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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF  
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**  
**Opening and Co-Location of Eagle  
Academy (district) 6-12 @R049**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Good evening. This is a  
3 joint public hearing of the Department of  
4 Education Community Education Council 31, and  
5 the School Leadership Team of I.S. 49, for the  
6 proposed opening and co-location of grade 6-8 of  
7 a new secondary school, Eagle Academy for Young  
8 Men of Staten Island, 31R028, with existing  
9 school I.S. 49, Berta A. Dreyfus, 31R049, in  
10 building R049--

11 [Audio out]

12 MS. GORMAN: --15 school year. I am Elaine  
13 Gorman and I will act as the Chancellor's  
14 designee and facilitator tonight.

15 We are seated here in front of you, the  
16 District 31 Educational Council and the School  
17 Leadership Team, to participate in this joint  
18 public hearing. I am joined, and I'll go to my  
19 right, and if you're sitting in a different  
20 order, I apologize, is Jessica Jenkins, the  
21 Superintendent for District 31, and new to your  
22 community. We certainly welcome her.

23 From the CEC 31 we will be joined right now  
24 by Sam, who is our President, and who just  
25 celebrated his 50th birthday, congratulations.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. GORMAN: Also joined by CEC members Mike  
3 Reilly, LaTonja McMillan, Irene Miello  
4 [phonetic]. Also from the CEC we have PA  
5 President Laura Cavalleri, and Cheryl McMillan,  
6 who is representing the other members of the SLT  
7 who are also here tonight.

8 [Applause]

9 MS. GORMAN: We also have with us Martin  
10 Krongold, who has been your Staten Island  
11 representative to the Citywide Council on High  
12 Schools for a number of years, and who is a  
13 faithful member of that council, and we welcome  
14 him here tonight.

15 I want to remind you that this hearing is  
16 being transcribed, is being recorded and  
17 transcribed. The purpose of this hearing is for  
18 you to provide comments about the proposal.  
19 Before I describe the proposal, I want to make  
20 sure you are all aware of the opportunity to  
21 provide your input.

22 All those who wish to speak must sign up in  
23 the speaker sign-up area, located outside the  
24 auditorium. The sign-up list will close in 15  
25 minutes, which will be just after 6:45.

1           Speakers will be given the floor in the  
2 order in which they signed up, and all comments  
3 are limited to two minutes, in order to allow  
4 everyone who is signed up, even those at the end  
5 of the list, to have an ample time to speak.

6           We will, after the dais and any electeds who  
7 are here, the students will be our first  
8 speakers, so that they can, if they haven't  
9 finished their homework, can finish their  
10 homework. If elected come in at different  
11 times, we will give them an opportunity to speak  
12 at the first opportune time, keeping in mind  
13 that we do have a speakers list.

14           All comments that are mentioned or that are  
15 turned in will become part of the analysis of  
16 public comment to be published on the DOE  
17 website, and provided to the Panel for  
18 Educational Policy the evening before the panel  
19 votes. That vote is scheduled for October 30th,  
20 this Wednesday, at Prospect Heights High School,  
21 which is 883 Classon in Brooklyn.

22           In addition, we welcome any comments and  
23 feedback you may have at any time before the  
24 panel votes on the proposal. The email address  
25 and phone numbers where comments can be made are

1 as follows, and I'll repeat it again at the  
2 end, it's d, like in district,  
3 31proposals@schools.nyc.gov., and the phone  
4 number is (212) 374-7621.

5 I'm going to take my seat to read you the  
6 proposal. "The New York City Department of  
7 Education is proposing to open and co-locate  
8 grades 6-8 of a new district secondary school,  
9 Eagle Academy for Young Men of Staten Island,  
10 31R028, in building R049, located here at 101  
11 Warren Street in Staten Island, 10304, in  
12 Community School District 31.

13 "A co-location means that two or more school  
14 organizations are located in the same building,  
15 and may share common spaces like auditoriums,  
16 gymnasiums and cafeterias.

17 "Eagle Academy for Young Men of Staten  
18 Island will be the sixth school in a network of  
19 schools located in various locations throughout  
20 New York City and New Jersey. Eagle Academy  
21 Staten Island will serve male students in grades  
22 6-12 at full scale. However, this proposal only  
23 involves the co-location of Eagle Academy 6-8th  
24 grades.

25 "The DOE anticipates that Eagle Academy will

1 grow to serve 9th grade students in a location  
2 to be determined in the 2017-18 school year, and  
3 that Eagle Academy will add one grade level each  
4 year at that location, until it reaches full  
5 grade span at that location, serving grades 9-12  
6 in 2020-2021 school year.

7 "Eagle Academy will offer rigorous academic  
8 programs designed to equip students with the  
9 skills necessary to achieve post-secondary  
10 success.

11 "According to the 2011-12 Enrollment  
12 Capacity Utilization Report, referred to as the  
13 'Blue Book', the utilization rate of R049 is  
14 70%. This means that the underutilized and has  
15 space to accommodate additional students.

16 "If this co-location proposal is approved,  
17 Eagle Academy will gradually phase into R049  
18 until it serves students in grades 6-8. Eagle  
19 Academy will serve students in 6th grade in the  
20 2014-2015 school year, and will add one grade  
21 level every year, until the school reaches its  
22 full grade capacity of 6th-8th grade, in R049,  
23 in the 2016-17 school year.

24 "In 2016-17, once Eagle Academy's middle  
25 school grades are at full scale in R049, it is

1 projected that there will be 1,045 to 1,105  
2 students served in this building R049, thereby  
3 yielding an estimated building utilization rate  
4 of 88 to 93%.

5 "The proposed co-location is not expected to  
6 impact instructional programming or the  
7 admissions process at I.S. 49. Eagle Academy  
8 will admit middle school male students through  
9 an application process administered by the  
10 Office of Student Enrollment, using a limited  
11 unscreened admissions method.

12 "Male students who reside in District 31  
13 will be eligible to apply. Those eligible  
14 students who attend an information session, an  
15 open house event, or visit the school's exhibit  
16 at one of the middle school fairs will have  
17 priority.

18 "The DOE anticipates that Eagle Academy will  
19 have a limited unscreened admissions method for  
20 9th-12th grade, with the priority for continuing  
21 8th grade students, and then to male students in  
22 Staten Island."

23 I thank you, and at this time I will pass  
24 the mic down. We will hear from those members  
25 of the CEC who wish to speak, then those members

1 of the SLT who wish to speak, and Mr. Krongold,  
2 if he wishes to speak.

3 MR. SAM PIRROZOLO: Good evening, ladies and  
4 gentleman, thank you for coming this evening.  
5 My name is Sam Pirrozolo and I'm the President  
6 of the Community Education Council, and we have  
7 a couple of Community Education Council members  
8 here this evening. I don't know if they will be  
9 speaking or not.

10 But I at least want to let you know what we  
11 do and what our role is, as far as the community  
12 of Staten Island. We are parents. We are not  
13 employees of the Department of Education, we are  
14 volunteers. We are elected by parents from PTAs  
15 throughout Staten Island.

16 We do not really have any authority on  
17 whether this co-location goes through, or  
18 whether the co-location does not go through.  
19 We're mandated to be here by state law, and  
20 that's the reason that we're here.

21 As far as the co-location is concerned, I  
22 can tell you that I get letters from parents or  
23 from people all the time. And as I said, I  
24 don't know if this is going to go through, but I  
25 can just share my thoughts of some of the things

1 that have come across my desk, and some of the  
2 comments that people have said.

3 Some of the things that people are concerned  
4 about are the loss of your science lab, your  
5 brand new science lab, your School of One  
6 [phonetic], or maybe some of the things that  
7 I.S. 49 has worked so hard to get. And I know  
8 that Linda Hill has done a very job in bringing  
9 a lot of you programs and a lot of things to  
10 I.S. 49, but if anyone has told you that you're  
11 automatically going to lose these things because  
12 these things were promised to another school  
13 that's coming in here to co-locate, regardless  
14 of who it is, that's not true.

15 Those types of things do not happen until  
16 after there's a PEP panel meeting, which is  
17 coming up this Wednesday, and once the PEP votes  
18 on this, yes or no, if they vote yes, then those  
19 discussions happen. But those discussions  
20 happen here inside this building, with the  
21 principal of both schools, it's called a  
22 Building Team, and they decide what areas of the  
23 school go where.

24 I've already let the Department of Education  
25 know that as a CEC there is no way that we would

1 stand by and let the resources that I.S. 49  
2 has worked so hard to get be given to someone  
3 else, that we consider that outright theft. So  
4 I just want you to know that.

5 In addition, if this co-location does come  
6 through, the children are being helped are the  
7 children from this community. It's not like  
8 they're bussing kids in from another borough,  
9 another planet, or another country. These are  
10 the children from the I.S. 49 community that  
11 would be attending this school.

12 I was asked the question if other locations  
13 were looked at, and yes, there were other  
14 locations that were considered, but the closest  
15 one was Concord High School, which does not have  
16 the same facilities and resources or room that  
17 this particular school does.

18 Not only that, the need is here, in this  
19 community, it's not in another community. So  
20 that's what--that's just some things that I can  
21 tell you.

22 If this co-location happens, one of the  
23 questions, well, what about the girls? And I  
24 agree with that, what about the female students?  
25 But what I would say to you to ask the DOE is,

1 if this were to happen, this is something the  
2 community may feel they need, but what else are  
3 you going to do for I.S. 49? What other things  
4 can you do?

5 This might be the first step. I've been on  
6 the Community Education Council now for seven  
7 years, and I.S. 49 has always been a concern of  
8 what can be done. So this looks like the DOE's  
9 attempt, maybe if you will, of trying to help  
10 I.S. 49.

