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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF  
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**  
**Partial Temporary Re-siting of P.S.  
46 in the 2015-2016 School Year**

**Building X046  
279 East 196th Street  
Bronx, NY 10458**

1 [START MASTER435938.MP3]

2 MS. MARIA QUAIL: Okay, good evening,  
3 everyone. Welcome and good evening. This is a  
4 joint public hearing of the Department of  
5 Education, Community Council--Education Council  
6 10 and the School Leadership Team for the  
7 proposed temporary re-siting and co-location of  
8 PS46 Edgar Allen Poe and Thomas C. Giordano,  
9 Middle School 45, in Building X045, beginning in  
10 the 2015-2016 school year. I am Maria Quail,  
11 the chancellor-designate for tonight's hearing.  
12 We have asked the District 10 Community  
13 Education Council and the School Leadership Team  
14 from PS46 to participate in this joint public  
15 hearing. I am joined tonight by Principal  
16 Alexander-Adé from the PS46 SLT and Marvin  
17 Shelton from CEC10. This hearing is being audio  
18 and video recorded. The purpose of the hearing  
19 is for you to provide comments about the  
20 proposal. Before I describe the proposal, I  
21 want to make sure that you are all aware of the  
22 opportunity to provide your input. All those  
23 who wish to speak must sign up in the speaker's  
24 sign-up area located right over here in the  
25 auditorium. The sign-up list will close in 15

1 minutes. Speakers will be given the floor in  
2 the order that they signed up to speak. All  
3 comments are limited to two minutes. There may  
4 be elected officials who arrive at different  
5 times throughout the evening. If they wish to  
6 speak, we will do our best to accommodate them  
7 at the first opportune moment. Those who are  
8 here at the start of the public comment segment  
9 will be asked to speak first. All comments will  
10 be mentioned in the Analysis of Public Comment,  
11 to be published and provided to the Panel for  
12 Educational Policy the evening before the panel  
13 votes. That vote is scheduled for Wednesday,  
14 February 25th. In addition, we welcome any  
15 comments and feedback you may have prior to 24  
16 hours before the panel votes on this proposal.  
17 The email address and phone number where  
18 comments may be made are  
19 d10proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and the telephone  
20 number is 212-374-5159. The proposal summary is  
21 PS46 is an existing zoned elementary school that  
22 serves students in kindergarten through 5th  
23 grade in Building X46, Mini-building X846, and  
24 Annex X831. The purpose of this proposal is to  
25 temporarily re-site one grade level of PS46 from

1 its current building, X46, to Building X45  
2 where PS46's grade level would be co-located  
3 with existing district's middle school MS45 for  
4 a four-year period beginning in the 2015-2016  
5 school year. A project to build an addition to  
6 the X46 building is scheduled to begin in the  
7 2015-2016 school year, which will require PS46  
8 to temporarily re-site some of its students.  
9 This addition is anticipated to add  
10 approximately 650 seats for District 10, which  
11 is in need of additional capacity. If this  
12 proposal is approved, PS46's 5th grade students  
13 will be co-located for four years with Middle  
14 School 45 in Building X45 while the addition  
15 project is completed. Specifically, this  
16 construction of the addition is anticipated to  
17 be completed prior to the start of the 2019-2020  
18 school year, at which time the PS46 students  
19 being served at X45 will return to X46 and Annex  
20 831. Students currently attending PS46 will  
21 have the opportunity to remain enrolled at PS46,  
22 though they may be sited in the X45 Building  
23 instead of at the X46 campus. And future  
24 students can continue to choose to attend PS46  
25 for elementary school. This proposal is not

1 expected to impact the admissions, enrollment,  
2 educational, or extracurricular options of  
3 students currently attending PS46 or Middle  
4 School 45. Details of the proposal can be found  
5 in the Educational Impact Statement, copies of  
6 which are available this evening in English and  
7 in Spanish. Thank you. The next presenter will  
8 be Marvin of the CEC.

