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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING
Richard R. Green High School of
Teaching
January 5, 2011**

1 [START 181_324.MP3]

2 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Welcome and good
3 evening. Given the height of the podium and the
4 height of me--

5 [Laughter]

6 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Excuse me for not being
7 so formal and standing behind the podium. We
8 also have these portable mikes for when we do
9 the speaking. We'll--when you, uh--we will come
10 to you with the mike because I don't want
11 anybody tripping on this cord.

12 [Background conversation]

13 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Thank you for coming
14 tonight to the joint public hearing for the
15 proposed re-siting, the proposed re-siting. Can
16 you hear me?

17 MALE VOICE: Yes.

18 MALE VOICE: Yes.

19 MALE VOICE: Use your teacher voice.

20 FEMALE VOICE: This is probably better.

21 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Years of cafeteria duty.
22 Uh, thank you for coming tonight, to the joint
23 public hearing for the proposed re-siting of
24 Richard R. Green High School of Teaching to the
25 Broadway Educational Campus, and co-location

1 with the Lower Manhattan Community Middle
2 School and the Urban Assembly School of Business
3 for Young Women. I'm the Manhattan High School
4 Superintendent Elaine Gorman.

5 Um, tomorrow night, when we are at Richard
6 R. Green, I will be there as well, and Daria
7 Rigney, the District 2 superintendent will be
8 doing the hearing at 151. We'll talk more about
9 that in a minute.

10 We have asked the District 2 CEC and the
11 School Leadership Teams of the impacted schools
12 to participate in the joint public hearing. I
13 first would like to introduce the principals and
14 then introduce the SLT and CEC members who are
15 here tonight.

16 At the Young Women's School, we have Patty
17 Minaya.

18 [Applause]

19 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Principal of, um, Lower
20 Manhattan is, um--oh God, I--uh, is Kelly
21 McGuire. I'm sorry, Kelly.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: I had a brain freeze.
24 And from Richard R. Green, David Raubvogel.

25 [Applause]

1 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: From the SLTs, um, and
2 I apologize in advance for any
3 mispronunciations. Uh, from Young Women's we
4 have Shani--pronounce it for me.

5 SHANIQUA SIMON: Shaniqua Simon.

6 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Shaniqua Simon. Thank
7 you for joining us, the PA President.

8 [Applause]

9 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: From Lower Manhattan, we
10 have Jane Eisen and Crystal, uh, Carson. Do you
11 want to just wave? Thank you.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: And from Richard R.
14 Green, we have, uh, Jeffrey and Kim Vogel.

15 [Applause]

16 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Gwen, whose last name I
17 can't read.

18 MALE VOICE: Gwen Alden.

19 MALE VOICE: Altman.

20 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Altman.

21 [Applause]

22 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Do you want to wave?
23 Uh, David Raubvogel, who also sits on the SLT,
24 as does the other two principals, by the way.
25 Um, and, uh...

1 FEMALE VOICE: Joe.

2 MALE VOICE: Joe.

3 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Joe Lee.

4 MALE VOICE: Jolan Nagi.

5 MALE VOICE: Jolan Nagi.

6 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: You want to wave?

7 [Applause]

8 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: This is obviously a
9 precursor to how your names will be read when
10 you speak. So, forgive me in advance. Also,
11 from the CEC too, we welcome Eric Green, uh,
12 Greenleaf [phonetic].

13 [Applause]

14 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Let me tell you now that
15 this hearing is being recorded. Additionally,
16 um, is there anybody--we've, we've scanned the
17 room. We do not feel we have anybody who needs
18 interpretation services. Is that accurate?
19 Principals, help me out.

20 MALE VOICE: Yes.

21 FEMALE VOICE: Yes.

22 MALE VOICE: Yes.

23 MALE VOICE: Yes.

24 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: If someone comes in, we
25 have equipment in the back. So, um, please let

1 us know if you are sitting next to somebody who
2 might need that service.

3 The purpose of this hearing is for you to
4 provide comment about the proposal. Before I
5 describe the proposal, I want to make sure you
6 are aware of the opportunity to provide your
7 input. All of those who wish to speak must sign
8 up at--and outside of, of the cafeteria. And as
9 I mentioned earlier, we will close, uh, the
10 signup list in 15 minutes.

11 Speakers are given the floor in the order
12 that they signed up. All comments are limited
13 to two minutes. In addition, we welcome any
14 comments and feedback you may have at the time
15 before the Panel of Educational Policy votes on
16 this proposal at its January 19th, 2011 meeting.

17 All comments and questions will be mentioned
18 in the analysis of public comment, to be
19 published, and also provided to the panel the
20 evening before the panel votes. Again, it's
21 January 19th at 6:00 p.m. Do we have the
22 location yet?

23 MALE VOICE: Brooklyn Tech.

24 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Brooklyn Tech. There
25 also is an email. Some people have more to say

1 than can be said in, in two minutes, and we
2 understand that. And some people prefer that
3 their comments not be done in a public session.
4 Um, you may provide comments either by phone to
5 (212) 374-3466 or there is a specific website
6 for District 2 proposals. It's
7 D02proposals@schools.nyc.gov. If anybody has
8 written statements tonight, you can provide it
9 to me and we'll make sure that they get in.

10 Richard R. Green High School of Teaching,
11 known as O2M580, is an existing school located
12 in building M066 at 421 East 88th Street, New
13 York, New York 10128, located between First and
14 York. It currently serves 600 high school
15 students in grades 9 through 12.

16 On December 3rd, 2010, the Department of Ed,
17 to be known as DOE, published a proposal to
18 implement a re-siting, which means that Richard
19 R. Green will move to the Broadway Educational
20 Campus school building M282, located where we
21 are right now, um, which, um, currently houses
22 the Lower Manhattan Community Middle School,
23 O2M896, an existing school serving grades 6
24 through 8 and Urban Assembly School of Business
25 for Young Women, O2M316, an existing single-sex

1 school serving girls in grades 9 through 12.
2 And this is proposed for the beginning of the
3 2011-2012 school year.

4 A co-location means that two or more school
5 organizations are located in the same building
6 and there may be a need to share common spaces
7 like auditorium, gymnasiums and cafeterias.

8 Richard R. Green is currently located, as I
9 mentioned, in M066, which was originally built
10 to serve elementary grades. All the elementary
11 school buildings in the Upper East Side in
12 District 2 are now over capacity, ranging from
13 112 to 149 percent of target utilization.

14 The move of Richard R. Green to M286--uh,
15 282, or this building here, would provide
16 adequate space for elementary students who wish
17 to attend school in their zoned school.

18 In a separate Educational Impact Statement,
19 also released on December 3rd, there is a
20 proposal to move PS 151 into the space that's
21 vacated by Richard R. Green for the 2011-2012
22 school year. That proposal, however, is
23 contingent upon approval of this proposal.

