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

**Truncation of PS 174 from a K-6 to a
K-5 - 10/25/12**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 DR. BEVERLY FOLKES-BRYANT: Good evening.

3 This is a joint public hearing of the Department
4 of Education Community Education Council, and
5 the School Leadership Team for the proposed
6 grade truncation of P.S. 174, the William Sydney
7 Mount School, to a K-5 school in 2013 through
8 2014. I am superintendent of District 28, Dr.
9 Beverly Folkes-Bryant. We have asked the
10 District 28 Community Education Council and the
11 School Leadership Team of P.S. 174 to
12 participate in this joint public hearing. I am
13 joined tonight by Julie Milner and Tammy Brown
14 for the SLT and Denise Melon, the first vice
15 president of CEC28. This hearing is being
16 recorded.

17 The purpose of this hearing is for you to
18 provide comments about the proposal. Before I
19 describe the proposal, I want to make sure you
20 are all aware of the opportunity to provide your
21 input. All those who wish to speak must sign up
22 in the speaker signup area located in the front
23 of the auditorium. The signup list will close
24 in 15 minutes. Speakers will be given the floor
25 in the order they sign up. All comments are

1 limited to two minutes.

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

8 All comments will be mentioned in the
9 Analysis of Public Comment to be published and
10 provided to the Panel for Educational Policy the
11 evening before the panel votes. That vote is
12 scheduled for November the 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the
13 Frank Sinatra of the Arts High School in
14 Astoria, Queens. In addition, we welcome any
15 comments and feedback you may make or have at
16 any time before the panel votes on both
17 proposals.

18 The email address and phone numbers where
19 comments may be made are
20 D28proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and (212) 374-
21 7621. That's D28proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and
22 (212) 374-7621.

23 P.S. 174, the Williams Sydney Mount School,
24 is an existing zoned elementary school located
25 in building Q174 and transportable classroom

1 unit, or commonly known as the TCU, or the
2 trailer, Q935, at 65-10 Dieterle Crescent, Regal
3 Park, New York, 11374 in community school
4 district 28. It currently serves students in
5 kindergarten through sixth grade, and offers a
6 pre-kindergarten program. P.S. 174 is currently
7 the only school located in buildings Q174 and
8 TCU Q935.

9 This is a proposal to implement a grade
10 truncation, meaning that the school will no
11 longer offer the option to enroll sixth grade
12 students after the current 2012/2013 school
13 year. Beginning in September 2013, P.S. 174
14 will only serve students in kindergarten through
15 fifth grade, and will continue to offer a pre-
16 kindergarten program, subject to funding and
17 demand.

18 If this proposal is approved at the closed
19 of the 2012/2013 school year, all fifth grade
20 students who meet promotional standards from
21 P.S. 174 will enter middle school as sixth
22 graders. During the 2011/2012 school year, the
23 majority of fifth grade students at P.S. 174
24 opted to participate in middle school choice.
25 All of the remaining students who initially

1 chose to stay at P.S. 174 for the 2012/2013
2 school year later opted to attend District 28
3 middle schools for the sixth grade.

4 As a result, in September 2012, there were
5 no remaining sixth graders at P.S. 174.

6 Students in District 28 apply to middle school
7 using the middle school choice process. Under
8 the middle school choice, zoned students still
9 have priority for admission to the zoned school
10 for the zone in which they reside. However,
11 students are also eligible to attend a zoned
12 school outside of the zone in which they reside
13 to the extent that space is available, after
14 students residing in the zone in which the
15 school is located have been admitted.

16 Students are also eligible to attend choice
17 schools. Currently, fifth grade students
18 attending P.S. 174 are zoned for junior high
19 school 190, also known as Russell Sage. They
20 are given the priority to attend junior high
21 school 190. Similarly, students attending P.S.
22 174 who are zoned to other District 28 middle
23 schools, are given priority to their respective
24 zoned middle school. P.S. 174 students may also
25 apply to other middle schools within the

1 District 28 through the middle school choice
2 process, or they may apply to the borough or
3 citywide options that are available to District
4 28 students through the middle school choice.

5 This will all continue to be true if this
6 proposal is approved. The New York City
7 Department of Education strives to ensure that
8 all students in New York City have access to
9 high quality schools at every stage of their
10 education. The proposed grade truncation offers
11 benefits to the students currently in fifth
12 grade at P.S. 174.

13 Middle schools typically enroll students
14 beginning in sixth grade, and P.S. 174 students
15 already have had that option to apply to middle
16 school as fifth graders. For the 2012/2013
17 society, there are no remaining sixth graders
18 enrolled in P.S. 174. If P.S. 174 continues to
19 offer the option of remaining for the sixth
20 grade, the students who wait till the sixth
21 grade to apply to middle school are limited to
22 those schools that still have available seventh
23 grade seats. In particular, there are several
24 middle schools in District 28 that rarely have
25 open seventh grade seats because seats become

1 available only if sixth grade students leave
2 the school.

3 As a result, students who would remain in
4 P.S. 174 through sixth grade, if this proposal
5 is not implemented, would have fewer
6 opportunities to enter those choice middle
7 schools than their peers, who start middle
8 school a year earlier. This proposed grade
9 truncation will provide P.S. 174 access to the
10 same range of middle school options as their
11 peers throughout District 28. In addition, it
12 addresses problems that exist for middle school
13 students and the middle school as a whole when
14 students start middle school through multiple
15 entry grades, sixth and seventh.

16 The proposal also addresses some
17 disadvantages that students may be experiencing
18 while they remaining at P.S. 174 for sixth
19 grade, after their grade has been reduced by the
20 number of students who have exercised the option
21 to enter middle school in sixth grade. Further,
22 by entering middle school in sixth grade rather
23 than seventh grade, students at P.S. 174 will
24 have more opportunities to take advantage of the
25 enriching, high school preparatory experiences

1 offered at the middle schools.

2 Finally, changing P.S. 174's grade span from
3 K to 6 to K to 5 would reduce the school's
4 enrollment by approximately 29 seats, freeing up
5 additional space that P.S. 174 could use to
6 accommodate additional lower grade students or
7 to meet other instructional and programing
8 needs. P.S. 174 is also overcrowded, and
9 truncating P.S. 174's sixth grade will reduce
10 the building's utilization rate and alleviate
11 overcrowding. Thank you.

12 Would you like to make a statement?

13 FEMALE VOICE: No.

14 MS. FOLKES-BRYANT: Would the SLT like to
15 make a statement? We have now concluded the
16 formal presentations. We will now open the
17 floor for all public comments. Speakers will be
18 given the floor in the order that they have
19 signed up. All comments are limited to two
20 minutes.

21 The speaker list is now exhausted. Again,
22 we welcome any comments and feedback you may
23 have at any time before the Panel for
24 Educational Policy votes on this proposal at its
25 November 8 meeting. The email address and phone

1 number where comments may be made are
2 D28proposals@schools.nyc.gov, or/and (212) 374-
3 7621. Again, it's D28proposals@schools.nyc.gov,
4 and (212) 374-7621. Thank you for your
5 participation. This joint public meeting is now
6 closed.

7 [END RECORDING]

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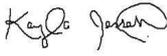
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature 

Date October 29, 2012_____