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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION-DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**
Opening and Co-Location of ES @ Q059
October 9, 2013

[START RECORDING]

1 MS. JENNY SOBELMAN: Good evening, ladies
2 and gentlemen. Good evening. Oh, there we go.
3 So my name is Jenny Sobelman and I'm going to be
4 serving as the facilitator for this evening's
5 joint public hearing. So this is a joint public
6 hearing of the Department of Education,
7 community education council 29 and the school of
8 IS 59 and PS 176 to discuss the proposed co-
9 location of a new public elementary charter
10 school, Success Academy Charter School New York
11 6 with the existing schools IS 059, Springhill
12 Garden [phonetic] and IS 176 Andrea Heights
13 [phonetic] in building Q059 beginning in the
14 2014-2014 school year.

15 A couple of housekeeping notes just to let
16 you know, this evening's proceedings will be
17 recorded and transcribed. So before we begin I
18 just want to let everyone know sort of the run
19 of show and also let you know that if you would
20 like to speak during the public comment later
21 on, the signup list was out front as you were
22 coming in. We'll keep that open for another 45
23 minutes. Oh, I'm coming and going. So if you
24 feel moved within the next 45 minutes make your
25 way back to the table and sign up.

1 Each person who signs up to speak will be
2 given two minutes. And my role as the
3 facilitator is to make sure that everyone who
4 signs up to speak has an opportunity and so I am
5 going to sort of try to keep us moving along. I
6 don't know what the list is at right now, but in
7 terms of trying to be sensitive to everyone's
8 schedule. And we're going to have a timekeeper
9 up front who will let you know when you have
10 reached 30 seconds and when your two minutes has
11 elapsed.

12 So we have a panel assembled this evening.
13 And we'll recognize them and then we'll be able
14 to give them an opportunity to speak. Starting
15 at the far end we have from IS 059, Tandrea
16 Lane, Tandrea. Also from IS 059, Muhammad
17 Lagada. And from CEC district 29, Alicia
18 Hyndman. And then Superintendent Lenon Murray
19 serving as the Chancellor's designee this
20 evening.

21 [Applause]

22 I do also want to recognize a few other
23 people in the audience right now. We have
24 Principal Gordon from IS 59.

25 [Applause]

1 And Principal Garlic [phonetic] from PS
2 176.

3 [Applause]

4 And we're also joined by Erica Lane
5 [phonetic] from the PTA of 176.

6 [Applause]

7 And how about that for timing? We've also
8 just been joined by Jason Hilliard [phonetic]
9 representing Congressman Meeks [phonetic].

10 [Applause]

11 And if other folks join us through the
12 course of the evening who are members of the - -
13 we'll invite them to join us. And then if
14 electives join us through the course of the
15 evening we'll give them an opportunity to speak
16 if they're interested as well. Okay so as I
17 said, we have a panel together. We're going to
18 keep signup open for 45 minutes. And we're
19 going to do the presentations from the panel and
20 then we'll have the public comment.

21 So I'm now going to invite the Chancellor's
22 designee, Superintendent Lenon Murray, to read
23 the official proposal.

24 MR. LENON MURRAY: Thank you Jenny. First
25 of all I want to welcome each of you this

1 evening. We're very grateful to have you here.
2 We appreciate your input. As Jenny said, there
3 is a signup sheet in the back and we encourage
4 you to take advantage of that signup sheet. I
5 would like to recognize my entire office staff,
6 which is Ms. Knight [phonetic].

7 [Applause]

8 And Mr. Robinson Edwards [Applause], my new
9 BFA.

10 [Applause]

11 I really appreciate their support at all of
12 these locations. So as Jenny indicated, I will
13 make a presentation. During my presentation I
14 want to kindly request your patience as you
15 listen to it. And following my presentation, we
16 would have input from the community. And the
17 signup sheet is in the back. So ladies and
18 gentlemen, this--the New York City Department of
19 Education is proposing to co-locate Success
20 Academy Charter School known as New York 6 a new
21 public elementary charter school that will serve
22 students in kindergarten through eighth grade in
23 building Q059 beginning in the 2014-2015 school
24 year.

25 Going forward, I will refer to Success

1 Academy Charter School New York 6 as "Success
2 Academy." So beginning this school year, PS 176
3 is temporarily serving grades four and five in
4 Q059 for a three year period during construction
5 of the addition of PS 176. If this proposal,
6 this proposal tonight is approved, Success
7 Academy will be co-located in Q059 with IS 59
8 and PS 176. A co-location means that two or
9 more school organizations are located in the
10 same building and may share common spaces like
11 auditoriums, gymnasiums and cafeterias.

12 Success Academy Charter School is a charter
13 management organization that currently operates
14 18 public charter schools in New York City,
15 including six new public elementary schools
16 serving students for the first time this year.
17 Success Academy has submitted an application for
18 charter authorization from SUNY, the state
19 University of New York trustees. If this
20 proposal is approved, Success Academy will open,
21 if the supporters approve, Success Academy will
22 open in the 2014-2015 school year, serving a
23 total of 150 to 210 kindergarten and first grade
24 students and will add one grade each year until
25 it reaches full grade span, serving students

1 from kindergarten through eighth grade in the
2 2021-2022 school year.

3 Although Success Academy will reach full
4 grade span in the 2021-2022 school year, its
5 enrollment will stabilize in the 2023-2024
6 school year when it is expected to serve 675 to
7 810 students in the kindergarten through eighth
8 grade. Success Academy will admit students via
9 the charter application process, with preference
10 given to district 29 residents. Students enter
11 Success Academy in the elementary grades will
12 have the option of continuing at the school
13 through eighth grade.

14 According to the 2011-2012 enrollment
15 capacity and utilization report, building Q059
16 has a target capacity of 1,295 students. In
17 2013-2014, the building serves approximately 777
18 students, yielding a building utilization rate
19 of 60%. This means that the building is
20 underutilized and has space to accommodate
21 additional students. In 2015 to 2016, during
22 the last year when PS 176 was temporarily co-
23 located in Q059, all three schools would serve a
24 total of 855 to 975 students in Q059, yielding a
25 building replacement rate of 66% to 75%.

1 In 2023 and 2024, once Success Academy is
2 at full scale and reaches state enrollment in
3 Q059, it is projected that there will be
4 approximately 1,140 to 1,305 students in Q059,
5 thereby yielding an estimated building
6 utilization rate of approximately 88% to 101%.
7 Although a utilization rate in excess of 100%
8 may suggest that a building will be over
9 utilized or overcrowded in a given year, this
10 rate does not account for the fact that the
11 rooms are programmed for efficient--for
12 different uses than the standard assumptions in
13 the rotation calculation.

14 As described in more detail in the building
15 utilization plan for this proposal, if this
16 proposal is approved, there will be sufficient
17 space to accommodate the co-located schools in
18 Q059 pursuant to the city-wide instructional
19 footprint. There will be excess space above
20 each school's footprint during each year of co-
21 location Q059 which will be allocated equitably
22 between all the schools in the building. The
23 building utilization plan for this proposal also
24 describes a sample schedule to demonstrate how
25 three schools can share space in the Q059

1 building.

2 And although the DOE has proposed how the
3 shared spaces in the building may be utilized,
4 building counsels are free to deviate from the
5 proposed share space plan to accommodate
6 specific grammatical needs of all special
7 populations or groups within each school as is
8 feasible and equitable, provided building
9 counsel comes to an agreement of the final
10 shared space plan in a collaborative manner.
11 The proposed co-location of Success Academy and
12 Q059 is not expected to impact the admissions,
13 enrollment, or educational options of students
14 currently attending IS 059 or PS 176.

15 Additionally, the DOE does not expect this
16 proposal to have material impact on any
17 individual district 29 elementary or middle
18 school. The opening of Success Academy may have
19 mild impact of the enrollment of the district 29
20 schools, but enrolling students who would
21 otherwise attend another district 29 elementary
22 or middle school; however at present there is no
23 way to predict which schools would be impacted
24 or by how many seats. The four Success Academy
25 elementary schools that received a progress

1 report in 2011-2012 school year all received a
2 full floor grade of eight.

3 Furthermore, on the 2012-2013 New York State
4 exams, Success Academy Charter Schools
5 demonstrated strong results in English language
6 arts, math and science. Compared to all New
7 York City schools, the seven Success Academy
8 schools with testing grades performed in the top
9 2% of the state math exam and the top 7% of the
10 state English language arts exam. Additionally,
11 all of the Success Academy students who took the
12 state science test passed the exam. Thank you
13 so much for your patience.

14 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, Superintendent.
15 So quickly before I move on to the next speaker,
16 I did want to recognize that we've been joined
17 by the Honorable Joan Flowers, the state
18 committee member from district 29 assembly.

19 [Applause]

20 Our next presentation will be from Alicia
21 Hyndman.

22 MS. ALICIA HYNDMAN: I tried to remember to
23 write everything down this time so I wouldn't
24 forget. My name is Alicia Hyndman and I'm the
25 president of CDC 29, district education 29 here.

1 I say with proud--with pride that it has been
2 a pleasure to serve the parents and children of
3 this community. It is not a fight for the
4 rights of parents and children in this
5 community. This panel that you see before you,
6 we're not "we," excluding the parent, one, two,
7 three, from the parent.

8 We're not here to answer any of your
9 questions. As you can hear, Mr. Murray gave
10 you--read to you the education impact statement
11 that is supposed to tell you everything you need
12 to know, what to expect from the proposed
13 charter school academy for this building for
14 2014. But please ask your questions. Do not
15 get frustrated. Stay the course, follow
16 through. Not just for this hearing, but with
17 emails, telephone, calls, petitions, which we've
18 already started.