24 The M282 building has adequate capacity to
25 accommodate Richard R. Green at full

1 organizational capacity, as well as the
2 existing schools. The DOE space, this space
3 that we're in, can serve, according to, um,
4 space utilization statistics, 1,588 students.
5 In 2011-2012, there would be approximately 1,265
6 to 1,350 students served in the building. When
7 all schools are at scale, there would be
8 approximately 1,300 to 1,425 students served in
9 the building.

10 The DOE recognizes that moving a school
11 might not be easy for students, teachers and
12 parents. However, the proposal provides new
13 opportunities for the students at Richard R.
14 Green by allowing them to attend a school in a
15 space designed to serve high school students and
16 also grants the community some benefits that
17 they do not have in their existing location.

18 From my perspective, the elevator is one of
19 those, but I know that's not one on the
20 proposal.

21 Furthermore, this proposal addresses some
22 concerns from the Richard R. Green community.
23 Two years ago, the DOE approached Richard R.
24 Green with a proposal to move to the M45
25 building in East Harlem. The school community

1 addressed some concerns about that proposal,
2 which the DOE believes are not applicable in the
3 current proposal. The new location at 26
4 Broadway is convenient to public transportation,
5 is a brand new high school with excellent
6 facilities, designed for high school students,
7 including a gymnasium, library, new science labs
8 and is close to cultural opportunities for
9 students. Thank you.

10 We look forward to hearing your comments and
11 questions. In order to ensure that all people
12 have signed up to speak and are given the
13 opportunity, we will limit the comments to two
14 minutes. We are ready to close the list. This
15 is your last opportunity to sign up.

16 At this time, I'd like to call forward, and
17 I'll do it by a show of hands, any member of the
18 SLT, the CEC, and I don't believe we have a
19 representative from the Citywide Council on High
20 Schools, but if they are here, they may speak as
21 well. And who--we will bring the mike to you.

22 Who from the SLT that has signed up, would
23 anybody like to address the group first? Okay.
24 Can you, uh, give your name again?

25 MS. SHANIQUA SIMON: Yeah.

1 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: And, um, make sure
2 that you speak into the mike so that we can
3 capture it on tape.

4 MS. SHANIQUA SIMON: So, again, my name is
5 Shaniqua Simon. I'm, uh, the SLT member of the
6 Urban Assembly School of Business for Young
7 Women. And we just had some general concerns,
8 because there will be increase in the, the
9 number of students that will be coming to this
10 building.

11 And because of that, uh, we, we understand
12 that, um, Richard R. Green students will have
13 their own entrance, but we were wondering if
14 they're going to have their own designated time
15 when they will be entering the building and
16 leaving the building, um, because that can be a
17 lot of students outside the building at one
18 time. And we, we're just concerned about
19 safety.

20 Um, the other concern that we have is
21 because there will be a increase in the number
22 of students, will we be seeing, um, more school
23 safety officers?

24 Um, and then when it comes to, uh, the fire
25 drill, how would that be planned out? Um, will

1 all the students leave the building at the
2 same time? I mean, if there is a fire drill,
3 all the students will have to leave at the same
4 time, but like, again, where would they be
5 exiting out the building? Again, that's a lot
6 of students, safety, and so a big concern for
7 us.

8 And then, um, also of a, of a concern is the
9 school nurse. Again, this--there'll be a
10 increase in the number of students we have in
11 the building, will there just be one nurse
12 serving all those students? That can be and
13 will be overwhelming for one person to take care
14 of all those students.

15 Um, and then the last thing that we're
16 concerned about is lunch. How, um, that will be
17 worked out. Will, uh, the timing, will every--I
18 mean will there be a designated time for Richard
19 R. Green students to go out or will everybody be
20 leaving the, um, school at the same time?

21 So those are our concerns. And this--

22 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: [interposing] Go ahead,
23 I'm sorry.

24 MS. SHANIQUA SIMON: Yeah, and, um, this is
25 an all-girls school. Yeah, so... Thank you.

1 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: So I will say that,
2 um, while we won't answer every comment, um,
3 there, there will be opportunities either during
4 the hearing or after the hearing to address some
5 questions. These logistical questions that are
6 being asked, assuming the proposal is approved,
7 obviously the three principals and, and the
8 planner, space planner, LPD and the
9 superintendents and networks will sit down and,
10 and, and look at some of those logistical
11 questions that have to be addressed.

12 So, um, I just wanted to make certainly that
13 general response. Some of these aren't--are,
14 are worked out by principals with the help of
15 others, once the proposal is actually approved.
16 Other SLTs, uh, members?

17 MALE VOICE: Um, I'm going to try to keep it
18 brief, uh, for the sake of time. I mean your
19 concerns are also our concerns. And our school
20 is predominately female, uh, 70 percent female
21 and 30 percent male. Uh, safety is always an
22 issue. Uh, as a parent, I have to state that's
23 the number one issue.

24 And, uh, like, uh, Ms. Gorman mentioned,
25 that's something that we would have campus

1 meetings, hopefully when this goes through
2 that we could, uh, obviously work that out.
3 But, you know, we, we've been through a lot at
4 Richard Green, uh, uh, Ms. Gorman mentioned
5 before, we were approached many years back about
6 the movement. We lost a teacher, or who died
7 suddenly, so we were going through a lot and we,
8 we fought the move.

9 Uh, when this was proposed initially, uh, at
10 first, you know, we were, we were, you know, you
11 know, we were, we, we didn't know what it was
12 about. Uh, and then as more details came in, we
13 became really excited. This is, uh, a new
14 birth, a new beginning and a new location.

15 The sole need thing that our students could
16 really, uh, be involved with is, uh, Brooklyn
17 Battery Center [phonetic], uh, I mean it's
18 endless. Everything that you want for your
19 kids, we want for our kids as well.

20 And all of the sudden now, here we are ready
21 to, to make the move and we're really excited,
22 going oh, teenagers like every other teenager
23 and now all of the sudden our kids, they're not
24 good enough. Uh, and that's how I'm taking it
25 and, and we love our kids just like we love your

1 kids and we want the best for them like you
2 want the best for them. And obviously, we are
3 happy about the schools. We're looking forward
4 to it. We're already making plans as to what
5 schools.

6 And, and just to let you know we are to--I
7 mean, although we're not a specialized high
8 school, you know, like obviously we don't screen
9 our kids, but we're a teaching school. We've
10 been established way before, uh, some of these
11 new schools that have been established.

12 Uh, Richard Green High School, after the
13 first black Chancellor, a lot of our school is
14 the teachers. Uh, uh, our alumni meetings when
15 they come back, I mean we're positive, uh, you
16 know, we're churning out positive, uh, we're
17 doing the best. We're not screening. Here we
18 have, uh, uh, a 70 percent graduation rate and
19 it's, you know, I mean, we're looking forward to
20 it. We're happy. We want to do it. Uh, and I
21 think it's great, uh, for everyone.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Is there anybody, Kelly,
24 from your SLT that wants to speak?

