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

**South Bronx Classical Charter School
(84X346) with the School of
Performing Arts (12X217) and Entrada
Academy (12X384) in Building X116**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. MYRNA RODRIGUEZ: - - 217, the
3 Principal, Ms. Naisha [phonetic] Ettienne
4 [phonetic] is present, and is there anyone from
5 the school leadership team present here?

6 MALE VOICE: - - .

7 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Oh, okay, that's right.
8 You're confusing me my love. That's okay;
9 that's okay. - - . Thank you. So we do have
10 representatives from the two schools and do we
11 have the representatives for South Bronx
12 Classical Charter? Yes, and we have the
13 Principal and do you have anyone from your
14 leadership team, or your organization?

15 MALE VOICE: Uh, sure, Ms. - - .

16 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very much. This
17 is the proposed expansion of the co-location of
18 the South Bronx Classical Charter School. And
19 these are the procedures for tonight. If you
20 wish to speak, you have about 15, 20 more
21 minutes. If you decide that you want to be on
22 the speakers' roster, where is it? It's in the
23 back. So please stand up if you want to speak.
24 The only way that the Chair will recognize you
25 is if you have your name on that list. You will

1 be held to a two-minute minimum, uh, to say
2 what you have to say. This is not a question
3 and answer period. This is to present the
4 information about the proposed expansion of the
5 Bronx Classical Charter School, South Bronx. My
6 name is Myrna Rodriguez. I am the Chancellor's
7 designee. I am also the superintendent for
8 District 12. Is that working? Anyone who needs
9 translation, we have a translator here.

10 MALE VOICE: - - .

11 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

12 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you.

13 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Welcome, and these are the
14 following procedures. I will be telling you
15 what we are going to be doing in the 217 Entrada
16 and South Bronx Classical Charter School - - .
17 We have asked the District 12 CEC and the School
18 Leadership Teams of Entrada School of Performing
19 Arts and the South Bronx Classical to
20 participate in this joint public hearing. The
21 CEC is not here today. The extreme heat has
22 affected the two members that were going to be
23 represented here. But they sent their thoughts
24 about acceptance of this co-location. So the
25 CEC of District 12, in accordance with this

1 expansion of South Classical, okay, South Bronx
2 Classical, the purpose of this hearing is for
3 you to provide comments about the proposed
4 expansion of the co-location of South Bronx
5 Classical Charter School in building X116 with
6 the Entrada Academy and the School of Performing
7 Arts. There, anyone, translations, okay. The
8 reason why we are hosting it here at Lighthouse
9 Charter, is because the school building, the
10 campus building, has had an emergency, and
11 because of it, there will be no one allowed in
12 the building this evening. And that is why we
13 did not want to cancel this meeting, and we have
14 sent information, emails, blogs, all over to
15 tell people that the meeting would be held here,
16 telephone calls, everyone that we would possibly
17 think of, the DOE and through the district, we
18 reminded people about this meeting that it would
19 be here because the building is going to be
20 closed by the Chief Custodian of the Bronx. It
21 was not a decision made by any principal. It
22 was not a decision made by the Superintendent or
23 the DOE. It was on the basis for the safety of
24 our children and so that the building could
25 continue to function. Before, I'll just skip

1 some of this stuff. Any - - ? No, okay.
2 Anyone comes in, they'll have to call - -
3 because I - - . I'm not going to - - . We have
4 an email address where comments may be made,
5 d12proposals@schools.nyc.gov. We have a lot of
6 information at the back of this room. You may
7 get that information directly. There is a phone
8 number where comments can also be made, (212)
9 374-5159, available at the back of the room. I
10 will present the proposal, and then we'll take
11 the comments. The New York City Department of
12 Education is proposing to expand the grades
13 served by Bronx Classical Charter School in
14 school building X116, from kindergarten through
15 fifth grades, to kindergarten through eighth
16 grades, beginning in the year 2013, 2014.
17 Building X116 is located at 977 Fox Street,
18 Bronx New York, 10459, in District 12. If this
19 proposal is approved, Bronx Classical will begin
20 serving sixth grade in X116 in 2013, 2014, and
21 will add seventh and eighth grades in the
22 subsequent two years, thereby completing the
23 expanded co-location in the 2015 and the 2016
24 school year. Bronx Classical is currently co-
25 located in building X116 with two district

1 middle school, School of Performing Arts, IS217
2 and Entrada Academy - - the same numbers 384.

3 Oh, okay.

4 [Crosstalk]

5 MS. RODRIGUEZ: A co-location means that two
6 or more school organizations are located in the
7 same building, and they share common spaces like
8 auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries and
9 cafeterias. Building X116, which we call
10 campus, also provides space to several community
11 based organizations, the Beacon Program, Simpson
12 Street Development Association, known as SSSA,
13 and the Montifiore Medical Center. Bronx
14 Classical was originally authorized under its
15 charter from the DOE to serve students in the
16 Kindergarten through fifth grades. The school
17 applied to, and was approved by the DOE's
18 charter school office on December 14th, 2011, and
19 the state education department at its February
20 13th/14th, 2012 meeting, to expand to serve
21 middle school grades. Bronx Classical sought
22 this expansion in response to families' requests
23 for a middle school. The CEC also has been
24 asking that the charter schools that have K
25 through five in this district, that if they

