

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 - DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**
**Extension of the Co-Location
of DREAM in M121**

April 9, 2014

5:30 p.m.

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. ALEXANDRA ESTRELLA: Good evening.

3 We're going to get started so those of you that
4 are standing please find a seat. [Speaking a
5 foreign language.] The sound system is not as
6 loud as we wish it would be so we're going to
7 have to make sure that the room stays quiet
8 while people speak so that everyone can hear one
9 another. Again, good evening and welcome.

10 Today we will be conducting a hearing, a joint
11 public hearing in respect to DREAM Charter
12 School continuing its co-location at P.S. 38.
13 Before I begin, I'm going to give all of the
14 members of the panel an opportunity to introduce
15 themselves.

16 MS. LAURA LUGO: Good evening, my name is
17 Laura Lugo. I represent the Education Counsel
18 for District 4. Thank you for having us.

19 MS. CARLINA SANTOS BARTON: Good evening, my
20 name is Carlina Santos Barton. I am the
21 principal of P.S. 38. Thank you.

22 MS. KIM DACRES: Good evening, Kim Dacres,
23 Principal of Harlem Prep Middle.

24 MS. TRACI DOUGLAS: Traci Douglas, Director
25 of Operations DREAM Charter School.

1 MS. ESTRELLA: Once again, good evening.
2 This is a joint public hearing of the Department
3 of Education Community Education Council for and
4 the school leadership teams of P.S. 38, DREAM
5 Charter School, and Harlem Prep Charter School
6 for the proposed extension and expansion of the
7 co-location of DREAM Charter School students in
8 grades three through seven in building M121
9 through the 2014-2015 school year alongside of
10 P.S. 38, and in the 2015-2016 school year the
11 co-location of Harlem Prep Charter School
12 students in grades six through eight alongside
13 P.S. 38. My name is Alexandra Estrella,
14 Superintendent of District 4 schools and I am
15 the Chancellor's Designee for this hearing.

16 I am joined tonight by the members of the
17 Panel. This hearing is being recorded. The
18 purpose of this hearing is for us to provide
19 comments about the proposal.

20 Before I describe the proposal, I want to
21 make sure you are all aware of the opportunity
22 to provide your input. All those who wish to
23 speak must sign up in the speaker's signup area
24 located just outside the cafeteria. The signup
25 list will close in 15 minutes. Speakers will be

1 given the floor in the order that they signed
2 up. All comments are limited to two minutes.

3 There may be elected officials who arrive at
4 different times throughout the evening. If they
5 wish to speak, we will do our best to
6 accommodate them at the first opportune moment.
7 Those who are here at the start of the public
8 comment segment will be asked to speak first.

9 All comments will be included in the
10 analysis of public comment to be published and
11 provided to the Panel of Education Policy the
12 evening before the panel votes. That vote is
13 scheduled for May 29th, 2014, at Murray
14 Bergtraum High School for Business Careers
15 located at 411 Pearl Street, New York, New York
16 10038. Please note that this is a newly
17 rescheduled panel vote date. Previously, the
18 Panel vote was scheduled for May 6. Again, the
19 May Panel vote is now rescheduled for May 29th.

20 In addition, we welcome any comments and
21 feedback you may have at any time before the
22 panel votes on this proposal. Thank you to
23 those of you who provide--who provided feedback
24 at our visit and community meeting earlier this
25 week on Monday, April 7th. The email address

1 and phone number where comments may be made are
2 d-zero-four-proposals-at-schools-dot-nyc-dot-gov
3 and 212-374-3466.