25 MS. JANE EISEN: Hi, um, I'm Jane Eisen. I,

1 I'm the, um, president, co-president actually
2 of the PTA at LMC. And, um, I'm also a parent
3 of a 12-year-old girl and one of my big concerns
4 is there's a lot of high schools in your
5 neighborhood, um, I'm just--it's safety
6 concerns. I know, it's a big difference between
7 a 12-year-old and an 18-year-old. Um, and my
8 question is what kind of, um--is--will there be--
9 --what kind of security will there be like on the
10 walk--[break in audio].

11 Hello? All right. Um, I know [off mic]
12 what kinds of, um, safety precautions and will
13 people take for at lunch and know that, that
14 there's, um, you know this as well as the
15 principals where they schedule different forms
16 of out lunch.

17 Um, I know that at one point there was, um,
18 you know it's not that, it's not Richard Green.
19 We don't even know you guys. It's just the
20 whole idea of having all these high schools
21 surrounded by this one little middle school with
22 about, what is it, 240 students compared to all
23 the thousands when this building is complete.

24 [Applause]

25 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: I think in the interest

1 of time, I know people want to applaud for
2 each other, but, um, we'll assume that you're
3 getting applause.

4 MALE VOICE: Okay.

5 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: And, uh, we'll just keep
6 moving if that's okay. And we'll applaud--we'll
7 do a group applause at the end.

8 MS. CRYSTAL CARLSON: Hi, my name is Crystal
9 Carlson and I'm co-president of LMC. And, uh,
10 the only thing that I would like to say, I have
11 the same concerns as everyone else about lunch
12 security and the number of students that
13 potentially will move into this building. And I
14 understand whether it's Richard R. Green or
15 another school, a high school will reside in the
16 first and second floors of this building.

17 Um, the only thing that I would like to say
18 as a parent of an eighth grader and my other
19 two, this school was formerly GDMS [phonetic]
20 which is not LMC. Um, I would like to see a
21 partnership continue to grow with Millennium,
22 being that we have other relationship with them
23 and they've proven to be a successful school and
24 we don't have any problems with out lunch. Um,
25 their children are always in our building. And

1 I think it's a positive relationship that we
2 can grow on.

3 And I would like to see that expand into
4 something wonderful and being an opportunity
5 open for other District 2 children and
6 opportunities for LMC. Because, ultimately, we
7 all want our children to be in successful high
8 school and to have the tools to go to college,
9 and Millennium has that record and I would like
10 to see that for my son as well as other children
11 in our school.

12 It's nothing against Richard R. Green or
13 anybody else. But I would like to see that
14 partnership grow into something wonderful and I
15 think it can if given the opportunity. Thank
16 you.

17 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: I believe we are now
18 finished with the, um, SLT and our--

19 FEMALE VOICE: [off mic].

20 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Oh absolutely. Yeah.

21 MS. GWEN ALTMAN: Hi, I'm Gwen Altman. I am
22 a guidance counselor and college advisor, high
23 school and you mentioned college and - - at
24 college, but just so you know, we have a lot of
25 students who go on to very prestigious schools

1 who are very successful. We actually--but our
2 alum--we have two alumni over there who are at
3 Ithaca College and Iona, but we've had students
4 get into Ivy Leagues and top tier and both
5 scholarships and Gates' scholars. And just so
6 you know, we have some of those traits that
7 you're looking for from Millennium - - we have
8 those traits also.

9 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: I want to check in again
10 with, um, Eric Greenleaf to make sure that when
11 I spoke to you previously, you didn't want to
12 speak at this time, correct?

13 MR. ERIC GREENLEAF: No.

14 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Thank you very much for
15 being here. At this time, we'll go to the
16 speaker's list and we're--we will start with
17 Paul Goldstein, uh, representing, um,
18 Assemblyman Speaker--Assembly Speaker Silver.

19 MR. PAUL GOLDSTEIN: Thank you. Uh, Paul
20 Goldstein, Assemblyman Sheldon, I'm speaking on
21 behalf of Assemblyman Silver tonight. Uh, just
22 for the record, Assemblyman Silver represents
23 this particular geographic area. It includes
24 Battery Park City, the financial district, [off
25 mic] and, uh, Lower East Side among other

1 neighborhoods. [Break in audio] Over the
2 past several years, I have led the fight to--

3 [Break in audio]

4 MR. PAUL GOLDSTEIN: Okay. Over the past
5 several years, I have led the fight to combat
6 school overcrowding and create more educational
7 opportunities for parents and their children in
8 Lower Manhattan. Through my School Overcrowding
9 Task Force, we have opened new schools and
10 helped accommodate the rapidly growing
11 populations of young families in my community.

12 One of the great success stories downtown
13 has been Millennium High School, a top notch
14 educational institution that has attracted many
15 local families and played a key role in this
16 neighborhood's recovery following the events of
17 9/11.

18 Today, I am asking the Department of
19 Education to allow Millennium to expand into
20 space and leases at 26 Broadway. Schools based
21 in Lower Manhattan ought to serve the population
22 of Lower Manhattan. And there remains a very
23 pressing need for new classroom space in this
24 neighborhood.

25 The recently announced closure of Norman

1 Thomas High School and other schools, I
2 believe, gives DOE a number of other options for
3 relocating the Richard R. Green School.

4 To satisfy the DOE's criteria for the 26
5 Broadway space, Millennium has agreed to modify
6 its expansion proposal and become a limited
7 unscreened school. I join with members of
8 Community Board 1 and parents throughout the
9 district in urging DOE to do what is right for
10 downtown families. We have made great progress
11 in improving our schools and reducing class
12 sizes, and we must not allow that progress to be
13 halted.

14 Millennium High School has done an excellent
15 job in Lower Manhattan's children and the need
16 for more space is greater than ever. In fact,
17 my School Overcrowding Task Force was
18 instrumental in convincing DOE to obtain this
19 space here at 26 Broadway in the first place.
20 And it was always understood by this community
21 that it would be used to benefit local families.

22 Again, I urge DOE to make the right decision
23 for Lower Manhattan by giving its approval for
24 Millennium to expand. It is what the community
25 wants. It is what the community needs. And

1 most importantly, it is the best interest of
2 the children of our neighborhood and of our
3 city. Thank you.

4 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Again, I apologize if--
5 thank you very much, and please thank the
6 Assembly Speaker. Um, the first person on the
7 list, and I--uh, forgive me for mispronouncing
8 your last name is, is Joe Torsicola [phonetic].

9 MR. JOE TORSICOLA: Torsicola.

10 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Can you raise your hand
11 so that we can get you the mike? We will be
12 holding up a sign when you have 30 seconds left.

13 MR. JOE TORSICOLA: Beautiful. Uh, my name
14 is Joe Torsicola. I'm the proud parent of, uh,
15 Vicenza [phonetic] Torsicola.

