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

**Expansion of CPE II from Current
K-5 to K-8 at Building M013**

October 17th, 2013

5:30 p.m.

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MR. GREG BETHEIL: Talk as loud as you can,
3 and thank you in the back. This is a joint
4 public hearing of the Department of Education,
5 Committee Education Councils 4, and the School
6 Leadership Team for Central Park East 1, Central
7 Park High School, Junior High School 13, East
8 Harlem Scholars Academy 1, East Harlem Scholars
9 Academy 2 and Central Park East 2, to discuss
10 the proposed grade expansion of Central Park
11 East 2 from K-5 to K-8, and proposed co-location
12 of the middle school grades in M013 with JHS 13,
13 Central Park East 1, Central Park East High
14 School, and East Harlem Scholars Academy 1 and 2
15 beginning in the 2014/2015 school year.

16 My name is Greg Betheil. I'm the Executive
17 Director for Academic and Talent Management in
18 the Department of Education, and I'll be serving
19 as the facilitator for tonight's hearing.
20 Tonight's proceedings will be recorded and
21 transcribed, and before we begin the hearing, we
22 ask that anyone who wishes to speak during the
23 public comment portion of this evening's hearing
24 to please sign up out in the hall at the table.
25 It's about 6:15 now. Sign up will end at 6:30,

1 about 15 minutes from now. Only people that
2 have signed up to speak will be able to
3 participate in the public comment portion of the
4 hearing.

5 Panel participants were asked to arrive here
6 no later than 5:30 p.m. Now that we've started,
7 if a panel participant arrives late, he or she
8 will be given the opportunity to speak at the
9 first opportune moment. We want to be
10 respectful of everybody's time this evening, and
11 thank you for being here on time.

12 Also, there may be elected officials who
13 arrive at different times throughout the
14 evening. If they wish to speak, we will do our
15 best to accommodate them at the first opportune
16 moment. Those who were here at the start of the
17 public comment segment will be asked to speak
18 first.

19 Tonight's format will include presentation
20 proposals, and presentations by hearing
21 participants followed by public comment. People
22 should have already signed up at the table in
23 the lobby. If you've not signed up yet, there's
24 still about 15 minutes remaining. Public
25 comments can be no longer than two minutes each.

1 The time will be strictly followed, and
2 speakers will be informed when there's about 30
3 seconds left and when their time has expired.

4 I'd now like to introduce the panel that's
5 assembled for tonight's joint public hearing.
6 Joining us up on the dais is Meg Barboza from
7 the Department of Education. We're waiting on
8 Jasmine Valazquez from Community Education
9 Council 4, who we do expect shortly. Principal
10 - - , Principal Middleman--

11 MR. JACOB MICHELMAN: Michelman.

12 MR. BETHEIL: Michelman, I'm sorry.

13 Michelman, I'm sorry. I went with the
14 handwritten version instead of the typed
15 version. Principal Lieberman as well as
16 Principal - - out here in the audience.
17 Principals Corbett, and I hope I get this right,
18 we have somebody from the SLT. It's Alejandra
19 De La Santos. Thank you for joining us, and
20 Principal Naomi Smith as well. Anybody that I
21 missed? Okay. So far, so good.

22 We do not have any elected officials, but
23 we'd be pleased to have them with us if they do
24 show up this evening, and with that, I'll now
25 turn the program over to our Chancellor's

1 designee, Meg Barboza, who will present the
2 proposal.

3 MS. MEG BARBOZA: Thank you so much, Greg.
4 I'm just going to read the proposal summary
5 before we get started here. The DOE is striving
6 to increase quality options for students. The
7 proposal to expand Central Park East 2, or CPE,
8 from a K-5 school to a K-8 school initially came
9 from the school community. In May 2013 a grade
10 expansion team composed of CPE teachers, staff,
11 administrators and parents submitted a formal
12 application to expand.

13 That application was supported by parents
14 and the broader school community. This suggests
15 a high level of satisfaction within the school
16 and its parent body, and strongly implies that
17 this expanded CPE will suit the needs of
18 children in District 4 and citywide. The
19 elementary grades of CPE 2 will not move from
20 building M171 due to this proposal. CPE 2's
21 elementary school and pre-kindergarten students
22 will remain in building M171.

23 If this proposal is approved, students who
24 choose to attend CPE and middle school grades
25 will attend middle school in this building,

1 building M013. This grade expansion will allow
2 CPE to serve students in elementary and middle
3 school. This proposed expansion is not expected
4 to impact CPE's existing pre-kindergarten
5 program. While the expected utilization rate
6 may exceed 100% in several school years, JS13,
7 CPE1, CPE High School and CPE's middle school
8 grades will not exceed their baseline allocation
9 of space pursuant to the citywide instructional
10 footprint.

11 East Harlem Scholars Academy 1 and 2 will
12 receive sufficient space, according to the
13 school's leadership. If this proposal is
14 approved, current fifth grade students will be
15 able to apply to attend the middle school at CPE
16 for the District 4 middle school choice process
17 for the 2014/2015 school year. If this proposal
18 is approved, CPE middle school would begin
19 serving sixth grade students in September 2014,
20 and would phase in one grade per year until the
21 2016/2017 school year when this school would
22 reach full scale, serving students in
23 kindergarten through eighth grades.

24 This proposal would provide parents and
25 students with an additional middle school choice

1 in District 4.

2 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you, Meg. With that,
3 just arriving is our CEC4 representative,
4 Jasmine Valazquez. Welcome.

5 MS. JASMINE VALAZQUEZ: Thank you.

6 MR. BETHEIL: We'll give you a second to
7 settle in. With that, our next presenter will
8 be any of the representatives from the schools
9 and their SLTs that have comments to make, so
10 I'll just go down the line to see if any of the
11 principals or the members of the SLT have any
12 comments that you wanted to add.

13 MS. LINDLEY VEHLING: Good evening. Thank
14 you for coming out tonight. I am speaking as
15 the principal of Central Park East 1, and for
16 the majority of parents with whom I've been
17 talking about a middle school here. And the
18 realization of a Central Park East Progressive
19 middle school has been a long time dream since
20 getting my - - building. So we are looking
21 forward to this as an opportunity. It will have
22 its challenges, there's no doubt, and you will
23 hear a variety of speakers from Central Park
24 East 1 as they look forward to this unique
25 opportunity. We really are hoping that this

1 middle school can happen.

