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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**
**Resiting of PS 51 to X781: EIS -
11/3/11**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. JENNY SOBELMAN: Jenny Sobelman
3 [phonetic] and I will be acting as facilitator
4 for this evening's joint public hearing. This
5 is a joint public hearing of the Department of
6 Education's Community Education Council Number
7 10 and the School Leadership Team to discuss the
8 proposed resiting of PS 51, Bronx New School,
9 10X 051 in building X781. Also, just to let you
10 know, tonight's proceedings will be recorded and
11 transcribed. So, before we begin I would ask
12 that anyone who wishes to speak during the
13 public comment portion of this evening's hearing
14 please sign u at the table at the back where you
15 came in. We will close the sign up fifteen
16 minutes after we begin, so that'll be at 6:30
17 this evening. And only people who have signed
18 up will be allowed to participate in the public
19 comments portion. All the panel participants
20 are, have arrived. If over the course of the
21 evening any elected officials join us we will
22 give them an opportunity to speak. If any
23 arrive at the beginning of the public comments
24 section we'll allow them to speak first. I
25 would also like to draw your attention to the

1 agenda that was in the back as you arrived.
2 Again, just letting you know about the format of
3 the presentation this evening. So there will be
4 a formal reading of the presentation and then
5 other participants have, uh, been invited to
6 also make comment. I don't believe anyone will
7 so then we'll open it up for public comment.
8 Public comment is limited to two minutes per
9 person and the time will be strictly followed.
10 Speakers will be informed when their designated
11 time had ended and we will have a timekeeper
12 here in the front row. At the end of the
13 hearing if there are comments or questions we
14 would encourage you to direct them to the
15 department by calling the number or sending an
16 email to the address provided on the bottom of
17 the fax sheet. I will now quickly introduce the
18 panel that has assembled for this evening's
19 hearing. We have Donnel Harrison [phonetic]
20 representing the school leadership team for PS
21 51. We have Ronaldo Wright [phonetic] from the
22 network. Principal Paul Smith, Jesse Mohica
23 [phonetic] from the office of, the depart, the
24 division of family and community engagement.
25 Superintendent Sonya Mendez [phonetic] and for

1 CEC 10 we have Marvin Shelton [phonetic]. And
2 I will now ask Jesse Mohica to present the
3 proposal.

4 MR. JESSE MOHICA: Good evening ladies and
5 gentleman. So I'm going to read through the
6 proposal. PS 51, Bronx New School, is a choice
7 elementary school which was located in building
8 X825 at 3200 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, New York,
9 10468, through the 2010-2011 school year. The
10 New York City Department of Education is
11 proposing to permanently resite PS 51 to
12 building X781 located at 695 East 182nd Street,
13 with gymnasium space located nearby at 2239
14 Patona Avenue, Bronx, New York, 10457. PS 51
15 has been housed in building X781 since the start
16 of the 2011-2012 school year pursuant to an
17 emergency declaration signed by the Chancellor
18 on August 31st, 2011. Both X825 and X781 are
19 located in Community School District 10. Last
20 summer the Department of Education was made
21 aware that building X825 contained levels of a
22 chemical pryochlororytheme, ethylene [phonetic]
23 I'm sorry about mispronouncing that. Pryo,
24 Pryocloroethane [phonetic] that exceeded the New
25 York State Department of Health Air Guideline

1 Value. Because these levels could not be
2 effectively remediated prior to the opening of
3 school in September 2011 the Department of
4 Education determined, if necessary, to find a
5 new location for PS 51 which was the only school
6 located in building X825 for the start of the
7 2011-2012 academic year. In September 2011 the
8 student population of PS 51 moved from X825 to
9 X781. And if this proposal is approved the
10 school will remain there permanently beyond the
11 six month period for which the emergency
12 declaration provides. Thank you. We have now
13 conducted the formal presentations. I'll now ask
14 our facilitator Jenny Sobelman to precede with
15 the rest of the hearing.

16 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you Jesse. So just one
17 last check to see if there are folks who signed
18 up for public comment? And the answer is no.
19 Oh, Mr. Shelton would like to make a comment.

20 MR. SHELTON: Yes, uh, regarding the, uh,
21 section 7 building information. If the
22 department could provide the information that is
23 currently not there regarding X78, uh, the year
24 of the - - should not be that difficult to
25 determine. Uh, I'm not aware of any projects

1 proposed in the capital plan even though I
2 didn't have a chance to look at it. And
3 regarding accessibility of the building I do
4 believe that we are aware that it's not ADA
5 compliant. Uh, and if you could provide that
6 information prior to the panel vote next month
7 that would be, I think that would be very
8 helpful to them.

9 MS. SOBELMAN: Thank you. So we'll take
10 those two questions and we will definitely
11 provide responses. Um, and I think we don't
12 have anyone else signed up for public comment.
13 So, what I would say is if questions do arise
14 between now and the panel vote, which takes
15 place on November 17th, please do contact the
16 department by the email or the phone number
17 that's listed on the fax sheet and the questions
18 that have been raised this evening will also be
19 included in the analysis of public comment which
20 will be provided to the panel members as well as
21 the public prior to the vote which will take
22 place, again, on November 17th at 6:00 p.m. at
23 the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in Queens.
24 Thank you all so much for coming and this joint
25 public hearing is officially adjourned.

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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

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tara H. [unclear]".

Date 11/7/11