16 Uh, let me tell you a little bit about
17 Vicenza. Uh, Vicenza is a sophomore at, uh,
18 Richard R. Green. He has a 91 average. I'm
19 very proud of him. I couldn't be prouder. Um,
20 over the years, he's been a mentor, uh, and a
21 teacher to young students. This summer he's
22 going, uh, to study in Europe.

23 Now, I think that's the kind of kid you want
24 to have in this building. And as I look at
25 Vicenza's friends who are here, these are the

1 kids that you want to have in this building.
2 Okay? So, I want to put that out there for you
3 to consider.

4 In addition, um, we've got a number of
5 things to consider. First, moving the school
6 down here will put it in a much better
7 environment. And one thing we know, uh, our
8 environments where children thrive, the better
9 environment you have them in, the better they're
10 going to be. It's a professional environment
11 down here. They'll grow and they'll be even
12 better students.

13 Um, let's face it; the old school was built
14 for five and six-year-olds. Um, the new is
15 going to be built for high school students.
16 That is important for the teachers. That's
17 important for the students.

18 And obviously, this is about making an
19 investment. Uh, you talk about making an
20 investment on--[break in audio]

21 MR. JOE TORSICOLA: Now, we, we could have
22 Millennium move in [off mic] 400 students. Um,
23 if you have Richard R. Green move down here,
24 you're going to affect 600 students from Richard
25 R. Green. You're going to affect 600 students

1 from, uh, I mean, let me know if I'm correct,
2 PS 151. So, do you want to affect 1,200
3 students or 400 students? It's an investment.
4 Richard R. Green is about [off mic] teachers.
5 It's an investment in New York City's future.
6 If you want to invest, uh, then improve [off
7 mic] going to be invested in new teachers in
8 this city. Thank you.

9 [Applause]

10 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: The next person on the
11 list is Howard Shapiro. If the mike cuts out,
12 please talk up. Howard, I think this is
13 probably a better mike. It's more secure. So
14 we'll stop using the wireless.

15 MR. HOWARD SHAPIRO: Does it work? Yes.
16 Okay, my name is Howard Shapiro. Um, I'm the
17 attendance coordinator of Richard R. Green High
18 School of Teaching. I've been associated with
19 the school for 17 years now. And what I'd like
20 to do, I had some ideas about what I was going
21 to talk about, but I was told to alter it a
22 little.

23 So I just want to talk about with you what I
24 see as positive things about the school. The
25 first thing, our school, in the neighborhood

1 among the kids that have gone there or the
2 people that know of us, we're known as a
3 nurturing safe environment. And that's a big
4 issue for many, many families. Kids come from
5 all different boroughs. We even had somebody
6 traveling from Staten Island, although I don't
7 think that is the case anymore. But from four
8 boroughs we had kids coming into our school and
9 a number of them are there because it's a safe
10 environment.

11 Uh, obviously many of them are there for the
12 different things we offer educationally. And
13 one of the things that you should know: some of
14 the parents are showing, uh, concern about
15 having older kids with younger kids. I've been
16 at the school, again, 17 years, we never had a
17 case, and we're not making this up, uh, you know
18 just to sound good. I don't lie. I'm not a
19 hypocrite. I'm a parent of two, two kids that
20 went through the, uh, Department of Education,
21 New York City, uh, Department of Ed and
22 graduated. Uh, we've never had a situation
23 where kids from our school have attacked,
24 mugged, robbed, harassed any other little kids
25 in neighborhood.

1 We're on the Upper East Side. There's a
2 mix of cultures there between many of our
3 students and people that live in the area, uh,
4 and once again, I'm saying, don't--I'm allaying
5 your fears on that. We're not predators.
6 They're other--they're just normal kids that are
7 coming to school that want an education.

8 The final thing, there's the 30-second thing
9 up, uh, I've seen and I have to say probably
10 several hundreds in the time that I've been
11 there, uh, that have been kept from dropping
12 out. They graduated and they became productive
13 members of society. And that's a major issue
14 and that's a big, uh, plus in our school. Thank
15 you.

16 [Applause]

17 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Um, is it Amanda Da
18 Costa?

19 MS. AMANDA DA COSTA: Right here.

20 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: If you could go to the
21 mike because now we're, um, tethered.

22 MS. AMANDA DA COSTA: Hello - - . I'm a,
23 um, I'm a current student of Richard R. Green.
24 And I'm, I'm in the teacher program, which is a
25 great thing. Moving to this current, uh, our,

1 our new location is only, only going to be
2 great for us. It's only going to help us to
3 grow as future teachers. It's going to help us
4 to show love to young ones. We're coming in a
5 school that has middle school kids. We're only
6 here to show them love and affection. Thank
7 you.

8 [Applause]

9 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Um, our next speaker is,
10 uh, and also, would the other students from
11 Richard R. Green, do you want to raise you hand
12 so we can see the support you have for each
13 other? Thank you.

14 [Applause]

15 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Uh, our next speaker is
16 Akayla Puckerin. I probably slaughtered that.
17 I'm sorry. A-K-A-Y-L-A.

18 MS. AKAYLA PUCKERIN: Um, my name is Akalya
19 and I'm a sophomore at Richard R. Green High
20 School of Teaching. And I think that the move
21 here to 26 Broadway will only be a positive
22 thing for our school to enhance in other sports
23 and cultural diversity in this area.

24 MALE VOICE: Thank you.

25 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Thank you.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Tamira Row [phonetic].

3 FEMALE VOICE: - - .

4 MS. TAMIRA ROW: Oh, well I'll stand up.

5 All right, um, so I had been going to the Upper
6 East Side rezoning meetings and I know how
7 important it is that Richard R. Green relocate.

8 Um, I am a Millennium High School parent.
9 I've got, uh, three teenagers: two in high
10 school and one in high school next year. Um,
11 and I just want to say while I endorse Richard
12 R. Green moving out of its current location,
13 this--that plan actually conflicts with the
14 proposal by the downtown community to have
15 Millennium develop an annex here.

16 Um, Millennium is actually one of the most
17 diverse screened schools in District 2. It
18 draws most of its population from the
19 neighborhoods of Lower Manhattan. About a third
20 of the school is black and Latino, a third Asian
21 and another third white. It's a Title 1 school.
22 Ninety-eight percent of our kids go to college
23 and almost half of those are the first members
24 of their family to do so.

25 So this is a really rich mix of students

1 that offers a successful academic and social
2 program that I think would really be a strong
3 addition to the 26 Broadway school community.
4 It would also be, as the proximity of the two
5 schools, allowed to share resources. We've
6 already got a strong relationship with LMC. Um,
7 we would, I believe, love to develop one with
8 Urban Assembly as well.

9 Um, and it's very unusual that a co-location
10 plan would actually be endorsed by the other
11 schools in the building, and yet that is the
12 case with having a Millennium annex move in
13 here.