2 So as the principal of Central Park East 1,
3 I'm offering that Central Park East 1 is ready
4 and open to work with Central Park East 2 as a
5 successful middle school. We recognize the
6 challenges that you will be hearing about
7 tonight, and we also recognize that we have a
8 building council of principals who are willing
9 to be conciliatory to each other so we can make
10 this happen. So I thank you for coming out
11 tonight, and I'll pass this on.

12 MR. BENNET LIEBERMAN: Hi, everybody. Good
13 evening. My name is Bennet Lieberman. I'm the
14 principal of Central Park East High School.
15 I've worked at the Department of Education for
16 14 years, and I've been a principal here in this
17 building for nine years now, and I really
18 appreciate Lindley's comments. I'm going to
19 expand on some of the things that she said, and
20 I'm going to talk a little bit about this plan,
21 previous plans, the short term future of our
22 building, and a little bit about the long-term
23 future of our building.

24 The first thing I want to say is--and this
25 is an unfortunate thing to say. After having

1 worked in the department for 14 years, I don't
2 think I've ever been angrier than I am now, and
3 the reason why I'm angry is not because of my
4 colleagues here at the table or those that are
5 sitting directly in front of me. Unfortunately,
6 it's the way that the Office of Portfolio
7 handled the implementation of this plan.

8 I've experienced many plans through the
9 Office Portfolio here in this building. This
10 is, I think, the fourth public hearing that
11 we've had in regard to either school closures or
12 school openings and space issues here at the
13 building, and in the past, Portfolio has always
14 come to the building, consulted with us, asked
15 us what our thoughts were in regard to how space
16 should be managed here, took our feedback,
17 listened to us, and then we hoped or thought or
18 believed that they went back to their office and
19 put together a plan that had the community's
20 input in it. That didn't happen this time.

21 They didn't talk to any of us up here at the
22 front of the table. They didn't talk to any of
23 our colleagues from East Harlem Scholars. They
24 worked on a plan privately, didn't consult with
25 anybody, and then on the afternoon of the first

1 day of school this year, they emailed this
2 plan to all of us and said, hey, guys, you're
3 going to have to deal with this now. And just
4 for the record, if I ran my school in such a
5 manner as they developed that plan, I think I
6 would be run out for not being inclusive, for
7 not being collaborative, and for not seeking
8 other people's advice, opinions, etc.

9 So I just want it on the record that I'm
10 very upset that that didn't happen. We deserve
11 to be consulted. We deserve to be spoken to,
12 and it wasn't our fault that it didn't happen.
13 The plan was done in secret without our
14 knowledge. Not only was the plan done in secret
15 without our knowledge, but the last time that
16 portfolio made a public comment about this
17 building, they were very clear. They said
18 there's no space in your building, and they said
19 that to the CPE2 community during a public
20 hearing, which is on the record.

21 And then some time passed, and they went to
22 work again on the building. Without talking to
23 us, they decided, well, if we put walls
24 together, if we build walls here or we take
25 walls down there, maybe there will be space. So

1 they've come up with this plan that they say
2 takes the building over capacity, which it does.
3 If you look at the plan in the future, many
4 years from now, by design, this building will be
5 anywhere from 10-20% over capacity. Yet they
6 say all the schools will be in their footprint.

7 To me, that's not good enough. We can't
8 have an overcrowded building, and we can't have
9 a plan that really tells us where this space is
10 going to be created. I think some of the space
11 was supposed to be created in our basement
12 level, where there were walls that were
13 cinderblock and load bearing, and as part of the
14 original plan, they were going to take those
15 walls out, but nobody came to the building and
16 surveyed the space prior to writing the document
17 and understood that these walls can't be taken
18 down.

19 And just again, for the record, I find it
20 highly objectionable. Moving forward, one thing
21 that I'm really proud of after having worked in
22 this building for nine years with my colleagues
23 is that we've managed these co-locations very
24 successfully. The Department of Education and
25 the Department of Portfolio instead of

1 continuously--by putting all these new plans
2 on us and making us manage them, they should be
3 coming to our building and asking us how we're
4 doing it so successful compared to a lot of
5 other buildings here in New York City. Because
6 we have two charter schools, we have three
7 district schools, and if this plan moves forward
8 as written, next year with no modifications,
9 we're going to have six schools in this building
10 that has a total enrollment of under 1,200
11 children. I don't think there's another
12 building in New York City that has that many
13 schools with that small a total enrollment.
14 We've made it work, but it's going to break our
15 backs next year.

16 So I have some suggestions because they
17 didn't ask us over the summer what we thought,
18 so this is our opportunity to tell them what we
19 think. In order to manage this co-location here
20 the building in a reasonable fashion, I'm
21 suggesting that two things happen. The first
22 thing that I'm going to suggest kind of pains me
23 because it runs very contrary to what I know my
24 colleague and friend wants, but I think it's
25 important, and so I'm putting it on the record.

1 Junior High School 13 is in phase out
2 right now, and they're supposed to have another
3 phase out year next year, and then be closed for
4 the following year. It's my suggestion the
5 department think about expediting the phase out
6 of Junior High School 13 in order to accommodate
7 this new plan for this new co-location. I'm a
8 firm believer that phase outs only help the
9 adults in the building. They don't help the
10 children. These students should not be in a
11 school that's being closed down. It must be a
12 horrible feeling for any child to have to go to
13 school, knowing that their school according to
14 the Department of Education is not living up to
15 standards, and must be closed. And the
16 Department of Education should find seats for
17 all of those students for next year.

18 And the people who work in that school will
19 not lose their jobs. They will still get their
20 paychecks, and they will go into whatever pool
21 of staff they would be put into the following
22 year. It's just happening a year earlier.

23 The other suggestion that I have, and this
24 is not just a suggestion, but it's something
25 that we've spoken about as a building council

1 with Naomi at CPE2 and all of us, is that
2 Naomi look at her enrollment for the next year
3 and the year after and look at ways to minimize
4 the impact that her enrollment according to the
5 plan has on the building. If those two things
6 happen, I'm certain that we will all find a way
7 to make this happen, and do it well and do it in
8 the best interests of the kids, which is
9 ostensibly what we're all here for.

10 Longer term, we're going to have the over-
11 capacity problem. That problem is four or five
12 years down the road. I think it's objectionable
13 that the Department of Education would by design
14 take the building over capacity. Over-crowded
15 buildings happen by accident. They happen
16 because there's too many people living around a
17 school, there's no other options, it is what it
18 is, and it's not a good situation by any stretch
19 of the imagination. And for the Department to
20 put together a plan that does that to this
21 building by design when it doesn't have to
22 happen is a bad idea. But that's a discussion
23 for a couple of years from now, but I wanted
24 that on the record as well. Thank you for your
25 time.

