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

**New Middle School  
Temporary Co-Location in M338,  
Re-Siting in M933 for 2014  
May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**5:30pm**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MR. MARIANO GUZMAN: So thank you for being  
3 here. The purpose of this meeting, it's a joint  
4 public hearing of the Department of Education,  
5 the Community Education Council, and the School  
6 Leadership Teams of P.S. 51, and P094, for the  
7 proposal to open a new district middle school in  
8 the 2014-2015 school year in District Two.  
9 Before I go on, let me say that we are waiting  
10 for Principal Schuster from the D75 program that  
11 will be moving into M051. And so when she  
12 arrives, I'll introduce her again, and give her  
13 an opportunity when we get to that part of the  
14 explanation, if she would like to speak. I'd  
15 also like to mention that we have one of our  
16 assistant principals here from P.S. 111. Thank  
17 you for coming. And there may be elected  
18 officials that walk in at some point. And if  
19 they do, I'll give them an opportunity to speak.  
20 Let me also say that this is not a question and  
21 answer period. Rather, it's an opportunity to  
22 hear comments. I know there are very few of you  
23 in the audience. But it's an opportunity to  
24 have comments from you about what we're  
25 proposing. So with that, let me continue. The

1 new middle school will open not next year, but  
2 the year after, in the 2014-2015 school year.  
3 The building that we are in, Building M933, is  
4 the proposed long-term site of this new middle  
5 school. And just so that it's not confusing to  
6 anyone, it is often that our buildings have a  
7 different number from the actual school. And so  
8 while the school that's in here is M260, this  
9 building is actually known as M933. And so  
10 going forward, we'll continue to refer to it  
11 that way. My name is Mariano Guzman. I'm the  
12 Superintendent for Community School District  
13 Two. We have asked the District Two Community  
14 Education Council and the School Leadership  
15 Teams of P.S. 51 and 75M094 to participate in  
16 this joint public hearing. And 75M094 refers to  
17 the District 75 program. I am joined tonight by  
18 Principal Nancy Sing-Bock, to my left, and  
19 Principal Schuster, as I mentioned before, will  
20 be arriving. We also have Lauren [phonetic], a  
21 member of the chair of the SLT, Shino Tanikawa,  
22 who is our CEC President, to my right. To my  
23 far right is Sarah Chu, who is also a member of  
24 our CEC, and we're expecting Tamara Rowe. And  
25 when she arrives I'll introduce her as well.

1 This hearing is being recorded. The purpose of  
2 the hearing is for you to provide comments about  
3 the proposal as I said earlier. Before I  
4 describe the proposal, I want to make sure you  
5 are all aware of the opportunity to provide your  
6 input. All those who wish to speak must sign up  
7 in the speaker signup area located just outside  
8 the auditorium. I believe Jennifer [phonetic],  
9 correct me if I'm wrong, is the signup sheet by  
10 you? The signup sheet is at the table, right by  
11 the door. The signup list closes in 15 minutes.  
12 And speakers will be given the floor in the  
13 order that they signed up. All comments are  
14 limited to two minutes. As I mentioned earlier,  
15 there may be elected officials who arrive at  
16 different times during the evening, and if so,  
17 and wish to speak, we'll do our best to  
18 accommodate them at the first opportune moment.  
19 Clearly, they'll have an opportunity to speak as  
20 we have few people in the audience. Those who  
21 are here at the start of the public comments  
22 segment will be asked to speak first. All  
23 comments will be mentioned and responded to in  
24 the analysis of public comment to be published  
25 and made available to the Panel for Educational

1 Policy prior to its vote, which is currently  
2 scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. In addition, we  
3 welcome any comments and feedback you may have  
4 at any time before the Panel votes on this  
5 proposal. The email address and phone number  
6 where comments may be made, and do we have that,  
7 a card that we had yesterday that had the  
8 information written so that people can copy it?  
9 Okay. So I'll read it to you, but it's easier  
10 if you can visualize it, and so we'll provide a  
11 visual for you. But the email address is  
12 D02proposals@schools, and that's  
13 plural, .nyc.gov, and the number to call is  
14 (212) 374-3466. I will now summarize the  
15 proposal for you. The New York City Department  
16 of Education is proposing to open a new middle  
17 school in the 2014-2015 school year. The long-  
18 term site for this new middle school is the  
19 building M933. That is the building that we're  
20 currently in. This building currently houses  
21 Clinton School for Writers & Artists. Clinton  
22 is expected to move out of this building to its  
23 new building by the 2015-2016 school year. This  
24 means that when the new middle school opens, in  
25 the 2014-2015 school year, it will not be in

