

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
P.S. 78 (30Q078)
January 5, 2011, 6:00 p.m.**

1 [START AUDIO]

2 MR. PHIL COMPOSTO: Good evening everyone.
3 Thank you all for coming. So I just want to
4 take a moment to introduce - - who is the
5 Director of Planning for Queens. We have Isaac
6 who is our committee liaison and Juanita who is
7 our recorder tonight. And of course we have our
8 wonderful CEC members who are here. Jeffrey
9 Guyton, Mavis Hall, and of course, - - . So we
10 welcome all of you, we're glad you're here. And
11 of course we have Mr. DeBray [phonetic] and his
12 team here as well. Okay, so let's begin. We
13 thank everybody for coming tonight to this joint
14 public hearing for the proposed re-siting and
15 grade expansion of P.S. 78 from K-8 school to be
16 implemented no later than the year 2014, 2015.
17 I am Phil Compasto the Community Superintendent.
18 I am real proud to be here with this wonderful
19 school. We had asked the District for CEC and
20 the P.S. 78 leadership team to participate in
21 this joint public hearing. I am joined tonight
22 by Mr. Pavone [phonetic] and I would like Mr.
23 Pavone to introduce his team please.

24 MR. LOU PAVONE: We have- - our United
25 Federation of Teachers representative, Victoria

1 Mulligan is here. We also have a D.C. 37
2 representative from [Inaudible] is also a
3 [Inaudible]. Can I say that Ms. - - ?
4 [Laughter]. We have the husband who's
5 representing somebody who was pulled this
6 evening, Sarah Appley [phonetic] who's also - -
7 the team. Ms. Appley is here - - . We have
8 Courtney Jimenez. She's our PTA President as
9 well, representing the parents who are here.
10 Co-President, - - Costley [phonetic] who's here
11 but not on the - - team but she came as well.
12 We also have Robert Blayco [phonetic] who's here
13 this evening. He's on - - team. He also a
14 wonderful child in our school. We have with us-
15 teachers wise we have Jerry Gianitzus [phonetic]
16 who's with us representing the teachers. So we
17 have everybody here I think. Oh, we have Mr.
18 Lamorse [phonetic] too.

19 MR. LAMORSE: Don't worry about me.

20 [Laughter]

21 [Crosstalk]

22 MALE VOICE: We never forget you. Don't
23 worry, we never forget you.

24 MR. PAVONE: - - who's here also who has a
25 wonderful child in our school as well who is

1 representing the parents as well. Did I miss
2 anybody else on the leadership team?

3 [Crosstalk]

4 MR. PAVONE: - - Adelco [phonetic], another
5 teacher representing the teachers who are here
6 tonight. So I think we have everybody on the
7 leadership team here tonight and I also want to
8 thank all the other parents who are here this
9 evening who came. I want to thank Ronnie for
10 being here too. Thank you Ronnie, and some of
11 the other teachers and staff who are here this
12 evening as well. I appreciate everything that's
13 being done in collaboration with everybody
14 that's involved with our school. So thank you
15 everybody for being here this evening.

16 MR. COMPOSTO: Very good.

17 MR. PAVONE: Can I just say one more.

18 MR. COMPOSTO: Sure you can.

19 MR. PAVONE: I would like to thank our
20 Superintendent - - . You've done so much for
21 all the children here and - - you are
22 representing them very, very well.

23 MR. COMPOSTO: Thank you.

24 MR. PAVONE: I would like to thank the
25 Community Education Counsel and they are

1 represented this evening as well as our other
2 representatives from the Chancellor's office,
3 Department of Education. They're here this
4 evening as well. So thank you all for being
5 here. Did I miss anyone? Alright thank you.

6 MR. COMPOSTO: Okay, so - - . Thank her for
7 supporting us. Okay, so this hearing is being
8 recorded. The purpose of this hearing is for
9 you to provide comments about the proposal.
10 Before I describe the proposal, I want to make
11 sure that you are all aware of the opportunity
12 to provide your input. All of those who wish to
13 speak must sign up in the speaker sign up area
14 located just outside the auditorium. The sign-
15 up list will continue for the next 15 minutes.
16 Speakers will be given the floor in the order in
17 which they sign up. All comments are limited to
18 a two minute piece. All comments will - - the
19 analysis of public comment to publish and
20 provided to the panel for education and policy.
21 The evening before the panel votes. The vote is
22 scheduled for Wednesday, January 19th at 6:00
23 p.m. In addition, we welcome any comments and
24 feedback you may have at any time before the
25 panel votes on this proposal. The email address

