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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING**
**Coney Island Prep Extension @ K303 -
12/3/12**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. MEG BARBOZA: - - before we get started
3 - - Pledge of Allegiance.

4 MALE VOICE 1: Can everybody please face
5 the flag - - stand up. I pledge allegiance to
6 the flag of the United States of America, and to
7 the Republic for which it stands, one nation
8 under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice
9 for all. Thank you.

10 MS. MEG BARBOZA: Hi everybody, my name is
11 Meg Barboza, I'm currently the Director for
12 Engagement of the office - - New York City
13 Department of Education. We're here tonight,
14 this is a joint public hearing of the Department
15 of Education - - 21, and this is - - leadership
16 teams of Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter
17 School, I.S. 303 Herbert S. Eisenberg, Rachel
18 Carson High School, - -. Tonight's hearing will
19 be recorded and transcribed.

20 Before we begin I ask that anyone, as I have
21 before, who wishes to speak during the public
22 comment portion of the evening sign up on the
23 table that's just outside the auditorium.

24 It is now 6:09, and we will have comment
25 open until 6:24 p.m. - - Only people who have

1 signed up to speak during the public comment
2 will be speaking during the public comment. So
3 just, again, to reiterate any comments or
4 concerns you have about - - proposal, whether
5 that be in opposition or support, we do need you
6 to sign up at the table outside the door, just
7 to make sure that you are - - comment.

8 All panel participants are asked to be here
9 no later than 5:30 p.m. And now that we have
10 started if we have any additional panel
11 participants who arrive we will give the time to
12 speak... Give them the time to speak at the
13 first opportune moment.

14 We certainly want to be respectful of
15 everybody's time, and so also note that we may
16 have elected officials who'll arrive at
17 different times throughout the evening, and if
18 they choose to speak we'll do our best to
19 accommodate them as well at the first opportune
20 moment.

21 Those who are here at the top of the public
22 sign in for the public comment period will speak
23 in the order of which they sign in.

24 Tonight's format will include presentations
25 and statements of the proposal by our

1 participants here. I will certainly introduce
2 you to them shortly. Speakers should have
3 already began sign up the public sign in--the
4 public comment sign in table, and if you're not
5 signed up yet, we have 15 minutes remaining.

6 Our public comments will be held to two
7 minutes each for a person. I will certainly--
8 let me know when those two minute have come to
9 an end, and we'll ask you if you need to
10 conclude, and let the next person come on up and
11 speak what they need to speak as well.

12 I would like to introduce the panel
13 which has been assembled for tonight's joint
14 public hearing, and if I miss anybody or I
15 mispronounce your name I do apologize.

16 So we have Jacob Mnookin, Principal of Coney
17 Island Prep; CC21 President - -; Stuart Handman
18 of course for the CEC21. We have Christine
19 Shiner [phonetic], TA President and - - member;
20 Carmen Amador, the Principal of I.S. 303;
21 Edward Wilensky, the Principal of Rachel Carson;
22 Superintendent Isabel Dimola; Monique - - of CC
23 - - .

24 Is there anybody whose name I did not call?
25 Pardon?

1 MS. LORI TANCREDO: Lori Tancredo - - .

2 MS. BARBOZA: And we have Lori Tancredo from
3 771.

4 [background noise]

5 MS. BARBOZA: So, like I said, I'm going to
6 go over to get some things started tonight.
7 Superintendent Isabel Dimola is going to read a
8 summary of the proposal, and we will then go
9 around and have members of the - - make their
10 statements, and then we will move into the
11 public comment portion of this - - .

12 MS. ISABEL DIMOLA: Good evening everyone,
13 thank you for joining us this evening. The
14 proposal summary: Coney Island Preparatory
15 Public Charter School is an existing Public
16 Charter School that currently serves students in
17 grades five through eight, filling K303, located
18 at 501 West Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, 11224,
19 Community School District 21.