11 I know there's something called the Middle  
12 School Quality Initiative, where money was given  
13 to I.S. 2 when they did not co-locate. I  
14 haven't had a chance to speak to the Department  
15 of Education, not that that would be my place,  
16 that would be maybe more of the Superintendent,  
17 but I did speak to Ms. Hill, Principal Hill, and  
18 she said that you have not received money from  
19 the Middle School Quality Initiative.

20 So I think that regardless of what happens  
21 on Wednesday, whether the school is co-located  
22 or not, that there are things that I.S. 49  
23 needs. And as a community, if I can have you  
24 behind me or the CEC, we can certainly try to  
25 bring more things to I.S. 49.

1           So I just ask that you keep that in mind  
2 this evening, that whatever happens, these are  
3 students from your own community that are going  
4 to be taken care of by a different school. I  
5 realize that there's concern about the shared  
6 space, but children go to school here now.  
7 Whether there's 100 more or 100 less, this  
8 school has the capacity to handle more than  
9 that.

10           So I don't know what we're going to hear, if  
11 we're going to hear people for or against, but  
12 this is what the purpose is for this particular  
13 hearing. And I believe the vote yes or no  
14 happens at the Panel for Education and Policy  
15 meeting this coming Wednesday.

16           So thank you very much for coming this  
17 evening. I would be very interested in hearing  
18 everyone's comments.

19           MS. GORMAN: So Sam reminded me that I was  
20 extremely neglectful in not recognizing your  
21 Principal Linda Hill, and I apologize. So  
22 Linda, if you'd wave, so people can see where  
23 you are.

24           [Applause]

25           MS. GORMAN: I also, while I'm at it, would

1 like to acknowledge that the network leader is  
2 here that supports the school, so we thank her  
3 for coming as well. I'll now pass the mic down  
4 to the other members of the CEC, who may either  
5 choose to speak or pass the mic.

6 MR. MICHAEL REILLY: Good evening everyone,  
7 my name is Mike Reilly, I'm a member of CEC 31.  
8 I've heard good things about Eagle Academy.  
9 Having said that, I'm not a big supporter of co-  
10 locations. I don't like--

11 [Applause]

12 MR. REILLY: My reservations stem from  
13 spending money on duplicate administration. Why  
14 don't we put that money back into I.S. 49,  
15 instead of creating a second principal?

16 [Applaud]

17 MR. REILLY: I do believe that Eagle Academy  
18 is a good program, it can come to this  
19 community, I just think that it will reduce the  
20 resources to the I.S. 49 building itself. And  
21 maybe another alternative location really needs  
22 to be looked at. And we can build--

23 [Applause]

24 MR. REILLY: 'Cause then we could fix I.S.  
25 49 by giving them more resources, and bring

1 Eagle Academy, so then the community is served  
2 by two different locations, and we won't lose  
3 any funding for this building. Thank you.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. LATONJA MCMILLAN: Hello, my name is  
6 LaTonja McMillan. I am opposed. I believe that  
7 we need to reserve the resources that we have  
8 here in this community now, and expand and  
9 enhance those resources. I think that our  
10 students deserve better, and better means more  
11 opportunities. Thank you.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. LAURA CAVALLERI: All right everybody,  
14 let's get this going. Evening everyone, I'm  
15 Laure Cavalleri, PTA President 49 this year.  
16 When I came on as PTA President, it was really  
17 for the event of bringing parents together in  
18 this school, and to have it done in languages,  
19 because I knew there was a barrier gap in  
20 sharing it with languages in Spanish and in  
21 Asian.

22 Our school register, as of October 18th,  
23 there's 39.10 Hispanic, 11.40 Asian, 35.71  
24 black, and 12.90 white. We have a 47.12 percent  
25 girls, and 52.88 boys. So it's a 50/50 mix.

1           But I want to tell you that I am against  
2 co-locations. And it was David's own words that  
3 I found in a news article referencing his Queens  
4 school, I.S. 59, and it was a good article,  
5 because he's saying that he was happy to leave  
6 the co-location school because he couldn't make  
7 his culture of an all boys school in a co-ed  
8 location.

9           So this is what I was really hoping for,  
10 that our community can find a place for this  
11 program, like Eagle has in other boroughs. They  
12 have their 6-12 building. We need to do this  
13 for them.

14           Our north shore is changing, it's  
15 developing, I'm expecting new growth. This  
16 school supports the schools of P.S. 13 and  
17 Rosebank P.S. 39 on Sand Lanes, P.S. 46 on  
18 Mclean Lane, P.S. 57 Park Hill, Grymes Hill, and  
19 14 and 78 in Stapleton here. Our new families  
20 are coming in, we need room to grow with these  
21 families and support them.

22           I.S. 49 will stand to lose some of its  
23 resources, it will lose some students to the  
24 Eagle Academy, and with that it will lose  
25 enrollment and fundings to the school, so

1 support is needed in that.

2 If anything, if they have to come here, it  
3 would be like the Lavelle School going into 861.  
4 Lavelle was a charter school, the DOE Staten  
5 Island offered them a location while they were  
6 waiting for theirs, they moved into the K-8  
7 building on the south shore, yes, there were  
8 troubled times there, and it was hard to get  
9 along, but Lavelle did move out in two years and  
10 now has their own location.

11 If we need to take Eagle Academy because  
12 we're helping everyone of this community, then  
13 we will for two years. But then find them a  
14 location of their own. Our children can't be--  
15 our children of 49 need to be supported. Thank  
16 you.

17 [Applause]

18 MS. CHERYL MCMILLAN: Good evening. My name  
19 is Cheryl McMillan. Not only am I a staff  
20 member here, but I am a community member. My  
21 son also attended I.S. 49. And just to let you  
22 know, I'm glad to know that Staten Island  
23 Stapleton is no longer the forgotten borough, as  
24 so often we are.

25 However, our concerns, my concern in

1 particular, is that we've heard all the things  
2 that you've said about lack of resources, or our  
3 resources will be shared, and in and of itself,  
4 I believe Eagle Academy will be great for this  
5 community. That is not even an issue.

6 But the issue is, what about the students  
7 here? For so long we've been asking and needing  
8 assistance. Yay, yes, Eagle Academy, come on,  
9 come on, but if it's at the expense of our  
10 students not enjoying all the other things that  
11 Eagle Academy will offer, and I'm not saying  
12 that they won't, but I'm saying, nobody has put  
13 that out there to tell us how it will positively  
14 impact I.S. 49.

15 [Applause]

16 MS. C. MCMILLAN: Now, every single child  
17 deserves to have the best. Every child. And we  
18 are here and dedicated to give our children the  
19 best. Just show us what your Eagle Academy  
20 being here is going to do to all of us.

21 Because if one fails, all of us are going  
22 down. So if one is lifted up, then we all  
23 should be in the - - . So please, if this vote  
24 is going to happen anyway, please don't let that  
25 be so, but if this vote is going to happen

1        anyway, at least give us the data. Let us  
2        know and make us feel confident in what Eagle  
3        Academy is bringing to all of our children and  
4        all of this community.

5                I'm a part of this community, I work very  
6        hard in this community. And not only me, but a  
7        lot of other people who are here. So don't  
8        think for one moment that I'm against Eagle  
9        Academy, but it's not about me, it's about our  
10       children. All of our children.

11               [Applause]

12               [Background conversation]

13               MR. MARTIN KRONGOLD: All right, good  
14       evening folks. My name is Martin. I used to be  
15       on the Community Education Council and I've  
16       represented Staten Island, the High School  
17       Council, for a number of years.

18               Gosh, co-location, it's a very mixed  
19       blessing. Co-location, what kind of co-  
20       location? Let me just first say what I can add  
21       to this discussion.

22               Number one, I have visited Eagle Academy in  
23       a couple of boroughs. Staten Island needs the  
24       Eagle Academy.

25               AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Yes.

1 [Applause]

2 MR. KRONGOLD: Let me just throw out some  
3 things that I do know, and then you folks can  
4 ask questions later of course. I support--I  
5 don't support co-location. I support the Eagle  
6 Academy somewhere, because I don't--

7 [Applause]

8 MR. KRONGOLD: I don't trust the Department  
9 of Education to do a co-location well. If it  
10 does, if it does--

11 [Applause]

12 MR. KRONGOLD: --if it does, this community  
13 will love the Eagle Academy. It will love it.  
14 The I.S. 49 community will love it. The  
15 projects next door will embrace it. The  
16 community, the pastors, will embrace it. The  
17 students will do better.

18 But until we have a better idea how it's  
19 going to behave, I'm concerned that this vote  
20 coming in on Wednesday is already a fait  
21 accompli.

22 That said, let me explain what I do know.  
23 The Eagle Academy is an offshoot of 500 Black  
24 Men, a very positive organization in New York  
25 City that helps the African-American community,

1 and quite frankly, it helps the entire  
2 community, by creating positive relations in New  
3 York City and helps young men of color grow to  
4 be productive members of our community.

5 Where it has succeeded, it brings in private  
6 dollars to make the schools better. In the  
7 schools that I visited they wear uniforms, and  
8 they look like young men from the time they're  
9 in 6th grade. I mean, don't get me wrong,  
10 they're still 6th graders, but they look like  
11 young men starting quite young already.

12 You get kids that are this big, and you get  
13 kids that are this big. Staten Island needs the  
14 Eagle Academy, the north shore needs it. And I  
15 support it very strongly.

16 That said, if you read the EIS statement,  
17 they're going to be here for three years. Where  
18 the Department of Education has failed typically  
19 with co-locations, and most of them are very  
20 good and they work, they don't take into account  
21 what the administration of the school is  
22 thinking, what the students are thinking, what  
23 the parents are thinking.