4 I'm going to provide a summary of the
5 proposal. On January 16, 2013, the Panel for
6 Education Policy approved a proposal to co-
7 locate Harlem Prep Charter School students in
8 grade six through eight alongside P.S. 38
9 beginning next year in the 2014-2015 school
10 year. That proposal was based on the
11 expectation that DREAM would move out of M121
12 and into its non-DOE operated facility prior to
13 the beginning of next school year, the 2014-2015
14 school year. However, as a result of a delay in
15 construction, DREAM will not be able to occupy
16 its non-DOE operated space in time for the
17 beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.
18 Therefore, Harlem Prep will not be able to move
19 into building M121 for the beginning of the
20 2014-2015 school year. DREAM worked with Harlem
21 RBI, a community-based organization that is
22 affiliated with DREAM to try to identify
23 alternative space for the 2014-2015 school year.
24 DREAM also sought assistance from other East
25 Harlem community organizations and Manhattan

1 Commercial Realty Corporation to find suitable
2 space. However, this search did not yield any
3 viable options.

4 Thus, the DOE now proposes to extend DREAM's
5 co-location in M121 through the conclusion of
6 the 2014-2015 school year. The DOE also
7 proposes to delay the co-location of Harlem
8 Prep's grades six through eight in M121 until
9 the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.
10 This proposal allows DREAM to continue to serve
11 students and families in District 4 and to the
12 extent possible, maintains the school
13 environment of students in District 4. If this
14 co-location proposal is approved by the Panel
15 for Educational Policy, DREAM's students will
16 continue to attend school in this building
17 through the 2014-2015 school year, and then
18 after DREAM moves out, beginning in the 2015-
19 2016 school year, Harlem Prep will be co-located
20 in this building alongside students at P.S. 38.

21 Construction is underway on the new facility
22 for DREAM, also located in District 4. Civic
23 Builders, Inc., the entity responsible for the
24 construction of DREAM's permanent facility, has
25 advised the Department of Education that the

1 facility will be completed for student
2 occupancy August 2015. The School Construction
3 Authority will continue to visit the
4 construction site periodically to observe and
5 confirm the progress on the facility's
6 construction. At this time, I'm going to have
7 the presentation by hearing--the presentation of
8 the Panel.

9 MS. LUGO: I'm currently waiting for the CEC
10 to send me the revised statements that we were
11 emailed and participants of our District 4 so
12 once that gets here--I'm sorry. Okay, I'm
13 currently waiting for an email from our
14 administration assistant in the C - - email sent
15 from parents in our area so once that gets here
16 I'll be able to give my statement. Thank you.

17 MS. SANTOS BARTON: I don't have any
18 statements at this time.

19 MS. DACRES: All right, well as long as
20 everyone can hear me. Kim Dacres, I'm the
21 Campus Director of Harlem Prep Middle and I
22 would honestly say that we are excellent
23 neighbors. The principal of another school,
24 Manhattan East that we currently share a space
25 with can attest to this. We share bathrooms,

1 100 girls per two stalls, 100 boys for three
2 stalls. We share bathrooms, we share
3 cafeterias, we share auditorium space, we share
4 gyms and we are fighting for the space for our
5 program. We need space for our students and we
6 want to make sure that the space that was
7 allocated to us is actually given to us. Not
8 because we are operating from a selfish
9 leadership standpoint but for our students. Our
10 students deserve the right to have a full P.E.
11 program, a full gym program, a full health
12 program, a full arts program. They deserve this
13 right. Our teachers deserve the right to space
14 to plan, the space to meet with students, the
15 space to serve our special education scholars.

16 The bone to pick is not with any of the
17 schools here. It's to make sure that we are
18 given the space that we are promised and making-
19 -and fulfilling the promise we have made to our
20 programs and that's why we're here. And that's
21 why the yellow hats are here because we want to
22 make sure that our scholars get the space that
23 they deserve so they can have a full sixth
24 grade, and seventh grade, and eighth grade
25 experience.

1 MS. DOUGLAS: We don't have any comments at
2 this time.

3 MS. ESTRELLA: At this point, we have now
4 concluded the formal presentations. We will now
5 open the floor for public comments. Speakers
6 will be given the floor in the order that they
7 signed up. All comments are limited to two
8 minutes. I'm going to call the names of five
9 speakers at a time. You can line up in the
10 center of the cafeteria and as you come forward
11 then you will have the opportunity to speak.