14 Um, there's also been a New York Times
15 article just recently with our new chancellor
16 endorsing the importance of recognizing
17 successful schools. Millennium is a beacon of
18 success whose replication should be roundly
19 endorsed by the DOE as a way of increasing high
20 school and college graduation rates.

21 Now, I know Richard R. Green has to move.
22 Um, as Speaker Silver's representative
23 mentioned, Norman Thomas is phasing out and
24 there is room in Norman Thomas for both Richard
25 R. Green to move early next year, as well as for

1 the other two planned schools to be sited in
2 there.

3 However, there is no need for Richard R.
4 Green to move for September 2011 because the
5 other school, um, the elementary school still
6 has its lease until September of 2012. It's
7 2012-2013 when the elementary school needs to
8 move. So I think there are other options the
9 DOE needs to consider. Thank you.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Tracee Cotto.

12 MS. TRACEE COTTO: Oh, okay. Hi, my name is
13 Tracee Cotto. I am an alumni of Richard R.
14 Green. I'm at Ithaca College, I'm a sophomore.
15 So, uh, Richard R. Green is a Title 1 school
16 with impoverished students. It does not mean
17 that we're not motivated to succeed. We have
18 had alumni who've attended Richard R. Green who
19 is at Cornell University; it's had Brown,
20 Barnard and many other prestigious schools. The
21 motivation of these students' success has
22 absolutely no correlation with their
23 socioeconomic statuses.

24 In fact, we have had students receive the -
25 - scholarship and in 2009, the--one of our

1 alumni received the Bill Gates Scholarship.
2 With all these achievements under our belts in
3 that if--sorry--with all these achievements
4 under our belts, imagine how much more we can
5 accomplish with this, with this facility, with
6 this facility. Thank you.

7 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Thank you.

8 [Applause]

9 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Peter Cocheo. Am I
10 pronouncing that correctly?

11 MR. PETER COCHEO: Hi, I'm Peter Cocheo.
12 I'm a science teacher at Richard R. Green. I've
13 been there for 12 years now. Um, one of the
14 things I'm very surprised by and a little bit
15 confused by is all the talk about Millennium
16 High School. As far as I know, this proposal
17 has nothing to do with Millennium High School.
18 And as far as I know, the DOE has not made a
19 proposal, official proposal to Millennium High
20 School to move. So I'm a little surprised the
21 discussion has been revolving in some people
22 around that.

23 Um, it sounds to me a lot like a downtown
24 versus uptown thing, especially when I hear what
25 Sheldon Silver has to say. Um, it seems like,

1 um, you don't want to--it reminds me of the
2 old days when people didn't want to bus students
3 from one neighborhood to another neighborhood
4 because of whatever socioeconomic classes were
5 there. It sounds like uptown kids should stay
6 uptown and downtown kids should stay downtown.

7 Um, I think this is an amazing opportunity
8 for our school who, um, has been for over 20
9 years in a very, very poorly, uh, designed
10 building for high school students. And so, I
11 think, uh, our students deserve a much better
12 facility and I think this is a great opportunity
13 for students. And as far as I know, um, this is
14 about our school moving here, not about
15 Millennium moving here.

16 And of course, Millennium is a successful
17 school, they only accept students that have 90
18 or better averages and three or fours on their,
19 uh, junior high tests, so of course they're
20 going to be successful. If they weren't, there
21 would be an issue. Thank you.

22 [Applause]

23 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: So much for not
24 applauding after every speaker. But I
25 appreciate the enthusiasm. Don Misenoff

1 [phonetic].

2 MR. DON MISENOFF: Uh, well, I've just, uh,
3 sort of recently come to this, uh, issue. But I
4 am, uh, the parent of a, uh, Millennium student.

5 My understanding, uh, is that, uh, in this
6 case, well this is a, a tremendous opportunity
7 for, for Millennium. And then Millennium had
8 put in a, uh, an application for the, uh, annex
9 at about the same time, I believe, as they were
10 informed of the Richard R. Green move. So this
11 is really, um, a question, uh, in addition, of
12 Millennium being able to, um, expand on its
13 resources and its facilities.

14 Uh, Millennium is, I think, really one of
15 the great success stories of New York City
16 public schools. These are the sorts of stories
17 I think that have been, uh, spoken about to, to
18 a great extent. This has really been, uh, stage
19 one, I think, of, of Millennium's development.

20 It's been around for eight years. The
21 facilities, the resources and the planning have
22 really shown that it's a model of excellence and
23 a kind of, uh, jewel of the, uh, of the system.

24 And there are limited resources, I think,
25 available to Millennium in order for Millennium

1 to expand and to seek those additional
2 resources and synergies that it really needs to
3 move to the next level.

4 And, um, because of the fact that it, it has
5 put in its application, as well, for the space,
6 uh, and the fact that in order to get those
7 resources, synergies and facilities, this is
8 really perhaps the only available space that it
9 could have to the extent that Richard R. Green
10 is able to, uh, find, um, other, uh, equally
11 good facilities, I think that would be a win/win
12 situation for all concerned.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Angela Benfield.

15 MS. ANGELA BENFIELD: Hello. Um, as a
16 parent of two students who attend Millennium
17 High School, and as a resident of Lower
18 Manhattan, I oppose the relocation of Richard R.
19 Green High School to 26 Broadway and strongly
20 support the resolution of Community Board 1 to
21 create a Millennium High School auxiliary site.

22 I understand the need for Richard R. Green
23 to be relocated, but I urge the DOE to consider
24 other options. Having a Millennium auxiliary
25 site at 26 Broadway is a golden opportunity for

1 the students of New York City and for the
2 Lower Manhattan community.

3 In spite of overcrowding, Millennium High
4 School is a proven success. Currently,
5 Millennium has 5,200 applications for 150 seats
6 next fall, compared to 1,400 applications for
7 160 seats at Richard R. Green last year.

8 Millennium has a 96 percent annual
9 attendance rate, 98 percent college acceptance
10 rate and 8 suspensions. Compare this to Richard
11 R. Green's 89 percent attendance rate, 68
12 percent college acceptance rate and 131
13 suspensions. I am particularly concerned about
14 the number of suspensions at Richard R. Green
15 and how it will impact Millennium students
16 around the corner.

17 Millennium has also been a success for the
18 economically disadvantaged, having a 45 percent
19 free and reduced lunch rate. It also has been
20 able to maintain a wonderfully diverse
21 population of approximately one-third of
22 students being white, one-third Asian and one-
23 third Black or Latino.

24 The proximity of 26 Broadway to 75 Broad
25 Street, where Millen--Millennium is currently

1 located, makes it an ideal location to share
2 much needed resources such as art classes, gym
3 classes, sporting events and advanced placement
4 classes. I would hate to see this opportunity
5 slip by just because the DOE cannot find another
6 suitable location for Richard R. Green.

