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**NEW YORK CITY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
- DIVISION OF PORTFOLIO
PLANNING
Incubation of Mott Hall
At X063 Annex - 4/16/12**

1 [START 290_271.MP3]

2 MR. RECY DUNN: Good evening, everyone.

3 This is the final public hearing of the
4 Department of Education, Community Education - -
5 9, and DS Pre-school Leadership Team. My name
6 is Recy Dunn. I'm the Executive Director of the
7 Charter School Office of the - - Public Planning
8 in New York City - -.

9 We've asked District 9 - -, and School
10 Leadership Team P. S. 63 to attend this joint
11 public hearing. And I'm joined tonight by
12 Augustine Rosa - - School Leadership Team, and
13 we also invited Marilyn Espada [phonetic],
14 President of - - 9. We'll wait to see if she
15 comes, but she's not here. This hearing is
16 being recorded.

17 The purpose of this hearing is for you to
18 provide comments about the proposed two-year co-
19 location of Mott Hall Charter School in
20 buildings X063 and X862 with P.S. 63 Author's
21 Academy.

22 The New York State Education Department has
23 been charged to authorize - - Mott Hall Charter
24 School, is required - - facilities here and to
25 receive feedback on this proposal. As such,

1 this - - hearing will also serve as the - -
2 Education Department's facilities hearing.

3 If you have any questions or comments on the
4 Charter itself - - hear from the - - in, as
5 president, she'll--can tell you - - questions or
6 comments and here's Jamal Young.

7 MR. JAMAL YOUNG: Thank you. I'd like to
8 read you all a - -. So, I'd like to remind you
9 all - -. Before I - - we both want to make
10 sure you're all aware of the opportunity to
11 provide your input. All those who chose to sign
12 up on the sign outside - - area, which is
13 located just outside the auditorium. The
14 speaker list will close 15 minutes from now.
15 Speakers will be - - in the order that they have
16 signed up. All comments will be limited to two
17 minutes.

18 There may be other officials who show up at
19 different times throughout the evening. If they
20 wish to speak, we'll do our best to accommodate
21 them at the first opportune moment. Those
22 officials who are here at the start of the
23 public comment segment will be asked to speak
24 first.

25 All comments will be addressed to - - of

1 public comments. They'll be published and
2 provided to the Panel for Educational Policy on
3 the evening before the panel votes on this
4 proposal.

5 That vote is set for April 26th, 2012 at
6 6:00 p.m. The panel meeting will take place at
7 Prospect Heights Campus located at 883 Classon
8 Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11225.

9 The email address for comments to be made
10 for this proposal are
11 D09Proposals@schools.nyc.gov. The phone number
12 where comments can be made is (212)374-5159 and
13 that's (212)374-5159. - - the proposal first -
14 - , and then I will include the comments from
15 the - -.

16 The New York City Department of Education is
17 proposing to temporarily co-locate grades six
18 and seven of Mott Hall Charter School--Mott
19 Hall--in buildings X063 and X862, where the
20 school will be co-located with P.S. 63 Author's
21 Academy, or P.S. 63, for a two-year period,
22 beginning the 2012-2013 school year.

23 Building X063 and annex building X862 are
24 both located at 1260 Franklin Avenue, Bronx, NY
25 10456, in Community School District 9. P.S.63

1 is a zoned elementary school, serving students
2 from grades kindergarten through five, - -
3 program, currently located - - . - - phasing
4 out, therefore not enough space in the building
5 for them after this year.

6 Co-location means that two or more school
7 organizations are located in the same building
8 and may share common spaces such as auditoriums,
9 gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias.

10 If this - - proposal is approved, P.S. 63
11 will retain all of its instruction - - and its
12 administrative space in X063. Mott Hall will
13 occupy the instruction hall and administrative
14 space in the annex building X862 only.

15 However, P.S. 63 and Mott Hall will both use
16 shared spaces in the X063 building such as
17 cafeteria, library, - - , and auditorium.

18 Mott Hall will relocate to its long-term
19 leased private facility, which is currently
20 under construction, at the end of the 2013-2014
21 school year. Mott Hall, which is authorized by
22 the City Education Department, to start students
23 in grade six through eight - - will admit
24 students - - to District 9.

25 Students - - charter lottery application and

1 get admitted to Mott Hall will - - services - -
2 .

3 - - in the 2012-2013 school year for the
4 first year implementation, Mott Hall will serve
5 a total of 80 to 105 sixth-grade students. In
6 2013-2014, during the final year of this
7 proposal, Mott Hall will serve a total of 160 to
8 210 sixth- and seventh-grade students.

9 Buildings X063 and X862 have a combined
10 target capacity of 995 students. In the 2012-
11 2013 school year there will be a total of 706 to
12 791 students - - by P.S. 63 and Mott Hall across
13 both buildings. This yields a projected and
14 target utilization rate of 71 to 79%.