24 Namely, kids starting lunch at 9:30 in the  
25 morning. We don't like that. Suddenly you

1 start sharing gymnasiums, and one group says  
2 "Well, how come they get it at those times and  
3 we don't?" And "How come they get that lab at a  
4 certain time and we don't?"

5 The harsh reality is that this school won't  
6 be too overcrowded, but it will get more  
7 crowded. You'll have to share. There will be a  
8 bunch of kids walking around with "I'm better"  
9 attitudes, wearing uniforms. It's going to  
10 cause problems.

11 What the Department of Education could do to  
12 make this process better is twofold in my  
13 opinion. Number one, be very flexible up front  
14 by saying the Eagle Academy will be here for up  
15 to three years, and it may leave and go to the  
16 former St. Peter's Boys School, which is where  
17 the talk is, is what I've been informed. After  
18 three years, then it will become a high school.  
19 Or we may or may not find another location.  
20 It's not etched in stone that they're going to  
21 be here for three years.

22 But until that happens, make the Department  
23 of Education pay, and make them pay, because  
24 there's enough money to do a co-location well.  
25 And that means, make certain that the SLT and

1 the Eagle Academy are always talking. Make  
2 certain that there is sharing of certain labs  
3 and classrooms.

4 There's nothing wrong with a person who is  
5 wearing a uniform or someone who's not wearing a  
6 uniform. As long as they're clean, everybody  
7 can get along. Boys and girls can get along.  
8 If you can mainstream special ed students two or  
9 three periods a day, you can mainstream boys and  
10 girls two or three periods a day.

11 And the whole symptom or the whole concept  
12 of boys only will not fall apart. As a matter  
13 of fact, it will help increase the respect boys  
14 have for girls, by being in classes with them  
15 sometimes. This shouldn't be an end all because  
16 it's an all boys school.

17 And the other thing it can do for the  
18 community is, spend some money on community-  
19 based groups, churches, other faith  
20 organizations, and get some people over there so  
21 they're doing work that connects Eagle Academy,  
22 I.S. 49, and the needs of this community, in  
23 education purposes, training purposes,  
24 afterschool activity, so work is being done over  
25 there.

1           And you know what I mean, right outside  
2 this building, in the projects, as much as  
3 possible, so the Eagle Academy is not some  
4 foreign entity coming and swooping down, saying  
5 "We're better, we're here", okay? Integrate  
6 Eagle Academy with the school and this  
7 community.

8           And wherever it ends up, whether it's here  
9 part time or here full time, the community will  
10 respect it and appreciate its entrance into  
11 Staten Island north shore. Thanks a lot.

12           [Applause]

13           MS. GORMAN: We've now concluded the formal  
14 presentations. We want to recognize Shannon  
15 Watkins, who is here from Senator Savino's  
16 office, to listen to your comments. Please  
17 thank the Senator on our behalf.

18           At this time we're going to ask that the  
19 four students who signed up to speak line up at  
20 the mic. A couple of ground rules. I want to  
21 remind--who is the timekeeper? There is a chair  
22 in front of you with a timekeeper, if you would  
23 pay attention. Each person who speaks has two  
24 minutes. You'll be given 30 seconds warning.  
25 They can just line up.

1 [Background conversation]

2 MS. GORMAN: They have two minutes to speak,  
3 they'll be given a 30-second warning. They will  
4 also be told when their time is up, you can  
5 finish your thought, okay? If you don't get a  
6 chance to finish, you can give me your comments  
7 and they'll still become part of the public  
8 record. That's true for adults as well as  
9 students.

10 I also want to remind you that the two  
11 minutes includes clapping time, so as other  
12 schools can tell you, one of the things we've  
13 done at other hearings, if you agree with the  
14 comment, wave. If you don't agree, cross your  
15 hands. It doesn't take away from the speaker's  
16 time, and it still is recognized.

17 So at this time we want to thank our  
18 students who are putting themselves out there,  
19 and please give your full name when you begin  
20 speaking.

21 MR. ADHAM AHMED: Good evening ladies and  
22 gentleman, my name is Adham Ahmed. I'm in Class  
23 A10 here at Berta A. Dreyfus I.S. 49. This is  
24 my final year here, and for the past two, I've  
25 always told myself that this school will forever

1 have a place in my life.

2           Unfortunately, as we all know, a co-location  
3 with Eagle Academy may occur before the  
4 beginning of next year, and this brings up a  
5 cold fact in my head. This school that has  
6 provided so much for me may never be the same  
7 again.

8           I spend a lot of time here, and I can stand  
9 for all of you today and say that I've benefited  
10 from every second of it. I remember walking for  
11 the first time through the doors of I.S. 49, and  
12 how I had no clue what was in store for me, but  
13 as the days went on, this school became a second  
14 home for me.

15           I've been taught by some of the greatest  
16 teachers you could ask for. From the  
17 traditional whiteboard classroom to the new  
18 modern technology of School of One and I Learn.  
19 It's safe to say that I've been taught at my own  
20 personal pace, as have all of my classmates.

21           I want my eight-year-old sister to be given  
22 that opportunity. I want anyone to experience  
23 learning in this wonderful environment, the  
24 environment of I.S. 49.

25           I know of Eagle Academy's success, and I

1 respect their goals of teaching. However, I  
2 do not believe it needs to co-locate here in our  
3 school. Take for example St. Mary, an  
4 absolutely building, vacant and up for grabs.  
5 Or St. Sylvester, another great school that has  
6 been closed. I know St. Joseph on St. Mary's  
7 Avenue is also an available option for Eagle  
8 Academy.

9 The idea of opening a school is not  
10 satisfactory, as Mr. Sam has already stated,  
11 Concord High School on Ryan Avenue is not too  
12 far from here, and it's not densely populated;  
13 maybe a little less than 150 students in one  
14 large building.

15 Should Eagle Academy open a branch here in  
16 Staten Island? Maybe. Does it really have to  
17 be at I.S. 49? Definitely not. I stand with  
18 all of you today supporting I.S. 49 and  
19 protesting the co-location of Eagle Academy. We  
20 are helping save the school that has for over 40  
21 years been dedicated to helping transform people  
22 in young, hard working adults. As long as we do  
23 anything in our power to help I.S. 49, our  
24 younger brothers, sisters, cousins, and all  
25 younger friends, neighbors and family members,

1 will have a chance to experience an amazing  
2 junior high school education. Tonight we stand  
3 united as I.S. 49.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. GORMAN: Thank you. Kaitlyn, you may  
6 begin. You may begin Kaitlyn.

7 MS. KAITLYN WOOD: My name is Kaitlyn, and I  
8 am in--and I'm Class 610, so this school has  
9 been a team. And when I say that this school is  
10 a team, I mean that we stick together as a team.  
11 We will help our teammates out. We won't give  
12 up as a team, and most importantly, we will  
13 fight together as a team. If you co-locate our  
14 team, then that team won't be as strong anymore.

15 I've been waiting to get into this school  
16 ever since my brother was here. My brother came  
17 to this school four years ago as a 6th grader.  
18 Ever since I walked through those doors and met  
19 these wonderful people and staff members, I knew  
20 that I would enjoy it here.

21 Now I can't really enjoy it here that much  
22 if there's going to be this many people here,  
23 and we're going to have to share all of our new  
24 stuff that we just got, and everything else that  
25 we own and have.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. GORMAN: Thank you. Anya? Are you  
3 Anya? You may begin.

4 MS. ANYA HACENE: My name is Anya Hacene,  
5 and I go to I.S. 49 in Class 610, an honor  
6 class. We shouldn't have co-location. Walking  
7 from class to class with strangers makes it feel  
8 like an unsafe environment. We might lose the  
9 third floor, having less space. And sharing the  
10 gym will give us less room for either girls or  
11 boys. They might already have other co-  
12 locations, so they can just share those.

13 Our old teachers might also get removed from  
14 I.S. 49 using force. In 2014-2015 school year,  
15 we could lose our new science lab or School of  
16 One room. Many students don't even want co-  
17 location because it makes this school kind of  
18 less exciting.

19 What about females? Yes, parents and  
20 Department of Education, there will be less  
21 females, and students, also known as girls, you  
22 might want an equal amount of boys and girls,  
23 and you may feel uncomfortable.

24 Also, the money goes to Eagle Academy. We  
25 are already on debt, so we don't need another

1 school. That will make more debt. So now I  
2 hope you support our school for no co-location.  
3 Thank you for taking your time for listening.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. GORMAN: Althea. Althea, are you out  
6 there? You may begin.

7 MS. ALTHEA BATA: Hi, I'm Althea Bata from  
8 Class 610. I have a lot of questions that  
9 filled my mind about this co-location. I was  
10 wondering about the students, what will they  
11 think of this Eagle Academy that's going to come  
12 into our school? What will they think of them?  
13 Will they think negatively or positively?

14 I was hoping that students would have a  
15 different change of heart at this thing. I was  
16 hoping that people would not like this co-  
17 location idea, because it brings a new school  
18 into our school.

19 Our school is our school. We, a lot of  
20 students, have been here, and they have known  
21 their school for some time. Being a 6th grade,  
22 I didn't know a lot about the school yet, and  
23 I'm hoping that I'll be able to learn more about  
24 the school, with other students from this  
25 school.

1 MS. GORMAN: Thank you, Althea.

2 [Applause]

3 MS. GORMAN: I'm going to let all the  
4 students hold up their sign one time.

5 [Applause]

6 MS. GORMAN: Now you can sit down. Now the  
7 students can sit down and the signs can come  
8 down. I wanted to tell the four students,  
9 you're represented yourself, you've represented  
10 your school and community very well, and you  
11 have set a very high bar for the community  
12 members and the parents that are going to speak  
13 after you, and teachers.