9 MR. MARVIN SHELTON: Thank you. I do  
10 support the proposal to temporarily relocate the  
11 5th grade from 46 to 45 for the time incurred to  
12 facilitate construction of the addition.  
13 However, I ask that there be a provision  
14 included in the proposal for the impacted  
15 students to provide transportation from 46 to 45  
16 due to the nature of the distance, and I'm very  
17 concerned about safety issues. 200 students  
18 walking from this building across Forum, across  
19 Webster, past Roosevelt to get to the middle  
20 school--I'm very concerned about that, and I  
21 would ask that the panel include a provision to  
22 provide busing from 46 to 45 at the appropriate  
23 time so that they're all getting there at one  
24 time, and all in one piece. Thank you.

25 MS. QUAIL: Ms. Adé, would you like to make

1 a statement?

2 MS. JENNIFER ALEXANDER-ADÉ: Thank you. I  
3 would like to assure all of the parents that our  
4 staff and our teachers will be the ones at MS45,  
5 and your children will still have choice for  
6 middle school when it is time for middle school  
7 selection. Our full-time guidance counselor  
8 will be there with the students and our  
9 teachers, and will help your children  
10 matriculate into middle school.

11 MS. QUAIL: We have now concluded the formal  
12 presentations and we will now open the floor for  
13 public comments. Speakers will be given the  
14 floor in the order in which they signed up, and  
15 all comments will be limited to two minutes.  
16 Our first speaker is Rachel Nachtrieb.

17 MS. RACHEL NACHTRIEB: Thank you. My name  
18 is Rachel Nachtrieb. I'm a proud 2nd grade  
19 teacher here at PS46, and I wanted to come to  
20 assure you--the students, the parents, and the  
21 community--that the PS46 administration,  
22 teachers, staff, and all school personnel will  
23 continue our dedication, our work, and our  
24 commitment to the students of PS46 regardless of  
25 our location. No matter where our classroom's

1 located, we will not change the work we do to  
2 insure that our students succeed, and we will  
3 continue to work with the parents in the  
4 community to involve them in this process. We  
5 are a community of professionals, and we are  
6 prepared to meet any challenges that this  
7 project puts forth. But we can look ahead, and  
8 we look forward to all the opportunities this  
9 project would create for the students of PS46  
10 and for the community. Thank you.

11 MS. QUAIL: Our second speaker is Emma  
12 Ayala. Is Emma here? Emma Ayala?

13 MS. EMMA AYALA: My question is that if the  
14 kids are going very far, if they have to travel  
15 far, will there be transportation, or will we  
16 have to take them? Okay, the question is about  
17 transportation for the students. If the school  
18 is too far away, will there be transportation  
19 provided? Because I am worried about that. And  
20 wouldn't it be better if we picked the school  
21 for our children? Is it necessary that they be  
22 there the whole time, or can we, the parents,  
23 choose the school that we would like our kids to  
24 go to? Thank you very much.

25 MS. QUAIL: Okay. I'm going to answer the

1 questions. First of, Marvin Shelton, who's  
2 president of the CEC has already requested that  
3 included in the Educational Impact Statement,  
4 that transportation be provided for students.  
5 And as far as being able to choose a school,  
6 what the Department of Education has done was  
7 looked at where there are available seats for  
8 children, and Middle School 45 is the closest  
9 building to this building--closest school to  
10 this building that has enough seats to  
11 accommodate the children from 46, because after  
12 all, the children will still be enrolled at  
13 PS46, they will just be housed at Middle School  
14 45. I hope that answers your question or helps  
15 clarify any questions you may have. Our next  
16 speaker is Nieves Benitez.

17 MS. NIEVES BENITEZ: My question is about  
18 the buses, if the buses will come and pick up  
19 our children and take them to school. And would  
20 the buses come to our homes and pick them up, or  
21 would they come to this school and pick them up-  
22 -or go to the school and pick them up? One  
23 other question--when they graduate, would they  
24 graduate here, or would they graduate with other  
25 kids because 45 is from 5th grade to 8th grade?

1 MS. QUAIL: I'm going to answer the first  
2 question, and then Ms. Adé will answer the  
3 second question about graduation. Again, Mr.  
4 Shelton has asked that in the proposal, be  
5 included transportation. However, the  
6 transportation would not be door-to-door, it  
7 would probably be where the children would come  
8 to PS46 and board a bus, and then be transported  
9 there, and then be transported back here at the  
10 end of the day for them to either help with  
11 other siblings or go home from here.