15 During the final year of this proposal, in
16 the two year - -, P.S. 63 and Mott Hall will
17 serve a total of 801 to 911 students across both
18 buildings. This yields a projected target
19 utilization rate of 81 to 92%.

20 Therefore, the buildings have sufficient
21 space to accommodate both schools during the
22 period of the proposal. As mentioned earlier,
23 Mott Hall will relocate to its long-term private
24 facility at the end of the 2013-2014 school
25 year.

1 This proposal - - have an impact - -
2 admissions process and - - instructional
3 programming, department - - offerings for the
4 addition of both - - kindergarten program which
5 continues--so that - - funding - -. For now,
6 I'm going to turn it over to Agustin Rosa - -.

7 MR. AGUSTIN ROSA: Good evening, everyone.
8 I'm be here to represent my children and your
9 children as well. I am PTA President of Public
10 School 63. And we - - here, because we would
11 like to know if the Department of Education
12 really care about my children and your children?

13 So, we worried about what's going on and why
14 we wanted to be a co-location or not. Maybe,
15 your opinion - -, but here to me. Be - - to the
16 committee as well. So, we would like to hear
17 from you what is your concern? And I know our
18 children, tomorrow, going to have an EFLT, I
19 mean, EFL tests, I'm sorry.

20 That mean, do they care about our children?
21 No. My children - - in the house and I should
22 be taking care of them. Why? Because this - -
23 I don't know, but there is no issue there - - .
24 And I would like you to understand that we here
25 because we care for the children, because I care

1 for my children, and there is no issue about
2 security purpose that I can cover in that kind
3 of situation.

4 They bring in middle child school, I mean, -
5 - school in here, which is going to be seventh,
6 eighth, and sixth grade--which is, maybe your
7 child--four-years old--going to be in the same
8 bathroom that 13-years' old girl or boy,
9 whatever it is, and we have to make sure that no
10 issues going to come in from - - school, which
11 is already happening for this school.

12 So, we are to do - - in the school for seven
13 year. We got - -. We - - Department of
14 Education that our children count. And I
15 thought we--that we had the - - by the school.
16 And I thought we had. So, I'm here to - - stand
17 by for here to our - -. Thank you.

18 MR. JAMAL YOUNG: Good evening, my name is
19 Jamal Young. I'm with the City Education
20 Department, - - Office. We are the
21 administrative arm of the Board of Regents of
22 New York State. The Regents are responsible for
23 general supervision of all educational
24 activities in the State.

25 The Board is comprised of 17 members that

1 are elected by the State Legislature in five-
2 year terms, one for each of the state's 13
3 judicial districts and there are four members
4 who serve at large. The Regents are not
5 salaried and are reimbursed only travel - -.
6 The authority of the Regents to issue charters
7 to Boards of Trustees that establish charter
8 schools are from Article 56 of the New York
9 State Education Law. The law was originally
10 passed in 1996 and most recently updated in
11 2010. The law requires the Board of Regents to
12 conduct public hearings to discuss co-locating
13 charter schools in existing public school
14 buildings.

15 The law reads as follows: Education Law
16 Number 56, Charter Schools, Section 285, 3(a) A
17 charter school may be located in part of an
18 existing public school building, in space
19 provided on a private work site in a public
20 building, or in any other suitable location.

21 Provided, however, before a charter school
22 may be located in part of an existing public
23 school building, the charter entity shall
24 provide notice to the parents and guardians of
25 the students then enrolled in the existing

1 school building, and shall hold a public
2 hearing for purposes of discussing the location
3 of the charter school. A charter school may
4 lease, rent, or own its space.

5 Tonight's public hearing is to discuss the
6 proposed co-location of Mott Hall Charter
7 School. And while the Board of Regents sets
8 educational policy, and - - serve as the
9 administrative arm, neither the Board of Regents
10 nor SED at - - replacement of charter schools
11 with any facility - - by Department of
12 Education.

13 Nonetheless, we remain concerned about
14 public sentiment pertaining to the co-location
15 of the - - charter schools. This evening, I
16 will be gathering comments - - co-location.
17 Your comments will be summarized and shared with
18 the Board of Regents. The SED- - will continue
19 to receive comments for five calendar days after
20 the Panel for Education Policy - - . As Recy
21 said earlier, that meeting will be held on April
22 26th in Brooklyn, New York. SED will continue
23 to receive comments until May 1st of 2012.

24 Written statements may be submitted at the
25 conclusion of this hearing, or they can be

1 mailed to my attention at 55 Hanson Place,
2 Room 400, Brooklyn, New York 11217. That's 55
3 Hanson Place, Room 400, Brooklyn, New York
4 11217. Or, you can fax your comments to
5 (718)722-2215. Or, you can email your comments
6 to charterschools@mail.nysed.gov.
7 charterschools@mail.nysed.gov. Thank you.