19 And please attend the panel for Education
20 Policy meeting October 30th in Brooklyn, because
21 that is where the decision is made for not only
22 this school building but schools all across
23 Queens, all across the boroughs of New York
24 City. As you know, the current mayoral
25 administration is swiftly coming to a close.

1 But rather than leave the new administration
2 with some breath to take on the biggest school
3 system in the country, they're leaving it in as
4 much confusion as possible.

5 How in the world does one expect to
6 successfully co-locate over 50 plus schools when
7 many of the current DOE is leaving, has left, or
8 shopping resumes. How in the world does one
9 body, the majority of which are appointed by
10 Mayor Bloomberg, go against every elected
11 official in Queens and say regardless of what
12 the community want, the people want, we're going
13 to do what we think is best for your children.
14 So what does that mean if your child is eating
15 lunch at 10:00 in the morning?

16 What does it mean if your child has to use
17 the bathroom and they're not on the appropriate
18 floor because it belongs to the other schools?
19 What if it means your budget is cut and your
20 school enrollment goes down and you can't get
21 equipment in your room or attention that your
22 classroom needs, but you walk down the hall as a
23 teacher and you see that the other classroom has
24 everything that you could possibly want to teach
25 children, but you don't have access to that

1 because you've lost your enrollment, your
2 numbers have gone down so your budget goes down.

3 This is what co-location breeds, and this is
4 what will happen to a building that already had
5 two schools, although a temporary, and they're
6 cohabitating just fine. As parents, we try to
7 teach our children that everyone should be
8 treated equal regardless of income, race,
9 gender, social studies, etcetera. But what
10 example do we send to our children when schools
11 such as charter--Success Charter Academy appears
12 to have carte blanche when it comes to the New
13 York City public school system?

14 Every other charter that had ventured into
15 district 29 had come to the community and asked
16 for our assistance, and even had come with their
17 own space. Success Charter Academy can be
18 equated to the Wal-Mart of schools where there
19 is no union to recognize and they said they only
20 just want a small piece and they take over the
21 whole community.

22 [Applause]

23 I find it very interesting when the DOE uses
24 the word "choice," to make it sound like we have
25 a choice, when we want choice public schools.

1 As parents we want all of our schools to be
2 good schools. But instead of working what you
3 have to make it better, we're going to take
4 money from here, use it over there, and keep
5 dangling this word in front of you, because this
6 is what they told us, "We want you to have a
7 choice." Why do we need another school? We
8 have a K to 5 up the block on Lucas [phonetic],
9 across the street at PS 132, a stone's throw
10 away at PS 37.

11 We have a K to 8 down the street, Front
12 Boulevard [phonetic], PS 270. We're going to
13 have parents angry and irate when they feel like
14 they don't have a choice, that they can get a
15 seat at Success Charter School. And I'm not
16 saying that the charter schools are good, bad,
17 or different. What I'm saying is no to
18 colocation. And stop dangling the charter from
19 the front of us like it's the best thing that
20 ever happened to our community. Because all the
21 districts that exist in this city that have no
22 charter schools, and no charter school is going
23 to venture into those districts.

24 So it's not good for everyone, why is it
25 good for only our children?

1 [Applause]

2 Stop selling - - to our people that this one
3 school will change the landscape of district 29.

4 [Applause]

5 Because it's not the truth. We all want--
6 every district in this--every district--and
7 there are 30 or 32? 32 districts in New York
8 City, the biggest school system in the world,
9 1.1 million children. And how--what do you
10 think the percentage of children look like me
11 and you? So think for yourself. Think really
12 hard and long. If we don't continue to fight
13 this, then 50 plus more co-locations will be
14 voted on on October 30 and those schools - -
15 blaming ourselves. Thank you.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you so much. Thank you
18 so much. And actually, she made a good point
19 about giving you the phone number and email. So
20 if over the course of the evening you have
21 additional comments or questions, let me just
22 provide these and I'll read it a few more times
23 also. So the email is
24 e29proposals@schools.nyc.gov. And the phone
25 number is 212-374-7621. And all of the comments

1 and questions that are raised in this
2 evening's hearing will be included in a document
3 called "The analysis of public comment" which is
4 posted online and provided to the panel members.
5 So I definitely encourage that.

6 Okay, so the next presentation will be from
7 Muhammad Lagado.

8 MR. MUHAMMAD LAGADA: Good evening
9 everybody. My name is Muhammad Lagada. I'm - -
10 . I would like to talk what she said, but I'm
11 going to add more. When you are coming at this,
12 the hearing - - . I don't think everybody - - .
13 In this city, there is - - . Please take a
14 look, just take a look. Overcrowded. My
15 daughter said they are dividing the auditorium
16 into different times so they can go and have
17 lunch. In the morning, the schools drop in,
18 they are very interrupting kids, the traffic,
19 and the block here is overcrowded.

20 This area will - - that. This is our
21 neighborhood. This is our - - in front of this
22 school. And there are buses. We need this
23 school and we need it to be left - - this
24 facility, - - here but at the same time, there
25 are students. They are - - because my children

1 and yours have to be comfortable before
2 everybody else. Now let's go back to - - . - -
3 everything that this sheet is - - and the
4 proposal, nothing else.

5 So I'm very sorry to say that on behalf of
6 all of the parents here and myself there is no
7 room of any kind of anywhere--

8 [Applause]

9 Thank you.

10 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, sir. And the next
11 speaker from the panel is also representing IS
12 59, Tandrea Lane.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. TANDREA LANE: Thank you. How is
15 everybody this evening?

16 AUDIENCE: All right.

17 MS. LANE: Okay. I am Tandrea Lane, the PTA
18 president here at IS 059.

19 [Applause]

20 I am also went to IS 059. I also went to
21 August Mark High School [phonetic]. And so I
22 can say that this is very close to home, just as
23 a community member. The parents at IS 059 would
24 like the Department of Education to invest in IS
25 059.

1 [Applause]

2 We understand that your building overflow,
3 according to the Department of Education
4 statistics, is underutilized. But we openly
5 encourage the Department of Education to come
6 here on a school day, when school is in full
7 effect, and see that the building is not
8 underutilized to the capacity that it could take
9 another 800 students. We would like the
10 enrollment at IS 059 itself to be higher. And
11 we would welcome more students. We do not
12 welcome another school that is a private school,
13 that does not accept every student in the
14 community.

15 [Applause]

16 We would like the respect to have the
17 Department of Education have the community be a
18 part of any decision of whatever will come in to
19 our school buildings and not have these things
20 handed to us. We do not want a private school
21 in our community. This school was built to be a
22 public school for this--

23 [Applause]

24 We want it to remain like that. And we will
25 fight durably to have it remain that way. I'm

1 going to say this because the way I feel is
2 that what is going on with these co-locations of
3 these students is a new form of racism in
4 America.

5 [Applause]

6 It is undermining the confidence of our
7 children in the education that they are
8 receiving. I heard a student as I was going in
9 the door almost in tears because she thinks that
10 the academy that she is attending, the Rising
11 Star Academy is going to be closing. That
12 student should not have to worry in any way
13 about her school environment while she is in the
14 sixth or seventh grade.

15 [Applause]

16 And I say that this community is not going
17 to be dictated to. Our new elected officials
18 that are coming in, we are going to hold them to
19 the highest standards, that these type of things
20 cannot even come down the pipeline without our
21 community being a part of the process of what
22 comes in to our community, and not be dictated
23 to. Thank you.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you so much. So that

1 concludes the presentations from the panel and
2 we're going to transition into the open public
3 comment. So again, you've got about five or ten
4 more minutes. If you've been moved by the
5 presentations and would like to sign up for
6 public comment, the table in the front where you
7 entered and anyone who signs up will be given a
8 number and we'll call people up and invite you
9 to speak. We've got a microphone right here and
10 this gentleman up front who is our timekeeper.

11 So as I said, my responsibility is just to
12 make sure everyone has an opportunity to speak.
13 So I'll be letting you know when you, you know,
14 he'll show you a sign that says 30 seconds and
15 the time has elapsed. And then I'll call up the
16 next bit of folks. And I'm not going to try and
17 read names because I generally get them messy.
18 So hopefully you've got your numbers handy. So
19 what I'm going to do is ask that the first, okay
20 sorry. I also want to acknowledge we've been
21 joined by Janelle Edwards [phonetic]
22 representing councilman Donovan Richards
23 [phonetic].

24 [Applause]

25 Great, so the folks that have signed up to

1 speak, if you have numbers one through five,
2 if you would join us here on the aisle.

3 [Pause]

4 So speaker number one. Do we have speaker
5 number one? Fabulous. If you would like to
6 approach the mike.

7 MR. SYDNEY T. GALLOWAY: Good evening. I
8 would like to please explain besides your legal
9 right and your supporting - - because when I got
10 - - they do not seem to be correct. Here is
11 why. According to your data, IS 059 now has 777
12 students. In 2013-2014, Success Academy will
13 introduce between 150 and 210 new students to IS
14 059. If you applied the 210, we get 987
15 students, which does not take into account the
16 regular 150 or so students that are introduced
17 in IS 059 a year.

18 987 is roughly 76% of your targeted
19 capacity, 1,295. If you add the 150 regular
20 students that enters into IS 059 yearly, then in
21 2013-2014 it will be at the figure of 1,137.
22 Accordingly, if Success Academy introduces one
23 new class for 2015-2016 and a new entry of 150
24 students, then you will be close to the time and
25 capacity of 1,295. Therefore, I cannot see

1 where by 2023-2024 when Success will stabilize
2 where you can be under the targeted proposal.
3 Overcrowding is clearly falling on us and there
4 will be much overcrowding and I really do agree
5 that the overcrowding is--causes many problems,
6 okay?

