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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF  
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**  
Partial Re-Siting of X056

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. MELODIE MASHEL: - - good evening. This  
3 is a joint public hearing of the Department of  
4 Education, Community Education Council and  
5 School Leadership Team for the proposed  
6 temporary re-siting and co-location of one grade  
7 level of PS56 - - Heights, - - X56 with - -  
8 school in - - building for three years beginning  
9 in the 2013/2014 society.

10 I am community school district 10  
11 superintendent Melodie Mashel, and I will  
12 facilitate tonight's hearing.

13 We have asked that the district 10 community  
14 education council and the School Leadership Team  
15 of PS56 to participate in this joint public  
16 hearing. I am joined tonight by Principal  
17 Sheeran SLT and Marvin Shelton from CEC. The  
18 hearing is now being recorded.

19 The purpose of this meeting is for you to  
20 provide comments about the proposal. Before I  
21 describe the proposal, I want to make sure you  
22 are all aware of the opportunity to provide your  
23 - - . All those who wish to speak must sign up  
24 in the speaker sign up area in the back located  
25 just outside this lunch room. The sign up list

1 will be closed in 15 minutes. Speakers will be  
2 given the floor in the order that they have  
3 signed up. All comments are limited to two  
4 minutes.

5         There may be elected officials who arrive at  
6 different times throughout the evening. If they  
7 wish to speak, we will do our best to  
8 accommodate them at the first opportune moment.  
9 Those who are here at the start of the public  
10 comment segment will be asked to speak first.  
11 All comments will be mentioned in the analysis  
12 of public comment to be published and provided  
13 to the Panel for Educational Policy the evening  
14 before the panel votes. The vote is scheduled  
15 for November 26, 2013.

16         In addition, we welcome any comments and  
17 feedback you may have at any time before the  
18 panel votes on this proposal. The email address  
19 and phone number where comments may be made are  
20 D10proposals@schools.nyc.gov. Again,  
21 D10proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and the phone  
22 number is (212) 374-5159. Again, the phone  
23 number is (212) 374-5159. I will now read the  
24 proposal summary.

25         The New York City Department of Education,

1 DOE, is proposing to temporarily site and co-  
2 locate one grade level of PS56 - - Heights with  
3 - - school in - - building located at 268 East  
4 207th Street, Bronx, New York, 10467 beginning  
5 in the 2013/2014 school year. The re-siting and  
6 co-location was already - - emergency  
7 declaration on September 4, 2013. At this  
8 proposal, we allowed PS56 students to remain in  
9 - - building through the 2015/2016 school year.

10 A re-siting means that students will attend  
11 classes in a different building than previous  
12 years, and co-location means two or more school  
13 organizations are located in the same building  
14 and shares common spaces such as auditoriums,  
15 gymnasiums, libraries and cafeterias. PS56 is  
16 an existing zoned elementary school that serves  
17 students in kindergarten through fifth grades.  
18 St. Brandon is a private parochial school  
19 serving students in kindergarten through eighth  
20 grades and offering pre-kindergarten.

21 PS56 primarily serves students in a building  
22 X56 located at - - East 207th Street, Bronx, New  
23 York, 10467. Until the end of 2012/2013 school  
24 year, PS56 also served students in the annex  
25 building, leased from Montefiore Medical Center

1 Incorporated, located at 361-63 East - - Road  
2 in the Bronx, New York.

3 In April 2013, Montefiore - - the DOE beyond  
4 the 2012/2013 school year, which meant that PS56  
5 could not continue to serve students in the  
6 annex in the 2013/2014 school year. In addition  
7 to the annex, PS56 had been serving a small  
8 number of students in a mini building located  
9 next door to the 56 building, which was  
10 demolished in the summer of 2013 to create space  
11 for construction at X56 building.

12 The planned - - building, coupled with the  
13 unexpected loss of the Montefiore annex made it  
14 necessarily during the summer of 2013 to secure  
15 additional space for PS56 as building 56 alone  
16 could not accommodate all of 56's students for  
17 the 2013/2014 school year.

18 Once arrangements were made with St. Brandon  
19 building, which is located just--sorry. One-  
20 tenth of a mile from the 56 building, and which  
21 had classrooms for PS56 students, the Chancellor  
22 signed an emergency declaration providing for  
23 the placement of PS56 students there beginning  
24 on September 4, 2013 and continuing for six  
25 months thereafter.