12 Again, I apologize if I don't pronounce your
13 names correctly. The first name I'm going to
14 spell out because I don't know the proper
15 pronunciation. M-A-S-S-E-M-D-L-E Davie
16 [phonetic] I think is the last name. I
17 apologize. Amber Smith, Janet Vasquez
18 [phonetic], Melissa Clark, Alex Daniels, so if
19 you can make a line towards the center.

20 MS. MASSEMDLE DAVIE: Good evening. My name
21 is Massemdle Davie. I'm currently a senior at
22 Democracy Prep Charter High School. I have been
23 accepted to my top choice school, Bryn Mawr
24 College. Once I graduate Democracy Prep, I will
25 be joining the Bryn Mawr community as part of

1 class of 2018. I started attending Democracy
2 Prep School in seventh grade. When I started
3 the first thing that stood out to me was
4 Democracy Prep's motto: Work hard, go to
5 college, change the world. Knowing that I went
6 to a school where the course work not only
7 challenged me but allowed me to push myself to
8 be better amazed me. Although I went to school
9 from 7:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. I knew that
10 education was important. I was taking
11 challenging courses such as chemistry, physics,
12 AP literature, biology, etc. Through all those
13 difficult courses, students never felt alone
14 when they walked the halls of Democracy Prep.

15 When I was a junior, the most difficult
16 class for me was physics. My physics teacher
17 stayed after school every day so my fellow
18 classmate and I could succeed in his course.
19 Teachers will often have tutoring on Saturdays
20 and even on Sundays. This showed me that I was
21 becoming aware my teachers were not only just my
22 teachers, they were people who value the
23 importance of education and care about the
24 futures of their students. Schools like
25 Democracy Prep should exist all around the

1 world. A student deserves to go to a school
2 where it is safe and where the teachers actually
3 care about them. Democracy Prep allowed the
4 impossible to be possible. I say all this to
5 say I support Harlem Prep's transition into this
6 building for the 2015-2016 school year. Our
7 scholars truly do deserve this.

8 MS. AMBER SMITH: Democracy Prep--Democracy
9 Prep brings hope to many people who may not have
10 thought college was even in their reach.
11 Democracy Prep has strategically placed itself
12 in Harlem, the poorest district in New York
13 City. It aims to teach deserving young people
14 who may not have a chance to go to college
15 another avenue they can take to reach their
16 goals.

17 I had my reservations coming to Democracy
18 Prep because it was a new school that had only
19 been open for a year prior to my entrance and I
20 did not know anyone there. As I entered the
21 school for the orientation as an 11-year-old, I
22 held my mother's hand and pulled, afraid of
23 encountering a new place and new environment.
24 The transition from elementary to middle school
25 was still taking place and I was afraid. But

1 the school took me by surprise. The first
2 thing that I received from the school was a copy
3 of *All the Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss and at
4 once the book revived my love for--gave me a
5 good first impression of this new school.

6 Sometimes my school gets a bad rep. Some
7 students think that it's too straight and that
8 the rules are sometimes just extra and
9 unnecessary. While that sometimes actually
10 feels true the rules play a huge role in
11 maintaining order amongst teenagers who may go
12 wild. Other people besides the lucky ones in
13 Harlem should definitely be able to understand
14 what it feels like to be in a school where the
15 teachers actually care so much about the
16 students and who stay extra long hours just to
17 get the job done. That is what going to
18 Democracy Prep feels like. It becomes a second
19 home.

20 I have family members who attend Harlem Prep
21 only because my cousin and I at the high school
22 rave about what Democracy Prep has done in our
23 lives. But it wasn't just our words that caused
24 my aunt to allow her children to attend Harlem
25 Prep, but it was what she saw. She saw that my

1 cousin and I changed. We were no longer the
2 immature sixth graders that we entered Democracy
3 Prep as but we were now adults literally on our
4 way to college. As a senior, I will be
5 attending Mulhenberg [phonetic] College and
6 don't know where I would be without Democracy
7 Prep. My name is Amber Smith and I am here in
8 Harlem Prep.