20 Coney Island prep is co-located with I.S.
21 303 Herbert S. Eisenberg, the existing - -
22 zones, and academic - - middle school that
23 serves students grades six through eight.

24 Rachel Carson High School for Coastal
25 studies - - high school that serves grades 9

1 through 12, and one - - multi - - high school
2 P771k -- that serves students in grades six
3 through eighth in an inclusion program - -.

4 A co-location means that two or more school
5 organizations are located in the same building,
6 and may share common space like auditoriums,
7 gymnasiums, and cafeterias. In the 2012/13
8 school year, K303 also houses a district 21 Food
9 Services office, and District 21
10 Superintendent's office, and the offices of
11 Community Education Council, CEC for District
12 21.

13 After the 2012/13 school year the offices of
14 the Superintendent and the CEC will no longer be
15 housed in K303.

16 This is a proposal to make a co-location of
17 the Coney Island Prep - - K through eighth
18 grades - - permanent.

19 On April 28, 2011 the Panel for Educational
20 Policy had approved the proposal of originally
21 published on March 12, 2011 and amended on March
22 19, 2011 and April 2, 2011 - - to temporarily
23 co-locate Coney Island Prep @K303 for the
24 2011/12, and 2012/13 schools years.

25 The approved proposal stated that the

1 Department of Education did not - - available
2 space - - K303 and other District 21 locations
3 before the start of the 2013/14 school year.
4 Addition of the new educational - - for the
5 long term site of Coney Island Prep based upon
6 the appropriate space available 2013/14 school
7 year - - ; and to complete the evaluation - -
8 the Department of Education determined that K303
9 is the most appropriate space for the long term
10 site of Coney Island Prep's - - K through eighth
11 grades, and thus issue this proposal.

12 Coney Island Prep was approved by its
13 charter - - of the Department of Education to
14 open a Public Charter School - - in Community
15 School District 21 in 2009/10. The Department
16 of Education - - classes in 2009/10 which they
17 appropriate each year - - .

18 Coney Island Prep - - school year 2012/13,
19 and now serves student in K through eighth
20 grades.

21 Coney Island Prep provides - - students in
22 its charter school - - application process. As
23 stated K303 - - organizations I.S 303, Rachel
24 Carson, and P771K - - and also has an academic -
25 - program which involve students - - .

1 In 2012/13 I.S. 303 is projected to serve
2 approximately - - students.

3 Rachel Carson is the Department of Education
4 High school, and enrolls students - - admission
5 process, and exercises a limited - -. In
6 2012/13 Rachel Carson is projected approximately
7 to serve approximately - - students.

8 P771K - - program. - - students - - general
9 education classes based upon - - programs,
10 organizations, and receive special education - -
11 services. In 2012/13 P771K - - projected to
12 serve - - students.

13 K303 has the capacity to serve 1,661
14 students. In the year 2012/13 it's projected to
15 serve 1,436 total students, which yields and
16 estimated building - - .

17 Because the - - as a result of this proposal
18 - - will be approximately 81 to 91%. The
19 Department of Education does not anticipate that
20 this proposal will affect student enrollment,
21 the admission process, or instructional program
22 - -. Thank you.

23 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you very much. - - move
24 on. We have a few participants who were asked
25 ahead of time if they'd like to present--we do

1 have a - - ahead of time, and I - - our - - and
2 ask if anybody - - or a statement that they
3 would like to make, starting at the end with
4 Principals - - would you like to make a
5 statement at this time?

6 FEMALE VOICE 1: I've already made a
7 statement - -.

8 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you. Principal
9 Wilensky?

10 PRINCIPAL WILENSKY: No.

11 MS. BARBOZA: Would you like to make a
12 statement?

13 PRINCIPAL WILENSKY: No.

14 MS. BARBOZA: Principal Mnookin. - -
15 [applause]

16 MR. JACOB MNOOKIN: - - for those of you who
17 don't know my name is Jacob Mnookin, I'm the
18 founder and attending Director of Coney Island
19 Prep. I'm here tonight because we are honored
20 to educate the incredible students of community
21 school district 21, and would be grateful for
22 the opportunity to be able to continue to do so.