8 MR. RECY DUNN: Thank you. - - public
9 comments, - - signed up. All comments are
10 limited to two minutes. I'm going to start
11 reading the names. The mic will be over here.
12 - - questions or other comments. - - So, the
13 first one will be Marisol Colberg [phonetic],
14 followed by Miguel Falconz [phonetic] and then
15 Melody Perez [phonetic].

16 MS. MARISON COLBERG: Good evening, parents.
17 As you know, I'm a parent from P.S. 2. I was a
18 PA President from P.S. 2 and my experience as a
19 PA president--I was moved from Fulton
20 [phonetic]. From Fulton, I came to P.S. - - 3,
21 which now is ended. Now, you're phasing out.

22 I wanted to ask you, now you - - a meeting
23 today, yes, you already know what was done to
24 you. It was already done. And even though you
25 said this will be a voted election, this is

1 done. They coming to the parents. This could
2 have been done already. You know? I know - -.
3 [Applause]. I been - - , I - - everywhere so,
4 you know what? I get to go. Everywhere. In
5 the street, with a microphone, screaming, and
6 here.

7 There must be 600 angry parents, and we need
8 to - - these parents because you don't do it, it
9 going to be about you. Take a--blindfold those
10 parents, that's what they doing to us. Don't
11 let them lie to me.

12 We don't need this. We don't need seventh
13 and eighth--or sixth and eighth-grade in this
14 building. What we need is to take the building
15 for our children, make the building much better.
16 Instead you spend all this money that you are
17 doing [cheering, applause] - -.

18 Make the building better for our children.
19 Our children--what they need is a better
20 building, a better - - and stop the - -. Look
21 at this - - charter. Go to a charter school and
22 you make it better than Mott. This is not fair.
23 This money that you spending on the charter
24 school, you could spend it - -. [Applause]
25 Thank you.

1 MR. RECY DUNN: The next speaker will be
2 Miguel Falconz [phonetic]. Following Miguel is
3 Melody Perez [phonetic] and Rita Jones
4 [phonetic].

5 MR. MIGUEL FALCONZ: I just want to say good
6 evening to the parents. Thank you for being
7 here, and good evening to the Panel. And I want
8 to thank you for taking this time to listen to
9 us. Like the other lady said, this is a done
10 deal now. You guys already saying that you're
11 going to take the space here for 2013-2014.

12 But, my main concern is safety for our
13 children. We only have one safety officer in
14 the school. What are you guys going to do about
15 - - charter school? Since you say we're going
16 to share the bathrooms, gym, kitchen, the
17 auditorium, are you planning to spend money in
18 this school?

19 Or, are you just doing your thing and then
20 walk out, make the school worse. The school--
21 really sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, which
22 is now--they don't carry basketballs or - -.
23 They carry guns and knives. Guns and knives.
24 I've got a six-year old sitting right there,
25 hoping you going see that nothing's going to

1 happen to them. How can you assure me that
2 nothing's going to happen to many of these kids
3 here. How could you do that?

4 But, you know? I know how this city works.
5 Look at how this city works. Everybody that
6 doesn't speak English, please stand, please
7 stand--that doesn't understand English fluently,
8 please stand up. What's a Spanish person--try
9 to say to them what's happening to their
10 children now? - - [applause] - -. I don't - -
11 saying to them, blah, blah, blah.

12 And therefore, all you're pushing is
13 numbers. Numbers, you're pushing that--this--
14 accepting what already is done--because a lot of
15 people--you don't want to hear about them. You
16 don't want to hear about that.

17 We know how the state and this city works.
18 Once you guys get a hold of something you don't
19 want to let it go. You don't want to let it go.
20 Look at the changes that are happening right
21 now.

22 I'm a city worker, and trust me when I tell
23 you we are being faded out as workers.
24 Everybody wants to go private. Private, why?
25 Because you want to take no vacation, you don't

1 have to pay no sick days, and then--but best
2 of all--you - - pay some home insurances, want
3 to throw that at us. Because that's the way it
4 works. That's the way it's working now.

5 So, please, I'm not--I'm not angry at you.
6 I'm not angry at nobody here--at nobody. I'm
7 not even angry at the guys who are trying to do
8 their thing over there with the charter.

9 You know, God bless them if you one of these
10 people with kids. That's great, but please
11 educate our kids also here. Let's share the
12 wealth. If there's hope out there - -,do
13 something - - .

14 All right? Help us out. We're willing--
15 we're willing to work with you if you work with
16 us. It can't go one way. - - to destroy
17 everything for you to leave when you got a brand
18 new building. It's not fair to the parents,
19 it's not fair to me. Thank you from us all.

20 MR. RECY DUNN: So, we made an announcement
21 about a Spanish interpreter earlier. Happy to
22 make the announcement again if you want to come
23 up and - - .