7 [Applause]

8 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, sir. Speaker
9 number two? Oh, okay. Speaker number three?
10 Speaker number four?

11 MS. MARIE ADAM OVIDE: Good evening. My
12 name is Marie Adam Ovide. I am a parent here.
13 My daughter, Olivia Ovide goes to IS 59.
14 Started a petition for the community, so I'll
15 read it. "We the parents and residents of
16 school district 29 in Queens are vehemently
17 opposed to the Department of Education's
18 proposal to co-locate Success Academy Charter
19 School at IS 059. The Department of Education
20 claims that the school is underutilized, and
21 they want to fill seats.

22 However, co-location is not the answer.
23 With co-location of schools, many issues arise,
24 as different schools must share the same space,
25 namely the science lab, cafeteria, gymnasium,

1 school yard, restroom and auditorium. Not all
2 spaces can be shared. Space must be set aside
3 for a secondary principal's office, library, and
4 main office. Usually during co-location,
5 resources are allocated disproportionately in
6 favor of the new school to the detriment of the
7 current school, which is IS 059. And we will
8 not stand for it.

9 [Applause]

10 Pitting students against students and
11 parents against parents for the same resources
12 is not the answer. Resources should be directed
13 to assist in the continuous effort to improve IS
14 059. Currently there is a stellar program for
15 gifted students, that I'm proud to say that my
16 daughter is part of. And I know that it will
17 attract more people. I'm sorry. Success
18 Academy is a privately run school. It should
19 not use public space and it must be housed in
20 its own building. We the people who put you
21 where you are, we are urging you to remove this
22 proposal from the agenda.

23 Sign for IS 059 to remain the way it is, not
24 the other schools coming in. With 176, we know
25 it's been temporary, however no more co-

1 locations." No more co-locations. No more--

2 [Applause]

3 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you so much. So
4 quickly before you leave, are you speaker number
5 five? My apologies. Speaker number five.

6 MS. VEVIAN CHARLES: Hi. I'm Vevian
7 Charles. My son goes to school here. I have
8 been in this community for a very long time,
9 many years. And I am very comfortable at the
10 school. My children and grandchildren
11 attending, and are still attending here. We do
12 not need these new schools. Our children and
13 grandchildren do not need this either. I am
14 expecting you to stop doing this to our children
15 and our community. Equal opportunity for all.
16 Why must give the--why must fund the school?
17 Give the money to the students that have been -
18 - these private schools.

19 I think the funds will go a far way and we
20 do not need any charter school. Thank you.

21 [Applause]

22 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you so much. So
23 quickly before we go on the next set of
24 speakers, I just want to recognize--absolutely,
25 can I just recognize a couple of elected

1 officials who joined us? So we've been joined
2 by Council Member Leroy Comre.

3 [Applause]

4 We have been joined by Assembly Member
5 William Scarborough.

6 [Applause]

7 And we've been joined by City Council member
8 elect Denique Miller. Go ahead, sir.

9 MR. DERMOT SMYTH: Thank you. Thank you.
10 My name is Dermot Smyth. I'm going to turn the
11 mike down because I actually came here to talk
12 to you guys. I have great respect to see you.
13 I think this community has one of the most
14 amazing, hardworking citizens in the world.

15 [Applause]

16 I also want to say that I have great respect
17 for our superintendent, and I think it's very
18 important when we have these meetings that we
19 don't take out our frustration or our anger on
20 the messengers, because Lenon is a good guy and
21 it's great to see him here today.

22 [Applause]

23 So again, my name is Dermot Smyth and I'm
24 with the United Federation of Teachers.

25 [Applause]

1 And there you go, give it up.

2 [Applause]

3 I want to give you a brief little history of
4 sometimes when these things happen, people think
5 they happen in isolation. They think it's only
6 happening here. Six months ago, this same
7 school, this same business that's trying to come
8 into this school tried to come into West Greens
9 [phonetic] Astoria, to a school called PS 122.
10 They didn't reach out to the community. They
11 didn't reach out to the CEC, the community
12 boards, the elected officials, the community
13 leaders. But most importantly, as if this
14 wasn't enough of an insult, they didn't even
15 reach out to the parents in that school.

16 Those parents got together, that entire
17 community got together and they ran Ms.
18 Moscovitz [phonetic] out of that district. She
19 never got her school in there. So what they
20 have cleverly decided to do is to come to the
21 other end of Queens, the other side of Queens,
22 hoping that you're not going to hear about that
23 and push this in on your community. I'm not
24 somebody who is going to speak against charter
25 schools. There is a place for charter schools

1 in this city and in this system.

2 But there's no place for a charter school or
3 any co-location of any school in any city--in
4 any district in this borough or in this city if
5 we don't ask you the people. And nobody here in
6 this room can say that they were asked.

7 [Applause]

8 That is what's happening to you here. I'm
9 not going to stand up to Evan Moscovitz. I'm
10 sure if you go home and Google her and you
11 realize the kind of press you've got in the last
12 six months, nobody would want her in your
13 district.

14 [Microphone off] I'm just going to finish up
15 by saying--

16 [Laughter]

17 If everyone can hear what I'm telling you--

18 MS. SOBELMAN: [Interposing] Sir, we'd like
19 to try and move on to the next speaker if we
20 could, please.

21 MR. SMYTH: I will. I'm hoping the next
22 speakers are on the - - . I'm asking all of you
23 to--

24 MS. SOBELMAN: [Interposing] Sir, I would
25 like to ask speaker number two, who I believe

1 has joined us, Corey Terry to come up front.

2 MR. SMYTH: I don't want--

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: [Interposing] Wait until
4 he's finished.

5 [Applause]

6 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, sir. So I have
7 speaker number two who joined us to speak and
8 then we're going to introduce or invite the
9 elected officials to speak. So we're going to
10 serve everyone.

11 MR. COREY TERRY: Yes. Good evening,
12 everyone. I am here once again. And I am
13 dealing with an issue that all of us are very
14 concerned about. I don't want to get so much in
15 the co-location and the charter school issue,
16 but I would like to think about the safety of
17 the children, because I would think that we are
18 out here for our children. When I went to the
19 PEP and talked to Mr. Wolcott and told him about
20 coming out to our building, and coming to
21 fourth, fifth and sixth period lunch periods
22 just to see the unsafely to our children.

23 [Applause]

24 If anything happens to our children, we will
25 be our own--we will be mad that it happened.

1 This is a situation that they are not caring
2 about right now. What they are thinking about
3 is moving this in as quick as they can, not
4 giving us any time to sit down and have a
5 conversation with us, which I think is very
6 disrespectful. You know, at least they should
7 have come into the community and had a talk with
8 us. But what did they do? Before school even
9 started, they had us at a meeting, parents
10 didn't know nothing about it. Parents didn't
11 show up.

12 And the first thing they want to say is,
13 "Where are the parents?" Well tonight look
14 outside right now at all these people right
15 here. They are concerned.

16 [Applause]

17 We are concerned in our community. And we
18 are not in peacement, everybody is just - -
19 because the Bloombergs wanted to have it. So I
20 just think that it's time for this community
21 just to keep standing up and don't give up the
22 fight. That's what they want us to do, is to
23 give up the fight.

24 [Applause]

25 We want to keep fighting in southeast

1 Queens. Because we know our power is in our
2 numbers. So keep fighting. Don't give up.

3 [Applause]

4 Keep fighting. Don't give up.

5 [Applause]

6 MS. SOBELMAN: Our next speaker is Assembly
7 Member William Scarborough. Assembly Member
8 Scarborough.

9 [Applause]

10 WILLIAM A. SCARBOROUGH: Good evening. My
11 name is William Scarborough. I'm the State
12 Assemblyman in this area. And I am here to
13 stand with you against the--

14 [Applause]

15 That is being perpetrated by the Department
16 of Education. The Department of Education has
17 been as unfair to this school as any place I can
18 think of.

19 [Applause]

20 A little over two years ago, we were here
21 with the same thing, the same fight. They
22 wanted to put the Eagle Academy in here. They
23 lost that - - educational policy, they have to
24 do a do-over, and they made them do what they
25 wanted. Eagle stayed for one year. When Eagle

1 left, they wanted to put Patriotic Academy
2 [phonetic] in here. And - - want to come. So
3 now they have kids, third, fourth, fifth graders
4 from IS--from PS 76 in here, and when they leave
5 they want to put Success Academy in. Now how
6 can you possibly say that you are providing a
7 safe educational environment for IS 059 when you
8 keep making these kind of changes?

9 [Applause]

10 It's not fair. It makes no sense. It
11 should not be done. And let me just say this as
12 I close. The fight is not with Success Academy,
13 even though what happens every time is the
14 school that's there and the school that comes in
15 end up at daggers point to each other. The
16 problem is the Department of Education is
17 determined to ram these schools in these places
18 just because they can.

19 [Applause]

20 They do it every time just because they can.
21 They can walk away. The kids and the
22 administration from Success Academy, the kids
23 and the administration from IS 059 will be
24 eyeing each other warily, with under those
25 circumstances they might be able to work

1 together. They need to change this system.
2 There have been many recommendations about how
3 to make colocation better, how to make this
4 school run. They just won't listen. Let's have
5 this fight.

6 We know the only reason they're doing it is
7 because Bloomberg wants to push as many of these
8 schools in before he leaves. Let's stop it
9 here. God bless you. Thank you.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you. Our next speaker
12 is Leroy Comre.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. LEROY COMRE: Good evening, everyone.