1 this building until one year later during the  
2 2015-2016 school year when Clinton has already  
3 moved out. So in summary, when the school is  
4 slated to open in 2014, this building will not  
5 be available in 2014. And it will not be  
6 available until 2015, when Clinton moves to its  
7 new location. So for one year, the new middle  
8 school will not be housed in this building.  
9 Before the new middle school moves to this  
10 building, it will be temporarily co-located in a  
11 new construction building M338, which is located  
12 at West 44<sup>th</sup> Street between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues.  
13 Building M338 is expected to open by the  
14 beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, which is  
15 next school year. In other words, it's  
16 scheduled to be opened September 2013. When  
17 Building M338 opens next year, it will house  
18 P.S. 51, the Elias Howe School, an existing  
19 elementary school serving students in grades  
20 kindergarten through five. The current  
21 principal of that building and of that school  
22 who will open the school in September in the new  
23 location is Nancy Sing Bock, who is to my left.  
24 Building M338 will also house P94@M338, which  
25 will be the new site of an existing District 75

1 school, 75M094. P094@M338 will open next year,  
2 and will serve students in kindergarten through  
3 second grade. The principal of that school is  
4 Ronnie Schuster, who we are expecting. During  
5 the school year, after the 2014-2015 school  
6 year, the new middle school will be located in  
7 M338, and will be co-located with P.S. 51 and  
8 P094@M338 for one year. New middle school will  
9 serve students in grades six during its one-year  
10 co-location in M338. There will be excess space  
11 in M338 prior to, and during the co-location of  
12 the new middle school. Middle school students  
13 will benefit from the resources of the M338  
14 facility for that year that the new school is  
15 co-located there. After the 2014-2015 school  
16 year, the new middle school will move out of  
17 M338 and move into this building. This  
18 building, Building M933, currently houses  
19 Clinton School for Writers & Artists. Clinton  
20 is expected to move out of M933 to its new  
21 building after the 2014-2015 school year.  
22 Building M933 is a leased site. This building  
23 will be the long-term site of the new middle  
24 school. Re-siting the new middle school to this  
25 building will provide students with a long-term

1 facility on the West Side that is aligned to  
2 middle school instruction. Beginning in the  
3 2015-2016 school year, the new middle school is  
4 expected to be the only school building in M933,  
5 where it will phase in to serve students in  
6 grades six through eight. The new middle school  
7 will admit students through the District Two  
8 Middle School Choice Process with a limited,  
9 unscreened admissions method. Limited  
10 unscreened schools give admission priority to  
11 students who demonstrate interest in the school  
12 by attending an information session, attending  
13 an open house event, or visiting the school's  
14 exhibit at one of the middle school fairs. The  
15 new middle school is expected to serve  
16 approximately 250 students in grades six through  
17 eight at full scale. If this proposal is  
18 approved, there will be sufficient space in M933  
19 to accommodate new middle school during its  
20 phase-in and at full scale. This concludes the  
21 formal presentation of the proposal. We have  
22 three minutes for those individuals that want to  
23 sign up. And we'll now welcome comments from  
24 individuals on the dais. Would any - -?

25 MS. NANCY SING-BOCK: Good evening; I'm

1 Nancy Sing-Bock, Principal of P.S. 51. We are  
2 very excited about moving into our new school  
3 building in September. And we're looking  
4 forward to also co-locating with the new middle  
5 school for a year, and the District 75 program.  
6 So I think we really can benefit from each  
7 other, you know, and really, we'll be able to  
8 share the facilities. It's a beautiful new  
9 school building, and I think it's wonderful  
10 there's going to be a new middle school on the  
11 West Side. So I'm very excited about that.

12 MR. GUZMAN: Shino?

13 MS. SHINO TANIKAWA: There's a reason I  
14 wanted Nancy to go first, 'cause I wanted to  
15 make sure that you're happy about this. The CEC  
16 has not had the opportunity to debate this  
17 proposal as the full council. We have not had a  
18 calendar meeting where we can conduct such  
19 business. So I cannot share with you what the  
20 CEC thinks of the proposal. But I can share  
21 with you my personal view, which is with Nancy's  
22 blessing, I fully support the proposal. And if  
23 I'm generally loath to support any co-locations  
24 because my daughters have both attended schools  
25 in co-located buildings, and it poses

1 challenges. But this is a temporary co-  
2 location, and I think it's a great way for a new  
3 middle school to start because the elementary  
4 school students from P.S. 51 will be familiar  
5 with the school, and perhaps it can become a  
6 feeder elementary school to the new middle  
7 school. And it will be a lovely way to start  
8 this new middle school in such an established  
9 and wonderful school as P.S. 51. So with  
10 Nancy's and the SLT's support, I wholeheartedly  
11 support this proposal.

12 MR. GUZMAN: Thank you, Shino. Thank you,  
13 Nancy. So we will now open up the floor for  
14 public comments. And so we have one speaker  
15 that has signed up, Migdalia Colon [phonetic].