9 MS. JANET VASQUEZ: Hi, my name is Janet
10 Vasquez. I was a little nervous when I first
11 enlisted my son. I was really surprised how
12 dedicated and devoted they were in working as a
13 team to improve my child, have a focus on
14 positive reinforcement, and how much they really
15 cared individually for my child. I have never
16 really spoken in front of a crowd but I think
17 it's important to show how thankful we are to
18 have you. Children need teachers that care, and
19 in this school, you can see how serious and
20 focused they are to make your child succeed.
21 Thank you; thank you Democracy Prep.

22 MS. MELISSA CLARK: Hi, my name is Melissa
23 Clark and my son is a sixth-grader at Harlem
24 Prep Middle. Please bear with me if this
25 sounds, you know, because it is. I spoke Monday

1 and since then my thoughts are still the same
2 and I'm going to share them with you. My son is
3 coming from a building that housed one
4 elementary school that's now in the process of
5 closing as a failed school. He spent his fifth
6 grade as a part of that failed school. It had
7 four floors and everything that was associated
8 with the school that Ms. Dacres spoke about:
9 the gym, the auditorium, the school lunchroom.
10 But I'm here to tell you that in those eight
11 months that he's been in one building at Harlem
12 Prep with upwards of four schools he's
13 demonstrated the education growth that he lacked
14 in six years in his elementary school. This
15 makes it very difficult for me to believe that
16 in the 2014-15 school year that if Harlem Prep
17 remains over at their current building the
18 students will not do what they're supposed to do
19 due to spacing constraints and they're there to
20 learn, that's the end idea.

21 A huge part of learning is gaining the
22 ability to think creatively and objectively and
23 that creativity and objectivity is acknowledging
24 that sometimes you have to go back to move
25 forward. Sometimes you have to stay still in

1 order to move forward.

2 Things happen and this is one of those times
3 so this is where we need to stay still in order
4 to move forward. I'm asking DOE to please--and
5 the other schools--to please consider keeping
6 Harlem Prep Middle where they currently are for
7 the next school year. Thank you.

8 MR. ALEX DANIELS: Hi, my name's Alex
9 Daniels, to my scholars Mr. Daniels. I'm a
10 sixth grade math teacher over at Harlem Prep. I
11 love to see some of my scholars are out here
12 today supporting what we love and do. I was
13 brought into the Harlem Prep family two years by
14 Lindsey Malanger [phonetic] and then came over
15 to the middle school to work with Kim Dacres as
16 my principal. It has been the most amazing
17 journey of my life. First off, I came to work
18 with some of the greatest teachers in the world
19 at our building preparing me to become a better
20 educator.

21 But why I'm speaking today is on behalf of
22 my students and that's why I come every day to
23 work for is to work for my students and that's
24 what keeps me going. I have kids getting up
25 earlier than I do, coming home later than I do

1 on their commutes and that's what keeps me
2 going. They motivate me every day to work so
3 hard because they have that goal in mind as
4 those two seniors mentioned before which is
5 going to college. And every day, no matter how
6 hard it gets, I keep reminding them we're on the
7 road together. You and I are in this together
8 and that was true last night when we brought our
9 seniors to Times Square to perform in their Step
10 [phonetic] performance with our graduating
11 seniors in our carnival fair.

12 I'm just so proud of the work they're doing
13 I want to continue to be a part of it and that's
14 why I urge DOE to approve this and get us into
15 the building that we deserve and most of all,
16 our scholars deserve. Thank you.

17 MS. ESTRELLA: At this time, the following
18 speakers, I'm going to spell the name of the
19 next speaker, O-U-L-E-Y-E, last name, D-I-A-G-N-
20 E, Natasha Pinero [phonetic], Jason Rejos
21 [phonetic], Natasha Buras [phonetic], Margo
22 Miranda [phonetic], Guadelupe Tapa [phonetic].

23 MS. OULEYE DIAGNE: Good evening. This is
24 my first time speaking in public but I will
25 speak because of the great relationship I have

1 with the teachers at Harlem Prep. They work
2 over and beyond for my--our children to succeed
3 and go to college. I know for a fact that they
4 will be great neighbors and I really, really
5 hope that the - -.

