we are able to  
21 increase our space or able to provide the  
22 students with more enrichment, more activities,  
23 more stimulation and hopefully this  
24 collaboration is a benefit for everyone and not  
25 just certain schools. So hopefully TAG is going

1 to be one of the recipients of this move, and  
2 I hope that my daughter continues her enrichment  
3 and continues to blossom and hopefully that no  
4 changes that occur will affect her negatively.  
5 Thank you.

6 [background noise]

7 MS. ESTRELLA: Pete Pross [phonetic]?

8 MS. PATRICIA PROSS: Yes.

9 MS. ESTRELLA: Can you please say your full  
10 name?

11 MS. PROSS: It's Patricia Pross.

12 MS. ESTRELLA: Thank you.

13 MS. PROSS: I'm a parent of a fourth grader  
14 also at TAG and part of the reason I'm here, to  
15 congratulations and hopefully it works out for  
16 Global. Your benefit hopefully is TAG's benefit  
17 also, and TAG remains where we are with  
18 additional space being divided up between the  
19 schools that are left and not having schools  
20 move from one place to the next, because where  
21 they are, as challenging as it is, it's just  
22 where they are, where we're used to, where  
23 they're doing things that they're supposed to do  
24 so any additional space that Global can bring  
25 their success--which I'm sure they will--being

1 divided up, that space will be beneficial for  
2 afterschool programs for TAG and for Esperanza  
3 and other schools that are still in the building  
4 because as of right now it's very challenging  
5 for enrichment programs and any additional  
6 programs that need to be added, there's space.  
7 So hopefully with Global benefiting by leaving  
8 the building and going to some place where  
9 they're able to expand their space and they're  
10 able to grow as a school in itself, that the  
11 same thing happens for TAG. Thank you.

12 [background noise]

13 MS. ESTRELLA: The speaker list is now  
14 exhausted. Again, we welcome any comments and  
15 feedback you may have at any time before the  
16 Panel for Education Policy votes on this  
17 proposal at its February 25th meeting. The  
18 email address and phone number where comments  
19 may be made are: D04proposals@schools.nyc.gov  
20 and (212) 374-3466. Thank you for your  
21 participation. This joint public hearing is now  
22 closed.

23 [END RECORDING]

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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 February 17, 2015