14 We are now ready to call up the first five  
15 adult speakers. The first person is Susanne,  
16 she will speak first, and the other four may  
17 come to the front and sit, and be ready. This  
18 is speakers 2, 3, 4 and 5. The first speaker is  
19 Susanne Abramowitz. Susanne, we're ready for  
20 you to begin.

21 MS. SUSANNE ABRAMOWITZ: My name is Susanne  
22 Abramowitz. I am the COSA math teacher, and in  
23 charge of all 8th grade activities at Dreyfus  
24 I.S. 49. I'm in my 26th year of teaching, 13 at  
25 Dreyfus. In 48 hours a vote on the proposal to

1 have my school co-locate with the Eagle  
2 Academy will be taken.

3 According to Charlotte Danielson's Framework  
4 for Teaching Domain 3B, it says "We as educators  
5 need to use advanced questioning and discussion  
6 techniques." I believe this panel has not had  
7 any discussions with the teachers you see here,  
8 not with any parents you see here, and  
9 definitely not with any students you see here.

10 And our students are the one your decision  
11 will impact the most. Ask any 8th grader,  
12 including our self-contained special ed classes,  
13 how they feel about being able to learn in our  
14 new state-of-the-art science lab. Ask the same  
15 students how they feel about being in a foreign  
16 language class and getting a heads up before  
17 they take the same foreign language class in  
18 high school. Ask our students who may not have  
19 access to a computer or internet in their homes  
20 about the technology they receive in this  
21 building.

22 You have forgotten to ask the opinions of  
23 the parents sitting here, and the parents that  
24 were not able to be here, because they work two  
25 jobs, or they have younger siblings at home,

1 what their opinions are about co-location.

2 Ask our parents how wonderful it was to be a  
3 part of "Take your Dads to School Day." We had  
4 a standing room only turnout. Ask our ARISTA  
5 students how proud they were to see a standing  
6 room only crowd at their induction ceremony.  
7 Ask our hard-working staff how wonderful it was  
8 to see students and parents together enjoying  
9 our math fair, that showed the collaboration  
10 between the math, arts, science and technology.

11 We had enormous turnout at our high school  
12 information night two weeks ago. Ask our  
13 students how great it was to shatter our own  
14 fundraising records by over \$1,000 to help fight  
15 leukemia, and be one of ten fundraisers in  
16 Staten Island.

17 Councilman Debi Rose, as recently as three  
18 days ago, on October 25th, 2013, stated to the  
19 Staten Island - - that she and educators, and I  
20 quote this, "Have a shared vision of smaller  
21 class sizes, and the elimination of school co-  
22 location in overcrowded schools."

23 MS. GORMAN: Thank you very much.

24 MS. ABRAMOWITZ: I.S. 49--you said I could  
25 finish my statement.

1 MS. GORMAN: Finish your statement.

2 MS. ABRAMOWITZ: I.S. 49 is not overcrowded.  
3 You say underutilized, we say we utilize our  
4 building the best way possible for all our  
5 students. The programs we offer would not work  
6 as wonderfully as they do now if we co-locate  
7 with any school. Please believe in our staff,  
8 believe in our parents, and believe in our  
9 students. Thank you.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. GORMAN: Please begin. Please begin.  
12 Ma'am, please begin.

13 MS. VERONICA FITZGERALD: My name is  
14 Veronica Fitzgerald. I'm a parent here, as well  
15 as part of the community. Our children cannot  
16 lose. I have a daughter here, all you're  
17 talking about is boys, boys, boys, men, men,  
18 men. What about the girls? What do they lose?  
19 They lose everything.

20 Not only that, but we'll lose staff. You're  
21 going to cut out classes, you're going to cut  
22 out children that work hard. I don't see you  
23 going to I.S. 75, I don't see you going to I.S.  
24 34, I don't see you going out to the Teleport.  
25 Why can't you go to Lavelle Prep, where they're

1 already suited for your needs?

2 I'm sure we all know that Marsh Avenue  
3 didn't good its first year out, it all had its  
4 quirks. Every prep school has its quirks, but  
5 we don't need it here. We have our children, we  
6 need to take care of what we have here.

7 Ms. Hill and her staff has been amazing, and  
8 made it look simple, but it's not. It's a hard  
9 job, one that I don't see too many people  
10 accomplishing. Don't pull apart what we have  
11 going. Come help us, yes, but don't bring in  
12 people we don't know.

13 How do we trust these people? How do we  
14 trust where they're coming from? I just got  
15 snubbed by a woman giving out flyers from the  
16 Eagle, then she walked right past me and  
17 wouldn't give it to me. Why? What am I, so  
18 different from her people that she couldn't give  
19 me a flyer?

20 This shows me what we're coming into, this  
21 shows me what's coming into our building. And I  
22 say our building because I live here. This is  
23 my community. I don't see anybody else. Where  
24 are they? Are they here for rallies, are they  
25 here to help Ms. Hill? Are they here to help

1       our staff? Are they here to volunteer? Are  
2       they with our PTA President, raising money for  
3       our children?

4               I don't see them doing anything for anybody,  
5       except coming in and taking over, like they did  
6       in Brooklyn. From what I understand, they came  
7       in and they pushed those children around.

8               And another thing, wasn't it a situation  
9       where a child disappeared from a co-existing  
10      school, because they couldn't keep an eye on the  
11      doors? They couldn't keep an eye on things?  
12      Who thought who had the door? But yet we don't  
13      have enough - -

14              [Applause]

15              MS. GORMAN: Thank you very much. You can  
16      begin. Mr. Portelos is number 3. You may  
17      begin.

18              MR. FRANCESCO PORTELOS: Thank you. If it's  
19      okay, I'd like to face this way, the crowd.

20              MS. GORMAN: Sure.

21              MR. PORTELOS: I'd like to commend you for  
22      coming here tonight, because whether you're for  
23      or against the co-location, you care. There's  
24      plenty of shows on TV tonight, you know that,  
25      but you're here, for or against Eagle Academy.

1           My name is Francesco Portelos. I am a  
2 father of two boys in the community. My  
3 youngest son has just turned one, so it's going  
4 to be a while until he's zoned for this school,  
5 but I'd like to take a head start. The oldest  
6 one is two and a half, and he's definitely in  
7 his terrible twos, he's driving us crazy, he's a  
8 troublemaker, like his father, and I'm sure  
9 Eagle Academy might be great for him. I welcome  
10 Eagle Academy into the community, I swear I do.  
11 I live in Rosebank, I can walk to my house in  
12 ten minutes.

13           I'm coming here as a father. I want to see  
14 the best for this community, that's always been  
15 the plan. You've got to understand though, this  
16 community has seen neglect. You can't disagree  
17 with that. Neglect for years. That's why we're  
18 here. Underutilized? The zoning of this  
19 community has gone up in population. Why are we  
20 going from 1,200 students to 830? And why is it  
21 taking so long for someone to do something about  
22 it?

23           I mean, if had a restaurant and I saw that  
24 the customers kept dwindling, wouldn't I do  
25 something, and not wait for it to just dwindle

1 down? But this isn't a restaurant, this isn't  
2 food. We're talking about education of kids.  
3 In 2011 we were named "School Gone Wild."  
4 Whether you agree with it or not, we had 976  
5 incidents. The next year, you know the help we  
6 got? 1,283 incidents. Where was the help?  
7 Neglect.

8 Eagle Academy, you're welcome here to the  
9 community, I just don't think it's the right fit  
10 inside this school. Thank you.

11 MS. GORMAN: Thank you.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. GORMAN: Could numbers--Wilson Mohr.  
14 And could numbers 10 through 15 please come  
15 down.

16 MR. WILSON MOHR: Thank you, good evening.  
17 My name is Wilson Mohr, and I was born and  
18 raised just a few short blocks from this school.  
19 My family attended I.S. 49, and when I graduated  
20 from college, I wanted to return to my community  
21 and be a teacher here.

22 I've been a teacher here at this wonderful  
23 school for well over 30 years. I'm not here to  
24 speak to you about data, facts, publicity,  
25 politics or anything like that. I'm here to

1 speak to you about my school and my community  
2 from my heart.

3 In a novel by Jonathan Foer, one of the  
4 characters said in this, about the Empire State  
5 Building, "I know this building because I love  
6 this building." This statement caused me to  
7 think about the co-location of Eagle Academy  
8 into I.S. 49, and about the relationship between  
9 love and knowledge.

10 Whenever we love something we get to know  
11 everything about it, both good and bad. When  
12 you take a job at I.S. 49, Linda Hill says to  
13 you, famously, when you get a job here, you know  
14 what you're getting into. So we love this  
15 school, because we know this school. We love  
16 this community, because we know this community.

17 I'm a fan of the Eagle Academy, I think it's  
18 an excellent program. I'm for any program that  
19 will benefit both children academically and  
20 socially, whether it's for girls, boys,  
21 whatever. But not here in I.S. 49.

22 I strongly believe that Eagle Academy can  
23 relocate somewhere in this community, but not in  
24 the school that we know and we love. I feel the  
25 addition of this program, while benefitting a

1 segment of the population, will really upset  
2 the delicate balance that we have established at  
3 the school.

4 We have 320 students here, or 40% of our  
5 population, are students with disabilities or  
6 ELL students. They would be greatly affected by  
7 any type of co-location in here.

8 So again, we love this school, we love this  
9 community. I know this school, I know this  
10 community, please do not co-locate here.