24 SPANISH INTERPRETER: [Foreign Language.]

25 MS. ROSA FERNANDES: Thank you. I also just

1 have to mention that - - issue - - are also
2 translated into Spanish. And they are found
3 outside. Thank you.

4 MR. JAMAL YOUNG: Melody Perez is next - -.

5 MS. MELODY PEREZ: Good evening, parents.
6 I'm - - for - - and Felipe. I have a nine-year
7 old that goes to this school. I'm not going to
8 let you put a sixth, seventh, and eighth grader
9 with four-, five-, six-, seven-, eight-, nine-
10 year olds. It's not right. It's not right.

11 You understand? What--like he said, why--
12 you couldn't guarantee to us that our children
13 are going to be safe. I live across the street
14 from a high school. I see what those kids do in
15 school, or outside of school. You telling us
16 they got to use our lunchroom. They got to use
17 our gym, the bathrooms.

18 Are you equipped to watch every move they
19 making? - - they want to start a fight in the
20 bathroom, and we got these little kids in the
21 bathroom? Then what happens? Our children are
22 going to get hurt.

23 Also, another thing, we have children from
24 District 75 that need--in this community--you're
25 sending them far away. We live near this

1 community. We don't have a District 75 for
2 our children in this community. We got to go
3 way up there. Then when we don't have money, we
4 have to travel. Are you guys really listening
5 to what us parents are trying to say?

6 You actually want to put bigger kids in a
7 school with four- and five-year olds. Are you
8 guys really listening to any of us parents? But
9 then, you all want to say again, it's going to
10 be a good deal.

11 I'm a say, I don't think it's a good deal,
12 and I don't want it to happen. Okay? Because
13 it's not right that you guys are going to come
14 into our school and try to push 14-, 15- and 16-
15 year olds in our school. We're not going to
16 permit it, us parents.

17 MR. RECY DUNN: Next is Rita Jones, after
18 Shirley Millinghouse [phonetic].

19 MS. RITA JONES: Yes, good evening,
20 everyone. First and before I say what I have to
21 say, I would like say that you have a Spanish
22 interpreter, but you don't have interpreters for
23 the African culture, and the other cultures that
24 you have in the school.

25 And when you do this, basically they have a

1 lot of conflict--they don't come, because they
2 don't understand what's going on, there's
3 nothing being interpreted for them. So, - -
4 [applause] - -.

5 The second thing is my name is Rita Jones
6 [phonetic]. I am a representative of the CPE
7 which is the Coalition for Public Education. I
8 am also a parent and I had two children graduate
9 out of the fifth grade in this school. This
10 school did remarkable with those kids.

11 And instead of trying to put a junior high
12 school from a charter school in here, give the
13 school a chance to expand and have their own
14 junior high school, and their own District 75.
15 That's the main building for people--the
16 children that are disruptive behavior or special
17 needs--and this building could be for their own
18 sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

19 I know for a fact, when my children
20 graduated from the fifth grade, I spent hundreds
21 and hundreds and hundreds of dollars to take
22 them back and forth to school every day, because
23 they were not going to school in this community.

24 And I--until recently--I was still taking
25 them, because it was too dangerous for them to

1 travel by themselves, little girls, 11-,12-
2 years old, walking around ten, nine, eleven,
3 twelve--going to other schools in other
4 communities.

5 If you put a junior high school right in
6 here, from the kids that are coming up in here,
7 that would be a better solution. Not to
8 mention, - - we gots [phonetic] - - is totally
9 empty. Why - - [applause]. I don't understand.
10 It's totally empty.

11 There's nobody occupying that building. And
12 it's right here on Franklin, but it's one, two--
13 like, three blocks down. This way you don't
14 have to fight with us, you don't have to co-
15 locate with anybody. They can use that school,
16 which is totally empty.

17 If anything, this is one of the top
18 elementary schools in the--in--you know, the
19 Bronx right now. - - [applause] doing is trying
20 to help this school grow.

21 This is a very needy community, a multi-
22 cultural community, and we--like, all the
23 parents said--safety is very important to us.
24 We already have problems with the - - and the
25 pedophiles and the gang activity and now you

1 going to - - [applause]? What you going to
2 do?

3 That means parents will have to get chairs,
4 and come to school, and sit in the bathrooms to
5 make sure their kids are safe. Sit in the
6 lunchroom to make sure their kids are safe. We
7 don't have that problem in this community.

8 And now, you're about to add more problems
9 to what we already have. Please do not do that
10 to this community. Thank you.

11 MR. RECY DUNN: So, the next speaker is
12 Shirley Millinghouse. - - find - - down here so
13 you can sign, so just - - also you - - try to
14 make sure - - two minutes as well so you're - -.
15 So, Shirley Millinghouse is next.