1 [Applause]

2 MR. MICHELMAN: Good evening, everybody. My
3 name is Jacob Michelman. I'm the principal of
4 Central Park East Middle School, also known as
5 Junior High School 13. First, I want to
6 congratulate CPE parents. You've been at
7 hearing after hearing, and to be here today to
8 talk about yourselves is actually a great thing
9 to see, so congratulations. You can applaud
10 that.

11 [Applause]

12 MR. MICHELMAN: I have to recognize my
13 colleagues here with me who are doing a
14 wonderful job with their schools and have raised
15 a couple concerns in the installation of another
16 school, so thank you. My school has asked me to
17 make the following statement on their behalf.

18 So we are delighted the public for the
19 progressive education model to expand to a
20 middle school as we love this educational model,
21 but we believe putting another school in this
22 building could prove to be a challenge for us
23 and the other four schools. In addition, it
24 would be difficult for the school that comes.

25 The challenges are the same concerns

1 mentioned in the hearings before, which
2 include, but are not limited to, the sharing of
3 spaces, locating a wide gap of ages near each
4 other, wasted space on repeated main offices,
5 and finally the limited space for schools to
6 conduct business on a daily basis, such as
7 counseling, speech and occupational therapy.

8 For example, we currently are using a closet
9 to provide counseling to our students because we
10 simply do not have space anywhere else. We
11 believe CPE2 should be appointed their middle
12 school, but we do not believe housing it here
13 next year is the best plan for everyone.

14 As for the proposal to close JHS13, it was
15 decided last year by the panel we would be
16 phased out. That hearing has already taken
17 place, and it was based off of data and what was
18 best for our students. While some schools were
19 immediately closed, such as MS45, we were not.
20 BSPFC [phonetic] has been written and is already
21 in implementation. As much as it was
22 disheartening for us and our committee, we have
23 done an incredible job to pick ourselves back up
24 and get focused on the learning and support of
25 our students. To bring it back up for review

1 again is not at all fair to the people who
2 have been impacted.

3 To put us through the process once again
4 would be devastating. Thank you.

5 [Applause]

6 MS. SAN MARKIA: Good evening. My name is
7 Cheyenne Latisse-San Markia [phonetic]. I'm the
8 founding principal of East Harlem Scholars
9 Academy, and managing director of East Harlem
10 Scholars Academies. According to the agenda
11 here, we have the opportunity to have two
12 statements in the beginning, so one on behalf of
13 each of our schools. The first speaker is one
14 of our parent leaders, and I will make some very
15 brief remarks to close.

16 MS. ALEJANDRA DE LA SANTOS: Hi, good
17 evening, everyone. My name is Alejandra De La
18 Santos. I'm here to speak on behalf of East
19 Harlem Scholars Academy--excuse me. East Harlem
20 Scholars Academy families. My son, - - , is in
21 kindergarten. Our school, East Harlem Scholars
22 Academy are a part of a community-based
23 organization, East Harlem Tutorial Program,
24 known as EHTP, that has been working with
25 district schools and East Harlem families since

1 1958.

2 East Harlem Scholars Academies are a
3 nonprofit public school authorized by the State
4 University of New York. We use a blank
5 admission - - with an East Harlem resident
6 preference. About 30% of our students have
7 special education needs, and 25% are English
8 Language Learners. 90% of our students are from
9 East Harlem including 100% of new families this
10 year.

11 90% of our families qualify for free reduced
12 lunch. Reading and writing is the hearth of our
13 school. In the first two years of operation, 4%
14 of our students arrived reading on the grade
15 level, but now we are proud to report that over
16 90% of our children are reading on grade level
17 with 78% above grade level.

18 In 9,973 days, we look forward to our
19 founding class graduating from college. The
20 staff, students and families are partners, and
21 we truly love our school, and we aren't the only
22 parents who want to be there. This past year,
23 our school received over 1,700 applications for
24 just 162 spots.

25 We receive nearly \$3,000 less per pupil than

1 district schools who themselves already have a
2 tight budget, and we do not receive any funding
3 for space. Most of our current families and
4 alumns do not have the means to contribute
5 financially, so we depend on highly
6 unpredictable fundraisers from donors outside of
7 the East Harlem community. This is all to say
8 that, like the other schools in this building,
9 we are public schools that could never afford to
10 run a great school without public space.

11 Also, I want to say that like you, we would
12 of course prefer to have our own space, and we
13 think it's not right for the East Harlem--it's
14 not right that East Harlem doesn't have more
15 high quality public education space. Lastly, I
16 just want to thank East Harlem Scholars Academy
17 parents and staff. A lot has been asked of them
18 during this year of co-location--this year of
19 co-location process.

20 Beyond the unimaginable work it has taken to
21 start up two K through 8 schools, they have
22 given their time and energy in order to be sure
23 their voices are heard. You will notice that we
24 did not ask parents and staff to be here tonight
25 because quite honestly, we think it's enough

1 already. They have made themselves clear at
2 so many hearings, that repeating their message
3 again tonight will not change the situation. We
4 think it's time for us, the parents, to get back
5 to parenting, and for our school leaders to get
6 back to being school leaders.

7 We remain optimistic about the future of
8 this building. We hope we can all work it out
9 as best we can, even in the tough situation as
10 we have so far. Thank you for your time, and
11 please know our parents, me, look forward to
12 working further with you, as parents across the
13 building in the future. Thank you. I'm a
14 little camera shy, so sorry.

15 [Applause]

16 MS. SAN MARKIA: Thank you. So I'll just
17 follow up with a few comments on behalf of our
18 cofounder and executive director, Jeff Ginnsberg
19 [phonetic], who's here in front of me; our
20 Scholars Academy 2 principal, Steve Corbet; and
21 our whole staff. Let's just start by being
22 honest. We and other schools in this building
23 had all hoped that CPE2's middle school grades
24 were going to be cited elsewhere in the
25 neighborhood, but not because of CPE2. We've

1 always supported CPE2 adding grades, and have
2 said that repeatedly in both private and public
3 spaces.

4 We agree more middle school choices for
5 families is a good thing, and everyone knows
6 CPE's long time positive reputation. We have
7 only been worried that this building would be
8 too crowded, to the point that it would hurt
9 education quality for everyone. So we hope the
10 DOE and CPE2 would agree on another building
11 nearby for the new CPE middle school, and of
12 course you have expressed your views as well
13 over the last couple of years.