11 One more thing. I would like all my hard-  
12 working colleagues and administration, could you  
13 please stand up? I want all my teachers right  
14 now to stand up. These people are amazing and  
15 do a great job every day.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. GORMAN: Thank you. Tina Colucci. Tina  
18 Colucci. And would numbers 10, 11, 12, 13 and  
19 14 please come down and be seated. Ms. Colucci,  
20 you can begin.

21 MS. TINA COLUCCI: Hello, good evening to  
22 everybody. My name is Tina Colucci. I am the  
23 PTA President from P.S. 16. We are also facing  
24 the same situation you are. The DOE wants to  
25 co-locate P.S. 16 just like your school, and our

1 school is totally against it and wants to back  
2 you too.

3 I oppose the proposal for I.S. 49 to be co-  
4 located with the Eagle Academy for Young Men  
5 because it is unfair to the girls of this  
6 community. First I think it sends the wrong  
7 message to our young girls in this community,  
8 that they are third class citizens, and don't  
9 deserve the same advantages in learning as the  
10 boys of the community.

11 I think Eagle Academy is a great school, but  
12 if you're going to create an academy, there  
13 should be an academy for girls and boys. You  
14 should not exclude just one gender. We need a  
15 school for the whole community.

16 I also feel that the boys of this community  
17 will also be denied the full education of the  
18 program, just like P.S. 16, who was gifted the  
19 dual language program nine years ago, and the  
20 DOE still hasn't come through with their promise  
21 to give our families the whole program, K-12,  
22 and now Staten Island has four other schools,  
23 and they have never come through for our school  
24 yet. So we have graduated out three classes and  
25 these parents are disappointed.

1           It angers me that the DOE purchased St.  
2 Mary's and the Immaculate Conception school  
3 buildings, totally renovated them, and put them  
4 up for charter schools to take them. Why can't  
5 we put Eagle Academy in one of those buildings,  
6 for our children of the community?

7           [Applause]

8           MS. COLUCCI: Our borough is always the  
9 forgotten borough, and every other borough has  
10 this programs, but not Staten Island. Thank  
11 you.

12          MS. GORMAN: Thank you.

13          [Applause]

14          MS. GORMAN: Number--can we please have 10  
15 through 14 here, down here? Please, 10, 11, 12,  
16 13 and 14. And number 10, Kelly Vilar, you may  
17 begin.

18          MS. KELLY VILAR: Good evening. I'm a  
19 parent here on Staten Island. My son is in the  
20 6th grade. One of the things I wanted to say,  
21 first of all, is that Eagle Academy, and we've  
22 heard it over and over, is a great school. 100%  
23 of their graduating students go to college.  
24 Enough said. We should be fighting to get  
25 Eagle Academy here. Whether it be here in 49,

1       whatever, but it needs to be here. And that's  
2       what we need to be fighting for. That's the  
3       bigger issue. That we need to have resources  
4       like that.

5               We can't say let's not have that resource  
6       because we don't have it on that side of the  
7       street, and this side--we've got to start  
8       getting them all here.

9               So I think that this whole problem is a  
10       leadership thing. It is a leadership problem.  
11       And we need to start changing that. And it's  
12       wonderful that we have young people here  
13       speaking their mind, but one of the things that  
14       we need, as adults, to do is stop fighting. And  
15       we need to be talking about not co-location,  
16       we've got to start talking about collaboration,  
17       and work together.

18               And how do you get Eagle Academy here? How  
19       do you do that? How do you do that? How do you  
20       be the grownup? How do you go and you start  
21       leading people? We are definitely a community,  
22       and I have been living here for more than 25  
23       years, and we are a community that definitely  
24       needs a resource like Eagle Academy.

25               And we need to have more than just a couple

1 of people up here taking on leadership. We  
2 need to have people in our community here  
3 talking about it also. But we are definitely a  
4 community that needs a resource like that.  
5 Thank you.

6 MS. GORMAN: So let me remind you of  
7 something. This--thank you, ma'am. This  
8 hearing is to hear all points of view. People  
9 who are in favor of the co-location and people  
10 who are not. That's the way a public hearing  
11 is. We have different perspectives. We aren't  
12 going to be booing people. If you disagree,  
13 there's a way we said you can vocalize that,  
14 just like you do when you agree. But we're  
15 going to maintain respect for each speaker.

16 Number 11, you may begin. I'm sorry, I  
17 can't pronounce your name.

18 MS. GEORGINA WINFIELD: It's Goergina  
19 Winfield.

20 MS. GORMAN: Thank you.

21 MS. WINFIELD: Okay. I am a member of the  
22 community. I've had two children that graduated  
23 from this school, and now I have a 6th grader  
24 who just started this school. And I reflect  
25 back, and I was just speaking about it, I

1 reflect on how this school was when I first  
2 moved to the community. And I wasn't quite  
3 comfortable with it at that time, but as time  
4 has progressed, the school has changed, all  
5 right?

6 I'm not saying I'm for the co-location, I'm  
7 not saying I'm not for the co-location, but what  
8 I am saying, if it's going to better the  
9 community, then it needs to happen. But my view  
10 of it is if the administration, like the woman  
11 just said, if you all can work together, along  
12 with this, then maybe it would be a positive  
13 aspect to the school.

14 However, and my son is terrified of this  
15 school, of this academy coming to this school,  
16 and I don't know why he's terrified by this. I  
17 don't know what's being said to him to make him  
18 feel this way, but I'm going to speak the  
19 management and the principal and all the  
20 teachers, be mindful of what you are saying to  
21 our children. Be very mindful. Because my son  
22 is terrified about what's going to happen when  
23 this other school comes in here, and I don't--  
24 and like I explained to him, it's nothing to be  
25 scared about, especially when it comes down to

1 change and it's going to benefit you. As long  
2 as you continue to doing what you're doing, and  
3 as long as I'm alive, he has nothing to be  
4 scared of.

5 But what I'm saying again, and I'm going to  
6 close, that be mindful how you speak to our  
7 children, okay? 'Cause you got the 6th  
8 graders, and he's in the 6th grade, he's in a  
9 new environment, he's meeting new people, he's  
10 doing new things, and he's scared because this  
11 academy is coming in.

12 MS. GORMAN: Thank you.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. GORMAN: Edward Lloyd. Mr. Lloyd, you  
15 can begin

16 MR. EDWARD LLOYD: Good evening. My name is  
17 Edward Lloyd. I'm a United States veteran, both  
18 Marine Corps and Army, 12 1/2 years I spent,  
19 semper fi. I'm a product of this community.  
20 I've been here for a while. My brothers  
21 graduate from here and they're going about their  
22 lives. I'm back because of illness with my dad,  
23 so I'm back here for a while.

24 But I have my son, my son he goes this  
25 school, Edward Lloyd Jr., and I always have to

1 say, how about the queen of the house? The  
2 queen of the house. The queen of the house, the  
3 principal, Ms. Hill, she have to have control of  
4 the whole entire school, for one.

5 Second of all, I don't like to quote Bible  
6 verses in a public hearing, but the word of G-d  
7 said "Be careful who you entertain, because you  
8 may be entertaining an angel, and if you're not  
9 entertaining an angel, what you entertaining?"

10 Second of all, we have to be mindful that  
11 the wording that they used. They said troubled  
12 children. Troubled children in an academy.  
13 That already brings--and as a criminal justice  
14 major, my undergrad in criminal justice, let's  
15 look at the realization at these things. What  
16 is the statistics of them; touching little  
17 girls, or touching the opposite sex, or do  
18 anything, or your child getting pulled into the  
19 bathroom, the restroom. Look at the realization  
20 at these things. Excuse me, I'm kind of  
21 nervous.

22 But let's look at this stuff. What's going  
23 to happen to your boys and your girls in this  
24 school? Are they going to be touched, are they  
25 going to be fondled with? What's going to

1 happen you know? Co-location is good, but as  
2 a community we need to work together, but I  
3 don't think that co-location within this school  
4 is good, but change for blacks, whites, no  
5 matter who you are, you know.

6 And as a male coming from all male units in  
7 the military, I feel kind of opposed to this,  
8 because I know I felt some type of way when  
9 females, when I got around females. But when I  
10 got around the females I started to act  
11 different, because as a male--in my closing--as  
12 a male, I felt like that I was over them, in the  
13 sense--in the - - of the realization of all  
14 things, that we was all equal.

15 So I tell everyone to be mindful of  
16 everything that they do.

17 MS. GORMAN: Thank you.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. GORMAN: Would numbers through 17 please  
20 come down. Numbers through 17. Reverend, you  
21 may begin.

22 REV. K. BARRETT LAYNE: Good evening. I  
23 just want to speak to the issue of having worked  
24 in a co-located school scenario, single-sex  
25 environment middle school, much like what

1 you're faced with here.

2 And I was part of the school experience, and  
3 there was dwindling enrollment, and there was  
4 failure to meet AYP over several years, and the  
5 co-location was part of a restructuring process  
6 and restricting plan. And so, as the school--as  
7 opposed to closing the school, there was a co-  
8 location.

9 The results of the co-location were, as the  
10 woman said earlier, the administration worked  
11 together and it is a leadership issue. The  
12 leadership worked together and they worked  
13 collaboratively with the original school being  
14 the primary--having the primary responsibility  
15 of what was going to happen in the building.  
16 They were primarily responsible for scheduling  
17 use of shared space, and the safety plan issues.

18 The primary school became more proactive as  
19 a result of this co-location, and they were  
20 proactive about servicing and recruiting  
21 students. As a result, the original school  
22 began seeing an increase, major increases, in  
23 the population in their school. There were  
24 major increases in student performance, student  
25 scores, student--English language, arts and math

1 scores. There was a major improvement in  
2 attendance. And ultimately that original school  
3 became one of the schools on a list of schools  
4 that was offering the highly coveted  
5 superintendent's class, where admittance to that  
6 program was by exam.