23 - - Coney Island Prep - - thank you so much
24 for coming out and to show your support.
25 Everyone here from Coney Island Prep, to I.S.

1 303, to Rachel Carson, to everyone - - have
2 the best interest of students - - and I'm
3 honored to be able to do this - -. At - - and
4 we're extraordinarily proud of the work that
5 we've done to date. Last year we - - to the top
6 6 % of schools citywide according to the - -
7 progress report. And - - we're grateful for the
8 opportunity to work with the students, staff,
9 and families of I.S. 303, and Rachel Carson high
10 school to ensure that we - - education. And I
11 really think that our co-location here is
12 special, and - - that this building and all of
13 the schools within it are really shining
14 examples of high performance. All of our schools
15 are doing really, really well. - - outside and
16 you can see all the - - over the years. And I
17 love to think about how we can continue to work
18 together and support each other, and continue to
19 provide a high-quality education for the
20 students of this district. We're hopeful that
21 our staff and families can continue to do this -
22 - community here, and we look forward to working
23 with you and thank you for your time.

24 [applause]

25 MS. BARBOZA: - - statement at this time?

1 No? Mr. Handman?

2 MR. STUART HANDMAN: My statement in no way
3 is anything negative about any one of the four
4 schools currently located at I.S. 303 - -. I
5 happen to agree with Mr. Mnookin at - - schools.
6 What concerns me is the permanent co-location of
7 Coney Island Prep at I.S. 303, will - - utilize
8 the school that there'll be nowhere for any of
9 the four schools to go. Sometimes I use the
10 word warehouse, and I really don't like using
11 that word when it comes to children because it's
12 really not something I think should be happening
13 to children. Coney Island Prep is eating in
14 their rooms and I'm wondering if they're doing
15 that simply because it's just too crowded to eat
16 in the cafeterias. And I'm wondering what's
17 going to happen in the permanent co-location if
18 one of these four schools needs another room, or
19 needs an extension, or needs something that
20 they're not going to be able to get into the
21 building, is simply too old to utilize. Getting
22 back to the warehouse issue, District 21 is not
23 unfamiliar with warehousing situations because
24 they've been warehousing Special Ed children in
25 zone schools for years. So the point that the

1 Chancellor has now mandated - - underserving
2 Special Ed children for years to take more
3 Special Ed children while the surrounding
4 schools are servicing 20 to 25%, they're
5 servicing 3 to 4%. This didn't go on in the
6 dark, and they - - the district knew about it,
7 the Principals knew about it, everybody knows
8 about it. And I believe that our people who
9 know, that a permanent co-location about this
10 school into this building is going to create a
11 severe safety problem at some time in the near
12 future. That's what a lot of us are proposing
13 at this time a temporary extension. We were
14 told at a PEP meeting less than two years ago
15 that this co-location would be two years only in
16 the face of overwhelming public support against
17 the co-location. Now here I am, not opposed to
18 the co-location, but I'm afraid that a permanent
19 co-location of this school is going to create a
20 problem down the road for all four schools that
21 are simply not going to have the room to expand.
22 So what I'm asking the DOE, what I'm demanding
23 is the word permanent has to go. Make it a one
24 year extension, and it's not unprecedented to
25 review an issue every year or every two years,

1 we do it America all the time. We do it with
2 wars. To make it permanent is to lock the
3 people in this building into an - - situation
4 that I feel ultimately will cause over-crowding,
5 and just for the record - - high performing
6 schools and I know - - performance schools, so
7 the word permanent has to go at this particular
8 time. One year extension, and that doesn't mean
9 - - be here only for one year, they can be here
10 for 100 years with one or two year extensions.
11 But this is something that's going to
12 continually have to be looked at to make sure
13 that the children of this building are not being
14 warehoused the way Special Ed children have been
15 for many, many years in District 21. Thank you.
16 [applause]

17 MS. BARBOZA: I - - hoping to have a moment
18 left for public comments, so if you are still
19 looking to sign up please do so in the next
20 minute. - - CC21 will be next.