14 Some CPE parents have said from the
15 beginning that they don't want our students here
16 at all. A small group has even suggested that
17 unlike every other public school, we should find
18 a way to pay for private space. We don't agree,
19 but we also respect that you, too, have just
20 wanted the best for your child's school.

21 But at the end of the day, while there have
22 been points of disagreement, here we are, and
23 now we're going to have to make it work. But
24 the really good news is even in the face of
25 unease and uncertainty, the school leaders

1 across this building have continued throughout
2 the entire process to get along well and to work
3 things out. So although it's about to get even
4 harder with even more schools and students, we
5 stand ready to overcome these hurdles once
6 again.

7 Our organization has been willing to
8 sacrifice a lot since 2011 in order to support
9 other schools' needs and try to be good
10 neighbors and partners. We do not use the gym
11 or cafeteria at all, and we take only 20 minute
12 recess periods. We agreed to have 335 students
13 on the 4th floor of this building, which is at
14 least 120 students more in one hallway than any
15 other hallway in this building. That's 335 four
16 to nine year olds sharing one set of bathrooms,
17 and having related services taking place in our
18 hallways and staircases.

19 We will continue to be as flexible as
20 possible and in turn hope all others in the
21 building will continue to do the same. Lastly,
22 and most importantly, I impart to do this job,
23 running East Harlem Scholars Academies, because
24 I love East Harlem, and I love the history of
25 education in this neighborhood. And so I know

1 East Harlem Tutorial Program and Central Park
2 East have a far longer history of being great
3 neighborhoods and great neighbors in a great
4 neighborhood than that of people fighting with
5 the DOE over space.

6 So I hope we can all - - the history that we
7 had into the future. Everyone in this room
8 cares deeply about our students getting a great
9 education in a safe, comfortable space. So at
10 this point, there really is no other choice but
11 to make this work as best we can. Thank you
12 very much.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. BETHEIL: Are there any members of the
15 other school leadership team that wanted to add
16 comments? Ms. Valazquez of the Community
17 Education Council, I'd give you an opportunity,
18 if you had something to add.

19 MS. VALAZQUEZ: Good evening, everyone. My
20 name is Jasmine Valazquez. I'm a member of the
21 CEC4 as well as a parent of CPE2. I was here at
22 the previous hearing where I made public remarks
23 in support of a CPE middle school expansion. I
24 do want to echo the sentiments of the principal
25 that just spoke. That is, it is going to be

1 difficult. It is going to be overcrowded, and
2 I think we are all very aware of the challenges
3 that are going to come, but I think the spirit
4 of collaboration is one that needs to be upon
5 everyone in this room, especially since this is
6 all of our children.

7 School choice does not mean traditional
8 versus charter. It means options for all of our
9 kids, and I think that the issue is we don't
10 have enough progressive options in this
11 district, and in New York City at large. So the
12 opportunity to have a school such as CPE2 middle
13 school would be a great option for the parents
14 and families in this community, as well as the
15 parents whose children have thrived in the CPE
16 school community. Thank you.

17 [Applause]

18 MR. BETHEIL: So with that, we've concluded
19 the formal presentations, and before we move on
20 to the public comment, I really want to thank
21 each of the school leaders and members of the
22 SLT and from the community. I know that wasn't
23 easy, but I appreciate both the candor as well
24 as the respective tone and the thoughtfulness of
25 your comments. This is the first time that I'm

1 at one of these hearings in this community,
2 and I know this conversation has gone on for
3 some time. The fact that you can put the issues
4 on the table so plainly and make sure that there
5 is a public hearing - - , I think is important.

6 Thank you for that beginning of this
7 hearing, and with that, we'll turn to the public
8 comments this evening.

9 We have 23 speakers that have signed up to
10 speak. I will call up the speakers in groups of
11 five to the microphone. Our first five speakers
12 are Eva Schwartz, Debbie Meyer, Elaina Watkins,
13 Mariana Valverde and Peter Holtzmann. Line up
14 behind this microphone.

15 As we're getting ready, each speaker is
16 reminded that the public comment must be kept to
17 two minutes. Time will be kept by my colleague
18 here in the chair, and we'll give you a heads up
19 when we have 30 seconds left and when your time
20 is up. And we'll begin with Ms. Schwartz.

21 MS. EVA SCHWARTZ: Good evening. I'm Eva
22 Schwartz. I'm a parent at CPE2, and I just
23 wanted to say briefly that I cannot be prouder
24 and happier and more excited that this long
25 journey is hopefully finally coming to a

1 wonderful conclusion of having this
2 progressive choice in this district. It means
3 so much to me and my kids. I want them to be
4 able to continue all the way to eighth grade,
5 and I think the challenges are so worth it.

6 We just practically speaking, need for this
7 school to be very close to CPE2, and I think
8 that this actually might be the best solution
9 for everyone. I know that everyone in our
10 school, and I think I speak for everyone else in
11 this building, has an inherent generosity of
12 spirit that I think will allow us to go in with
13 open hearts and open minds, and I hope that it
14 will come to fruition. Thank you so much.

15 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. Before calling our
16 next speaker, - - the opportunity to inform you
17 that Principal Smith from CPE2 the opportunity
18 to speak and invite her up to the microphone.

19 MS. NAOMI SMITH: I do want to thank the
20 people who have spoken from the other schools in
21 this building. I think that it will be a
22 struggle, but I think we will work together, and
23 we will make it happen. We've been looking
24 forward to this as a community for a while. We
25 think we have a lot to offer. Our school has

1 been successful, and I think we offer for not
2 only our students, but as a model for what
3 others can do, and we understand everyone will
4 be giving up a lot. We understand overcrowding,
5 and we understand having to share, and I think
6 that we will make it work.

7 It will end up benefiting all of us. I do
8 want to agree also, though, with--I don't want
9 to say Bennet. With Bennet. I came into this
10 with people thinking that CPE2 was all along in
11 negotiations, all August, and I got that same
12 email on the 9th, although I did get one
13 earlier. So I do say to Portfolio, I really
14 wish you had said go ahead and talk to the
15 principals, but I wasn't given that opportunity.
16 So I don't want anyone here to think that CPE2
17 knew some things that other people didn't know.
18 We really are coming in here to collaborate.
19 Thank you.

20 [Applause]

21 MR. BETHEIL: - - speaker Debbie Meyer.

22 MS. DEBBIE MEYER: My name is Debbie Meyer,
23 and - - I am not Debbie Meyer. My son is in
24 third grade at CPE2. I served on the New York
25 City task force on physical education, and the

1 New York - - Educational Policy Committee.

2 Last year, the committee talked about two things

3 I value the most about the CPE2 community. The

4 true diversity of the student body, which helps

5 our students on their journey to be college and

6 career ready. They will be ready to work with

7 people of all backgrounds and all sorts of

8 skills and all points of view.