16 MS. SHIRLEY MILLINGHOUSE: - -. Hi. My
17 name is Shirley Millinghouse. I - - [background
18 noise]. I have a special needs son, who was - -
19 . He was cheated out of his education due to
20 his behavior in P.S. 63, who was waiting, and
21 you're all the time fixing what is District 75
22 school, who told a bunch of - - that - -. - -
23 folks who's still waiting for a - - and District
24 75 school all got cheated out of their education
25 because they are - -.

1 Only thing you can--going to do with this
2 school is our kids to do drugs, to smoke
3 cigarettes, drink, sell drugs, and then you all
4 going to have to - - here, because somebody's
5 just going to be shoot out. Because these kids
6 is - -. Then, they going to have to - - by the
7 teenagers, because they going to hurt - -.
8 Because, I will be one of those parents - -
9 teenagers out there, with they - -.

10 You already got your young teenager cutting
11 class, selling drugs, drinking and smoking.
12 Doing things - - [background noise] [applause]
13 teenagers - -. You was making - - is put
14 inspection - -.

15 Please don't put these teenagers - - and - -
16 cannot - - that. They need to be in - -. - -
17 with teenagers? I - - taking to the parent - -
18 who don't, but he needs a more restrictive
19 school.

20 So, instead we are worried about these
21 teenagers. - - too, that's not fair to them.
22 Some of these teenagers don't go to school
23 anyhow. P.S. 63 is a beautiful school, why you
24 want to have - - come here? And we don't need
25 no charter school come here. We need a District

1 75 school, and Mr.Diaz [phonetic] is a
2 wonderful teacher, who I know - - [background
3 noise] [applause] - -. - - help us to get - -
4 on the - - .

5 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you, - -. Thank you.

6 MR. RECY DUNN: The next speaker is Carmen
7 Rodriguez [phonetic], followed by Maria Estevez
8 [phonetic]. Is there a Carmen Rodrigues?

9 FEMALE VOICE 2: - -.

10 MR. RECY DUNN: So, Carmen Rodrigues - -.

11 MS. CARMEN RODRIGUEZ: Hello to all the
12 parents - -. Thanks for coming over. My main
13 concern was the safety for the student. Maybe
14 you're familiar with - - schools, - - at 1391 -
15 - where - - . My son graduated from there. And
16 all the students up in there - -. What have you
17 done? - - nine, twelve, every day, up in that
18 school. That is my main concern, is we're not
19 going to have six, seven and eighth, then come
20 nine, tenth, and eleventh and twelfth. Then
21 what's going to happen to all of our little
22 children up in here? Huh? What's going to
23 happen to them? - - [background noise]
24 [applause] and I'm sure everybody else - - or
25 you're going to have trouble in that everybody -

1 - door watching to make sure our kids are
2 safe? No. Right? Because I am do something
3 right away and get - -. You all is here to - -.
4 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

5 MR. RECY DUNN: Maria Estevez [phonetic]
6 followed by Dana Driscoll [phonetic]. Maria
7 Estevez? Dana Driscoll?

8 MS. DANA DRISCOLL: - - to the parents of
9 the community. My comments are going to be
10 directed to the parents and students. As the -
11 - speaker said, this isn't going to be - -. The
12 - - not listening to the community, the - -
13 community did not want these charter schools,
14 but they keep - - chance to move over--doing
15 whatever they want to do--disrespect the
16 parents, not listening to the grievances of the
17 parents.

18 Although, they call it a done deal, if we
19 get together with the parents in other schools
20 in the community we can undo the deal that they
21 say that they have done. But - - Coalition for
22 Public Educating, - - as soon as I leave here, I
23 will be - -for - - high school on 53rd street.
24 We are having the same problem, disrupting the
25 education system so the charter school owners

1 can make money. That's what the charter
2 schools - -. They have these executives that
3 make \$600,000 to \$700,000 and - - financially.

4 P.S. 63 is one of the highest performing
5 schools in District 9 in the South Bronx. The
6 DOE should be here studying how they do what
7 they do and copying it, and doing it in other
8 schools around the community - -. [Background
9 noise] [applause] - - it's not growth, but we -
10 -. We have to unite as a community, we need the
11 people power, - - in order to bring up the - -.
12 When I leave by my last comment, I just would
13 like to thank the gentleman, Mr. Michael Perez,
14 - - raise his hand, - - pretty soon. He already
15 take the blame for the - - idea. You have to
16 get together. - - you have to work together - -
17 and Mr. Perez, this is our future leader, this
18 could be your next - - [background noise]. And
19 we need to get people that respect the
20 community--we have to unite, we have to fight
21 and that's all - - to say about - -.

22 MR. RECY DUNN: Okay, we're back to Agustin
23 Rosa.

24 MR. AGUSTIN ROSA: Yes. As a member--
25 official - - member of P.S. 63, the principal

1 has the responsibility to inform the SOP any
2 type of impact that is going to be done to the
3 school and - - to our future of our children. -
4 - received an email saying that - - for the
5 proposal for District 75 - -.