15 AUDIENCE: Good evening.

16 MR. COMRE: We're here again. We're here
17 again. Eagle Academy could not wait to get out
18 of this building. They couldn't wait to get out
19 of this building. You all know that, after that
20 fight to come in here they were so happy to be
21 out of here. And they were so happy to be out
22 of here they didn't know what to do with
23 themselves. Co-location does not work. Co-
24 location does not work. This is our fight that
25 they're trying to do this to 059. I'm going to

1 call it, it's actually this is our fight.

2 And their disrespect to this community, that
3 if they're fighting to make 059 a junior high
4 school - - . This is not right. Success
5 Academy is a failure. Look them up. Look up
6 Success Academy. Success Academy lies about
7 their statistics. They don't take handicaps.
8 They throw out kids that are violent or
9 problematic, threats in any other school system
10 because they are favored with DOE. Success
11 Academy is a failure. They do not belong in
12 Queens at all.

13 [Applause]

14 Success Academy was started be Eva Moscowitz
15 as a payoff by not fighting with DOE when she
16 was on the education committee. They can't just
17 expand, right now they have 12 schools. They
18 can't give them 30 other schools in one year.
19 It will not work. They cannot do it. It's
20 unfair to 059 to try to co-locate a school in
21 here that will come in here and - - all of the
22 bad - - all of the new things that make our kids
23 look like second class citizens. It is not
24 fair. It is not going to happen.

25 [Applause]

1 DOE does not have the right to make any
2 decisions that impact our children after
3 December 31st, 2013. They are out of existence
4 after that. They do not have the right to do
5 anything to make an impact on our schools after
6 their term is up. Their term is up when mine is
7 up, at the end of this year. They have no right
8 to try to impact our educational system within
9 the next administration. What it--what they're
10 doing throughout Queens, because I just came
11 from PS 40, and PS 40, they have the same type
12 of hearing, but they want to put another zoned
13 public school within a public school in the same
14 building. Stupid.

15 [Laughter]

16 It makes no sense to put a second set of
17 administrators in a building for a zoned school
18 for the same grades in a building. All that is
19 is they're just trying to sneak a charter school
20 in there also. Every district in Queens has the
21 same problem. We are not standing alone on this
22 one, people. But we need to fight as a
23 community. Send emails to the Chancellor, to
24 the mayor. Send emails to the press. We need
25 to stop this. We were able to stop Tabor

1 Academy [phonetic] from coming in here.

2 We allowed 176 to come in because 176 is a
3 feeder school. They--and they're improving the
4 building. And that's only temporary.

5 [Applause]

6 But it's - - that they're trying to push
7 back on 059 to do this, because 059 was one of
8 the few schools to successfully stand up to the
9 Chancellor, stand up to the system and say, "We
10 don't want this. We have a better plan." Of
11 course, all of those 135,000 Harvard softball
12 educated people don't want to listen to us.
13 They don't want to listen to the community, but
14 you can tell this community that this should not
15 happen. So please be unified, because in every
16 district in the Queens, they have over 30
17 different co-locations.

18 They want to put in elementary school in a
19 high school in Queens. They want to put
20 elementary schools in junior highs. They want
21 to have people fighting with each other all over
22 this city for the next four years, trying to
23 mess up the opportunity for the next
24 administration who hopefully will think--well I
25 can't say that here. We're in a public meeting.

1 [Laughter]

2 But they want to mess up the opportunity for
3 the next administration to fix all of their
4 problems that they've messed up for the last 12
5 years. Remember, Mayor Bloomberg has been the
6 mayor for a child's lifetime in school. And the
7 schools are doing worse. Think about it. 12
8 years ago, if a child was six years old entering
9 school, the system is worse than it was 12 years
10 ago. He is not respecting administrators. He
11 is not respecting teachers. And more than
12 anything else, he is not respecting parents in
13 the community.

14 [Applause]

15 - - not doing anything that is past the
16 school district after December 31st of this
17 year. And I don't know where I'm going to be
18 that next year, but whatever happens, if they
19 try to mess with our schools I will be at the
20 meeting working with you parents, working with
21 the community to fight and make sure that our
22 children are taken care of.

23 [Applause]

24 This must not happen. Thank you very much.

25 [Applause]

1 I have one more school to run to so I
2 can't stay tonight. I've got to run to another
3 school over in Oakridge [phonetic] but they're
4 even trying to do this in other districts,
5 district 27, 28, 23, 25 and 24, all in Queens,
6 they're trying to do the same foolishness.
7 Thank you very much.

8 [Applause]

9 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, sir. And the next
10 speaker will be Jason Hilliard, a representative
11 of Nixon's office [phonetic].

12 MR. JASON HILLIARD: I'm going to be quick,
13 because the Congressman is unfortunately not
14 here tonight. You know, he's down in DC
15 fighting the foolishness of the silent - - who
16 is trying to destroy this country. But we are
17 going to join forces with our other elected
18 officials and colleagues to make sure that this
19 school stays intact and resources are directly
20 here. That's what the school needs is
21 resources, better resources directed at our
22 children to make sure that they are able to stay
23 at peace with the world that we are facing
24 today.

25 [Applause]

1 So with that said, we're willing to give
2 up the fight.

3 [Laughter]

4 [Applause]

5 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, sir. My next
6 speaker is from representative--or representing
7 Counsel Member Richards [phonetic], Janelle
8 Edwards.

9 [Applause]

10 MS. JANELLE EDWARDS: Thank you. Good
11 evening, everyone. I'm here representing
12 Counsel Member Richards. Even though the school
13 no longer actually is a part of Counsel Member
14 Richards district, he still understands and he
15 definitely sympathizes with parents, the issues
16 that you are facing trying to provide an
17 education for your children. To be perfectly
18 honest, this isn't something that is specific to
19 this community. It's something that parents all
20 over New York City are concerned about the
21 quality and the type of education that you have
22 access to.

23 Considering that public schools are supposed
24 to be for the greater good of the public, it's
25 supposed to be about building the middle class,

1 preparing children for the future, and making
2 sure that they have access to the best possible
3 resources. So he just wants to remind you and
4 to stand with parents, administrators and
5 teachers to acknowledge that we can't continue
6 the failed policies that Mayor Bloomberg has
7 already instituted.

8 [Applause]

9 He's been - - on many occasions to
10 rearranging the detures [phonetic] on the
11 Titanic. You know it's going to sink and at the
12 end of the day it's about reevaluating what your
13 priorities are and reevaluating where you're
14 putting your resources. As we know, it's about
15 funding the schools that are already in
16 existence. It's about supporting teachers.
17 It's about making sure that parents are brought
18 to the table that are part of the conversation.
19 So I just want to encourage you and let you know
20 that you are free to come to the office. Let us
21 know how you feel and the council member stands
22 with you. Thank you.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. SOBELMAN: And our next speaker is
25 Counsel Member elect Denique Miller.

1 [Applause]

2 MR. DENIQUE I. MILLER: Good evening.

3 AUDIENCE: Good evening.

4 MR. MILLER: There has just been a plethora
5 of reasons why we should not co-locate
6 articulated here tonight. And I don't need to
7 go over them. But let me just say of the
8 parent, students and children who come to IS 059
9 at this school has been dynamic for this
10 community for the past 50 years and I can say -
11 - and if given the proper resource we'll
12 continue to be that right here at 059. And
13 Principal Gordon, you've done a phenomenal job
14 in Brooklyn over the years and--

15 [Applause]

16 We will continue to support not only
17 Principal Gordon but all of the schools in this
18 district and so make sure that from City Hall
19 that they are properly funded so that our
20 children have the opportunity and learning
21 advantage that they should. But let me just say
22 that this is not just about that. It's about
23 whether or not we're going to continue to allow
24 the mayor to perpetuate failure policy over the
25 next five years. He's walking out the door and

1 instituting policies and co-locations and
2 charter schools and put out RFP's.

3 We're billions of dollars over the next five
4 years and he thinks that we're going to allow
5 that to happen. The fact of the matter is
6 that's not what I signed up for. I stood with
7 the Queen's delegation, every member of the
8 Queen's delegation yesterday, as the Councilmen
9 said, he's on the force task because they're
10 doing it on the north side as well. And we have
11 emphatically said that is not going to happen
12 here in Queens. So I didn't sign up for it and
13 I know that you didn't sign up for it. And let
14 me say that you have an advocate for the next
15 four years that will not allow it to happen in
16 this location.

17 [Applause]

18 So as we said, Terry, so well and everyone
19 else before him, that we sign up and make sure
20 that we send an email to the proper people, to
21 the DOE, that the mayor knows that when his time
22 is up, his time is up. And I'll be at City Hall
23 to be your voice advocating to make sure that he
24 knows that when he tells you there's everything
25 here for the next administration, and we're

1 willing and prepared to properly fund and deal
2 without children as it should be. So I thank
3 everybody for coming out here tonight.

4 And this shows where southeast Queens stands
5 on this issue, where the leadership stands on
6 this issue, and that together that we'll be
7 successful in defeating Success Academy and all
8 those others that think that our children are
9 for sale.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, sir. Our next
12 speaker is Ms. Joan Flowers.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. JOAN FLOWERS: Good evening, everyone.
15 I agree with everything that everyone has said
16 with regarding to colocation and I do not want
17 to be redundant and repeat all of those
18 wonderful objections in my talk with you. What
19 I am here to say to you is this. Mayor
20 Bloomberg would have served us much better if
21 over the past 12 years he had used his time to
22 break out those billions of dollars that the
23 Court has determined is due to New York City
24 because of the neglect of funding over the past
25 years.

