

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION – DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**
**Truncation of PS 229
from a K-6 to a K-5**

6/3/13

5:30pm

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. MADELENE CHAN: Good evening, everyone.
3 This is a joint public hearing of the Department
4 of Education Community Education Council and
5 school leadership team for the proposed grade
6 truncation of PS 229 Emanuel Kaplan School 24Q
7 to 29 to a K-5 school in the year 2014/2015. I
8 am district 24 Superintendent Madeleine Chan,
9 happy to see everyone.

10 So are we translating? Do we have a need
11 for that translator? No need at this time?

12 FEMALE VOICE: Not yet.

13 MS. CHAN: Okay, because let me know and I
14 will slow down what I'm saying. We have asked
15 the district 24 community education Council and
16 the school leadership team in the building to
17 participate in this joint public hearing.

18 I am to join this evening by our wonderful
19 host Principal Doctor Adwani [phonetic], our CEC
20 member Connie Partinika [phonetic] and I will
21 announce the SLT representatives from PS 229.
22 So we have [Background noise] PTA president,
23 Yvonne English parent, Loretta Tumborello
24 [phonetic] teacher and UFT rep, Sarah Lee
25 parent, Debbie Scottorico [phonetic] parent,

1 Sinead Keenan [phonetic] parent.

2 The hearing is being recorded as soon as I
3 turn on the recorder. Give me one moment
4 please. Technical difficulties, one moment
5 please.

6 In addition to the SLT reps I just mentioned
7 we have Megan Garby [phonetic] teacher and Maria
8 Senteno [phonetic] parent. Thank you all for
9 joining us.

10 This hearing is being recorded. The purpose
11 of this hearing is for you to provide comments
12 about the proposal. Before I describe the
13 proposal I want to make sure you are all aware
14 of the opportunity to provide your input. All
15 those who wish to speak must sign up in the
16 speaker sign-up area located just outside the
17 auditorium. The sign-up list will close in 15
18 minutes.

19 Speakers will be given the floor in the
20 order that they signed up. All comments are
21 limited to two minutes. There may be elected
22 officials who arrived at different times
23 throughout the evening. If they wish to speak
24 we will do our best to accommodate them at the
25 first opportune moment.

1 Those who are here at the start of the
2 public comments segment will be asked to speak
3 first. All comments will be mentioned in the
4 analysis of public comments to be published and
5 provided to the panel for educational policy the
6 evening before the panel votes. That vote is
7 scheduled for June 19th, 2013.

8 In addition, we welcome any comments and
9 feedback you may have at any time before the
10 panel votes on both proposals. The email
11 address and phone number where comments may be
12 made are d24proposals@schools.nyc.gov and the
13 phone number is 212-374-7621.

14 Here is the proposal summary. The New York
15 City Department of Education is proposing to
16 implement a grade truncation of the sixth grade
17 of PS 229 in Emanuel Kaplan. PS 229 currently
18 serve students in kindergarten through sixth
19 grade and a pre-kindergarten program.

20 If this proposal is approved PS 229 will no
21 longer offer the option to enroll sixth grade
22 students after the 2013/2014 school year.
23 Beginning in September 2014 PS 229 would only
24 serve students in kindergarten through fifth
25 grade and a pre-kindergarten program subject to

1 funding and demand.

2 If this proposal is approved at the close of
3 the 2013/2014 school year all fifth grade
4 students who met promotional standards from PS
5 229 would enter middle school as sixth grade
6 students.

7 The DOE starts to ensure that all students
8 in New York City have access to high-quality
9 schools at every stage of their education.
10 Having elementary school-

11 FEMALE VOICE: [Interposing] That end.

12 MS. CHAN: Having elementary schools that
13 end in different grades, example K through five
14 versus K through six, creates unequal levels of
15 access to middle school for students based
16 simply on the year they exit elementary school.
17 This proposed grade truncation will help
18 standardize the middle school application, and
19 entry grades in district 24, giving all PS 229
20 students access to the same range of middle
21 school options as their peers throughout the
22 district.

23 Additionally PS 229 students who start
24 middle school in seventh grade may face
25 transitional challenges related to entering

1 middle school a year later than most of their
2 classmates. They remain in their new middle
3 school for only two years before moving on to
4 high school leaving them with less time to
5 adjust to a new school environment and new
6 academic expectations before facing another
7 transition and adjustment.

8 Multiple transitions in such close
9 succession can have the effect of
10 depersonalizing the school experience at a time
11 when adolescents tend to need the most personal
12 and support of environments. Having students
13 enter in multiple years is also challenging for
14 middle school teachers and leadership from an
15 instructional perspective.

16 Further, by entering middle school in sixth
17 grade rather than in seventh grade, students at
18 PS 229 will have more opportunities to take
19 advantage of the enriching high school
20 preparatory experiences offered at middle
21 schools.