6 We were happy. We were waiting for that to
7 happen here. But, only promise from--when they
8 seem to feel that they can - - else in there
9 they don't care about you and me. They don't
10 care about the children, which is--I see a lot
11 of children from me and my committee and that -
12 from 168 - - waiting with a wheelchair for get
13 their child inside bus, which is going where? I
14 don't know where? I know it's a fine way from
15 here.

16 Now, what happened? - - the Department of
17 Education, they really got - - . They don't
18 care about you and me. They don't care about my
19 children. I've got five-years' old children. I
20 have seven-years' old children. I have eight-
21 year--nine-years' old children, which - -
22 school. And we - - to get better - - for my
23 children. That's why we get involved in my own
24 school. Now, - - . They say now, in a letter--
25 email you sent to me--oh, yes, we offer--soon as

1 new school open, we giving - -. Okay? - - ,
2 but that - -. I know they supposed to - - for -
3 - something about three - -. It's not - -.
4 It's a lot.

5 MR. RECY DUNN: We have - - Norma Gonzalez
6 [phonetic], followed by Gracie Abrigo
7 [phonetic]. Norma Gonzalez? Gracie Abrigo?
8 After Gracie, it's Giovanti Stewart [phonetic].

9 MS. Gracie Abrigo. Good evening, parents,
10 staff, panel. Usually - -, usually have a
11 representative - - office. I guess, maybe he
12 has - - test tomorrow so he was unable to be
13 here. Okay? I want to give feedback on some of
14 the concerns that were already mentioned by our
15 parents.

16 First of all, we only have one safety
17 officer. That is true. We have been this route
18 before. I've been a teacher here for 12 years.
19 We've been this route before. What happens? We
20 have one officer, people come in, they see my
21 children's face, they see - -.

22 People come in and we have incidents by the
23 bathrooms before. People come walking in
24 shooting. We have only 14 - - in this building.
25 It is a problem. It will be a safety hazard.

1 Not - - four-year old with 14-year olds will
2 be exposed to the element that teenagers bring
3 to our Pre-K and kindergarten. But, in addition
4 to that, - - concerns with how do we secure our-
5 -the belonging of our building, our students and
6 our staff?

7 Now, just looking at the info--what we got--
8 I'm mostly concerned about the impact on our
9 space during the 2013 and 2014 school year.
10 Specifically, how many rooms are expected to be
11 used? When you come into the A building from
12 the annex, supposedly some of our rooms will be
13 used. How many rooms is going to be used?

14 And we aren't - - we have the larger impact
15 on - -. Okay, we're here--not just for
16 academics, but to make our children well-
17 rounded. We cannot do that, and we will not
18 have space for dance, for art.

19 Look at our gym. That's not even a
20 functional gym. You want to put money
21 somewhere, how about building us a gym? How
22 about fixing our auditorium? How about bringing
23 our - - [background noise] [applause]. Okay?
24 So, just think what we can do, if you want to
25 put money in us instead of putting money in a

1 charter school. Okay?

2 Now, these proposals, are they going to be
3 guaranteed? So, on the onset of them coming in,
4 will we know, are they going to take five rooms
5 next year? Are they going to do this? Because,
6 you know, charter schools are like a cancer,
7 they come in, they grow, they take over, they
8 suck the juice from the other schools in the
9 community. And they ruin what's left behind - -
10 . [Background noise] - -. Thank you.

11 MR. RECY DUNN: I want to--so I'm going to
12 ask Rosa for a - - and address some of the
13 issues on the space. So, it is outlined in the
14 - - as well as the - - plan, the utilization
15 plan. But, they don't think it's--they don't - -
16 -explain that a little bit more.

17 MS. ROSA FERNANDES Thank you, Recy. - - and
18 I just want to say that the charter school that
19 he proposed to only having to use rooms in the
20 annex only. And the annex, actually, has seven
21 rooms in total. Five full-size spaces, the
22 charter school will use for instruction and two
23 half-size spaces, which are used by [background
24 noise] - -. So, that's all the space that they-
25 -that--would have if they were to come - -.

1 [Background noise]

2 That is our goal in years--years one and
3 two. And - - in the proposal that P.S. 63 will
4 keep all of their rooms - -.

5 Again, that the charter school will only be
6 utilizing the annex in years one and two. They
7 will not have the use of the main building.
8 Thank you. - - with you. I call follow up with
9 you - - and - - speak one and one and - -.

10 COMMUNITY MEMBER NUMBER NINE: What's going
11 to happen to the sixth, seventh, and eighth
12 grades? - - ?

13 MS. ROSA FERNANDES: So, we-- - - to answer
14 that, the proposal is for two years, grades six
15 and seven. They will not be staying--beyond two
16 years. And therefore, only two classes, sixth
17 and seventh grade will be - - this. And then,
18 I--after--I'll stay after the public comment
19 section. I can answer more of your questions -
20 -. Thank you. My name is Rosa Fernandes, and I
21 work for the - - Portfolio Company. Thank you.