1 and phone number where comments may be made are
2 dvotingproposal@schools.nyc.gov [phonetic] or
3 you can call 212-374-7621. P. S. 78 is an
4 existing elementary school located at 4809
5 Central Boulevard, Long Island City in school
6 building Q868 in Community School District 30.
7 It currently serves students in kindergarten
8 through 5th grade and offers a Pre-K program.
9 This is a proposal to implement and grade
10 expansion so that P.S. 78 will serve grades K
11 through 9 and continue to offer a Pre-K program.
12 This means that P.S. 78 will begin enrolling 6th
13 graders in the first year of expansion. Upon
14 relocation to a larger building and then grow to
15 serve an additional grade in each subsequent
16 year. When P.S. I-S 78 completes its grade
17 expansion, it will enroll students in
18 kindergarten through 8th grade. The projected
19 enrollment for the first year of expansion is
20 234 to 284 students. At first scale, the
21 projected enrollment is between 354 and 404
22 students. The Department of Education is also
23 proposing a re-site for P.S. I-S 78, which means
24 the school will be located in a different
25 building. The school construction authority is

1 currently pursuing a site located at 4608 5th
2 Street, Long island City, NY, 11101 which is
3 also located in District 30. The DOE is
4 proposing to re-site P.S. 78 into this new
5 building upon its completion in either August
6 2013 or August 2014. The DOE is proposing to
7 re-site P.S. 78 because the school's current
8 facility does not have room for the additional
9 three grades. Thus, the school's grade
10 expansion is contingent on the school's first
11 moving to a large enough building at which point
12 the school would have sufficient space to
13 accommodate the additional grades and would
14 begin phasing in its middle school grades. The
15 idea to expand P.S. 78 into a K to 8 school came
16 from the school community. In the Spring of
17 2009, the - - of P.S. 78 submitted a letter of
18 intent to apply for grade expansion. And in the
19 summer of 2009 a team of P.S. 78 teachers and
20 administrators submitted an application to
21 expand the school. That application was
22 supported by the P.S. 78 parents and the broader
23 community surrounding the school, including
24 elected officials representing the community. A
25 great expansion panel then interviewed the P.S.

1 78 - - and concluded that the school was
2 positioned to successfully begin a middle school
3 expansion. Such an expansion would build upon
4 the growing success of P.S. 78 school community
5 in - - . The school's proficiency levels,
6 levels three and four, in English language arts
7 and in mathematics have been above both city-
8 wide in District 30 averages for the past three
9 years. P.S. 78 has also achieved an A or a B
10 grade on each of its last four report cards.
11 These positive steps indicate a record of
12 success that can continue with a grade
13 expansion. I don't know if some of you know
14 that Mr. Pavone comes from a middle school. So
15 when he came to this school community and asked
16 us if they could do this, I was in full support
17 for a few reasons. First of all, our parents
18 were very strong that they wanted a 6th grade and
19 we agreed but of course we didn't have the room
20 in this building so we're real pleased that we
21 got a site that we can move the children to.
22 But I was also on the team and that wonderful
23 team of teachers came with some parents and
24 really presented. - - we saw about five or six
25 school proposals and P.S. 78 was far the best so

1 I'm very, very proud of all the wonderful
2 things and we certainly have a great leader
3 here. Mr. Pavone has certainly brought these
4 wonderful teachers in with great parents and
5 kids. He's an outstanding educator. He's
6 always worried about our kids and doing a
7 wonderful job so we thank you Mr. Pavone for all
8 that you're doing and our wonderful teachers.

9 [Applause]

10 MR. COMPOSTO: So, with that being said,
11 we'll now open the floor for public comments.
12 Speakers will be given the floor in the order in
13 which they signed up. All comments are limited
14 to two minutes. Our first speaker is—actually I
15 know it's Kathy Mullen's [phonetic]
16 representative and I also wanted to say Kathy
17 Mullen was a wonderful, wonderful - - for us.
18 She supported us and really pushed for us so we
19 could get into this building so we thank her.

20 [Background conversation]

21 MR. COMPOSTO: We'll follow in order then.

22 MS. CLAUDIA CHAN: Hi, my name is Claudia
23 Chan and Kathy asked me to come and make a
24 statement regarding the P.S. 78 expansion. As
25 the community in Long Island City, Queens

1 continues to grow, residents will benefit from
2 expansion of P.S. 78. The Principal, teachers
3 and parents of P.S. 78 have an exceptional
4 school environment that - - many in their area.
5 By allowing the school to grow they will be able
6 to successfully educate the students of Queens.
7 Thank you.

8 [Applause]

9 MR. COMPOSTO: Thank you very much.
10 Leslie, did you sign?

11 LESLIE: - -

12 MR. COMPOSTO: You can both speak if you'd
13 like. We're just going to ask you to speak into
14 the microphone because we're recording this.
15 Thank you.