7 I strongly urge you to do what is best for
8 the students of New York City and the Lower
9 Manhattan community, instead of, instead of
10 finding a quick fix to relocate another school.
11 Thank you.

12 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Thank you.

13 [Applause]

14 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Maria, and I apologize,
15 I cannot read your last name. I apologize.
16 Would you please announce it when you?

17 MS. MARIA OURANITSAS: Yes. Uh, my name is
18 Maria Ouranitsas. I didn't even have anything
19 written, but I had to make notes. So I want to
20 just read it so I can get everything I want to
21 say out.

22 Um, I'm speaking in two capacities today.
23 First, I speak as a parent coordinator of Lower
24 Manhattan Community Middle School in this
25 building. And I'm strongly in favor of

1 Millennium High School taking over the space
2 here on the first and second floors of this
3 building.

4 Uh, Millennium High School, as you know, has
5 a great reputation, high graduation rate and low
6 incident rate. We have a proven positive track
7 record with the students of Millennium High
8 School. We have shared the same lunchtimes with
9 no incidents. We have a large group of students
10 from Millennium coming here for various after
11 school programs and it has been very successful.
12 As a parent coordinator, I would love to see our
13 relationship with Millennium High School
14 continue and to grow.

15 Secondly, I'm a parent of a graduate of
16 Millennium High School and a current ninth
17 grader. I'm a big supporter of Millennium. I
18 can't say that, uh, enough. The school has
19 prepared my son for college and he's had an
20 incredible high school experience.

21 The space in this building would allow
22 Millennium the opportunity to offer their
23 students a more enriched and positive experience
24 with the use of a gym, science labs, art rooms,
25 AP classes, et cetera. I would love to have my

1 daughter be able to benefit from her high
2 school expanding and having all the benefits of
3 a complete high school package: Millennium in
4 this building.

5 All that being said, I would urge the DOE to
6 find a suitable alternative for Richard R.
7 Green, where their students can learn and grow
8 as well.

9 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Thank you.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Dakwan, uh, Benson. And
12 I'm sorry if I mispronounced your first name.

13 MR. DAKWAN BENSON: Happy new year
14 everybody.

15 GROUP: Happy New Year.

16 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Happy New Year.

17 MR. DAKWAN BENSON: My name is Dakwan Benson
18 from Richard R. Green High School of Teaching.
19 I would like to talk about our narrow hallways.
20 We need the bigger space because everybody
21 bumping into people two or three times, it's not
22 enough. We need bigger space because every time
23 we open up our lockers, everybody bumps into
24 each other and people fall down, throw their
25 books on the floor.

1 [Applause]

2 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Thank you. Uh, Lisa
3 Mazzariello.

4 MS. LISA MAZZARIELLO: Hi. Um, I have
5 laryngitis. I'm sorry, but I'll try and be
6 loud. Um, my name is Lisa Mazzariello. I am
7 the director of the Amy Sullivan Lee Teaching
8 Academy at Richard R. Green High School of
9 Teaching. Um, we are not supposed to have any
10 sort of emotional appeals today. We have to
11 understand, as you do as parents, that this is a
12 very emotional battle. You are fighting for
13 your children and we're fighting for our
14 children.

15 Um, I just want to brief--the High School of
16 Teaching, the last 20 years, we have provided a
17 service to New York City. Our students are well
18 trained and go into classrooms as interns. They
19 work in middle schools, they work in daycares,
20 they work with special education students, they
21 work, um, with, um, bilingual students and
22 English--ESL students.

23 Um, they've become a part of the community
24 on the Upper East Side and we've added a lot to
25 that community. And I am looking forward to

1 coming here and joining this community as well
2 as giving our students an opportunity to reach
3 schools outside of their neighborhood.

4 Um, and there's been a lot of talk about
5 what's best for the neighborhood and what's best
6 for the city. We train the future teachers that
7 are going to go back to their underserved, under
8 privileged communities and give them the
9 education and the tools that they need to break
10 the cycle. If we want to see the city improve,
11 somebody at some point has to turn around and
12 open a door for these students that don't have
13 the opportunity.

14 You're all here fighting for your child. We
15 need--we, we--I'm going to ask you personally
16 help our students, give them a chance to get
17 into a different neighborhood. When you say
18 there are other schools that Richard R. Green
19 can go to, the other school you offered was
20 inside the Ratlam [phonetic] Projects, inside
21 the Ratlam Projects.

22 Please understand that our students' parents
23 try so hard to get them out of their
24 neighborhoods where that they have--that they--
25 that you know, they were born into. They want

1 to be able to leave and see a different part
2 of the city and some different opportunities.
3 And basically, I'm very--uh, time's up, I know.
4 We, we can't, we can't do it unless somebody
5 gives us a chance. So thanks.

6 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Thank you.

7 [Applause]

8 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Jane Eisen.

9 MS. JANE EISEN: I spoke.

10 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Oh, okay, thank you.

11 The speaker list is now exhausted. No?

12 MALE VOICE: I wrote my name down.

13 [Background noise]

14 MALE VOICE: Oh, there's a second page.

15 There you go.

16 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Oh, I don't have a
17 second page.

18 MALE VOICE: I'm sorry.

19 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Excuse me while we find
20 the second page.

21 MALE VOICE: I know I was there.

22 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Ah, I am sorry. We have
23 more speakers. Uh, Trisha Joyce.

24 MS. TRISHA JOYCE: Thank you. Hi, I'm
25 Trisha Joyce of Community Board 1, PS 234,

1 Overcrowding Committee, Sheldon Silver's task
2 force. And I, um, it is, uh, beyond upsetting
3 and with great frustration that once again we
4 are finding ourselves talking about how great
5 some people's kids are. Some, how great--excuse
6 me--other kids' people--uh, other people's kids
7 are, how much people deserve to be somewhere
8 because of the poor planning of this
9 administration.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. TRISHA JOYCE: Richard Green needs a new
12 school. You've needed a new school since 2007.
13 Okay? We have been at so many of these hearings
14 where we have one school that needs to get out
15 of somebody else's school. And we need to work
16 together to make an impression on this
17 administration so that we do not continually
18 find ourselves defending our school buildings.
19 We cannot allow this to continue to happen.

20 I know it's hard for people that are not
21 from this community district to understand what
22 we've been through, uh, post 9/11. But to just
23 give you an idea, we were at 30,000 people down
24 here in 2001. We are at 61,000 people in this
25 community district. We are over capacity at all

1 of our schools, Sheldon Silver, and all of our
2 over-crowded communities have had to fight for
3 every single school seat in this district.

4 Millennium was basically started on a dare.
5 They dared that school to succeed. It had no
6 gym. It had nothing, nothing. And with love
7 and attention and care and the support of a
8 determined community, that school got off the
9 ground like any school can do.

10 And what I want to say to everybody at
11 Richard Green is that we care about you, we care
12 about this school. We will help you fight for
13 finding a building just like we did for PS 11
14 when they needed Clinton to get out of their
15 school. They found a spot for them if they are
16 forced to try.