7 And so, that enrollment that was once  
8 dwindling saw increases and it bought more  
9 resources as a result of the increases in the  
10 original school. So co-location is a factor  
11 that can work, and will work, if individuals  
12 work together. Thank you.

13 MS. GORMAN: Thank you very much.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. GORMAN: Ms. Maw, you can begin.

16 MS. KAYTHARI MAW: Hi, my name's Kaythari  
17 Maw, and I'm a former I.S. 49 student. I was  
18 valedictorian of Class 2013. And for three  
19 years I have loved this school. And for three  
20 years, in the announcements I've always heard,  
21 we've learned, growed and succeeded together.

22 At this school I have had many  
23 opportunities. I've learned so much. And now  
24 that there's going to be a co-location, I'm  
25 worried about my future graduates, and I wonder

1       how they're going to succeed and how it's  
2       going to affect our future. Because the kids  
3       are our future. So it really does affect.

4               So yeah, from our three years in middle  
5       school, I wouldn't have picked any other middle  
6       school. And we--let's face it, we--the hallways  
7       are crowded. And if there is going to be  
8       another middle--if there is going to be another  
9       middle school it's going to be very crowded.

10              And the students here, we've come together,  
11       we've made Facebook pages, we made posters, and  
12       even I'm not in this school anymore, and I care  
13       about this school. And we really support  
14       having--we really support opposing this co-  
15       location. Thank you.

16              MS. GORMAN: Thank you very much. Marie.  
17       Marie, you may begin as soon as you are ready.  
18       Marie? That's fine.

19              MS. MARIE BOROIVA: Hi, my name is Marie  
20       Boroiva, I have my daughter coming to this  
21       school. I'm just curious about my safety. I  
22       come from a war country, and I just want to tell  
23       jury to listen to the parents, because we think  
24       America is safe, so we want our children to be  
25       safe too.

1           So hear the voice of the parents, please.  
2           We don't need this Eagle Academy in this  
3           building. Let them find somewhere to go.  
4           Please, hear the voice of the parents.

5           MS. GORMAN: Thank you very much.

6           [Applause]

7           MS. GORMAN: Miguel?

8           MR. MOHAMED S. KABBA: Thank you very much.  
9           My name is Mohamed S. Kabba, I'm from Africa, as  
10          you know. One thing I want to touch on here is,  
11          all the teachers that were sitting here said  
12          that they don't want co-location of the other  
13          school here. So that's very important. And we  
14          should realize that the principal and the staff  
15          has worked very hard for this school to grow how  
16          it is today.

17          So I think if there's a co-location here, it  
18          will bring conflict within the principals. What  
19          I mean is that this school is meant for our own  
20          kids, and if they are other people coming in  
21          here, the learning process will be slow. The  
22          learning process will be slow.

23          So I want everybody on the panel to even  
24          think about that. And the resources that are  
25          given to the school will be shared amongst - - .

1 Thank you very much.

2 [Applause]

3 MS. GORMAN: Thank you. Is number 16 here,  
4 Miguel Rodriguez?

5 MR. MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. In late  
6 June the principal of I.S. 49, Ms. Hill, was  
7 notified by the DOE that a co-location of a high  
8 school was being proposed for this building.  
9 Somewhere between the end of July and the  
10 beginning of September, Chancellor Walcott and  
11 DOE amended said proposal and replaced the high  
12 school with the Eagle Academy, a grade 6-12  
13 school.

14 I bring this up because in both cases the  
15 proposal presented to this community said  
16 nothing on how either of these schools would  
17 have helped the students of I.S. 49. In the  
18 case of the Eagle Academy, I've been told  
19 numerous times that the director of the academy  
20 wanted to find a way to get on Staten Island.  
21 And this proposal is evidence of that affect.

22 Unfortunately, because the DOE is rushing  
23 this proposal, it does not even have a location  
24 of where the grade 9-12 classes will be held in  
25 the future. These children are in need of real

1 help. They deserve the DOE's best. And  
2 instead of forcing a second school into this  
3 building, perhaps the DOE should consider  
4 utilizing the space available in two ways:

5 One, allow Principal Hill the opportunity to  
6 hire qualified teachers, either new hires or  
7 from the ATR program, in order to decrease class  
8 size in both ELA and math. Which is one of the  
9 major things that the Eagle Academy has. They  
10 say their class size - - I believe is 20, I  
11 don't remember the exact number, but they have  
12 small classes sizes.

13 Once elected the DOE should increase I.S.  
14 49's budget in order to continue funding their  
15 salaries. So I don't want to hear the following  
16 year you take away their money, and now you have  
17 to cut staff.

18 Number two. While smaller classes are  
19 important, there is more which needs to be done.  
20 Many children in this community unfortunately  
21 experience a lot of personal hardships. These  
22 hardships create feelings of despair and defeat  
23 that affects them not just academically, but for  
24 the rest of their lives. It helps create the  
25 perception that no matter what they do, the odds

1 are against them being successful.

2 For these reasons, additional space should  
3 be utilized for in-house therapists. These  
4 therapists, in conjunction with the help of the  
5 guidance counselor, will identify students who  
6 would benefit greatly from one-on-one therapy.  
7 This therapy will help build their confidence.  
8 As a result, not only will they do better in  
9 school, but this confidence will stay with them  
10 throughout their lives.

11 MS. GORMAN: Thank you.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very much.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. GORMAN: Would numbers 18, 20, 21 and 22  
15 please come down. 18 is Tammy Greer Brown.  
16 There is no 19, so it's 18, 20, 21 and 22.

17 MS. TAMMY GREER BROWN: There's a parent  
18 that wants to speak. Is it okay for her to  
19 speak with me?

20 MS. GORMAN: With you, but between you you  
21 have two minutes.

22 MS. GREER BROWN: That's fine.

23 MS. GORMAN: Okay.

24 MS. GREER BROWN: I'm just going to say  
25 quick, I'm a supporter of the Eagle Academy

1 coming to this school, being on Staten Island,  
2 even if it's a temporary situation. And as far  
3 as safety and concerns, I have never seen the  
4 most well-disciplined, structured, respectful  
5 boys in my entire life.

6 You will not have to worry about what  
7 they're going to do with your girls, you will  
8 not have to worry about what they're going to do  
9 with the teachers. As a matter of fact, they  
10 will probably influence other parents to want  
11 their children to go to this school.

12 I went to the opening, it is the most  
13 amazing thing to ever see, young black males who  
14 are not graduating, black males and Latino males  
15 who are not graduating from this community, from  
16 high school, from high school, at large rates--  
17 let's be real now, the graduation rate is below  
18 50% on Staten Island. You're talking about a  
19 school who's been out for five years and have a  
20 95% graduation rate.

21 I understand what you're saying, but you're  
22 not giving it a chance. And I don't see many  
23 people who live across the street here, talking  
24 about what they want.

25 MS. GORMAN: You need to--

1 MS. MARGARET HARPER: Hello, my name is  
2 Margaret Harper. I worked in this school when I  
3 went to college as a teaching scholar. I love  
4 this school. I love this school. I've been a  
5 foster mom since 2004, I've had a lot of young  
6 men in my home that needed help, and I was there  
7 to give it to them. I wasn't afraid of them.

8 We're talking about young men, not even men,  
9 young boys. I want my son to go to Eagle  
10 Academy. He's now in the 4th grade. I'm  
11 preparing him for something great. Eagle  
12 Academy is a great school. He is not--my boy--  
13 there's nothing wrong with him, he's not a  
14 troubled boy, he's a good boy, and I want him to  
15 stay that way.

16 That's why I want a school like Eagle  
17 Academy in this community. This is not your  
18 community or your community or your community,  
19 this is our community. And what I've been  
20 hearing tonight is my, my, my, me, me, me, my,  
21 what I want. What about the community? The  
22 community at large.

23 A lot of those parents are not here because  
24 they don't feel like they're educated enough to  
25 speak, or whatever, for their children, but

1 somebody has to. We cannot use our children  
2 to separate other children. We cannot do that.  
3 It's not right.

4 And you talk about money. If you don't  
5 spend the money now to educate them, you will  
6 spend triple the amount to keep them in prisons.  
7 And then you'll be complaining about how unsafe  
8 our streets are. Come on now. We have to come  
9 together. We cannot separate. It's not about  
10 separation, it's about integration. It's about  
11 us coming together. This is 2013, we should not  
12 be arguing like this about our children.

13 MS. GORMAN: Thank you.

14 [Applause and booing]

15 MS. GORMAN: Councilwoman Debi Rose has  
16 joined us. Would you like to speak at this  
17 time? And then we'll be followed by the  
18 remaining public speakers. Thank you for  
19 joining us.

20 COUNCILWOMAN DEBI ROSE: Good evening. I'm  
21 sorry that we are here. Once again, once again,  
22 DOE is pitting families, friends, neighbors and  
23 communities against each other, without regard  
24 for what is best for all of our children.

25 This hearing is about a good model being

1 placed in the wrong location.

2 [Applause]

3 COUNCILWOMAN ROSE: No, no, no, because I  
4 want you to hear all of it. You know, once  
5 again, the short-sighted planning of DOE has  
6 created a mess. This proposal has created a  
7 quagmire for me, because the Eagle Academy is a  
8 great model, and I believe in its merits.

9 And for full disclosure, I need to tell you,  
10 I've been working for years to bring--to help  
11 this community bring an Eagle Academy to Staten  
12 Island, and especially in my district.