9 I'm pleased to add that this emanates

10 through our whole school, and our school works

11 to find common ground for all of our neighbors

12 and will continue to do so.

13 I also spoke last year about the remarkable

14 commitment of the CPE2 teachers and the

15 synergistics of what they get and give to the

16 administration and community at large. CPE2's

17 strong community of students, parents, teachers

18 and administrative staff are now poised to make

19 a bigger impact to our - - . We are pleased

20 that you have all recognized, both that Central

21 Park East 1 and 2's long track records in the

22 educational world. In addition, our principal,

23 Naomi Smith, has a strong track record in

24 elementary and middle school education. This

25 grade expansion is building on years of success

1 with practices that can be and have been
2 replicated in other schools.

3 I'm also pleased that this is - - last
4 year's - - commitment from our community,
5 students, parents and staff, a strong support
6 from the Upper Manhattan Community at large,
7 including our congressman, city councilmembers,
8 state senate and assembly members that led to
9 this hearing. I'm particularly pleased that our
10 - - will not only be serving our current
11 populations at CPE1 and 2, but also - - four and
12 five students who may be - - . Thank you.

13 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. - - Elaina
14 Watkins.

15 MS. ELAINA WATKINS: My name is Elaina. I'm
16 the CPE1 parent, and although I support a
17 progressive middle school option coming to
18 District 4, I'm opposed to the co-location in
19 the Jackie Robinson Conference [phonetic]. I'm
20 opposed because our CPE1 students recently
21 experienced a seven-minute delay when exiting
22 the building during a fire drill this past
23 September, and I cannot and the DOE cannot
24 ignore the increased safety risk of co-locating
25 another school in this building.

1 I'm opposed because while the size of
2 enrollment is due to increase, the size of our
3 shared space will not. And when the needs of
4 one school collides with another, it creates
5 unnecessary divide and tension that could be
6 eliminated if the DOE would only allow co-
7 locations in buildings that have significant
8 space. Buildings like M050 that has a 42% that
9 equates to over 300 seats.

10 I'm opposed because I cannot advocate taking
11 away from other children just so my children
12 might have it, and the children of CPE high
13 school deserve the space that they stand to
14 lose, space that is an integral part of their
15 identity, their curriculum, their culture.

16 I also am for optimal education as opposed
17 to the bare minimum, and for the DOE to continue
18 to deprive our students of the valuable resource
19 and space that space provides would be the bare
20 minimum. Thank you.

21 [Applause]

22 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. The next speaker
23 is Mariana Valverde.

24 MS. MARIANA VALVERDE: Good evening. My
25 name is Mariana. I'm a CPE1 parent, and I'm

1 here to support bringing in the middle school
2 because like the - - I come from Queens, and
3 CPE1 gave me the opportunity to put my two
4 daughters over here, and I appreciate that. And
5 we need this place for CPE1 middle schools
6 because I'm concerned, like charter schools,
7 they just take kids from East Harlem. That was
8 my experience when I was trying to put my
9 daughters in the charter school. They said, I'm
10 sorry, you don't belong to East Harlem, we can't
11 take you.

12 So CPE1 gave me a chance to take from
13 everywhere, no matter Bronx, - - , and I believe
14 in education that is an opportunity for
15 everyone. So please, taking CPE1 middle school
16 and give it the opportunity to keep giving a
17 good education to our kids. Thank you.

18 [Applause]

19 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. Our next speaker
20 is Peter Holtzmann.

21 MR. PETER HOLTZMANN: Good evening,
22 everyone. My name is Peter Holtzmann. I'm the
23 proud parent of two CPE students currently in
24 kindergarten and third grade. At the moment,
25 middle school's not a pressing issue for me, but

1 nevertheless, this proposal is very important
2 to me. I relish the fact that my kids are
3 thriving in a supportive, progressive
4 environment, one of the most diverse schools in
5 the City of New York. I'm even happier to hear
6 that this opportunity will continue through the
7 eighth grade.

8 We all know there's no such thing as a one-
9 size-fits-all school, and that's why the DOE is
10 promoting school choice, and now we'll finally
11 have the choice of a progressive middle school
12 in District 4. Look, all of us here,
13 progressive schools, charter schools, educators
14 in District 4 are well familiar with the
15 challenges--with a lot of challenge. All of us
16 have found success in those challenges, and I
17 can't imagine that we would do anything but find
18 success in the challenge - - .

19 I wholeheartedly support this proposal. I
20 applaud and thank the DOE for expanding the
21 choices in District 4 for all the students and
22 families there.

23 [Applause]

24 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. Our next five
25 speakers are speakers six through ten. Kristen

1 Pfeffer, Cindy Chan, Dominick Auciello, Choony
2 Lee, and Julie Atwell. We'll start with Kristen
3 Pfeffer. Thank you.

4 MS. KRISTEN PFEFFER: Good evening, my name
5 is Kristen Pfeffer. I'm one of many parents who
6 actively sought to place my child at CPE1 based
7 on its extraordinary reputation. I'm one of
8 many parents whose expectations have been
9 surpassed by the experience my daughter has had
10 here, thanks to incredible programs, wonderfully
11 engaged teachers, a likeminded community and
12 effective, progressive philosophy.

13 When a middle school is proposed, with the
14 potential to embody many of those same
15 philosophies and practices, I can't help but be
16 thrilled. This is why we came out in full force
17 last year. However, when we are asked to rob
18 Peter to pay Paul, I am saddened and conflicted.
19 Of course it makes sense for the CPE middle
20 school to be located in this space. That's what
21 we asked for last year, but not at the expense
22 of our already stressed facilities.

23 We already have issues with kindergarten
24 children exiting the building quickly enough
25 during a fire drill. We are concerned that our

1 programs will be compromised if our children
2 are not given room to grow. We are concerned
3 for their safety as well.

4 I know there are no easy answers, but this
5 could likely be avoided if the East Harlem
6 Scholars Academy schools are held to their
7 current agreements, and are denied expansion in
8 this space. Let me be clear, my family would
9 love a middle school in the same building as a
10 safe and uncompromised CPE1 elementary. Thank
11 you.

12 [Applause]

13 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. Cindy Chan.