16 MS. MIGDALIA COLON: As I understand this  
17 proposal--can anybody hear me or you want to be  
18 - -?

19 MR. GUZMAN: I think you should use the - -.

20 MS. COLON: Okay, - -. Yes, that's right.  
21 According to this proposal, not only am I an SLT  
22 member of P.S. 111, but also a parent. And a  
23 parent that has a child that on 2014-2015, goes  
24 to the sixth grade. So therefore, as I'm  
25 understanding, they will go to you, to P.S. 151.

1 And then in the seventh and eighth, will come  
2 here. Is that correct?

3 MR. GUZMAN: Migdalia, thank you for coming  
4 out. Your child will go not to Nancy, but will  
5 go to that building that, the new building--

6 MS. COLON: [Interposing] Yeah, the new  
7 building--

8 MR. GUZMAN: And will go to the middle  
9 school there if that's her choice to do that.

10 MS. COLON: Okay, for one year. That's our  
11 choice.

12 MR. GUZMAN: That's right. So if your  
13 choice is to send your child there, as a limited  
14 unscreened school, then your child would go and  
15 attend for one year. And then she would move to  
16 this building, which will be the permanent  
17 location for the new middle school.

18 MS. COLON: And as, once the permanent  
19 location and principals and everyone is - -  
20 here, then the view of the new school, the new  
21 middle school here in the West Side, as to, if  
22 they're going to take a specialty, you know what  
23 I'm saying is like Clinton is writing and arts.  
24 You know, what way they would go that would be  
25 on the administration that would take charge of

1 this school here, in 2015-2016?

2 MR. GUZMAN: No. So in 2014, so by the fall  
3 of next year, we will have selected a principal  
4 for the new school.

5 MS. COLON: Okay.

6 MR. GUZMAN: That principal may opt to have  
7 a theme associated with his or her school, but  
8 it's important to note that the school is a  
9 limited unscreened school, which means that all  
10 students can apply. And that there is no  
11 admission criteria that would keep students out.  
12 And so the school may have a particular theme,  
13 but it is open to all students who apply from  
14 District Two.

15 MS. COLON: So this middle school, the new  
16 one is going to be for all students in District  
17 Two, going to a middle school whether it's this  
18 one, or whichever one they choose. But this  
19 will be one of the choices, which happens to be,  
20 this was a high school at one time. So it's  
21 pretty big, and should accommodate, you know, a  
22 lot of students. So that's one thing good thing  
23 about it. I'm with you guys, and--

24 MR. GUZMAN: Thank you, - -.

25 MS. COLON: Wish you all the luck.

1 MS. COLON: Thank you.

2 MS. TANIKAWA: Thank you.

3 MR. GUZMAN: Thank you, Migdalia.

4 MS. COLON: Thank you.

5 MS. GUZMAN: So this really closes out our  
6 list unless there is someone else who hasn't  
7 signed in and would like to either sign the list  
8 or speak first and then sign the list. Yes?

9 MS. SUSAN DOMINGUEZ: I just walked in, so I  
10 have a couple of questions --.

11 MR. GUZMAN: Yes, please.

12 MS. TANIKAWA: Could you use the mike?  
13 'Cause we're recording, and it records better if  
14 you use the mike.

15 MR. GUZMAN: Please state your name.

16 MS. DOMINGUEZ: I'm Susan Dominguez, and  
17 this is my son Elliot [phonetic]. He's--

18 MR. GUZMAN: [Interposing] Hi, Elliot. Hi,  
19 Susan.

20 MS. DOMINGUEZ: First of all, I'm really  
21 surprised nobody's here. Why do you think that  
22 is? That people don't care, or they just didn't  
23 know?

24 MR. GUZMAN: Well, I don't know why people  
25 aren't here.

1 MS. DOMINGUEZ: Okay. That was just my  
2 observation. I'm sure--

3 MR. GUZMAN: [Interposing] We share it.

4 MS. DOMINGUEZ: Also, my son will be  
5 eligible to go to this school, I guess because  
6 he's in the area. And--

7 MR. GUZMAN: [Interposing] Because he's  
8 where?

9 MS. DOMINGUEZ: P.S. 51.

10 MR. GUZMAN: Uh-huh?

11 MS. DOMINGUEZ: But he will be in the group,  
12 fifth grade next year. So when he goes to sixth  
13 grade, he'll come, this will be his own school.  
14 Is the--

15 MR. GUZMAN: [Interposing] So, let--

16 MS. DOMINGUEZ: You know what? I'm sorry if  
17 I don't know the correct lingo--

18 MR. GUZMAN: [Interposing] Yeah, please--

19 MS. DOMINGUEZ: [Interposing] 'Cause it's  
20 really not--

21 MR. GUZMAN: [Interposing] Finish your  
22 comment and then I will address--

23 MS. DOMINGUEZ: [Interposing] I have a  
24 question, really.

25 MR. GUZMAN: Okay.

1 MS. DOMINGUEZ: When you say it's a school  
2 that is unscreened, will it be unscreened when  
3 it's at 51 next year?

4 MR. GUZMAN: So let me just clarify. So it  
5 is not a zoned school, meaning that a student  
6 who lives in the zone has an automatic entry  
7 into that school. It is not that.