6 MS. NATASHIA PINERO: Hi, can you hear me?
7 My name is Natasha Pinero. My daughter is a
8 seventh-grader at Harlem Prep. I want to say
9 that I've always been a fan of charter schools
10 but more so as of this school year. My
11 daughter's been able to flourish academically
12 and the structure that Harlem Prep offers has
13 allowed her to maintain some focus, none of
14 which was evidenced in the neighborhood middle
15 school that she had been in previously. Her
16 academic interest has been encouraged by the
17 dynamic educators at Harlem Prep, the enthusiasm
18 and the one-on-one attention that she's been
19 offered has been a godsend to her and to so many
20 other of our children who would have otherwise
21 been lost and overwhelmed in our overly crowded
22 public school system.

23 Looking forward, we need to be able to offer
24 all of our children an educational environment
25 where they can excel, and many times, we have to

1 be able to apply different learning
2 environments and methodologies. Keeping that in
3 mind, I want to thank Harlem Prep for offering
4 this amazing environment to our children and I
5 look forward to being neighbors in our new
6 building.

7 MR. JASON REJOS: Hi, my name is Jason
8 Rejos. I'm a seventh grade reading teacher at
9 Harlem Prep Middle, - -. I want to say that
10 based on the hearing that I was at last week and
11 what my Principal Kim Dacres has already said, I
12 can also say that we are great neighbors with
13 all of the schools that we've co-located with
14 both last year, and this year, and hopefully, in
15 the next year at our new location.

16 But if not, I'd just like to say that the
17 building that we are in (M099), if we are there
18 in the 2014-2015 school year that building will
19 be at 104% capacity of what it's meant to hold
20 and that will leave Harlem Prep Middle to have
21 to scale back on some of our growth that we
22 promised to our families and our scholars for
23 being a fully realized middle school.

24 The teachers that I'm honored to teach with
25 and to work with, we are so dedicated to our

1 scholars. We are there for more than 60 hours
2 a week outside of Saturday school, outside of
3 the papers that we take home, outside of the
4 phone calls that we make to parents. And our
5 scholars, who I am so honored to teach, I have
6 had the privilege of watching them grow from
7 sixth-graders to seventh-graders this year and
8 following them. I've seen them go to Washington
9 D.C., talk to their state representatives. I've
10 seen them share the stage with Dan Rather at the
11 Times Center. I've seen them just do the most
12 incredible things and I want us to be able to
13 fulfill our promises to our scholars by having
14 the DOE fulfill their promise to us. Thank you.

15 MS. MARGO MIRANDA: Hello, my name is Margo
16 Miranda, Ms. Miranda, sixth grade ACT teacher at
17 Harlem Prep. And I'm a new teacher so at first
18 I was thinking, okay, do I even belong as
19 someone speaking here today. But then I
20 realized, wait a minute, these people, these
21 scholars, these parents, my teachers, they're
22 already my family. They already feel like
23 people that I should go to bat for.

24 So I want to reiterate what's already been
25 said today. We are excellent neighbors. You

1 see our scholars, you see our teachers doing
2 everything that we can with the space that we
3 have already. We are making it work and we will
4 continue to make it work but at the same time,
5 we are asking for the space that was promised to
6 us so that we can expand our services. So
7 imagine what we're doing now, how much more it
8 can be multiplied if we have more space.

9 And one of those things as an ACT teacher we
10 are constantly trying to figure out, okay, how
11 can we serve our scholars, how can we get them
12 the space that they need, if we want to pull a
13 small group where can we go? And we're
14 constantly--we'll go in the smallest room in the
15 building, we'll make it work. We'll have
16 scholars sitting on the floor. Our scholars are
17 willing to do that, the teachers are willing to
18 do that but, again, the sooner that we have the
19 proper space the more that we can serve our
20 scholars. Thank you.