21 MALE VOICE 2: Hi everyone, - - Staff,
22 family, and teachers of I.S. 303, Coney Island
23 Prep, Rachel Carson, and 771K. On November 28,
24 2012 - - this is not congregating, we spoke
25 about the situation about EIS and the Department

1 of Education produced on the permanent co-
2 location of Coney Island Prep into the K303
3 building. And, again, District - - 211 has
4 nothing against Charter schools. We published
5 this resolution overseeing against the - -
6 permanent co-location of Coney Island Prep into
7 K303 based upon conversations two years ago
8 where the Department of Education promised that
9 they would only site Coney Island Prep in this
10 facility for two years so that they can find
11 another building, bigger building for Coney
12 Island Prep. So I want to read our resolution:
13 Resolution against the permanent co-location of
14 Coney Island Prep in - - to agree with - - I.S.
15 303, Rachel Carson - - school and P771K; whereas
16 two years ago the Department of Education
17 promised a temporary co-location of Coney Island
18 Prep, and whereas - - is in the process of
19 implementing new programs to increase student
20 population which will require additional space;
21 and whereas - - any discussion - - community for
22 the permanent co-location - - of Coney Island
23 Prep and the - - I.S. 303 - - facility; whereas
24 even though - - strong opposition - - co-
25 location - - where not expected to repair Coney

1 Island Prep would not be able to utilize - -
2 library; whereas Coney Island Prep stated - -
3 that they will - - and our intention is not to
4 take over any of your most sacred spaces. Coney
5 Island Prep - - library; whereas the - -
6 instructional programing programming proposed
7 that an - - contradicts the New York City
8 Mayor's - - vision of a - - for school
9 Principals and - - office for - - has indicated
10 that Coney Island Prep would be allocated 60
11 full size spaces, and be it resolved that
12 community - - 11 is concerned about the children
13 throughout the community, and giving them the
14 education that they deserve. - - educational
15 restructuring to better meet the needs of the
16 students from our community. These students
17 continue to thrive as a result of the strong
18 educational initiative and vision of this
19 school. - - has built a strong bond with
20 community and embraces what they do every day on
21 their behalf and the children's behalf. - -
22 students and - - Rachel Carson High School, and
23 P771K will be defeated by the current - - co-
24 location of Coney Island Prep, and therefore be
25 it resolved that the DOE must work to ensure

1 that students and families in every community
2 has high quality educational options; and
3 therefore be it further resolved that CEC 21 is
4 against the permanent location of Coney Island
5 Prep. - - which includes I.S. 303, - - Rachel
6 Carson High School, and P771K. Thank you for
7 your time. [applause]

8 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you - - representative
9 for the City wide Council on - -.

10 FEMALE VOICE 2: Thank you - - speak to the
11 Principals of this building. I thank you to the
12 Superintendent, the SLT, the PTA, the CEC, and
13 of course the parents and children of this
14 school and this community. I stand here
15 representing the High School - - which is the
16 Rachel Carson, but I also stand here
17 representing parents of children. I think it
18 keeps bring back to my mind that each and every
19 time at co-location it pits parents against
20 parents, schools against schools, and I hate to
21 even say it but children against children, or
22 students against students. We must come up with
23 a way with charter schools to have their own
24 space. When we say - - everyone, and I came as
25 a visitor for the - - you would expect me to

1 leave eventually, not even eventually, say
2 your -- and go home. So what I'm trying to say,
3 and I don't want to be mean or hateful, but it
4 just seems to me that you came here, you said
5 that you need some space - - my own kids, so - -
6 happen. Staying here indefinitely is not the
7 way this should have worked out. You should
8 come, you visit, and you move on. Thank you.
9 [applause]