17 So I would like to say to everyone that we
18 would love to work together, but that this
19 school was promised to this community. This
20 space in this building was a longtime promise
21 that we've worked on for ten years. And please
22 try to understand that. Thank you so much.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Andy Lachman.

25 MR. ANDY LACHMAN: Good evening parents,

1 educators and electeds. My name is Andy
2 Lachman and I'm with a group called Parent
3 Leaders of Upper East Side Schools.

4 Just in brief, Parent Leaders are elected
5 officials that are from the elected leaders of
6 their schools. They're the PTA or SLT people.
7 And what they've done is they've put the
8 interest of their children aside, their
9 individual children. They've put the interest
10 of their individual schools aside and came
11 together as a community to fight for their kids,
12 to reduce overcrowding.

13 Personally, I'm the father of a sixth and
14 eighth grader, and I know how hard it is to find
15 high school space. And I know that we need more
16 high school space, and I support any effort to
17 increase Millennium or add any high school space
18 anywhere in Manhattan in the city. But that's
19 in the long-term.

20 In the short-term, I support the move for
21 Richard Green, and let me tell you why. First
22 of all, safety is paramount. That is the most
23 important thing that every parent needs to know
24 that their child is in a safe environment. And
25 I'm confident the principals can work out any

1 safety issues.

2 But let me tell you about the Upper East
3 Side. Not long ago, three schools were--there
4 were three other elementary schools. One is now
5 Robert Kennedy, uh, School. It's a Zone 75
6 school. It's really needed; it's a k through
7 12. One, 151, became a condo and was turned
8 into a middle school. The third became Richard
9 Green.

10 The immediate need is for Richard Green High
11 School because Richard Green educators, the
12 future educators need to be in a promising
13 place, uh, a, a stellar place where they can go.
14 And if Richard Green is not approved, this
15 impacts eight schools and, uh, and close to
16 5,000 children. We can't delay this. The
17 rezoning is already set.

18 Now, I urge all of us to do what's right for
19 all of Manhattan, not just the Lower Manhattan.
20 And I feel that we can have a place for Richard
21 Green. We can have a permanent home for 151.
22 And we can have a great--where we can increase
23 the high school space downtown. And I feel that
24 we can do it together in the spirit of PLUS.
25 That means all of us coming together as a

1 community.

2 And I'm so--Trish is so right. I agree with
3 you 100 percent. We have to come together and
4 we can find extra high school space. But the
5 short term demands means that we need to do
6 Richard Green first and a permanent home for
7 151. Thank you.

8 [Applause]

9 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Crystal Clason?
10 Crystal?

11 MS. CRYSTAL CARLSON: I spoke already.

12 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Okay. Lori Levin?

13 MS. CAROLINE HALL: After Lori is Caroline
14 Hall?

15 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Correct.

16 MS. CAROLINE HALL: Okay, I'm Caroline Hall.

17 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Okay.

18 MS. CAROLINE HALL: We're going to go
19 together and share time.

20 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Okay.

21 MS. CAROLINE HALL: So my name is Caroline
22 Hall. This is Lori Levin and we're the
23 presidents of the PTA at PS 151, otherwise known
24 as the Yorkville Community School. Our fight
25 for our school began a long, long time ago, as

1 Andy pointed out. Our school is closed and we
2 had no, no zoned school for a really long time,
3 forcing our children to be lotteried into the
4 other neighborhood schools. We didn't have a
5 place.

6 We fought, the parents for our community
7 came together and we got a school but we're in a
8 temporary spot. We're in Our Lady of Good
9 Council, which is owned by the Archdiocese on a
10 short-term lease. Our lease ends next year. We
11 need a permanent home.

12 The only viable elementary school space on
13 the Upper East Side is at 066, which is
14 currently housing Richard R. Green. Why is it
15 viable elementary school space? Because it was
16 built as an elementary school. We have asked
17 these children to go to school in an elementary
18 school space for far too long and it's
19 disgraceful.

20 Our children had a, had a, um, project this
21 year focusing on needs versus wants and defining
22 them in an appropriate way. What do you need?
23 We need food, we need shelter, we need a home,
24 we need a place to be educated that's suitable
25 for your age and your size. What do you want?

1 Another space.

2 I'm sorry, but what Richard R. Green and PS
3 151 have is a need. What Millennium has is a
4 want. And we have to take care of our
5 community's needs before we can address the
6 community's wants, because if we don't, then
7 we're failing our children and that's not
8 appropriate.

9 I can't express to you enough how critical
10 it is for our children to have a permanent home.
11 We can't be shuttled between rental locations
12 like, you know, unwanted kids. And when the
13 Archdiocese claims their place back, where,
14 where are we going to put our, our
15 kindergartners? Are we going to put them on the
16 street? Are we going to educate them in a lobby
17 of a building?

18 We have an immediate pressing need. And I
19 understand that Millennium wants more space and
20 I understand that they, they should get more
21 space. But it's a want and it's not immediate.
22 Ours is a need and it is immediate. I'm asking
23 you to support this move. Let Richard R. Green
24 move to where it belongs down at 26 Broadway and
25 let PS 151 have it's rightful home at M066.

1 Thank you so very much.

2 [Applause]

3 MS. LORI LEVIN: Um, I also just want to add
4 that whether you're 5, whether you're 15,
5 whether you're 18, every student deserves a
6 place where they can learn and they can thrive.
7 The students at Richard R. Green, they're here.
8 They're showing tremendous pride and they're
9 taking ownership of their futures and ownership
10 of their educations and I think that they should
11 be applauded for that.

12 [Applause]

13 MS. LORI LEVIN: And it's pride that they
14 have in their school that shows that they're
15 here and they're invested and they're going to
16 be great neighbors in this school. And they
17 deserve to be in this school. It is, as
18 Caroline said, it is a need.

19 Our children are five and six-years-old.
20 They are just starting out and they are starting
21 out the right way and they're thriving. But in
22 order to continue to thrive, we need a permanent
23 location. Because without that permanent
24 location, we can't get our children technology,
25 we can't give our children science. We can't

1 give our children the gym that Millennium is
2 looking for as well.

3 And they're all going to do great, but
4 they're still our kids and it breaks my heart
5 that what's being quoted over and over and over
6 again is suspension rates. And you have great
7 kids here who are happy to stand up and defend
8 themselves. And I think it's shame on everyone
9 for putting them in that position to do so.

10 [Applause]

11 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: I can't pronounce the
12 first name but the last name is Urina. Maybe I
13 didn't pronounce that correctly either. Would
14 you please, when you get to the mike, give your
15 name correctly? I apologize.

16 MS. SUMI URINAR: Sumi Urinar [phonetic].

17 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Much better said.