12 MS. ADÉ: As far as graduation, graduation  
13 is one of the highlight events of the school  
14 year for our 5th graders, and we will still have  
15 a wonderful graduation for 5th grade. The past  
16 three years--four years--three or four years,  
17 we've had our graduation at the Fordham Prep  
18 campus using Fordham University's campus, and  
19 using Fordham Prep's facilities, and we will  
20 probably have our graduation there again. So it  
21 will still be our 5th grade graduation with our  
22 5th grade teachers and our students. It  
23 wouldn't be graduating from middle school,  
24 you'll just be housed in the middle school, you  
25 really wouldn't be part of that middle school.

1 And you will still have choice. You'll still  
2 have the applications for all the different  
3 middle schools that the students have had, and  
4 you'll still have choice, and the guidance  
5 counselor will help the students matriculate  
6 into middle school.

7 MS. QUAIL: Our next speaker is Alicia  
8 Hernandez.

9 MS. ALICIA HERNANDEZ: I'd like to know  
10 about the grades--from what grade to what grade--  
11 --and in what month would these changes begin?  
12 My girl is in 3rd grade. So in 3rd grade, or  
13 after 3rd grade, would the change be made to the  
14 other school?

15 MS. QUAIL: The change would occur in  
16 September of 2015, and the present 4th grade  
17 children, who would then be 5th grade children,  
18 would be the children that would go to Middle  
19 School 45. She will still be here, yes. Her  
20 daughter will be here. Two years. By the time  
21 it gets to her daughter, it will be two years--  
22 2016, school-year 2016--September. Okay, the  
23 next speaker is Jordan Kamer.

24 MR. JORDAN KAMER: Do I need the mic?

25 MS. QUAIL: Well, it's being recorded, yeah.

1 MR. KAMER: Hi, everybody. My name is  
2 Jordan Kamer. I'm a 5th grade teacher here at  
3 PS46. After school I teach musical theater.  
4 I've been here for the past three years. I  
5 wanted to let everybody in the audience know  
6 that next year I'll be teaching SETS, which is  
7 pullout Special Ed services, and in addition to  
8 that I will also be doing technology and  
9 computers. So, a concern that some parents  
10 might have is, are our students going to get the  
11 same services next year being that we're in a  
12 different building? And the answer is yes,  
13 you're going to get the same services, and,  
14 something I want to add in--it is 6:00 p.m.  
15 right now--it's past 6:00 p.m. We've been out  
16 of work for over three hours already--many  
17 teachers are here today because we care about  
18 your kids, and we care about the future of this  
19 school. We could have been home hours ago, but  
20 we care. So for me personally--I came to this  
21 school because I wanted to make a difference. I  
22 wanted to work with your kids, and I wanted to  
23 move them. And I want to make sure that we do  
24 real meaningful work, and it shows. We have a  
25 solid team, the 5th grade team. We have Ms.

1       Gonzales-Bellamy, who's sitting right here in  
2       the audience, who is a wonderful administrator.  
3       And what I find to be so amazing about this move  
4       is, this is a 5th grade academy--we're moving  
5       into a middle school, so these kids are going to  
6       see what it's like to be in middle school.  
7       They're going to be in this environment a whole  
8       year early, which means if anything, when  
9       they're in middle school, they're going to be  
10      ready for middle school, because they're going  
11      to be there. College and career readiness--  
12      elementary, middle, high school, college--  
13      they're going to be ahead of the game. In  
14      addition to that, we're also going to have  
15      bigger facilities. The classrooms are going to  
16      be significantly bigger. So ultimately, I view  
17      this as really good. I just wanted to let  
18      everybody know that the people--we're here,  
19      working for you, and anything we can do for you,  
20      we will do for you. We always have, and we'll  
21      continue to do that. Thank you.

22           MS. QUAIL: Thank you. The speaker list is  
23      now exhausted. Again, we welcome any comments  
24      and feedback prior to 24 hours before the Panel  
25      for Educational Policy votes on this proposal at

1 its meeting on Wednesday, February 25th, which  
2 will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the High School of  
3 Fashion Industries, located at 225 West 24th  
4 Street in Manhattan. The email address and  
5 phone number where comments may be made are  
6 d10proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and the phone  
7 number is 212-374-5159. Thank you for your  
8 participation. This joint public hearing is now  
9 closed.

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13 [END MASTER435938.MP3]  
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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 February 13, 2015

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