1 [Applause]

2 Assemblyman Weffron [phonetic], in that
3 press conference yesterday talked about the fact
4 that Mayor Bloomberg came to Albany with a gun
5 to their heads and forced them to change the
6 charter school law to allow--to ask SUNY to
7 increase the number of charter schools that are
8 allowed in the city. I want you to know that
9 Success Academy now has 18. Their website talks
10 about the fact that they are planning to do 100
11 charter schools across the city. We cannot
12 allow corporations to take over the public
13 education of our city. We must tell them
14 they've got to go.

15 [Applause]

16 I asked Assemblyman Weffron yesterday in
17 conjunction with his holding a hearing to make
18 sure that Mayor Bloomberg gets a moratorium on
19 any further charter schools coming in to the
20 city and talking about colocations or anything
21 else, that along with that moratorium that law
22 needs to be amended so that no one corporation
23 with the same set of owners or the same set of
24 board of directors can own any more than ten
25 schools. That would be my limit. I don't know

1 what the legislature in their wisdom will ask
2 for. However, we must let them know.

3 Now I also checked the board of directors of
4 Success Academy. It is packed with people from
5 the financial industries. Now the only reason
6 they are here, it is not because they are
7 interested in our children's education. It is
8 apart from many public dollars for each child
9 they enroll, what they are also doing is getting
10 their own funding. As such, they can get their
11 own damn buildings. They do not need to come in
12 to our schools.

13 [Applause]

14 We need to stop the corporations from taking
15 over the public education of our children. They
16 are too precious to us. They are our - - .
17 They are our future. We must make sure they are
18 properly educated. I for one stand behind you
19 because my grandchildren are here in this
20 district and they are going to be properly
21 educated. I swear that and I swear to you that
22 I am here with you and I'm here for you. You
23 all know where to reach me and you know I'm not
24 afraid to run to the courts if I have to to get
25 an injunction to say, "Stop it." Thank you.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. SOBELMAN: Now I also want to invite
3 another member of the panel who has joined us.
4 Annette Brown representing the IS 059 SLT to
5 speak. Oh, PTA, my apology.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. ANNETTE BROWN: Good evening, everyone.
8 My name is Annette Brown and I am the treasurer
9 of the PTA here. And I am - - this is the third
10 time in four years I'm fighting for not just my
11 children but for the community and children here
12 about this co-location. We had it with Eagle,
13 we had it with Timber High School [phonetic],
14 the high school, and now we're here again with
15 the so-called school called "Success" and I use
16 that term loosely because I share it with the
17 students, and you know, when I was at the PP
18 meetings two weeks ago and the Chancellor was
19 talking about all the results of testing of
20 this, testing of that.

21 Of course it's going to be good on paper if
22 you only have high, you know, achieving
23 students. So that doesn't impress me. It does
24 not impress me. You're cherry picking. We want
25 this one, we don't--and they're picking and

1 choosing from family. One child would come
2 and another child not come from the same family.
3 That is not anything to be impressed with. So
4 that doesn't impress me. But furthermore, we in
5 this school are trying to build up this school
6 for this community.

7 [Applause]

8 And they're trying to - - , these roads
9 around here are narrow, but the main street is
10 one thing. But these roads are so narrow. And
11 I remember, I have a son who's almost 24. He
12 came out of this school. And I call those days
13 the toilet days of IS 059 because the building
14 had maybe 2,000 students. It was teaming, it
15 was crazy, the lunchroom was a mess, the
16 playground was a mess with children and their
17 hormones raging. We don't need those numbers
18 you are quoting, if you do the math, as the
19 first gentleman said, you are going to have
20 overcrowding yet again.

21 You're going to have way, way, overcrowding
22 yet again. And you know, children now are
23 eating lunch, lunch at 10:30. McDonalds and
24 Burger King and Wendy's serve breakfast until
25 11:30.

1 [Applause]

2 And our kids are expected to - - and take an
3 education, having been fed at 10:30 and they
4 stay until the end of the school day and then
5 they do the after school program, they're
6 talking 6:00 before they leave this building to
7 have a nutritious meal. That is ridiculous.
8 Ridiculous, and we need the funding to be rolled
9 back into this school. When my oldest son was
10 here they had a phenomenal music program which
11 was the talk of the whole southeast Queens.

12 [Applause]

13 The kids don't have instruments, but we have
14 a band. We don't have instruments, but we have
15 a band. They don't have those types of things.
16 We have educational program, but we don't have
17 the other releases for these children so they
18 get the well-rounded education they need. Bring
19 back the money. Kids are learning a foreign
20 language and they don't have the proper
21 resources to learn a foreign language in the
22 form of books. The kids that were coming in
23 will come in through this new school, they'll
24 have laptops and they'll be shiny and hee hee,
25 haw, haw, they'll be pitted against the kids

1 that are here.

2 How do you think that's going to sit well
3 with the people, the teachers, the principal and
4 the parents? If you've got one set of shiny,
5 golden kids and then our kids that don't even
6 have instruments to play in the band? That is
7 not going to be a successful union. This
8 school, we have tried to bring up the numbers by
9 bringing in the - - Academy. I worked on it
10 with some of the parents and teachers on our own
11 free time and we implemented it and it was very
12 well received. Give those numbers time to roll
13 over.

14 [Applause]

15 Give those numbers time to show that we can
16 bring the academic achievements by enrollment.
17 You know, bringing in these schools, and I don't
18 trust the Department of Education either. There
19 is always an underlying agenda with whatever
20 they're doing. That playground in there, my
21 daughter came out here in three years. She's
22 now in tenth grade. It's still not repaired.
23 It should have been repaired.

24 [Applause]

25 And I have a very sneaking suspicion, and

1 we're going to go on about that one, as to why
2 that playground is being remade. And you know--

3 [Applause]

4 Some are - - of course, this is a school
5 that only houses sixth, seventh, and eighth
6 graders. All of the surrounding schools except
7 for maybe three, and now it's to eight. So
8 naturally your numbers are going to go down.

9 [Applause]

10 But the solution is not to bringing Success
11 Academy. In April when I was watching the news
12 and I saw what this lady was going through, her
13 son was there but they didn't want her daughter
14 because the daughter was learning challenged.
15 And they was like, "Oh no, no, no, she can't
16 come in. We don't have a special ed program."
17 I'm saying to myself is this a school funded
18 with public money? Or--and they're rent free?
19 And you're having one parent drop one child here
20 and another child there. To me that's not fair.

21 And then to find out they're planning to
22 come into our school? It's just unbelievable,
23 unbelievable. And my third child coming to this
24 school in 12 years and this school was the
25 flagship school, flagship junior high school of

1 business.

2 [Applause]

3 And we can bring it back to this same - -
4 space again, without co-locating, without
5 squeezing square pegs into round holes and using
6 our children as numbers and not living, true
7 children that our our future, our investment.
8 Our village need to be build up for our village,
9 not a village with this one and that one all
10 over the place coming in. No, let's build up
11 our own village and raise our own children here
12 in this community. Thank you.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. SOBELMAN: So speakers with the number
15 six come forward. Speaker number six? Speaker
16 number six? Speaker number seven was Dermot.
17 Number eight, Clyde Vanel. Oh, I apologize.
18 Okay, so we'll...

19 [Pause]

20 MS. SOBELMAN: And so we've got a gentleman
21 here up front again. We're going to return to
22 our timekeeping. So I'm going to try and move
23 us through the general public comment. So this
24 is a gentlemen here. He'll let you know when
25 you've gone to 30 seconds and then when the two

1 minutes has elapsed.

2 MS. ADRIENNE ADAMS: Good evening, ladies
3 and gentlemen. My name is Adrienne Adams. I am
4 the chairperson of Community Board 12.

5 [Applause]

6 I tell you I have - - family and I feel like
7 it's deja vue all over again. We were here four
8 years ago debating the same issue. And guess
9 what? We did not get the results that we want,
10 but I tell you what, we are still fighting and
11 we're still going to fight on. I'm going to ask
12 everybody who is saying no to the DOE tonight to
13 please stand up. Camera man, representing Eva
14 Moscovitz, please take a picture and show Eva
15 this.

16 [Applause]

17 They say, "No. The community says, "No."

18 [Applause]

19 How many times do we have to say, "No"? Can
20 you hear us say, "No"?

21 [Applause]

22 AUDIENCE: No.

23 MS. ADAMS: The school districts of
24 Community Board 12 are part of a detrimental
25 colocation landscape that the Bloomberg

1 administration is determined to carry out
2 prior to his leaving office at the end of the
3 year and we are faced with the possibility of
4 multiple colocations within our elementary,
5 middle, and high schools. Under the guise of
6 under-utilization, educators have been notified
7 that their schools must make way for DOE deemed
8 high quality schools. This term is not only
9 unproven but highly offensive to anyone
10 associated with the existing schools.

11 Co-locating schools and sharing common
12 spaces within a building, many of them designed
13 for one specific grade is a fundamentally
14 disadvantageous practice which usually causes
15 gross inequity to the existing schools. We at
16 Community Board 12 stand firm and we oppose
17 vehemently all applications, all RMPs, all
18 requests associated with any co-location--

19 [Applause]

20 --involving Success Charter Academy and any
21 other schools in our district. Thank you for
22 your time.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. SOBELMAN: I'm calling our next guest
2 speaker. If you have number eight through 12,
3 if you could join us up front, speakers number
4 eight through 12. Speaker number eight?