13 [Applause]

14 COUNCILWOMAN ROSE: But I believe that once  
15 again the DOE is being short-sighted, because  
16 this is not the right location. I do not  
17 understand why DOE would try to force this  
18 wonderful, successful program into a school that  
19 has been through challenges, but has found  
20 success on its own.

21 Since 2003, hundreds of schools have been  
22 co-located, and they have been effectuated  
23 across New York City, including on Staten Island  
24 and in my district. Sowing confusion,  
25 frustration, discontent, and draining resources

1 for our students, teachers, and our parents.

2 For this reason I have consistently been  
3 against the policy, and in fact, I have  
4 sponsored a resolution, Resolution 1395 in the  
5 New York City Council, calling for a moratorium  
6 on school closings and co-locations.

7 [Applause]

8 COUNCILWOMAN ROSE: In order to study the  
9 impact of these polices on communities in the  
10 city. In particular, if this practice is having  
11 a disparate impact on low-income communities,  
12 communities of color, disabled students and  
13 homeless students.

14 I am against this policy for very basic,  
15 practical reasons. First, co-locations have  
16 been implemented regardless of school capacity,  
17 in an overcrowded school this can lead to  
18 serious disruption of space utilization, and in  
19 the case of I.S. 49, parents and students have  
20 spoken with me about their concern regarding  
21 serious crowding in the hallways between  
22 classes.

23 Next, in order to accommodate the incoming  
24 school, the whole school inevitably has to give  
25 up classroom space. And finally, access to

1 common spaces, such as the auditorium, the  
2 gym, cafeteria, science lab or library. They  
3 may become restricted or may be lack of access  
4 because of co-location.

5 As a council member, I have allocated funds  
6 for some of these very resources, specifically  
7 for the benefit of the students attending I.S.  
8 49. I would have to review whether this limited  
9 student access in any way would be a violation  
10 of the intended use of my funds, and determine  
11 if there's a legal action to be considered.

12 But we have a story at I.S. 49 of a school  
13 in flux. For many years it was a struggling  
14 school, with over 80% of their students eligible  
15 for free lunch programs. But under the  
16 leadership of Principal Hill, and with hard work  
17 from its dedicated teachers, parents, and  
18 community and students, it has turned into a  
19 success story.

20 [Applause]

21 COUNCILWOMAN ROSE: Test scores are  
22 improving, it has increased parent  
23 participation, there are new technical resources  
24 from the City, and there is an air of excitement  
25 as these seeds of success begin to germinate and

1 flourish.

2 My concern with respect to this co-location  
3 is that this fragile success could be negatively  
4 impacted by the lack of good planning. So what  
5 is particularly frustrating to me with this  
6 proposal, and the reason I'm so conflicted, and  
7 I want you to hear what I'm saying, because I am  
8 giving Eagle Academy a vote of confidence that  
9 Eagle Academy, which targets the same at-risk  
10 young men of color with a regimented structure  
11 that promotes character, scholastic achievement  
12 and community service, is a proven and effective  
13 environment for the education system that I  
14 admire, and I would hope all of us would.

15 It has become a national model of academic  
16 success, with a graduation rate double the  
17 citywide graduation rate for black and Latino  
18 male students, and with almost all graduates  
19 going on to college. And those are wonderful  
20 goals.

21 And I and the community would love to have  
22 an Eagle Academy on the north shore. And I do  
23 not want to lose this opportunity. But before  
24 it was sited at I.S. 49, I would really have to  
25 be assured of several things.

1           One, that the co-location would not damage  
2 the successes of I.S. 49, or drain its  
3 resources. And unfortunately, DOE has not  
4 proved either of those to me.

5           But, but, should this location be--yeah,  
6 there's a but. But should this co-location be  
7 approved by the Panel of Education Policy, then  
8 the Eagle Academy would be the best option for  
9 I.S. 49, because it is small and it addresses  
10 the educational needs of the target population.

11           Eagle Academy has a record of achievement.  
12 However, at this present time, my preference is  
13 that DOE locate Eagle Academy at another  
14 location. For example, the DOE has very  
15 successfully located P.S. 59 at the site of the  
16 former St. Peter's Girls High School, a location  
17 that I encouraged in St. George.

18           There are other currently vacant archdiocese  
19 properties in my district, such as Immaculate  
20 Conception and St. Mary's School. Some of those  
21 students are now here at I.S. 49. Either  
22 facility would be a fine location for Eagle  
23 Academy.

24           In order for this school to still go  
25 forward, DOE--and this is what I want the PEP to

1 understand, that my recommendation for a new  
2 location is contingent upon them looking  
3 immediately, immediately at other sites in this  
4 district, immediately. Because I want this to  
5 happen before that administration--which is  
6 shoving these co-locations down our throat,  
7 they're shoving the things that we don't want.

8 [Applause]

9 COUNCILWOMAN ROSE: I want to make sure that  
10 this we do want. And I want to be very clear, I  
11 don't want anybody to leave here thinking that I  
12 don't want Eagle Academy. I want--the message I  
13 want to relay to the Department of Education is  
14 that it needs to do a siting somewhere in this  
15 district immediately, because we fought long and  
16 hard to get them to the point where they were  
17 willing to bring an Eagle Academy here, and I  
18 don't want to lose that opportunity, because we  
19 need an Eagle Academy.

20 So, I just want to say that DOE can make  
21 this into a dual success, where they don't  
22 diminish I.S. 49's capacity to meet your student  
23 needs, and they create a dedicated location  
24 immediately that would support the very  
25 successful Eagle Academy in my district.

1       Because this is about our children and what's  
2       best for them.

3               And I want to be really clear, I heard a  
4       parent when I walked in, where people sometimes  
5       pit children against children, they are all our  
6       children, they all have needs, they all deserve  
7       and are guaranteed a quality education. And  
8       some children might flourish better in a  
9       different kind of environment, and there's  
10      nothing wrong with that.

11             And I just want to say, we looked at the co-  
12      location at P.S. 16, and we said we didn't want  
13      that. And we made a recommendation that that  
14      should be a K-8 dual language school, and I want  
15      DOE to consider that, just as I want DOE to  
16      consider my proposal for tonight for Eagle  
17      Academy, with the same amount of concern and  
18      determination that they did when they took I.S.  
19      2 out of this mix. This community deserves the  
20      same, if not better.

21             [Applause]

22             MS. GORMAN: Thank you very much. Number  
23      20. Would numbers 21 through 24 please come  
24      towards the mic and sit in the seats. You may  
25      begin, sir.

1 MR. MICHAEL SCHIAVO: Ladies and  
2 gentleman, my name is Michael Schiavo. I'm a  
3 paraprofessional here at I.S. 49, and I just  
4 want to say the topic of tonight is not saying  
5 Eagle is a bad school. Eagle is a great school,  
6 it's just not needed here in this building, all  
7 right?

8 I've seen a lot of things go on in this  
9 building, and a lot of it happened to be good,  
10 but co-locating another school and cramming in  
11 another school into this building just will not  
12 work. The building is not physically big enough  
13 to support two schools.

14 Now, it is true that we have some classrooms  
15 that aren't being used. So instead of cutting  
16 I.S. 49 enrollment, excessing a quarter of its  
17 staff, why don't you do something crazy? Take  
18 the money that you have to start up the Eagle  
19 Academy, and give it to I.S. 49, so the teachers  
20 can have class sets of books for more than one  
21 class. So you can hire more than one art  
22 teacher. So we can have new equipment in the  
23 gym.

24 You know, I'm just saying, make the job of a  
25 teacher a little bit easier than what it is

1 right now. Having an Eagle Academy in I.S. 49  
2 in the same building might look great on paper,  
3 but we all know ideas look great on paper, but  
4 when it comes time in the physical world, it  
5 just doesn't work, and this is the prime example  
6 of one of those--it's a prime example. You  
7 can't get a better idea than this. Having two  
8 schools in this school just would not work.

9 One more thing I would like to say. I also  
10 found out that the people who will be teaching  
11 in Eagle Academy aren't teachers. They're  
12 businessmen and women. Now I'd like all my  
13 colleagues in the room to please stand up. All  
14 the teachers in here, please stand up.

15 I want everybody to take a look at these  
16 people. These people broke their backs jumping  
17 through every hoop the DOE put in front of them,  
18 so they can be called teachers. They have  
19 earned that right.

20 And I find it insulting that the DOE and the  
21 City would even consider letting businessmen and  
22 women teach your children.

23 MS. GORMAN: Thank you.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. GORMAN: Ms. Allman, Jerelyn. You may

1 begin.

2 MS. JERELYN MEADERS ALLMAN: Hi, my name is  
3 Jerelyn Meaders Allman, and I am very proud to  
4 say that I am a teacher at I.S. 49. I'm also a  
5 community member, I'm a lifelong Staten  
6 Islander, I'm a wife, I'm a mother of two boys.

7 I understand, parents, that you love your  
8 children and you want the best for them, but you  
9 need to understand the teachers here want the  
10 best for your children too.

11 [Applause]

12 MS. MEADERS ALLMAN: I don't think I can  
13 make clearer to you how much we love your  
14 children, and how much we want for them, like  
15 they're ours.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. MEADERS ALLMAN: I come here every day  
18 because we--everyone in this room, every teacher  
19 that came here, every paraprofessional, every  
20 administrator, we're here because we love your  
21 children.

22 You need to understand, we want what's best  
23 for them. Another school in this building is  
24 not what's best for them. Not because Eagle  
25 Academy is bad, because they need to be

1 somewhere else where they can grow, for your  
2 children, just like we want to grow for your  
3 children. Please understand that we want the  
4 best for everyone, for all of your children,  
5 whether they're going to be educated by the  
6 Eagle Academy or continue to be educated by  
7 I.S. 49, co-location is not what's best for this  
8 building, for the students that we serve, for  
9 the students that we love.