21 MS. NATASHIA BURAS: Hi, my name is Natasha
22 Buras and I'm the President of our DREAM Family
23 - -. Most importantly, I'm a parent of a DREAM
24 scholar, my fifth grade son and I have an
25 incoming next year. My daughter will be

1 entering kindergarten at DREAM Charter School.
2 We currently reside at the P.S. 38 location here
3 for our upper campus, and while our six years
4 have not been uneventful, it's a process. It
5 was something that we both continue to work on,
6 P.S. 38 and DREAM Charter School to make this
7 better, to make it easier for our students and
8 as long as we keep our eyes on the part which is
9 our children and their education, and that we're
10 doing it for them. You know we've come together
11 and agreed that, you know, they're most
12 important and we create opportunities for our
13 families to work with their families and they
14 continue to do the same thing with us. I think
15 that things have improved greatly. Could we do
16 better, of course, you know. But as the adults
17 we should--that's our responsibility. That
18 should never weigh on the children and they
19 should never have to pay the price for lack of
20 space.

21 You know we have our new school being built.
22 Unfortunately, it's not going to be built in
23 time for us to move in which is what we all
24 wanted so we have to ask to have this space for
25 the next year at least, well the next year so

1 that we can move in. It will be done so we're
2 looking forward it. But as a charter school
3 parent I support any other school that would
4 come in here and, you know again, we can learn
5 from Democracy Prep. We can learn and if they
6 want to come by and visit us and talk to us
7 about ways to make it better so that when they
8 move in it could be more seamless.

9 Like I said before, it's about our children.
10 If we all work together, we can make it work.
11 Again, they should never have to pay the price
12 because of lack of space to get a superior
13 education. Thank you.

14 MS. ESTRELLA: Next speakers Guadalupe Tappa
15 [phonetic], Dan Clark [phonetic], Antoinette
16 Livingston [phonetic], Keira Simon [phonetic],
17 Denai Leonard [phonetic], Zyra G. [phonetic],
18 James Y. [phonetic].

19 MR. DAN CLARK: Good evening, friends and
20 families. My name is Dan Clark, and when my son
21 got here, Democracy Prep was exactly one year
22 and that was seven years ago. He's a senior and
23 I want you to know that the Democracy Prep stuff
24 actually works. Seven years of two hours a day
25 homework, seven years of expectations about

1 studying hard, seven years of rigor, and seven
2 years of empowered - - got my son a full
3 scholarship to Vanderbilt University, the
4 Harvard of the south, in the same neighborhood
5 where my mom picked cotton. So but not just my
6 son. We have four kids that received full
7 scholarships out of a class of 60. We have
8 three that are going ivory out of a class of 60.
9 We have the Smiths, the Syracuses, the
10 Georgetowns of the world so something to look
11 forward to. I know most parents here are middle
12 school parents. That work stuff really works
13 and it will pay off.

14 To my fellow parents from P.S. 38, they call
15 this Democracy Prep for a reason. Besides
16 making sure our kids have the skill set to do
17 great and go to great schools we believe in
18 developing good citizens and one of the main
19 ingredients to developing good citizens is being
20 a good neighbor so we pride ourselves. We have
21 four co-locations and I've been around for all
22 of them and I tell you, we have great
23 relationships in all of them and we expect the
24 same here. We look forward to being a good
25 neighbor. All the best.

1 MS. KEIRA SIMON: Hi, my name is Keira
2 Simon. I'm a fifth grade teacher at Harlem Prep
3 Elementary School. I'm so excited to be here
4 and speak on behalf of my students. Because
5 when they heard about what was going on at this
6 hearing they were so passionate and fired up
7 that without my even prompting them they wanted
8 to know what they could do to make sure they had
9 a place to go to middle school and continue to
10 achieve their goals. If I could take the time
11 to read all the beautiful, persuasive speeches
12 they wrote it would take way more than two
13 minutes so I'm just going to sum it up for you.

14 But they are willing to do whatever it takes
15 to achieve their goals to get into college and
16 change the world and we should be able to do the
17 same for them. I urge the DOE to keep that in
18 mind. Thank you.

19 MS. DENAI LEONARD: Good afternoon. My name
20 is Denai Leonard. I am a fifth grade scholar at
21 Harlem Prep Elementary School. I just wanted to
22 make sure that we had a space at the middle
23 school because the school is great. I really
24 like it. It's strict but everybody knows our
25 teacher loves us. And the education that we get

1 is it's hard sometimes but the teachers know
2 that we can get it and we can try our best. And
3 so I just want to say that I love the school and
4 I just want to make sure I have a place to go
5 next year. Thank you.