5 MR. CLYDE VANEL: Good evening, everyone.
6 My name is Clyde Vanel. And I stand with you
7 against these co-locations. But one thing that
8 we have to ask ourselves is this. Now it's
9 great that we get together, right? We're all
10 standing together and we're having one voice and
11 we're all against these co-locations. But why
12 aren't we here in a meeting talking about
13 bringing more resources to IS 059?

14 [Applause]

15 I've never been to a meeting with that spin.
16 We have been fighting to make sure that we bring
17 more resources to our schools. It doesn't make
18 sense, when we know that our school can be
19 improved. We know we need more resources in our
20 community. We need to fight to bring more
21 resources to our schools. We should be here
22 fighting that fight, all right? Now plainly
23 obvious that we do not want any more co-
24 locations in Queens, no more co-locations. But
25 we must fight for more resources for our

1 schools.

2 As a matter of fact, let's ask Mr. Gordon.
3 Do you need more resources at the school?

4 AUDIENCE: Yes, yes, yes.

5 MR. VANEL: Are we going to stand together
6 and fight for that? Are we going to stand
7 together to fight for more resources in our
8 schools?

9 [Applause]

10 Right? Let's get together and fight for it,
11 all right? No more co-locations. No more co-
12 locations. No more co-locations.

13 AUDIENCE: No more co-locations. No more
14 co-locations. No more co-locations. No more
15 co-locations. No more co-locations.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. SOBELMAN: Guest speaker number nine.

18 MS. YVETTE SMALLS: My apology. I'm sorry.
19 Technically I shouldn't be on a timer. Hi, good
20 evening. For those of you who don't know me, my
21 name is Yvette Smalls. I'm president of the
22 Council for district 29 schools. And I'm here
23 on behalf of our PTAs and our parents to say
24 that we do not want another school put in any of
25 the district 29 school. We are adamant about

1 that, because it's not a lie. Here we go
2 again. Every single year, we are fighting for
3 this school's life. What is it about this
4 building that Mayor Bloomberg wants?

5 [Applause]

6 Is it because it's a classic location? It's
7 at the corner of Merrick [phonetic] and
8 Springfield [phonetic], when you can come take
9 the kids from other neighborhoods and bus them
10 in our neighborhood to show that here's a
11 beautiful building. We're going to put you in
12 there because the kids in this district don't
13 deserve to come in to this building. We don't
14 want that. We don't need to push our kids under
15 the bench anymore, under the table. We don't
16 want to throw the children out with the bath
17 water.

18 We want to tell our children that we value
19 you. The teachers and the administration in
20 this building, we value you. We are behind you.
21 We are not a part of this group of people who
22 start--who is trying to keep our children down.
23 We need to elevate our children back to the
24 level that district 29 used to be. We used to
25 be the cream de la cream of Queens. Let us

1 return to that.

2 [Applause]

3 And the only way we're going to return to
4 that is if you give us the resources that we
5 need. Stop cutting the school's budgets.

6 [Applause]

7 The principals cannot work anymore magic
8 with the budget you are giving them, but yet
9 when the new schools come in, you get--you bring
10 them in loaded with everything--anything that
11 they want.

12 [Applause]

13 So our children feel that - - children. We
14 don't need that for our children. All of our
15 children have a right to an education, an equal
16 education as every child in the city. So give
17 us what we need, not what you think we need.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. SOBELMAN: Guest speaker, speaker number
20 ten.

21 MS. LOUISE GALOWAY: Good evening. My name
22 is Louise Galoway and I'm a parent of a sixth
23 grader in the Rising Star Academy here. I also
24 have a kindergartener in PS 132. Number one,
25 before I kind of begin, I just want to ask the

1 question, on the panel is there anyone
2 representing Success Academy? No. Number one,
3 that's the first disrespect. You want to come
4 to our school, and I've been in this community
5 over 32 years. And you don't have the utter
6 decency courtesy or respect for our community to
7 come and show your face, to hear our questions,
8 to hear our concerns.

9 You just want to wash on over us and say
10 well we're just going to come in there K through
11 eight and we don't care what you think. That's
12 my first big issue. The--okay number two, I
13 went up--I took the liberty of going up online
14 in terms of just, you know, just kind of
15 learning a little bit about Success Academy,
16 okay? They have no after-school program, okay?
17 So if they're going to say that they're coming
18 to offer all of these things, a lot of parents
19 take advantage of the after-school program
20 that's offered here at IS 059.

21 There is also no bus service. So where you
22 would have a bus, you would have a certain
23 amount of students that can be in that bus,
24 you're going to have way more parents come in
25 blocking up, I mean already in the morning when

1 I'm coming it's already crowded. They're
2 trying to--it's a school full of people.
3 Imagine the amount of parents more driving
4 because there's no bus service, okay? Now
5 Success Academy states that they have a fair
6 lottery, but I spoke to other parents who had
7 charter schools in their community and they have
8 spoken to those charter schools. They said,
9 "Well we're full. We have a waiting list."

10 Okay now it's claims are supposed to be
11 preference, but if it's full and there's no
12 waiting list and you've already stated, the
13 superintendent stated that there is a high
14 chance that IS 059 enrollment will be slowing
15 down, where in the world do you expect my
16 daughter who is now attending PS 132 to be able
17 to go when she reaches time for junior high
18 school? There is less admissions here, she may
19 not come in. Then the Success Academy says, "Oh
20 well we're closed. Yes, there's supposed to be
21 preference, but we're full."

22 Okay I am opposed to the co-location. Let
23 them get their own school. Thank you.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, ma'am. Can we

1 have speaker number ten? Speaker number ten,
2 Kimberly Esteva.

3 MS. KIMBERLY ESTEVA: Okay, good evening
4 everyone. I just came here to be a part of the
5 unity for the community, all right? I am the
6 vice president of a PTA called PSMS 156 for the
7 2013-2014 school year, and I can tell you
8 because our school just went--just underwent to
9 co-location last year. And I stood up at my
10 town hall meeting and I discussed the feeling
11 that I had with the disparity, and I see it
12 happening.

13 I feel the same children that were friends
14 the year before are now not friends with the
15 same students that--the 20% mind you, that were
16 accepted into that school when we were supposed
17 to have at least 50% of our children leaving
18 fifth grade going in to the new sixth grade for
19 the school that's co-located within our
20 building, okay? They are not friends anymore.
21 They are not friends anymore. It's so crazy at
22 my school right now that if you walk on the
23 floor in the section where the new school is it
24 looks like we are in a different country up
25 there.

1 They have painted the floors a color.
2 They paint--they have a whole color scheme going
3 that's totally opposite of what the unity of a
4 school is. This is not what we wanted for our
5 school. I don't know what the Success Academy
6 had planned, but I'm telling you there is
7 disparity when you have other schools coming in
8 to your home building. And the children are
9 suffering because of it. Friendships have been
10 broken. New attitudes and new demeanors have
11 been taken on that are negative against one
12 another, their own peers. Then you have
13 teachers that don't speak to our teachers.

14 I am against co-location and I want to let
15 Mayor Bloomberg and his cronies, everybody that
16 he's rubbing shoulders with, that's pushing
17 these proposals to against our communities, that
18 they have to stop prostituting our educational
19 systems.

20 [Applause]

21 He will not collect dividends in his retired
22 estate off of our children.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, ma'am. We'll now
25 have speaker number 11, Christine Bond.

1 MS. CHRISTINE BOND: Good evening,
2 everyone. My name is Christine Bond and I have
3 two children over at PS 176. A lot of what I
4 wanted to say has already been said. My main
5 question is what happens to our children who
6 don't get into Success Academy who are level one
7 and two, where do they go? Where is our money?
8 Where is the money that's going to go to the
9 level three/four kids that don't get in? I'll
10 tell you where the money is going. The money is
11 going to build a new police academy to put these
12 children in.

13 [Applause]

14 We need to stop the money going to go
15 policing--for funding the police and for jails
16 for our children and put them back here. That's
17 all I've got to say.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you. Quickly before we
20 have speaker number 12 start, I'm going to
21 invite speaker 15 to come forward actually,
22 Devonne Garman I believe has a group of students
23 and we want to give them an opportunity to come
24 forward so that they can get home. So go ahead
25 speaker number 12, Stacey Francis.

1 MS. STACEY FRANCIS: Okay, good evening.
2 I am a former--I'm actually a graduate of IS
3 059. And I was bused here from the neighboring
4 district because we didn't have a school like
5 059 in our district. At this school this is
6 where I learned what became a good level of
7 reading and writing so I'm successful in my
8 career. Now we have somebody with a corporate
9 mindset treating our children, not just in the
10 black districts, but in all of the districts
11 like they are shopping malls.

12 So this is a shopping mall mentality. Oh,
13 this school doesn't work out so we'll put this
14 school next to that school and if that one
15 doesn't work we'll just kick them out. Well now
16 I'm an educated taxpayer. Mayor Bloomberg, you
17 did good for me the first term, but the last
18 term when it comes to education, you did
19 horrible. Our students are not your profit
20 margin. The students at IS 059 are not here for
21 you to shuffle here, there and everywhere, to
22 mess with their minds, mess with their self-
23 esteem because you think that teachers don't
24 know how to teach?

25 That is not your line of business. Stay in

1 your lane.