1           Since the start of the 2013/2014 school  
2 year, PS56 second grade students have been co-  
3 located at the St. Brandon building with St.  
4 Brandon's. This proposal, if approved, will  
5 extend PS56's placement in St. Brandon's  
6 building beyond March 14 until the end of the  
7 2015/2016 school year.

8           Building 56 is currently undergoing  
9 construction that will substantially increase  
10 the capacity of the building as a whole. By  
11 creating an addition to expand, the students at  
12 St. Brandon building will return to the 56  
13 building in the 2016/2017 school year.

14           Although the DOE expects that in each year,  
15 PS56's second grade will be located in St.  
16 Brandon building, the PS56 administration may  
17 ultimately decide to change the configuration of  
18 its grade levels across two sites. Any plans to  
19 re-site additional grade levels of PS56 to other  
20 locations will be proposed in a separate EIS  
21 proposal.

22           The DOE believes that the placement of one  
23 grade level of PS56 will significantly assist  
24 the school in meeting the instruction needs of  
25 all the students, and as St. Brandon building

1 offers sufficient capacity to serve one grade  
2 level of PS56 students over the course of this  
3 proposal, in 2012/2013/2014 school year, 136  
4 second grade students from PS56 are being served  
5 in St. Brandon building.

6 The presentation by - - this hearing, I will  
7 ask and thank you all. The next presenter will  
8 be Marvin Shelton of CEC, our community  
9 education council president.

10 MR. MARVIN SHELTON: Thank you,  
11 superintendent. I support this proposal to re-  
12 site and relocate the grade level from 56 to  
13 alleviate the overcrowding.

14 MS. MASHEL: Thank you, presenter Marvin  
15 Shelton. I would like to at this point call SLT  
16 member Principal Sheeran to the table to make a  
17 statement. Thank you.

18 MS. PRISCILLA SHEERAN: Hello. Thank you  
19 for coming. I also want to just emphasize the  
20 importance of this lease space that we are so in  
21 need of, due to all of the class - - additional  
22 space that we have. This really has been  
23 overcrowded for over 20 years, hence in 1989, we  
24 had the mini-school built in the yard in 1988,  
25 and it began in 1989. Even with that, we had to

1 bus children to other locations.

2 Then we finally had the space on - -  
3 Decatur, which afforded us a little bit more  
4 room that we were able to bring all of our  
5 students back into PS56, and they didn't have to  
6 take the bus to other schools. Unfortunately,  
7 simultaneously, we lost our space at - -  
8 Decatur, and we began the pre-construction  
9 demolition of our mini-school.

10 With that much going on at one time, we lost  
11 about 14 classrooms, and we needed to have  
12 additional space. The space that we had within  
13 this building serving at least 550 students  
14 presently, and we needed to have enough to serve  
15 another 130 students, which is why we were very  
16 fortunate to arrange a lease proposition with  
17 St. Brandon's.

18 At this time, we have a second grade  
19 classroom there. We have three rooms, two have  
20 40 students and one has 32. We are hoping that  
21 as we move through the years between now and the  
22 end of that lease, that we will be accommodating  
23 second grade students there. Depending on the  
24 enrolment in each grade, that is subject to  
25 change.

1           It may be another grade that will be in  
2 there during that time, but at the moment, the  
3 hope is that we will have second grade classes  
4 there.

5           MS. MASHEL: Thank You, Principal Sheeran.  
6 At this time, we now have concluded our formal  
7 presentations. We have now concluded our formal  
8 presentations. We will now open the floor for  
9 public comments. Speakers will be given the  
10 floor in the order that they have signed up.  
11 All comments are limited to two minutes.

12           We don't have any speakers.

13           FEMALE VOICE: [Off-mic]

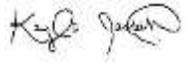
14           MS. MASHEL: Okay. No one has signed up.  
15 Okay. At this time, there are no speakers. I  
16 guess we adjourn. Again, we welcome any  
17 comments and feedback you may have before the  
18 Panel for Educational Policy votes on this  
19 proposal at its November 26, 2013 meeting. - -  
20 the email address if anyone wishes to do so.  
21 It's D10proposals@schools.nyc.gov, and the  
22 telephone number is (212) 374-5159. Thank you  
23 for your participation. The joint public  
24 hearing is now closed. Thank you.

25           [END RECORDING]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

6  
7           Signature 

8           Date November 15, 2013

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