6 ZYRA: Hello, my name is Zyra and I'm a
7 fifth grade scholar at Harlem Prep Charter
8 School. And there was - - that--there was an
9 announcement that there won't--there might be
10 space for the sixth graders but we all love our
11 school and we want to make sure that we have the
12 best education that there can be. And this is
13 one of--I've been in this school for almost my
14 whole entire life so I know half of all the
15 rules and everything is fun at the school and we
16 learn a lot. Thank you.

17 MR. JAMES YASKO: Good afternoon. My name
18 is James Yasko [phonetic]. I'm the ESL teacher
19 at P.S. 38 and I want - - about space. We all
20 are worried about this. Right now, the
21 building's at 110% capacity. With the proposal
22 to move Harlem Prep into the school, that
23 projected over capacity goes to 150%. Right
24 now, we split my ESL classroom with the SETTS
25 teacher who services part of our 30% IEP rate.

1 We have 15% ESL students so that's 40 students
2 for me and roughly 45 to 50 for her. As we look
3 for an equitable solution I think we need to
4 look at space and over utilizing this space.

5 MS. ESTRELLA: The next speakers Treasure C.
6 [phonetic], Charise M. [phonetic], Angela
7 Ramirez [phonetic], and Shama W.

8 MS. TREASURE CHAVIS: Hello, my name is
9 Treasure Chavis [phonetic]. I have two lovely
10 boys at Harlem Prep Elementary School. Their
11 names are Jashon and Camarly Willie [phonetic].
12 The charter school has helped my children a lot.
13 They are reading, writing, and spelling so much
14 better. They also teach--the teachers also
15 teach them to respect each other and to respect
16 themselves. Sometimes I find my children
17 teaching me and I thought I was the one who knew
18 it all. Well that's the wonder of their brains
19 learning and working in school. It also shows
20 the teachers are doing such a wonderful job
21 teaching them.

22 When my children wake up in the morning the
23 first words that come out of their mouth are am
24 I going to school today and I can't wait to see
25 my teacher so that tells me a lot. I'm happy

1 that they are able to go to school every day
2 and on time and ready to learn. I am fortunate
3 to have my kids at Harlem Prep Elementary
4 School. Thank you all your time and patience.

5 MS. ANGELA RAMIREZ: Hi. My name is Angela
6 Ramirez and I am a DREAM parent and also a
7 Democracy Prep Charter parent. And as I'm
8 coming to speak, I understand that it's an issue
9 in reference to the space because, obviously,
10 there's already a charter here and another one
11 that is to be coming in. But the only thing I
12 can say as being a parent of both is that I'm
13 grateful that we at least have the options to
14 have charters in place for parents to make the
15 choice to send their kids. When I was raised
16 up, there was no charter. It was just public
17 and that's all we had and my family couldn't
18 afford to send me to private school. And having
19 charter is probably the best thing that we have
20 for choice.

21 So as I say, - - school, having one school
22 promise to come in and one that was supposed to
23 be very their out, unfortunately, - - but we
24 just look to eventually, once you guys do come
25 in to co-locate being that we are still steps

1 away from each other and we'll continue to be
2 also great neighbors. Thank you.

3 MS. CHARISE MANN: My name is Charise Mann
4 [phonetic] and I work at Harlem Prep Middle as
5 the DREAM coach. The DREAM coach pushes our
6 scholars to abide by a set of values that will
7 take them from where they are now to where they
8 plan to go which is to and through college.
9 I've been employed in this neighborhood for over
10 10 years and it's been my pleasure serving our
11 youth. It's extremely important for us as
12 adults to live by the values that we stress for
13 our scholars to live by each and every day. We
14 especially stress the need to take
15 accountability and to follow through on what you
16 say and actually follow through on doing it.