14 MS. CINDY CHAN: Hi, good evening. My name
15 is Cindy Chan. I'm a CPE parent and a District
16 4 community member. I thank the DOE for
17 listening to the seven elected officials as well
18 as the community of over 1,200 people who signed
19 a petition to support the CPE middle school. As
20 councilman Jackson so eloquently noted, CPE's
21 founder, Deborah Meyer, has had documented
22 successes in East Harlem, and her ideas have led
23 to replication all over this country,
24 particularly in urban areas.

25 The CPE schools are iconic. Surely the

1 children who attend the original CPE schools
2 deserve the continuity of a middle school
3 experience that is consistent with their
4 elementary school foundation. We welcome the
5 expansion of CPE2.

6 In order to maintain a safe and adequate
7 learning environment for all students in the
8 building, Scholars 1 should vacate when
9 scheduled and not be allowed any more extensions
10 under any circumstances. Also, Scholars 2
11 should remain within the projected enrollment
12 range of 50 to 60 students per grade as outlined
13 in the Educational Impact Statement.

14 Thank you for the CPE middle school, and
15 thank you for your time.

16 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. The next speaker
17 is Dominick Auciello.

18 MR. DOMINICK AUCIELLO: My name is Dominick
19 Auciello. I'm a Harlem resident and parent of
20 two children, who attend Central Park East 1 - -
21 school in this building, and I'm speaking to
22 offer my support for the proposal to co-locate
23 the CPE2 middle school in this building, and
24 believe that it fills the long sought-after need
25 and desire in this community for quality,

1 progressive-minded school for middle school
2 aged children in District 4. And I would like
3 to thank all the people who were involved in
4 making this happen from the community to folks
5 in the DOE, and certainly it'll be important for
6 everyone involved to work together to deal with
7 the space issues.

8 I think they're all valid concerns, but I
9 think that they still have good people involved
10 who can work together and make this work. Thank
11 you.

12 [Applause]

13 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. The next speaker
14 is Choony Lee.

15 MS. CHOONY LEE: Good evening. My name is
16 Choony Lee, and my daughter Esme is lucky to be
17 a second grader at Central Park East 1. I also
18 have a daughter in middle school and a son in
19 high school. We feel extremely fortunate to be
20 part of a uniquely progressive school. I
21 applaud the approval of a progressive middle
22 school, but cannot stay silent when this co-
23 location will jeopardize the safety of all the
24 students at this complex.

25 The compromise of safety is not merely a

1 challenge that we must meet, but an
2 unnecessary plan that causes undue - - . I will
3 not choose between parent choice and safety of
4 our children. I hope to have spoken for many
5 parents whose concerns are not being heard.
6 Thank you.

7 [Applause]

8 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. Next is Julie
9 Atwell.

10 MS. JULIE ATWELL: Hi, my name is Julie
11 Atwell, and I am a parent at CPE2. I have a
12 daughter who is in the third grade there, and
13 another daughter who graduated and just started
14 high school at LaGuardia this year. Because of
15 that, I've been a part of the CPE2 community for
16 ten years, and I've seen how CPE2 works with the
17 students and the teachers, the community, to
18 face challenges, whether it's space, whether
19 it's co-location, whether it's personal issues
20 with families. They work together with people.

21 I've been through the high school
22 application process last year, and I know how
23 vitally important middle school is for making
24 sure that children get into a good high school
25 that can lead them to college. Part of that is

1 knowing the student, knowing who they are,
2 working with them, understanding them, having
3 teachers and counselors who really are a part of
4 those students' lives and understand them.
5 Without that, kids don't get into good high
6 school. Without that, kids end up going into
7 second and third rounds trying to get into high
8 school. CPE2 has a history of understanding its
9 students, has a history of working with its
10 students and making sure that they do make the
11 best choices going forward in life.

12 That's why I think that a CPE2 middle school
13 is so vitally important, and that CPE2 can
14 handle the challenges of space issues and
15 working with others to make sure that everything
16 works really well. Thank you.

17 [Applause]

18 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. Our next five
19 speakers are Andrea Lieshe, Richard Lim, Paul
20 Ribadineira, Alejandra De La Santos--I think
21 I've spoken already--and Julie Zuckerman.

22 MS. ANDREA LIESHE: I want to thank the DOE
23 for making CPE2 middle school a reality.
24 However, I cannot believe that the DOE would
25 give this present while slapping in the face. I

1 cannot believe that the DOE would propose to
2 put the school in a building that is already
3 going to be well above capacity without any
4 suggestions on how to remedy the problem. FYI,
5 the charter school seems to be enrolling at the
6 highest enrollment numbers.

7 The DOE simply does look at the fact that
8 there are actually human beings in this
9 building. The DOE does not look at the amount
10 and distribution of bathrooms, for example.
11 Currently already our teachers often have to
12 wait in line to use the facilities in their
13 lunch break. The DOE does not seem to care
14 about the implications of having high-schoolers
15 and elementary students in the yard together
16 during recess.

17 The DOE does not seem to care about safety.
18 As mentioned before, our children have to wait
19 eight minutes in a fire drill before they can
20 start walking down. Seemingly there has been
21 some work done into that, but what happens when
22 we have 300 more students in this building, and
23 that's just the students. On top of it, we'll
24 have staff and teachers.

25 The DOE seems to think that teaching gym

1 class with 70 kids in one class is effective
2 and productive because they look just at
3 capacity.

4 It is not all about capacity. It needs to
5 be about giving our children a good and safe
6 education. Sure, you would cut up a couple more
7 rooms in the building and raise capacity, but
8 the DOE feels - - that our kids are not just
9 numbers. They are actual people with human
10 needs in this building that are trying their
11 best to teach and learn. Do not overcrowd our
12 schools, and do not make us have to choose
13 between safety and school choice.

14 [Applause]

15 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. Next is Richard
16 Lim.

17 MR. RICHARD LIM: As a parent of a daughter
18 at the first grade at CPE2, I am so glad she has
19 this opportunity to be a part of a progressive
20 education, something that I myself have had from
21 pre-K through high school. I'm ecstatic that
22 she now has the opportunity to continue through
23 middle school at the very least. I fully
24 support this project as well as to co-locate
25 here because I feel it is important to get this

1 process started.

2 It will be a challenge. I'm very grateful
3 that all the other schools are working with CPE
4 to get this to happen, but I cannot allow this
5 to be delayed any longer, since my daughter will
6 be approaching that age faster than I can
7 imagine. I'm here to pledge my support to this
8 program. I will be here for the continued fight
9 to get space for my daughter, for all the other
10 kids that want to be part of this program, and I
11 know this is just the first step.