1 would offer six through eight seats,
2 understanding that there would be a need. So
3 this is the first school - - that is - - this
4 recommendation - - . If this proposal is
5 approved, Bronx Classical will begin its grade
6 expansion in the X116 building during the
7 2013/14 school year. This means that next year,
8 next school year, 2012/2013, there will be no
9 changing of building X116's use. In the
10 2012/2013 school year, the building is projected
11 to serve a comparable number of students as it
12 is serving in the current 2011/2012 school year.
13 There is sufficient space in building X116 to
14 accommodate the proposed grade expansion of
15 Bronx Classical in the building, which has the
16 capacity to serve 1,321 students. Currently,
17 the building is serving 981 students, and is
18 operating at a building utilization rate of 74%.
19 During the first year of the proposal of
20 2013/2014, the total projected enrollment in
21 building X116 will be approximately 975 to 1,105
22 students, resulting in a projected target
23 utilization rate of 74 to 84%. In the 2015/2016
24 school year, the Bronx Classical has expanded to
25 full scale. The projected total enrollment in

1 the building will be approximately 1,015 to
2 1,165 students, resulting in a projected
3 utilization, target utilization rate of 77 to
4 88%. Therefore, building X116 has more than
5 enough capacity to accommodate the proposed
6 expansion of Bronx Classical. This proposal is
7 not anticipated to have an impact on the
8 admissions processes, enrollment, and structural
9 programming partnerships, or extra curricular
10 offerings of Entrada Academy and School of
11 Performing Arts. Thank you. Do we have any
12 presenters from the SLT of the Entrada Academy?

13 MALE VOICE: No.

14 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Is there any presentation?
15 Is there any presentation by the School of
16 Performing Arts? Is there any presentation by
17 South Bronx Classical?

18 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

19 FEMALE VOICE: Okay.

20 MS. RODRIGUEZ: We'll now conclude the
21 formal presentation, uh, my presentation. We
22 will not open the door for - - .

23 FEMALE VOICE: We had too many graduations -
24 - .

25 MALE VOICE: - - .

1 FEMALE VOICE: Right, I think my own - - .
2 Okay, so the first speaker is Mr. Durmo.

3 MR. ABES TALIV DURMO: - - .

4 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes you do, because you're
5 going to be taped.

6 MR. DURMO: I'm going to be quick.

7 MS. RODRIGUEZ: You could take your full two
8 minutes.

9 MR. DURMO: Okay, thank you, thank you,
10 thank you.

11 MS. RODRIGUEZ: You're welcome.

12 MR. DURMO: I'm - - Parent Coordinator at
13 IS217. I've been working there since August
14 last year. And as of today, with this huge
15 situation today, you have room 108, 117, 118,
16 116, 120, which is a classroom, 124, 118 and 110
17 with no circulation, including my office. We've
18 been having that problem since August that I've
19 been working there, to the present time. The
20 inner structured classrooms, and the rooms do
21 not have circulation. And then when they, it's
22 time for, when it's cooler, we get heat
23 sometimes in those places, and it's very
24 unstable for the students. So it's like a
25 health situation that has not been corrected,

1 and I understand they've been trying to
2 correct this for years, okay. The proposal to
3 have - - I love it. I have more parents. I
4 usually take parents from all of the schools to
5 teach them - - . I teach them the citizenship
6 classes. I have no problem - - , but we have to
7 think about the crowdedness. The have to think
8 about the hot spots. We have to think about all
9 the other things. Is it going to be conducive
10 for us to have additional children in this
11 school as far as their health concerns and their
12 safety? And I'm talking about real serious
13 situations, okay. And that's all I have to say.

14 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you very much. The
15 next speaker - - myself. Leslie Long, I, I
16 can't, oh, ah, yeah, you know what, this is a
17 good day. Mr. Long Principal, South Bronx
18 Classical.

19 MR. LESTER LONG: So thank you for that. We
20 want to make sure that one thing is very clear.
21 At the charter school, we are not going to take
22 in sixth graders, seventh graders or eighth
23 graders. So because this is a year and a half
24 to two years from now, it is our current fourth
25 grade that in two years will be our sixth

1 graders. We have right now, 43 fourth
2 graders, and then some of them will leave. So
3 we're not trying to make it, it will not be a
4 lot of the classrooms. We will not use up a lot
5 of space. That's very important. I think that
6 reduces the feeling of - - . I agree with you
7 that there are heat issues in the building. The
8 Principal's been taking about that for years.
9 We only got air conditioners for the first time
10 last year. And you're on the fourth floor, and
11 heat rises. So we understand that, and I think
12 as a School Leadership Team we should come
13 together and make sure that all the space that
14 the DOE sees as usable is actually usable.

15 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, thank you very
16 much. Julie Bowermon - - .

17 MS. JULIE BOWERMON: I am a third grade,
18 grade team leader at South Bronx Classical. I
19 just wanted to speak briefly in favor of - -
20 from, to sixth, seventh and eighth grade. I
21 think, I know it will benefit our scholars,
22 which is what we all are here to do, is provide
23 what's best for the children. And I know that
24 expanding would certainly help them - - .

25 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. That is the end

1 of the list. I appreciate your coming, taking
2 the time to spend a little time with us to hear
3 this proposal. This is not a done deal, because
4 this has to be voted on by the panel for
5 educational policy and they will be voting - -
6 next week. So if you have your comments, any
7 comments that raise any concerns will be, were
8 recorded, and they will be taken up, and they
9 will be brought back to the building, because
10 they are not DOE problems as much as issues of
11 the building, and then obviously the principals
12 are on this already, Mr. Salvador [phonetic] - -
13 all children should be treated equally in the
14 school. They should all be honored equally, and
15 those are my high expectations. And I have no
16 doubt that they will be met. Have a great
17 evening.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 The prior proceedings were transcribed from
3 audio files and have been transcribed to the
4 best of my ability.

5
6 Signature

Maisha A. Brand

7 Date: June 24th, 2012.
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