17 So I say all of this to say that our
18 scholars deserve to have this space they were
19 promised because we are here for them and they
20 show up every day and they need us. They need,
21 they deserve, and are owed the space and
22 consistency that would assist them in feeling
23 comfortable and aid them in being successful on
24 their journey to and through college. The space
25 for them to explore who they are is necessary

1 and we would appreciate having it. Thank you.

2 FEMALE VOICE: I love my school.

3 SHAMA WHITE: Hello, everybody. I am Shama
4 White. Hello, everyone. I am Shama White. Is
5 that better? I am currently a parent and I sit
6 on the PTA board for P.S. 38. I'm the
7 secretary. And although I have sat here and
8 listened to every--all the beautiful stories and
9 it sounds amazing the biggest issue is space.
10 The same reasons that you guys need space is the
11 same reason I'm here to speak because our
12 children also need space. And at this moment,
13 we're sharing with DREAM and although it's a
14 lovely experience we--our children are missing
15 out. We missing out on music; we're missing out
16 on science lab; we're missing out on art, on our
17 arts lab. These are things that we had to - -
18 in order to make space and it's even coming down
19 to we have a basketball team and the basketball
20 team doesn't get enough time already to practice
21 which is showing at games because of the shared
22 space and time that we have to give up in order
23 to, you know, keep everything copacetic.

24 So I just want for everybody to take that
25 into consideration that although we're helping

1 you guys grow we're also stunting the growth
2 of our children in our school. That's it.
3 Thank you.

4 MS. ESTRELLA: The speaker list has now been
5 exhausted but the principal of P.S. 38 would
6 like to say a few words so I would like to give
7 her that opportunity.

8 MS. BARTON: Good evening, everyone. I'm
9 glad to see all the--all the different parents
10 for the different schools here and of course
11 teachers for the different school communities.
12 And I wanted to hear what everyone had to say
13 about, you know, co-location of space or
14 bringing other scholars into the school
15 community.

16 I want to say although there is a promise to
17 be good neighbors--oh, sorry--it's good to hear
18 about the wonderful opportunities and
19 experiences offered to all scholars be it from
20 DREAM, from P.S. 38, or from Harlem Prep and the
21 successes of course of the different programs
22 being offered. And although there is a promise
23 to be good neighbors let us not forget that the
24 P.S. 38--let's not forget P.S. 38 community in
25 all of this.

1 Let us not forget that in our co-location
2 experience while Harlem Prep seeks--seeks more
3 space we at P.S. 38 also need more space to be
4 able to provide the mandated, for example,
5 physical education to all of our children as
6 expected as per the state. Promises that I hear
7 everyone here have made to their school
8 community we cannot make because we do not have
9 that space to do that. We cannot make
10 opportunities for additional programs or
11 opportunities if we need the space in order to
12 offer them in and we don't have that.

13 I applaud the enrichment, and success, and
14 growth of all scholars be it from our school,
15 Harlem Prep or DREAM Academy but let us not lose
16 sight of the rights, needs, and desires of the
17 school community that has been here and will
18 continue to be here through DREAM and through
19 Harlem Prep. So I'm welcoming all schools that
20 come to our--to our building here to share our
21 space and I look forward to different
22 opportunities that may arise with the Harlem
23 Prep community. But let's keep in mind that we
24 also have children and a community to service
25 and in bringing other school communities here,

1 it limits our ability to enrich and grow our
2 school community as we would like to. Thank
3 you.

4 MS. ESTRELLA: Again, we welcome any
5 comments and feedback you may have at any time
6 before the Panel for Education Policy votes on
7 the proposal at its May 29th meeting at Murray
8 Bergtraum High School for Business--at Murray
9 Bergtraum High School for Business Careers
10 located at 411 Pearl Street, New York, New York
11 10038. The email address and phone number where
12 comments may be made are d-zero-four-proposals-
13 at-schools-dot-nyc-dot-gov and 212-374-3466.

14 Thank you for your participation. This
15 joint public hearing is now closed. Have a
16 great evening.

17 [END RECORDING]

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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

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: *Carolyn S. Daigle*

Carolyn S. Daigle

Date: April 12, 2014