16 MALE VOICE: I hope so.

17 [Laughter]

18 [Crosstalk]

19 FEMALE VOICE 1: As the Co-PTA Presidents,
20 we just want to say that we are in full support
21 and excited for this expansion to happen. It's
22 an amazing school but because of the limited
23 facility there's a few things that keep us from
24 being the best it can be, so we can't wait to
25 move into the new school. Thank you.

1 MR. COMPOSTO: Thank you.

2 FEMALE VOICE 2: And I just want to add that
3 as the parent of a first grader, I strongly
4 believe in the idea of community education and
5 as a middle school educator I am 100% in favor
6 of having a place for my daughter to go to
7 school and my son from 1st through 8th grade, to
8 be part of a growing community of students and
9 learners.

10 [Applause]

11 MR. COMPOSTO: Thank you. Jimmy DeMorse
12 [phonetic].

13 MR. DEMORSE: This is a question. - - the
14 Vice President of - - residents. How would - -
15 in demand of listing kids in other schools to
16 participate with this new school that's
17 happening to meet the capacity of the school-of
18 students?

19 MR. PAVONE: This is going to be a zoned
20 school. So in other words, if there'll be an
21 area, as it is now a zoned school and people
22 that live in that address area will be the
23 children who participate in P.S. 78.

24 MR. DEMORSE: First? You were saying-

25 MR. PAVONE: [Interposing] It is always

1 first. And of course if there's somebody from
2 the outside, this is not going to be something
3 where they would have to go through office of
4 student and enrollment if anything special comes
5 up. But this is a zoned school only.

6 MR. DEMORSE: Okay, and what about the
7 Special Ed Department? As you know, I went to
8 Special Ed. How would it be implemented,
9 placement into the school setting?

10 MR. PAVONE: We will be continuing our
11 Special Ed. As a matter of fact, in our new
12 building, or all new buildings forgive me if I'm
13 wrong. All new buildings, 10% of the school
14 must go to city-wide Special Ed programs so
15 there will be a city-wide Special Ed program in
16 there. But we will continue our District
17 Special Ed program as well.

18 MR. DEMORSE: Okay, thank you. And you're
19 doing a wonderful job.

20 MR. COMPOSTO: Okay, that was the last
21 person on my list but if anybody who didn't sign
22 up would like to speak now I would certainly
23 entertain that. So at this point we're going
24 to allow the CEC if they'd like to say anything.

25 MR. GUYTON: Just really to say that I'm

1 sorry Ernie is not here tonight. He's
2 probably digging in the Soviet Union, the ex-
3 Soviet Union or something. But everything we've
4 ever heard about 78 is positive, from the
5 teaching staff to the leadership of Lou Pavone
6 we know very well. He comes to all of the CEC
7 meetings which is really an incredible
8 commitment of time. So he's always on top of
9 everything that's happening in the district.
10 And we also understand very clearly that a big
11 part of the success is also the parent community
12 and we're always looking to the entire district
13 to continue to engender that kind of parental
14 participation. We know that parent
15 participation raise up all the kids. They take
16 those cues from all the parents and they're very
17 aware when parents are comfortable in the
18 environment of their schools. So there are just
19 so many good things going on. I just, from the
20 whole CEC, congratulations on that and we're
21 very excited to follow through on the process of
22 moving this into an even more successful and
23 rewarding place.

24 MR. COMPOSTO: Thank you.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. TITUS [Through Interpreter]: I'm
2 sorry you have to listen to me through an
3 interpreter but, anyway my name is Marius Titus.
4 I am impressed with the Principal and the
5 school. Believe me, he shows up to all of the
6 functions, to all of the meetings, he's just
7 really ready to get in there and work. He's
8 proven himself. If there's any teacher that
9 doesn't like you can arrange a meeting but I'm
10 sure - - . The Principal here is wonderful. I
11 have seen him so often doing so many things.
12 When we applied - - to the school - - . I'm
13 extremely supportive of everything in this
14 expansion.

15 [Applause]

16 MR. COMPOSTO: Thank you, Marius. Okay,
17 anybody else? Okay, with that, again we welcome
18 any comments or feedback you may have at any
19 time before the panel of education policy votes
20 on the proposal January 19th. The email address
21 and phone number where comments may be made are
22 d30proposals@schools.nyc.gov or 212-374-7621.
23 And I want to thank all of you for participating
24 in this joint public hearing and it is now
25 closed. Have a good evening.

[END OF HEARING]

- 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

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 01/07/11

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

1 ||