12 Let us move forward and make sure it
13 happens. Thank you.

14 [Applause]

15 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. Paul?

16 MR. PAUL RIBADINEIRA: Hello. My name is
17 Paul Ribadiniera. My daughter goes to CPE2.
18 She's in the first grade, and at this point, it
19 is not an urgent issue for us, middle school.
20 However, the issue of providing another option
21 to the kids in the neighborhood--the kids that
22 are now ready to go into middle school, I think
23 it's very important.

24 One of the things that I want to say as a
25 parent, as an active parent at the school, is

1 that the school itself and from the students
2 to the parents to the principal, we're very
3 collaborative. We work together in every
4 aspect, from school fair to morning pickup, and
5 we are facing a lot of challenges - - now, and
6 we have been able to go beyond and exceed.

7 So the co-location is going to be another
8 challenge, which we are welcome to - - . We are
9 more than open. We come with open arms, and we
10 want to expand our - - I'm looking at it with
11 the rest of the schools.

12 I think we can all put our minds together to
13 solve anything that comes our way, and if we
14 continue as a collaborative--with a
15 collaborative effort, I think we'll accomplish
16 it, and I'm looking forward to it in a couple
17 years. Four or five years. Thank you.

18 [Applause]

19 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. Next is Julie
20 Zuckerman.

21 MS. JULIA ZUCKERMAN: I'm back. Hi, I'm
22 Julie Zuckerman. I'm the former principal of
23 CPE1, and I put in a proposal to extend to
24 eighth grade four different--maybe three times.
25 Maybe I'm exaggerating. I am thrilled that CPE2

1 has been given this opportunity. When they
2 first got started with this idea, both the
3 schools came together because the idea was that
4 we needed a progressive middle school in Upper
5 Manhattan. There is none in District 4.
6 District 5 is a wasteland, District 6 there is
7 none, so this will be the first.

8 Hopefully there will be more. In terms of
9 the--another--a lot of people have talked about
10 the problems that Portfolio have brought to the
11 school. I have made arguments about that many
12 times before. I do want to point out that the
13 administration has changed and is changing.
14 Mark Sternberg is gone, and there will be
15 different possibilities opening up that will
16 allow for some shift in how things get done.

17 I feel a certain amount of optimism about
18 that, that I haven't felt for the past 14 years.
19 That was 12 years. So I think that some of the
20 concerns will be mediated by that, and the other
21 thing that I do want to say, I started - - .
22 Bennet and I started the same year. One of the
23 things that he looked forward to for a long time
24 was a link into the high school, a way for us to
25 connect our kids, and two years ago, right

1 before I left, we had our first two kids come
2 back and join the high school.

3 And this will be I think a really great way
4 to extend right up through in this building.
5 I'm looking forward to hearing about it. You
6 go.

7 [Applause]

8 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. Speaker 15 will be
9 Clarissa Lynn followed by Yvonne Smith, Laurie
10 Dyke, and Caitlyn Preston.

11 MS. CLARISSA LYNN: I'm a middle school
12 teacher in District 7 in the Bronx, and I can
13 say that they need a progressive option, too.
14 So it's not that far up the - - . Maybe we can
15 - - some of - - children as well, who sorely
16 need - - and more opportunities to express
17 themselves creatively.

18 In the Bronx for 11 years teaching, I've
19 witnessed firsthand how hard it is to start from
20 scratch at 6th grade in building a school
21 culture with children who are coming from all
22 different types of schools. CPE2 has an
23 established culture of excellence and parent
24 involvement. As a CPE2 parent, I will feel
25 really relaxed knowing that my family will be

1 able to continue to benefit from the fantastic
2 arts, justice oriented philosophy and rigorous
3 academics that CPE2 has been providing for them
4 for several years. Thank you.

5 [Applause]

6 MR. BETHEIL: Yvonne Smith?

7 MS. YVONNE SMITH: Hello, I'm Yvonne Smith,
8 and I've chosen not to speak as a member of the
9 SLT from CPE1. I want to switch hats and speak
10 as the parent of two graduates. I should say
11 the parent of two graduates, the grandparent--I
12 can't believe it--of one, and the grandparent of
13 one who is currently at CPE1.

14 I am delighted that CPE2 has been given
15 permission by Portfolio to begin the middle
16 school, and that it will begin in this building.
17 I have concerns about safety because I'm in the
18 building ushering out pre-kindergarten children
19 during those fire drills, but I also want to say
20 that I want to put the responsibility back on
21 Portfolio, back on the DOE, and say that the co-
22 locations that have happened here with the
23 charter schools have never done what they said
24 they were going to do.

25 The first one that came was supposed to

1 leave after two years. It is still here.
2 Then we found out that there was another charter
3 school. That, when we were looking to start a
4 middle school, and I think it's important that
5 those charter schools keep--that the DOE see
6 that they keep to their agreements about when
7 they would be here and when they would leave,
8 and that space be given to--and enough space be
9 given to the CPE middle school without affecting
10 the high schools or CPE1.

11 [Applause]

12 MR. BETHEIL: Hello.

13 MS. LAURY DYKE: Hello, my name is Laury
14 Dyke, and East Harlem families need more and
15 better options for education. That's for sure.
16 East Harlem is lucky to have - - at this - -
17 that are currently in this building that are
18 willing to work together. But I am conflicted.
19 As a middle school, a progressive middle school
20 has been a long time desire, but I'm also the
21 mother--besides - - the middle school search
22 last year, I do know that middle schools--a
23 progressive middle school is necessary, and we
24 need it, more than desire.

25 But I also have a second-grader at CPE2, and

1 why do I have to choose school options over
2 safety? Can your office work to relocate and
3 find space for CPE2 as a progressive school as a
4 whole somewhere else shortly? Can you do that?
5 Because this space is stretched beyond optimal
6 limits at this point already, and for the safety
7 of the children that all the children that go
8 here at Jackie Robinson Complex, please consider
9 that.

10 [Applause]

11 MR. BETHEIL: Caitlyn Preston? Okay.
12 Caitlyn? Speaker 18? If anybody sees her,
13 we'll give her a chance in just a minute. - - ,
14 thank you very much. Speaker 19 is Elliot--it
15 looks like Carrigan?