22 Finally, PS 229's enrollment has increased
23 over the past five years and truncating PS 229
24 sixth grade will reduce the buildings
25 utilization rate and help alleviate

1 overcrowding.

2 In 2013/2014 PS 229 is projected to serve a
3 total of 1,503 to 1,573 students yielding a
4 building utilization rate of 125% to 131%. If
5 this proposal is approved and fifth-grade
6 students are no longer given the option of
7 staying for sixth grade at PS 229 in 2014/2015
8 PS 229 would serve approximately 1,333 students
9 to 1,393 students in kindergarten through fifth
10 grade and a pre-K program subject to funding and
11 demand, which would yield a building utilization
12 rate of 111 to 116%.

13 Truncating PS 229's grade span from K
14 through six to K through five would eliminate
15 the schools sixth-grade enrollment by
16 approximately 175 to 185 seats, freeing up
17 additional space that PS 229 could use to
18 accommodate additional lower grade students, or
19 to meet other instructional and programming
20 needs.

21 If this proposal is approved district 24
22 will have sufficient middle school capacity to
23 accommodate the sixth-grade students who have
24 otherwise enrolled at PS 229 for sixth grade.

25 So basically that is the summary of the

1 proposal. I would now like to offer anyone on
2 the day's time to speak before we open the floor
3 to the audience. So at this time we will get
4 the sign in sheet. We will now open the floor
5 for public comments. Speakers will be given the
6 floor in the order that they have signed up and
7 please remember all comments are limited to two
8 minutes. Mr. Tom Haggerty.

9 MR. TOM HAGGERTY: I have no comments.

10 MS. CHAN: Miss Marge Kolb. Miss Kolb
11 there's a microphone right there.

12 MS. MARGE KOLB: Hi. I've had two children
13 in this school, the first one is 24 now so he
14 went here when this was a K to five school, and
15 I currently have a sixth grader so I've been
16 through both models and personally I like the K
17 to six model. I know that schools are
18 overcrowded and there's really no choice about
19 it and it's not the end of the world.

20 Like I said, my older son went to middle
21 school, but I don't think, I mean this is not,
22 this is not the district superintendent. She
23 didn't write this. The DOE wrote this. They
24 don't have any research about what's the best
25 grade configuration. Schools used to be K to

1 sixth and then seven to nine and then 10 to 12,
2 you had junior high school.

3 There is no one model that works best. I've
4 heard a very important education fellow,
5 president of a university say that he personally
6 likes K to six and seven to 12, because he
7 thinks that should be a broad range of ages
8 mixed in together.

9 And there's actually a lot of statistics
10 that middle schools don't always work that well.
11 District 24 happens to have pretty good middle
12 schools and they all have regents, prep classes,
13 so it's, you know, it's not a bad choice.

14 My concern is, not for this school
15 community, but I don't understand why it's being
16 rushed through at this school and 58 and 153 are
17 either not doing it or slowing it down.

18 My concern is that 58 doesn't have any pre-K
19 classrooms. 153, I think, only might have one
20 classroom. So those are the two closest schools
21 so those kids have, already do and will continue
22 to be eligible for our pre-K seats. We are
23 losing pre-K seats in the fall, hopefully
24 they'll get restored, but when we had a meeting
25 here a month ago the woman from portfolio

1 wouldn't guarantee that the pre-K seats - - .

2 So for you guys that are staying in the
3 school that's something that I really think you
4 should really fight for. The year after next is
5 to get the pre-K back. I don't know if anyone's
6 going to answer the question, but why are 58 and
7 153 not going through at this speed with which
8 this schools going through on the truncation?

9 MS. CHAN: So, out of respect for your
10 question I'm going to answer even though, which
11 is supposed to take feedback at a joint public
12 hearing, so my knowledge of that is this is a
13 community decision. 229 felt that it would be
14 beneficial to truncate 153 and 58 they are still
15 discussing it. Miss Rowland [phonetic] is that
16 a fair answer?

17 MS. KOLB: But if we free up five classrooms
18 and then we take all their pre-K kids that's
19 really not fair, you know, because then they
20 have the option to not truncate because we are
21 taking their pre-K kids.

22 MS. CHAN: I don't believe it was presented
23 that way, but that is certainly a good point.
24 Nobody else signed up. Does anyone have a
25 second thought they would like to speak? Okay.

1 Last call, anyone on the days?

2 Again, we welcome any comments and feedback
3 you may have at any time before the panel for
4 educational policy votes on this proposal at its
5 June 19th meeting. I will again repeat the
6 email. If you do have feedback once you go
7 home, you think of a great question, please do
8 not hesitate to either email or call
9 d24proposals@schools.nyc.gov. The number is
10 212-374-7621. I thank you so much for your
11 participation. This joint public hearing is now
12 closed.

13 [END RECORDING]

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. J. L.", written over a horizontal line.

Date: June 6, 2013

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25