22 MR. RECY DUNN: Thank you, Rosa. So, now
23 we've got Giovanti Steward, followed by Bob
24 Lesser, then Daisy Santana.

25 MR. GIOVANTI STEWARD: Thank you. Good

1 evening, parents, - - , Mr. Diaz, other - - in
2 the panel. Thank you for - -. My name is
3 Giovanti Steward. I am the principal of Mott
4 Hall Charter School, and I made a choice to come
5 to the meeting tonight to hear what your
6 concerns are. Because, if you go into - -
7 states, you can hear what - - concern, you hear
8 something else. We spoke to the - - president.
9 We spoke to the Community Board 3
10 representative, to hear what your concerns are.
11 This thing has to be voted on in April.

12 If it is voted, and if we are here, I'm
13 standing here saying I will do everything in my
14 power with Mr. Diaz, with whatever support from
15 the DOE, to address some of the concerns that
16 you have.

17 I was a teacher in New York City. I've
18 worked in the Department of Ed since 2002, and
19 I'm telling you middle school is a scary time
20 for parents. I'm sure all of you that are here,
21 with fifth-grade children, are really concerned
22 about where your kid's going for middle school.

23 I've worked in elementary school, I've been
24 a fourth-grade teacher, I've been a sixth-grade
25 teacher. Before--sixth grade used to be in

1 elementary school--then they moved it to the
2 middle school. I taught mathematics in sixth
3 grade and seventh grade. I taught it at - -
4 where's there's many problems. I taught
5 downtown for a bit. I've worked in the Bronx,
6 three years, working with children up here in
7 the Bronx.

8 So, I know that this is a frustrating
9 situation. I hear what you're saying. What I
10 do know is that wherever they end up putting our
11 school, all the children that come there, all
12 the parents that come there, we will do--I will
13 do everything in my power to meet the needs of
14 those children.

15 So, I want to thank everyone for sharing
16 your concerns and continue to share with them--
17 with us, should we end up coming into this
18 space. But, should we come here, we are going
19 to serve you. We are going to serve your
20 community. We are here to serve these children.

21 I'm here to take your concerns, and we will
22 do everything in our power to support that.

23 MR. RECY DUNN: Thank you. Bob Lesser
24 [phonetic]? Following Daisy Santana, and then
25 Shadina Williams [phonetic].

1 MR. BOB LESSER: Hi. Good evening. My
2 name is Bob Lesser. I'm the Executive Director
3 of Mott Hall Charter School. I just wanted to
4 tell you a little bit more about our school--
5 it's mission.

6 Our mission is really to prepare students in
7 middle school for the best high schools in New
8 York City. And we do that through offering very
9 rigorous academics based on International
10 Baccalaureate program, which is a world-class
11 curriculum program, and offering really strong
12 character leadership development - - its
13 students.

14 Mott Hall is a school that is--has been - -
15 times before. All as - - schools, this is the
16 first charter school of its kind. Both Giovanti
17 and myself have worked with district schools for
18 many years. And so, I'd really encourage
19 everybody to stop thinking about this as this -
20 - charter.

21 It's really about two schools. Charter
22 schools are - - schools, so, you know, we're
23 here to try and create an excellent middle
24 school for this community and one day all of you
25 are going to have children who are going to

1 middle school. And we hope that you'll
2 consider Mott Hall Charter School.

3 We are accepting applications now for
4 graduating fifth grade students and we'd be
5 happy to give you information on how to get an
6 application if you want to - -.

7 And - - [background noise] with P.S. 63 and
8 really openly collaborate with anyone that wants
9 to work with us. And again, we're here to give
10 you the best middle school we can in this
11 community, which needs the middle schools.
12 Thank you.

13 FEMALE VOICE 3: - - the four and five-year
14 olds that are with this school. - - --

15 MR. RECY DUNN: [Interposing] Daisy Santana,
16 and then Shadina Williams [phonetic].

17 MS. DAISY SANTANA: Good afternoon. I have
18 a seven-year old and an eight-year old that go
19 to this school. I do not feel that seven and
20 eighth grade should be here, because last year
21 my eighth grade--my eight-year old son got
22 bullied by kids his own age. There's no
23 security for me right now.

24 Every day I take my kids to school scared.
25 I ask them, every day when I pick them up,

1 everything happy? Everything okay?--because,
2 here, of kids their own age-- - - sixteen and
3 seventeen here? I do not feel comfortable with
4 that.

5 I do not feel safe right now with kids their
6 own age than I do with kids older than them. I
7 don't like that. I will not be in favor of
8 that.

9 MR. RECY DUNN: Thank you. Shadina Williams
10 followed by Oscar Reyes [phonetic].

11 MS. SHADINA WILLIAMS: Hello. Good
12 afternoon. I was going to say that we often
13 here - -, my daughter is - -, which is she
14 graduated - - as valedictorian. She applied for
15 the charter school, she was denied, and she's an
16 honor student. So, it's like he opened it up
17 and said that - - . [Background noise] - -. If
18 that is the case--, - - it while we can, school
19 be closing.