8 MS. DOMINGUEZ: - -.

9 MR. GUZMAN: It is, and P.S. 51 is not a K  
10 through eight school. So while the school is  
11 co-located, meaning that because there's space  
12 available at 51, it gives us the opportunity to  
13 open up the school a little bit earlier than  
14 otherwise would be the opportunity since this  
15 building is going to be, continue to house  
16 Clinton until 2015. So what it does is it gives  
17 us the opportunity in 2014 to open up what we  
18 think is much-needed school. So in 2014, when  
19 the school does open up, it'll open up at 51,  
20 but it'll have a separate principal, and it'll  
21 be a separate school. It will open with only a  
22 sixth grade. And to get into, to apply to that  
23 sixth grade, students would apply through the  
24 Middle School Choice process, which is the  
25 process we have in District Two, where all

1 students are eligible to apply to all of our  
2 schools. Students who apply to this school will  
3 then be, it will likely depending on demand,  
4 have a lottery as a way of accepting students  
5 since it has what's called the limited  
6 unscreened process for entering the school.  
7 What a limited unscreened school means is that a  
8 student, or a family, shows interest in that  
9 school by attending a tour, or by attending one  
10 of the middle school fairs. But it does not  
11 evaluate grades, and it is not evaluating  
12 students on any other criteria. And so  
13 directly, Elliot would have the opportunity when  
14 this school, when he enters sixth grade, to  
15 apply to this new school. But the new school at  
16 that point would've moved from 51 to this new  
17 location, which would be in 2015. So actually  
18 no, 'cause he's going into fifth grade. So he  
19 would be able to go. He could start.

20 MS. TANIKAWA: Can I just add one  
21 clarification? So this is going to be a  
22 District Two Middle School Choice school. That  
23 means Elliot will not have any preferential  
24 admission to this school just because he goes to  
25 P.S. 51 in the same building. Likewise, it's

1 not going to give any preference to students  
2 living on the West Side of Manhattan in District  
3 Two. The admissions process is blind to where  
4 the child lives, or went to elementary school.  
5 So even though this new school is going to be  
6 sort of renting space from 51 for one year,  
7 there is no official program - - connection  
8 between 51 and the new school. The new school  
9 is an independent, separate entity with a  
10 separate principal and a different admissions  
11 process.

12 MS. DOMINGUEZ: So next year at 51 he'll be  
13 going to school with sixth graders, but they  
14 won't be in his school? And how many--

15 MR. GUZMAN: [Interposing] That's correct.

16 MS. DOMINGUEZ: How many sixth graders will  
17 be at 51?

18 MR. GUZMAN: I think we - - how many  
19 sections?

20 MS. DOMINGUEZ: [Interposing] Two classes?  
21 Three classes?

22 MS. TANIKAWA: - - three sections.

23 MR. GUZMAN: Three sections.

24 MS. DOMINGUEZ: Three classes.

25 MR. GUZMAN: Three classes.

1 MS. DOMINGUEZ: Okay--

2 MR. GUZMAN: [Interposing] Okay.

3 MS. DOMINGUEZ: Thank you.

4 MR. GUZMAN: You're welcome.

5 MS. COLON: I have a - - question since P.S.  
6 111 is phasing out--

7 MR. GUZMAN: So let me just ask if there is  
8 anyone else that has a comment? And if not,  
9 what I'd like to do is bring this, the meeting  
10 to closure. And then, if you have questions,  
11 because I want to make sure that we..

12 MS. TANIKAWA: Follow protocol?

13 MR. GUZMAN: We follow protocol. Okay? So  
14 no more comments? So the joint public hearing  
15 is now closed. And I think the official mike  
16 that is recording will be shut. And then I'm  
17 making myself available to answer questions you  
18 might have to the best of my ability. So  
19 Migdalia?

20 MS. COLON: - - question was that P.S. 111  
21 is phasing out, okay? The kids - - K through 5.  
22 Would they have a preference, a first shot, to  
23 let's say - - or they have to apply - - apply to  
24 anywhere else?

25 MR. GUZMAN: They would - -.

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MS. COLON: Thank you.

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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 *Aime Coleman*

Date May 13, 2013