2 [Applause]

3 If you want to know what it takes to teach
4 students effectively, ask a teacher. They need
5 to be the eyes on the ground. And Eva Moscovitz
6 is not either. A former council woman trying to
7 educate students that don't live in her
8 neighborhood? Give me a break. So to put my
9 speech to an end, the schools that I pay taxes
10 for are not for sale. The archdiocese of New
11 York has plenty of empty buildings. Tell Ms.
12 Moscovitz to go there.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. SOBELMAN: - - and then Devonne Garman
15 will be followed--let me just call up the next
16 few folks so we can move through. So speaker
17 number 13 will be Easter Gaddy. Speaker number
18 14, Lesley Myers, number 16, Adrienne Felton,
19 number 17, I think Virginia Norgo [phonetic].
20 And number 18 will be Michelle Gilliam
21 [phonetic]. So now we are joined by speaker
22 number 16 and company.

23 MS. DEVONNE GARMAN: Rising Star students
24 please line up and face the audience.

25 [Applause]

1 So I'll start out--or I will start off
2 with this. I am in control.

3 STUDENTS: I am in control.

4 MS. GARMAN: I will listen to learn.

5 STUDENTS: I will listen to learn.

6 MS. GARMAN: I will think before I act.

7 STUDENTS: I will think before I act.

8 MS. GARMAN: I will keep a positive attitude
9 all day, every day.

10 STUDENTS: I will keep a positive attitude
11 all day, every day.

12 MS. GARMAN: I will treat others with
13 courtesy and respect at all times.

14 STUDENTS: I will treat others with courtesy
15 and respect at all times.

16 MS. GARMAN: I will not use the word "can't"
17 to define my possibilities.

18 STUDENTS: I will not use the word "can't"
19 to define my possibilities.

20 MS. GARMAN: And with that said, I think
21 there was a mistake within the DOE when they
22 proposed that our numbers would be profit. We
23 now have our own success academy.

24 [Applause]

25 And that is called the Rising Star Academy.

1 But what we implore the DOE to do is to put
2 funding in the school so that IS 059, Maya
3 Angelou [phonetic], Gregory Hines [phonetic],
4 Ms. Plantinar [phonetic] and Rising Star are all
5 Success Academy. So with these new students and
6 a projected anticipated large enrollment of new
7 students help us to develop our own success
8 academy because of all of these teachers in
9 here, we have self-reflected, we have worked
10 hard this summer. We are planning. We are
11 working diligently to instruct the children in
12 this building.

13 [Applause]

14 Instead of bringing someone from the outside
15 to, although they're not saying it, push us out.
16 Why don't we bring some funding in to the school
17 so that every classroom is filled with rising
18 starts?

19 [Applause]

20 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you. Thank you so
21 much. Thank you.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. SOBELMAN: We now need the next group of
24 speakers. Speaker number 13, speaker number 13,
25 I believe it's Easter Gaddy. And folks with

1 numbers 14, 16, 17 and 18, if you want to join
2 us towards the front? Thank you, ma'am.

3 MS. EASTER GADDY: Good evening parents.
4 Good evening to the DOE. My name is Easter
5 Gaddy. I am a parent and grandparent. I have
6 two children in this building, two grandchildren
7 in this building. I also work with the board on
8 both schools 176 and 059. My question is with
9 the facility that we have here, with the band
10 rooms, the lunch room, and the amount of
11 students that you plan to bring in, how can you
12 accommodate the use of the bathrooms, the
13 cafeteria, and what about the code? There is a
14 health code.

15 I would like to see these answers in
16 writing. If we have the total number that we
17 have to come into the school or you're planning,
18 how are you going to do the health code by the
19 city? Thank you.

20 [Applause]

21 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, ma'am. And I just
22 want to let everyone know, as I said earlier,
23 all of the questions and comments will be
24 included in a public document that is published
25 prior to town meeting. It's called, I said it

1 earlier, "Public comment analysis." So I do
2 apologize, but that--her question will be
3 responded to in that document that's published
4 prior to the meeting. Thank you, ma'am. So our
5 next speaker is speaker number 14, Leslie Myers.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. LESLIE MYERS: Good evening. I am a
8 parent from the community. My children
9 previously were at 176. They are at 059. I
10 have two that have graduated out of 059. I have
11 two that are presently here. One of the things
12 that we have to remember where we have come from
13 in our community, we have to remember what has
14 been done to us so that they don't do it again.
15 I've been in this building or in this area for
16 over ten years dealing with DOE, or when it was
17 the Board of Education as opposed to now the
18 Department of Education.

19 One of the biggest things that they did,
20 that they sold us a package and we went for it.
21 We wanted smaller classroom sizes. We wanted a
22 smoother transition into middle school. So we
23 went along with the program to do K to eights.
24 But when we did that we took down the numbers in
25 this building. The numbers went down and all of

1 the resources went down. This building has
2 been a beacon to the southeast Queens, to
3 district 29, for years. My brother was - - came
4 through here. And they had a fantastic music
5 program.

6 But in recent years I've heard parents, and
7 I've always had kids at 059, I hear parents
8 telling us, "Oh no, that place is horrible." But
9 when I ask them, "Have you stepped foot in the
10 building?" They haven't been in the building.
11 "Do you know what's going on here?" They don't
12 know what's going on. And when I tell them the
13 programs that are happening here with limited
14 funding, they are amazed.

15 Last year my girls went to see Circue de
16 Soleil. They went to the theater. I couldn't
17 even afford to go. We are doing things here and
18 we want to continue to do things here at 059.

19 [Applause]

20 When I - - here, one of the students - -
21 059, IS 059 standing alone with our poor academy
22 doing wonderful things and putting our children
23 to the next level of high school. Thank you.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, ma'am. Our next

1 speaker, speaker number 16, Adrienne Felton.

2 MS. ADRIENNE FELTON: Hi. I was here before
3 we did the lawsuit. I actually wrote that
4 lawsuit. How are you doing?

5 [Laughter]

6 You were there, remember? We all were here
7 before. So I'm not going to keep going it over
8 and over, but what I will say is our current
9 mayor is a statistical data manager. He is
10 using communities of color to hook up his
11 friends to make sure that they still have money
12 coming in when they can piss off other places,
13 i.e. - - for black. Remember that? All you
14 have to do is review these things, and any
15 school that is doing exactly what's in a
16 community of color is set to destroy it so our
17 kids won't be prepared and you won't hear the
18 truth.

19 [Applause]

20 But I'm going to tell the truth. And IS 059
21 you hear the stories of it being the beacon
22 school, and you hear the stories about the
23 successes. My daughter was a product of IS 059
24 and she is an honest Bible physics major at - -
25 University and she's graduating this May.

1 [Applause]

2 So don't be telling me what IS 059 don't do
3 for kids, they know more about us than we do. So
4 what they do is they said, you know what, we
5 could just strategically go inside of these
6 schools and break these schools down and make
7 sure that they don't function so that our kids
8 are not prepared. But see, we're going to say
9 no to that. We're not going to have it and I
10 did a black lawsuit, Alicia Hyndman, Corey Terry
11 were the plaintiffs. I wrote that lawsuit and
12 we beat you. And we're going to beat you again
13 and again and again.

14 [Applause]

15 Because we're not going to be - - with you
16 coming in here and telling us what we're going
17 to do in our community because this is our
18 community--

19 [Applause]

20 --and we don't have a shared proper
21 agreement with city hall or any other hall and
22 you're not going to--

23 [Applause]

24 --what we're going to do here. - - because
25 - - approved of the state. So what those want

1 to hear, are going to be determined by who
2 lives here and who does live here--

3 [Applause]

4 --because we have the last say.

5 [Applause]

6 We're not going to beg you for it, we're
7 going to take what's ours. Because the - -
8 you're not even going by your own documentation.
9 You cannot fit in this building. You keep using
10 the same document that we bit you on saying that
11 you didn't have the space before. My name is
12 Adrienne Felton and I've got Jacque Andre
13 [phonetic] in the building.

14 [Applause]

15 I've got the - - in the building and I want
16 that to be on record because we will--

17 [Applause]

18 MS. SOBELMAN: Our next speaker is Michelle
19 Gilliam.

20 MICHELLE GILLIAM: Hello everyone. My name
21 is Michelle Gilliam. I am a proud alumnus of IS
22 059, a proud alumnus of Jamaica High School. I
23 find it amazing that two of the schools that I
24 went to are being dismantled, excuse me, have
25 been dismantled. I have done this dozens of

1 times with Jamaica High School. I did it with
2 Jamaica High School in conjunction with - - .
3 Unfortunately, they were both moved and now
4 they're being replaced by charter schools.

5 This is by design, obviously.

6 [Applause]

7 This is by design. This is not southeast
8 Queen's problem, this is not Queen's problem,
9 this is not just a Brooklyn problem. This is a
10 city-wide problem. No, it's a country-wide
11 problem. This is an attack on the public
12 sector. This is the reason why they are
13 privatizing our schools so they can take away
14 the public trust of these institutions in our
15 neighborhoods. There's a reason why they don't
16 want community input. How can they therefore
17 control it and tell you what to do?

18 So what I'm saying ultimately, remember
19 this. October 30th, Wednesday October 30th,
20 Prospect Heights campus [phonetic], that's where
21 the major vote is going to take place. We need
22 thousands and thousands of people there. We
23 need everyone in this building. We need the
24 people who couldn't make it. We need the people
25 in PS 156, 176, everyone needs to be there. We

1 need to be locked out of the school because
2 there is overflow. Because if we're not
3 organized, if we're not galvanized, we're going
4 to continue being privatized.

5 So Wednesday...I'll get myself a room then.

6 [Laughter]

7 Wednesday, October 30th, Prospect Heights
8 campus, 883 Classic Avenue [phonetic], Brooklyn,
9 New York. I'll even put my number out there, my
10 work, come find me because I'm busing people to
11 Brooklyn.

12 FEMALE VOICE: We have a bus leaving 059 on
13 October 30th.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. GUILLIAM: - - Thank you.