16 MR. ELLIOT CARTER: Carter. I'll pass.
17 Thank you.

18 MR. BETHEIL: Speaker 21, Raymond Bolton.
19 And following Mr. Bolton will be Yvette--it
20 looks like McClumb.

21 MR. RAYMOND BOLTON: I'd just like to say
22 that it's bad enough that our all - - leaders of
23 the world can't agree on nothing, shutting down
24 the government. And I think the DOE need to be
25 ashamed of themselves, too, because they're

1 playing a lot of politics with our children.
2 It's not right, what you all are doing. My
3 whole purpose of coming back to this school,
4 because my daughter graduated. I brought her
5 here two years ago. She was averaging 55, and
6 two years later, she made the honor roll. I
7 brought my other son from Virginia to finish
8 because you all made a promise to - - and said
9 that we were going to be here till 2015, and
10 that's what I expect. I expect my son to
11 graduate from the 8th grade from here. That's
12 all I have to say.

13 [Applause]

14 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. The last speaker
15 we have signed up is Dr. Latanye Phelps.

16 MS. YVETTE MCCLUMB: - - .

17 MR. BETHEIL: I'm sorry, Ms. McClumb, I
18 skipped you. My apologies.

19 MS. MCCLUMB: My voice should be heard also.

20 MR. BETHEIL: No problem.

21 MS. MCCLUMB: Speaking as a parent of two
22 boys in Central Park East Middle school, 7th and
23 8th grade, I was under the impression that they
24 both were going to be from here, and I'm really
25 okay with that. We were being phased out.

1 Wasn't too happy with that, but that's
2 something we have to get used to and deal with.
3 And when I spoke to my seventh grader about what
4 was going on, that you guys were trying to--
5 well, that they were trying to phase the school
6 out in June, he wasn't very happy about that.

7 So I'm saying they gave up on us already,
8 and it's just like they're just pushing us down
9 and just trying to force us out as fast as
10 possible to let the other school get ahead. If
11 there's no togetherness, how are we all supposed
12 to rise as one and be equal. That's what it's
13 all about, having all the kids to have equal
14 opportunities in life, not just in middle
15 school. In life, and go on to great colleges,
16 get great careers and so on and so forth.
17 That's what I expect from my two boys.

18 They're doing pretty well. Grade wise,
19 they're doing pretty well. I'm comfortable with
20 the curriculum that's taught at Central Park
21 East Middle School, and I'm just comfortable. I
22 think the promise should be kept, and let the
23 seventh and eighth graders graduate from the
24 middle school.

25 [Applause]

1 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. Our last speaker
2 is Dr. Latanye Phelps.

3 DR. LATANYE PHELPS: Hi, I'm Dr. Phelps.
4 I'm first a parent in Harlem, and I want to know
5 I'm very disheartened as a parent to see that
6 the arrogance that is present exists because you
7 all act like children don't have a voice. I get
8 to stand before these children at 7:30 in the
9 morning and have conversations about what their
10 future looks like, where they want to be in
11 life, and it does not sound anything like giving
12 up space for a progressive school to come in
13 here.

14 Now, I'm going to tell you that the
15 conversations that the children have represents
16 authenticity. Meaning what they say, they do.
17 And they work really hard, and their goal is to
18 graduate from this school in 2015. And I say
19 arrogance because you have no idea that as
20 adults, when you do not talk to the children,
21 you don't build their future. And so we come
22 here every day to build their future, not
23 because I'm selfish as an educator and I - - my
24 job.

25 I relocated to Harlem because I wanted to be

1 a part of a community, and a part of the
2 children that I'm teaching. I didn't want to be
3 separate from them. I didn't want to stand
4 outside of them, and I will continue to stand in
5 the gap as a voice for my children in junior
6 high school 13 until they graduate.

7 [Applause]

8 MR. BETHEIL: Thank you. Before we wrap up
9 with public comment, I just want to make sure
10 Cathryn Preston isn't still here, wanting to
11 speak? Okay. With that, we're closed for the
12 public comment, but I did want to address very
13 quickly one of the comments that Ms. McClumb
14 made regarding a conversation that we had this
15 evening. I appreciate - - comments, all of
16 them.

17 There is not currently a proposal, there's
18 certainly not one being considered tonight, for
19 the early phase out of junior high school 13.
20 It's certainly an idea that was suggested
21 tonight, and from what we've heard from the many
22 thoughtful comments we've heard from everybody
23 is that this is a complex situation with a
24 variety of viewpoints that all need to be taken
25 into account as we move through the remainder of

1 the school year, and before anything is done.

2 Certainly if any consideration were to be
3 given to any of the ideas to change the current
4 proposal, there would be a need to come back and
5 present those ideas publically, have a hearing
6 to make sure all the voices were heard, but some
7 of the concerns that were expressed earlier was
8 that folks were left out of the loop and were
9 not part of the wider conversation. Certainly
10 the concern is about folks having the
11 opportunity to finish here.

12 These are things we take seriously. What
13 I've heard very clearly from everybody this
14 evening, it is a community concern for all
15 children, and recognizing the tensions that
16 exist between the various proposals and needs of
17 the different schools obviously makes this a
18 challenging situation, one where we're all
19 trying to do the best. I heard nothing but that
20 in everybody in their presentations this evening
21 to try and work this through.

22 So there certainly need to be more
23 conversations, and those will happen, but I
24 don't want anybody to leave here this evening
25 under the impression that because something was

1 suggested as an idea tonight that that somehow
2 is automatically a formal proposal and is just
3 going to happen. There's a process we go
4 through and much that has to be considered
5 before anything like that could happen, if it
6 would be considered at all.

7 So I do thank everybody for those
8 perspectives this evening. I know this is just
9 one evening over what has been a long process
10 for many years, and I appreciate the continued
11 passion and I think respectfulness of the
12 dialogue that we've heard this evening.

13 I'll return to the formal stuff. We have
14 heard many significant comments this evening,
15 and generally do appreciate the feedback that
16 we've heard this evening and will take that back
17 to the Department of Education from this
18 hearing. The information will be shared with
19 the Panel for Educational Policy, which will
20 have its meeting on October 30 at 6:00 p.m. at
21 the Prospect Heights Campus, located at 883
22 Classon Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, 11225, to
23 vote on this proposal.

24 Email address and phone number where
25 comments may be made prior, if anybody did not

1 have a chance tonight to - - their comments or
2 has additional - - , you can do that up until
3 the night before October 30. You can do that
4 via email of D04proposals@schools.nyc.gov.
5 Again, that's D04proposals@schools.nyc.gov, or
6 by phone, (212) 374-3466. Again, that's (212)
7 374-3466. Again, I want to thank everybody for
8 coming out tonight and sharing your viewpoints
9 with us. This joint public hearing is
10 officially adjourned.

11 [END RECORDING]

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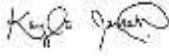
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. J. Jones".

Date October 21, 2013-----

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