10 MS. GORMAN: Thank you very much.

11 [Applause]

12 MS. GORMAN: Number 22, Ms. Holt-Vasquez.  
13 You can begin.

14 MS. HELEN HOLT-VASQUEZ: Good evening. I  
15 sat here this evening and listened to all the  
16 different things that were said, the parents,  
17 the teachers, even some of the children. I am  
18 definitely for the Eagle Academy. No, this may  
19 not be the most idealistic location at this  
20 time, but we cannot lose the Eagle Academy.

21 If your administration here, Ms. Hill, she's  
22 done such wonderful and great things, works with  
23 the administration of the Eagle Academy, and you  
24 teachers not feel threatened, because you are  
25 not threatened by that academy, if you get to

1 the point where you have to work together,  
2 work together. It is for the common good of  
3 this community. It is the common good of all  
4 the community, our children. Every child in  
5 this community is ours, whether they're black,  
6 white, purple, green or blue. They are all of  
7 us, and this school will do something to help  
8 every single child. I think that it will help  
9 and uplift I.S. 49 at the same time. Thank you.

10 MS. GORMAN: Thank you.

11 [Applause]

12 MS. GORMAN: Mr. Josy? Mr. Josy. NAACP.  
13 Josey, I apologize, please forgive me.

14 MR. EDWARD JOSEY: That's okay. Thank you.  
15 First of all I'd like to make a statement. It  
16 seems to me there's a lot of fear about the  
17 children perhaps being of some threat now. The  
18 children coming into this school from the Eagle  
19 Academy will be the same age as the current  
20 student body right now, 6, 7 and 8th grade.

21 When Eagle Academy is fully occupied it will  
22 be 9, 10, 11, 12 in some other building, not in  
23 this building. So therefore, the children are  
24 the same age as the current children right now,  
25 which should pose no threat to anybody.

1           Also, I've heard nothing but good reviews  
2 about the Eagle Academy. And our State  
3 President, Ms. Hazel Dukes of NAACP, told me to  
4 come here and make a few comments tonight, and  
5 eventually she would like to meet with Mr. Banks  
6 to get a better feel for what's going on here.

7           But can you imagine seeing 215 kids, once  
8 this 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are fully  
9 occupied, walking through these streets in  
10 shirts, ties and a suit? That's like a game  
11 changer for this community.

12           Now, no matter what goes on inside this  
13 school, unless the community outside the  
14 building changes, this school inside is going to  
15 have a very difficult time changing. So you  
16 must change the complexion of the outside of  
17 this building, before this school makes a  
18 tremendous change.

19           So therefore, those kids walking through the  
20 streets with suits on, they will be viewed by  
21 the parents a little differently. Their self-  
22 esteem is a lot better than it was before, and  
23 this might tend to get a much better student in  
24 this school here, or whatever school it might  
25 be.

1           So I don't think we should be fearful of  
2           the Eagle Academy. If it comes here or anyplace  
3           else, it should be on the north shore, because  
4           seemingly that's where the most issues are with  
5           education of black boys. I say black boys,  
6           because that's the group we are saying has the  
7           worst graduation rate in the city and the  
8           country, so I wholly endorse the Eagle Academy,  
9           and I report back to our State President, Ms.  
10          Hazel Dukes, what I saw tonight, and hopefully  
11          she'll be in touch with Mr. Banks to get a  
12          better feeling as to what's going on here.  
13          Thank you.

14           MS. GORMAN: Thank you very much.

15           [Applause]

16           MS. GORMAN: Eloise Visda. Eloise, number  
17          24. Followed by Marilyn Brown.

18           MS. ELOISE VISDA: Hi, my name is Eloise  
19          Visda. I'm the mother of an 8th grader, and my  
20          niece and nephew are in 6th grade and 7th grade.

21           I have never--this is my first time to  
22          attend a panel, so I haven't been in--

23           MS. GORMAN: I'm going to stop you for a  
24          second. I know some people have to leave, but  
25          there's a lot of side conversation right now.

1 If we could let the last several speakers have  
2 the same time that the speakers prior. Thank  
3 you, please continue.

4 MS. VISDA: All right. I just heard about  
5 co-location, which was a week ago, and I heard  
6 both sides, and I have listened to many--to the  
7 sides of academy coming in here, and I.S. 49  
8 welcoming those--some parents welcoming them,  
9 some who are not, but my point is I'm opposed to  
10 co-location at all. I don't think that co-  
11 locating two--I don't think co-existing two  
12 schools in one facility, I don't believe in  
13 that.

14 It's like if you put it in simplest form,  
15 how do you feel if your in-laws or sister--you  
16 know, friends, knocking on your door and telling  
17 you that, oh, can I stay here for two or three  
18 years, and if we don't get along, I can leave.  
19 Even if they pay you mortgage, it's not  
20 reasonable, it's not justifiable, and it's  
21 unfair. That's all. Thank you very much.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. GORMAN: Thank you. Marilyn Brown,  
24 followed by Leslie Connor, and then our last  
25 speaker, Pastor Carolina.

1 MS. MARILYN BROWN: My name is Marilyn  
2 Brown. Not only am I a resident here and have  
3 been for the last 35 years, I'm also an  
4 educator, and right across the street that is.  
5 I've heard--I'm also on the planning committee  
6 for the Eagle Academy.

7 First let me say that the Eagle Academy is a  
8 public school. It's a public school and adheres  
9 to the same mandates as this school, and every  
10 DOE school. So no, it's not going to be run by  
11 business people, and no, it's not a charter  
12 school, and no, everyone is certified, it's the  
13 same mandates.

14 Two. Living in this community for the last  
15 35 years, I lived on Gordon Street, I lived on  
16 Bowen Street, I worship on Wright Street, it is  
17 needed. Is a co-location an ideal purpose? No,  
18 it's not. It's not. As an educator I would  
19 hope to have--you know, we would all have our  
20 own building for every single school, but that's  
21 the DOE, that's not the Eagle Academy, that's  
22 not I.S. 49. That's the DOE. Something that we  
23 can't control, something I.S. 49 can't control.

24 I think it's been reiterated plenty of  
25 times, it's better to have the Eagle Academy

1 here than lose it. We worked really hard.  
2 Committee activists have worked really hard to  
3 get this school here for the last six years.  
4 Six years. And in meeting with the  
5 administrators and everyone else from Eagle  
6 Academy, it's amazing.

7 Plenty of times I've left meetings crying,  
8 because we don't have that here for our boys on  
9 Staten Island. We don't have it. Our children  
10 need it. We need it. It will change our  
11 economic status if our children graduate from  
12 high school and go on to college.

13 So, let's not fight about where--should it  
14 be here, not be here, let's just get it here.  
15 Let's just get it here first, and then work out  
16 the particulars afterwards.

17 And I think it's been stated, that's  
18 administration. If administrations work  
19 together, then it's going to happen. It's all  
20 about the kids, and not about us. So let's just  
21 keep that in mind. Thank you.

22 MS. GORMAN: Thank you.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. GORMAN: Leslie Connor? Is Leslie  
25 Connor here? Number 26. Our last speaker,

1 number 27. Pastor, welcome.

2 PASTOR DEMETRIUS CAROLINA: Good evening  
3 everyone. It's, I guess, a wonderful thing to  
4 be the last speaker, you get to hear everyone  
5 else's comments.

6 I want to applaud I.S. 49. I did have the  
7 opportunity to meet with a number of your  
8 teachers, as well as your administration, Ms.  
9 Hill, as well as David Banks for the Eagle  
10 Academy, and I've had the opportunity to work  
11 with the Eagle Academy now for over seven years,  
12 at various locations.

13 I am in fully support of Eagle coming to  
14 Staten Island, as many people have said. And I  
15 also understand the arduous task and the idea of  
16 co-locations. This is something I think anyone  
17 who is an educator, as I am, I've been an  
18 educator for 26 years, my doctorate degree is in  
19 educational administration, I understand the  
20 challenge.

21 I also understand the facts. And a number  
22 of people stood and said I'm not concerned about  
23 facts, I'm going to speak from my heart, and  
24 things of that nature. Well, facts remain that  
25 over 50% of all African-American and Latino

1 youth in this city fail. They do not  
2 graduate. And that is not a simple reflection  
3 on teachers. It's not a simple reflection on  
4 the school. It is a reflection of the larger  
5 societal reality. And, when you have a system  
6 or a model that addresses that fact, which is a  
7 fact here at I.S. 49, it is a wonderful model.

8 So I, along with other leaders, want to  
9 suggest--I have 30 seconds--I want to suggest  
10 that we challenge the CEC, this Board, to  
11 reflect the sentiments of the larger majority of  
12 the residents of this community. And that is,  
13 we do want an Eagle here in Staten Island. We  
14 do.

15 [Applause]

16 PASTOR CAROLINA: Not only do we want it, we  
17 need it. And we've fought hard to get it here.  
18 Now, if not I.S. 49, somewhere on this island,  
19 so that we can all benefit. Thank you so much.

20 [Applause]

21 MS. GORMAN: Thank you, sir. That is our  
22 last speaker. I want to thank the CEC, the SLT,  
23 your Superintendent, and certainly the school  
24 for hosting this.

25 I want to remind you that we welcome any

1        comments and feedback you may have at any time  
2        before the Panel for Educational Policy votes at  
3        their October 30th meeting.

4                Again, the email address, D, like in  
5        district, 31proposals@schools.nyc.gov. Or you  
6        may call (212) 374-7621. I truly thank you for  
7        your participation. This joint public hearing  
8        is now closed.

9                [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 30, 2013 \_\_\_\_\_