18 MS. SUMI URINAR: Hi, my name is Sumi Urinar
19 and I am a secretary of the Manhattan Borough
20 Student Advisory Council and I'm a member of the
21 Chancellor's Student Advisory Council and also a
22 student at Richard R. Green.

23 I've had many opportunities at Richard R.
24 Green. I'm involved in CFES for every student.
25 In CFES I've obtained leadership abilities where

1 I, I mentored a group of 15 students. We gave
2 each other a lot of encouragement both
3 academically and socially.

4 I'm also a mentor at - - Center. I've also
5 had the opportunity to speak at the Youth
6 Leadership Conference as well as to be a
7 presenter at the CFES national conference. With
8 the many opportunities Richard R. Green has
9 given me, I know I will succeed in life. I
10 support the move for Richard R. Green - - .

11 [Applause]

12 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Ralph Cook.

13 MR. RALPH COOK: Hi, yeah, I'm Ralph Cook
14 and I'm a parent of, um, a six-year-old at PS
15 151. And Lori and Caroline already said a lot
16 of what, what I was going to say. But I just--I
17 didn't--before I came in tonight, I, I didn't
18 really know a lot about Millennium or what the
19 issues were. But what I'm really hearing, or
20 what it seems to me is like Millennium kids are
21 better than the Richard R. Green kids. That's,
22 uh, I, I just think it's really--it just sounds
23 really bad and it, it, it feels bad.

24 And as, as we've heard, we've got, we've got
25 these kids who have been in a building which

1 wasn't really fit for purpose, it's for
2 elementary school kids. And they're a lovely
3 set of people and they deserve, they deserve a
4 space. There is a pressing need, as Lori and
5 Caroline said, right now for us to find a
6 permanent space for our kids in PS 151. And
7 they, and it's long overdue that they have a
8 place that allows them to thrive and, and gives
9 them every opportunity that they deserve, long
10 overdue.

11 So, and, you know, I, I'm sure, you know,
12 Millennium quite rightly want extra space, but
13 right now, uh, I see a set of, a set of, um, a
14 set of kids that, uh, at, at Richard R. Green
15 who, who have been in a space that really was
16 never fit for purpose who deserve better space.

17 And, um, and myself, with, with my child,
18 you know, at PS 151, we really pressingly need
19 our own home so that we can provide technology
20 and things like that, that Lori mentioned, that
21 we can't really get, uh, while we're in a
22 temporary location. Thank you.

23 [Applause]

24 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: Nancy Zarin? Nancy?

25 MS. NANCY ZARIN: Hi. Um, I'm, like Ralph,

1 also the parent of a first grader at 151.

2 And, um, I, I agree with what Ralph had to say,
3 as well as Caroline and Lori.

4 Um, and what struck me as I was listening to
5 what everybody had to say, especially about the
6 Richard R. Green kids is that it, it seems that,
7 um, to have high school students that are,
8 they're young adults and, and basically adults
9 going to school in a building where, um, the
10 facilities are made for really small children,
11 it probably has a big impact on their self-
12 esteem and, and, and how they, uh, view their
13 learning. I think that they deserve, uh, a
14 grownup environment to learn in and, and maybe
15 that would have some impact on, uh, the type of
16 test results and, and graduation rates that you
17 have from them.

18 Um, at this point, having to learn in a
19 facility that's made for small children doesn't
20 show them the respect that they deserve as
21 students. Um, our kids are squished into a
22 building. Uh, every morning there are 177 kids
23 lined up in a, in a room that's about half the
24 size of this. And that room makes--doubles as,
25 uh, their gym during the day. It doubles as

1 their music room. It doubles as everything.
2 Uh, so our kids definitely need another, uh,
3 building and they need it desperately.

4 [Applause]

5 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: And your last speaker is
6 listed as Jeff Vogel.

7 MR. JEFF VOGEL: Good evening parents,
8 administrators, politicians. I wear many hats.
9 I'm a parent of an eleventh grader at Richard
10 Green. I'm a former co-president of the PTA at
11 Richard Green. I'm on the SLT at Richard Green.
12 Enough about me, I'm also a full time, lifelong
13 resident of the Lower East Side.

14 There was talk about safety. I feel that
15 Richard R. Green is a very safe school. I
16 wouldn't let my kids stay there. I'm also an
17 employee of the Board of Education, so a like a
18 lot of stuff, like rates and stuff. So unless
19 it's safe, he wouldn't be there. If he had a
20 problem there, he would have been out of there a
21 long time ago.

22 In the two and half years he's been there,
23 the students there aren't only fellow students,
24 they're his friends. They come to our house; he
25 goes to their house. We've gone out together

1 with their families; they come along with us
2 to the zoo and various places.

3 I'm very, very fussy; I'm very concerned
4 about safety. I'm also very concerned about my
5 son's friends. I'm happy to say that all his
6 friends are nice and, as I said, I allow them in
7 my house. They're not rowdy or anything like
8 that.

9 There was talk which was brought up about
10 Millennium. All I can say is that Millennium is
11 a screened school, which is a 99 percent
12 guarantee of success. It's also there are four
13 times as many special need kids at Richard R.
14 Green. It's safe. Um, let's see what else.

15 The Chancellor, whose name was mentioned
16 before, is the smallest authority of anybody in
17 this room as to what is good for a school,
18 what's good for a neighborhood. She sent her
19 two kids to boarding school in Connecticut and
20 thank God for everyone.

21 Also, um--

22 [Laughter]

23 MR. JEFF VOGEL: --not only is it Sully
24 [phonetic] my, my, my congressman, my
25 assemblyman, he's also my neighbor and I assure

1 you when he gets home from Albany, all I know
2 firsthand powers of members for a politician
3 that, uh, I go talk to him. My wife and I will
4 go downstairs and we will talk to him and we
5 will let him know that at least one Lower East
6 Side person wants Richard R. Green in this space
7 and not Millennium. Good night, a happy and a
8 healthy new year.

9 [Applause]

10 MS. ELAINE GORMAN: The speaker list is now
11 exhausted. Again, we welcome any comments and
12 feedback you have at any time before the Panel
13 for Educational Policy votes on its proposal
14 January 19th at 6:00 at Brooklyn Tech. The
15 email address and phone number, one more time,
16 in case you weren't here. If you want to submit
17 comment other than tonight, (212) 374-3466 or
18 there is a website,
19 District02proposals@schools.nyc.gov.

20 On behalf of the DOE, I want to thank you
21 for your participation. Uh, we had a broad
22 spectrum of people here, people voiced their
23 opinion. That is what public hearings are for
24 and we thank you very much.

25 Uh, again, there'll be a hearing at, uh,

1 Richard R. Green tomorrow at 6 and at 151
2 tomorrow at 7:30 I believe. Um, I will stay
3 afterwards, uh, if anybody has any questions.
4 And this joint public hearing is now closed.

5 [END 181_324.MP3]

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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 *Dana Lutz*

7 Date January 7, 2011

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