16 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, ma'am. So I also
17 want to recognize that we've been joined this
18 evening by State Senator Sanders.

19 [Applause]

20 MS. SOBELMAN: So we're going to go through
21 a couple of more speakers and then we will
22 invite the senator to join us at--when he's
23 ready. So speaker number 19, Jennifer Holmes,
24 speaker number 20, Christine Exume, speaker
25 number 22, Lorraine Bridges. Oh, he's ready.

1 Senator Sanders, if you want to come up and
2 speak.

3 [Pause]

4 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, sir.

5 SENATOR JAMES SANDERS: Good evening. Good
6 to see everybody. It's been a while. We have
7 to stop meeting like this, however. Every time
8 I come to something at PS 059, we are talking
9 about--IS I think for the record. We are
10 talking about changing something, and I'm not
11 against change per say. I just want to make
12 sure that change is for the better. I want to
13 make sure at the end of the change that we have
14 a better academic situation than we had to begin
15 with.

16 With that in mind I'm going to do some quick
17 listening. I'm going to meet of course with the
18 people that I respect highly at the DOE, our
19 superintendent and others, however I'm also
20 going to meet very quickly with other people
21 that I respect highly, the parents association,
22 the community activists; all of these people
23 here to quickly understand is this a move that
24 will be better for the community or is this
25 something that while well-intended is not in the

1 interest of this community.

2 So having said that, I commend everybody for
3 being here. I'm coming from another co-
4 location. It must be co-location night.
5 Another co-location being taken place not that
6 far from here, so I will have the pleasure of
7 speaking to many people including our good
8 friends in the union and other places. Thank
9 you very much. Good to see you all.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, sir. So we'll
12 have speaker number 19, Jennifer Holmes,
13 followed by speaker number 20, Christine Exume.
14 Speaker number 22, Lorraine Bridges, speaker
15 number 23, Christopher Frances [phonetic].
16 Number 24 is Sandra Peanan [phonetic] and number
17 25, Jacques Leandre. Speaker number 19?

18 MS. JENNIFER HOLMES: Good evening. My name
19 is Jennifer Holmes. I am currently--I currently
20 have a child in PS 176. I have sons that
21 graduated out of the school, IS 059. It was - -
22 and I really hope the school continues to - - in
23 the past. This co-location reminds me of the
24 Jim Crowe era of the millennium. Instead of
25 colored verse--coloreds only versus white only,

1 it's charter only versus public only.
2 Inferiority is what our children and
3 administration will experience.

4 If the DOE wants to help our community, our
5 communities, invest in our public schools
6 instead of ostracizing our kids. Thank you.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, ma'am. Speaker
9 number 20, Christine Exume.

10 MS. CHRISTINE EXUME: Hi, good evening. I'm
11 not a speaker, but I just need to share this.
12 I'm Christine Exume. I have a son here - - .
13 I'm also a DOE employee that works in the
14 classroom with children every day. And we have
15 experienced in my - - this whole - - . I can
16 tell you now it doesn't work. I currently work
17 in a school that has five schools. It opened
18 with four, so each floor was a school in itself.
19 Now the DOE, against parents' wishes, teachers
20 and the principals of the other schools in that
21 building had added to this school.

22 It's a junior high school with children who
23 are 11 and 12 years old. They have put these
24 children on a floor with another school which is
25 a high school. These children are 17, 18, 19

1 and 20 year old students, okay? This is what
2 the city is doing when they say we are going to
3 have a co-location. It's not junior high school
4 only. They can do it with elementary and high
5 school, elementary and junior high school. It
6 doesn't matter, they don't care.

7 I'm speaking because when they came--when we
8 came back in September, they wanted to add yet
9 another school in the building. And they tell
10 us that there is room. But every day, this is
11 what I see. My kids eat lunch every day at
12 10:30 in the morning, okay? By the time the
13 afternoon comes, there's no lunch or snack or
14 anything, okay? This is a psychological effect
15 on them because it's hard for them to
16 concentrate on their school work because they're
17 hungry by that time, okay?

18 The students are pushed to the border
19 because they're sharing the lunch room. This
20 has a psychological impact because they're like
21 hey, there's no room for us anymore. We share
22 gym space, library space, bathroom space,
23 auditorium space, and sometimes because of
24 scheduling differences, our children cannot do
25 the things that they need to do. And this is

1 why I really think that this is not going to
2 work, because we've had that experience in my
3 school.

4 And we definitely should stop co-locations
5 in the schools. Thank you so much.

6 [Applause]

7 MS. SOBELMAN: So our next speaker is
8 speaker number 22, Lorraine Bridges. Speaker
9 number 22, Lorraine Bridges, will be followed by
10 speaker number 23, Christopher Frances.

11 MS. LORRAINE BRIDGES: Good evening,
12 everyone. I'm here once again, we was here four
13 years ago, Adrienne, all of us, we was here four
14 years ago. We won on a lawsuit. There's not
15 enough space for another school in this
16 building. That's just the way it is. There's
17 just not enough space in this school. And on
18 top of it, why do we need another K to eight
19 school in our district? We have plenty of K to
20 eight schools in this district, so I'm not going
21 to repeat everything that everybody else has
22 said, but I wanted to come up and I concur with
23 everybody for them to say no.

24 You know, we have to put it on record that
25 we oppose a co-location of Success Academy in IS

1 059. We have to let the world know we oppose.

2 [Applause]

3 And there is no proof that Success Academy
4 coming to this school is going to make, you
5 know, for to move mountains, because that's not,
6 like Councilmen Carmen [phonetic] said, Success
7 Academy is not that successful. Let's focus on
8 IS 059 and bringing the resources. Again, you
9 see the programs. You see the kids. Okay, we
10 need to focus. For the last four years we have
11 been distracted with all of these different--
12 this school coming in, this school coming in.
13 Last year IS 059 was king.

14 [Applause]

15 Okay? Let's - - up in here and focus on the
16 school and the children that we have in the
17 community already. Thank you.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, ma'am. Our next
20 speaker is speaker number 23, Christopher
21 Frances, Christopher Frances. Speaker number
22 24, Sandra Piedan, Sandra Piedan. Speaker
23 number 25, Jaques Leandre.

24 [Applause]

25 [Inaudible background conversation]

1 MS. JACQUES LEANDRE: Good evening, all.

2 AUDIENCE: Good evening.

3 MR. LEANDRE: But that's an excellent segue
4 to my comments. What I want to say tonight is
5 that what's happening as far as the colocations
6 are considered, is not in isolation to all of
7 the policies that Mayor Bloomberg has
8 implemented over the last 12 years. Actually,
9 co-location is contributing to the prison
10 pipeline.

11 [Applause]

12 I'm going to say it again. Colocation is
13 contributing to the prison pipeline. As a
14 product of southeast Queens I went to Springhill
15 Gardens High School [phonetic].

16 [Applause]

17 I now am at a law office right there on
18 Merrick Boulevard.

19 [Applause]

20 And I'm going to tell you, when we think
21 about privatizing institutions, not only are the
22 schools being privatized, but prisons are being
23 privatized. It's all connected. It's not in
24 isolation. And now we have - - in the United
25 States who now are privatizing prisons and

1 they're actually guaranteeing these private
2 corporations that their prisons will be filled
3 to capacity. And they're only going to be
4 filled to capacity if there are policies and
5 protocols instituting to make sure that our
6 students are not successful, but that our
7 students are guided towards the prison system.

8 [Applause]

9 I know you may not want to reach there. No
10 one wants to think about their child going to
11 prison. But it's a real, real reality when it
12 comes to southeast Queens. I worked - - for two
13 years, and I've got to tell you the buses--
14 busloads of people who were in those buses
15 looked like you and I.

16 [Applause]

17 They didn't look like Mayor Bloomberg. We
18 have to be very clear about that. So when these
19 folks come in and they want to invest in
20 prisons, they don't look to City Hall. They
21 actually look to the schools. When you have a
22 failing school or you have schools that aren't
23 performing well because there is not adequate
24 space, there is not adequate resources, there is
25 not adequate environment, they know that that's

1 a great place to build a prison. That's a
2 great way to support a prison industrial
3 complex. We can't allow our children to go down
4 that pipeline, where we know that--

5 [Applause]

6 - - scholars that we have coming out of the
7 United States. Our children deserve much better
8 and the only charter that I'm for, because I am
9 for charter. I'm for getting on that charter
10 bus October 30th--

11 [Applause]

12 --to go down to Prospect Park. Thank you.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you, sir.

15 [Applause]

16 MS. SOBELMAN: So it is time to adjourn our
17 public hearing. And I do just want to
18 acknowledge, sorry, we have exhausted the
19 speaker list for this evening's joint public
20 hearing and I want to acknowledge how much I
21 appreciate that everybody came out here this
22 evening and that everyone made significant
23 comments. And we will include them, as I said,
24 in the analysis of public comment which is
25 provided for the panel. I also want to just

1 reiterate the information about the date of
2 the panel meeting which will take place as we
3 mentioned earlier on October 30th.

4 It starts at 6:00 p.m. at Prospect Heights
5 campus, which is located at 883 Plastron Avenue
6 [phonetic] in Brooklyn, New York. And then also
7 if you have additional comments or questions
8 that you would like to submit for the public
9 record, please send those emails to D29, that's
10 the number 29, D29proposals@schools.nyc.gov or
11 by telephone to 212-374-7621. Thank you all
12 again for joining us this evening and this
13 evening's joint public hearing is officially
14 adjourned.

15 [Applause]

16 [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: October 14, 2013