20 FEMALE VOICE 3: That's right.

21 MS. SHADINA WILLIAMS: I - - get that. But
22 you all - - why - - . That's all I have to say.

23 MR RECY DUNN: Let me see, it's Oscar Reyes
24 [phonetic] followed by Antonia [phonetic] - -.

25 MR. OSCAR REYES: Good afternoon, parents,

1 and panel, teachers, and I just want to say
2 that P.S. 63 is a hardworking school where you
3 have the principal, the administration, teachers
4 and - - P.S. - - schools, actually, sorry--
5 elementary schools in the Bronx.

6 I have a pre-K and a fourth grade coming in
7 to the school. Once again, the problem is
8 security. Right? Basically, that's just not--
9 don't see any sense--it's not common sense. All
10 right?

11 You said with all you guys trying to rework
12 - - by anybody excelling in the Bronx, you
13 insulted them. You would slap them in the face.
14 Instead of upgrading the computer room, we--they
15 don't have a computer room. But - - said that
16 technology is the way to go. But you don't have
17 a computer room like - - student.

18 We have a library, there's no books. That
19 needs to be updated, also. We have a place for
20 the kids go out and play. There is no play.
21 Every week or so, I have to pick up my daughter
22 when her knees get - - with bruises and all
23 that. All right? So, once again, instead of
24 giving one of - - for doing the right thing
25 throughout the semester, you've - - them. Okay?

1 That's not the way to go.

2 Common sense--you must have common sense.

3 Here is -- sense at all. Thank you.

4 MR. RECY DUNN: The next speaker is Antonio
5 Peraca [phonetic]. So, that concludes the
6 speakers' list. I want - - remarks - -.

7 MALE VOICE 1: - - to say the next speaker
8 is my wife.

9 MR. RECY DUNN: Who's your wife?

10 MR. ANTONIO PERACA: Good evening,
11 everybody. Good evening, staff and panel and -
12 -. I am-- - -. I want to say thank you to you
13 for coming today, because I know this is hard
14 for some of you got--you're supposed to be home
15 - - the key for the - - , so is, you know, - -
16 like some people be - -, because - - all - - to
17 say this. But, we said I appreciate you coming
18 because is - - so every time to call all you to
19 do something - - show the same - -. Thank you.

20 MR. RECY DUNN: Agustin Rosa.

21 MR. AGUSTIN ROSA: The charter school wants
22 me to--for public school, which is where - -,
23 which is - - poor communication. So, I don't
24 understand why we got in here a communication
25 from - -and planning.

1 I know everybody got a - - said the most
2 important thing is to be--we got to care for our
3 children and about our safety here. Because we
4 got only one security - - in the building, we
5 should be - - .

6 And guess what? You planning to bring some
7 more student and don't say make peace with the -
8 -. So, there is something that we have to bring
9 - - and community all time. Why are the school-
10 -why my children school - -?

11 MR. JAMAL YOUNG: I just want to say thank
12 you for your time. - - that time is one of the
13 things that - - always important to what
14 actually - - schools. You should also be
15 reminded that State Education - - will be taking
16 your comments by phone or by fax, by email
17 through May 1st. So you have a significant
18 amount of time. And, again, - - , we're
19 Regents, we don't determine where schools - -.
20 The buildings are owned by the New York City
21 Department of Education, not by the Regents.

22 However, the Regents are still concerned
23 about - - spread out across the city. So, your
24 comments are welcomed and I'll be here for a
25 while after we complete the meeting if you want

1 to talk about - - and concerns that you have
2 about the process. Thank you, again, for your
3 time, and - -.

4 MR. RECY DUNN: Thank you all, we - -
5 everybody for - - . We really appreciate it.
6 We - - to stay after a few minutes to talk about
7 - - talk about charter schools, to talk about
8 co-locations, and clarify any--anything on that.

9 Again, we welcome your comments and feedback
10 which should be - - at any time before the day
11 of Panel for Educational Policy. Those are the
12 - - on the proposal on April 26th, 2012. That
13 meeting will be--will take place at 6 p.m. at
14 the Prospect Heights Campus, at 883 Classon
15 Avenue, in Brooklyn, New York 11225.

16 The email address and phone number where
17 comments made be made are
18 D09Proposals@schools.nyc.gov. Or, you can call
19 (212)374-5159 and that's (212)374-5159. Thank
20 you very much for your participation. This
21 joint Board of Hearing is now closed.

22 [END 290_271.MP3]

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24

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 The prior proceedings were transcribed from
3 audio files and have been transcribed to the
4 best of my ability.

5
6 Signature

Debra L. Longoffsky

7 Date April 18, 2012

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