10 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you Ms. - - . We have
11 now concluded the formal presentations. It's my
12 understanding that there are not any elected
13 officials or representative of elected officials
14 here at this time; however, if they do show up
15 we will certainly accommodate them at the first
16 opportune moment. I'm going to call our first
17 five speakers and that is Judy Gerowitz, Joe
18 Herrera, Elliesandra Mendez, Jessica Pinto, and
19 Isaac Cohn. I'll repeat those number or names,
20 my apologies. Judy Gerowitz, Joe Herrera,
21 Elliesandra Mendez, Jessica Pinto, and Isaac
22 Cohn.

23 And just briefly my - - here has got a
24 timer. He's going to time for two minutes, once
25 you hit two minutes I'll let you know, and we'll

1 wrap up and conclude.

2 MS. JUDY GEROWITZ: Good evening, my name is
3 Judy Gerowitz, and I'm the UFD Representative
4 for District 21. I am a firm believer in a good
5 solid education for all students. I've been in
6 the profession for 34 years. I stand here at -
7 - only to demonstrate that candor and
8 transparency that has - - fundamental to its
9 organization. Several years ago we met in this
10 very same auditorium and later at the - - high
11 school, and finally at the - -. The DOE had
12 deemed this very building as underutilized and
13 moved to bring Coney Island Prep Charter School
14 to this location; it was to be a temporary site.
15 The understanding was that there would be at the
16 conclusion of the temporary stay, a plan - - to
17 permanently relocate and house the Charter
18 School, not a proposal for permanent placement
19 here. In fact the Charter has been allowed to -
20 -. The deal he has allowed - - commitment to
21 space allocations here to be disregarded. I.S.
22 303 - - to expand its own - - enrollment, but
23 has no space to do so, it is - -, class sizes so
24 large that just last week the United Federation
25 of Teachers was forced to go to arbitration

1 based on student numbers in classes in this
2 very building. There's also concern that
3 commitments that were made at the DOE meetings
4 have been broken. The library the public was
5 told would never be used by the charter school,
6 has been used by it. Both gymnasiums are also
7 used contrary to the agreement. I.S. 303,
8 Rachel Carson, and 771K students must eat meals
9 in the student cafeteria, and must eat food
10 service's food, this is not the case for the
11 Charter School which caters in organic meals for
12 their students to be - - [applause]. Make up
13 classes from Hurricane Sandy according to the
14 DOE must be made under mid-winter break, and not
15 on public holidays or weekends. I am told this
16 does not apply - - school. If all schools, both
17 District, public, and Charter schools are to be
18 treated equal, why is there such a disparity?
19 Let's talk about transparency, candor, and
20 fairness. There is not an even playing field -
21 - . The DOE proposal supports there can't be
22 continued placement of CIP in District 21, it
23 does not specify in I.S. 303 - -. I do not
24 believe that anyone argues with that. The point
25 is that the school continues to grow, and this

1 proposal will not allow for I.S. 303, Rachel
2 Carson, and 771K to grow at the same rate. To
3 grow equally the DOE should find permanent
4 location for Coney Island Prep. Thank you.
5 [applause]

6 MR. JOE HERRERA: - - My name is Joe
7 Herrera, I - - scholars here at Coney Island
8 Prep, but maybe you - - to remember me from the
9 last - - and learning disability. I want to say
10 that because Coney Island Prep today is subject
11 to declassified for its I and P - - [major
12 applause] appreciate it. - - thank Coney Island
13 Prep and its faculty for this huge, huge miracle
14 I call it, but I have to agree with - - offense
15 to the other schools that were part that made
16 this happen. They gave us a home, they gave our
17 children a place to come to stay, and if it
18 wasn't for them I don't think that my child
19 would've been able to be educated, not in this
20 community of Coney Island. I got to say - -
21 I've been into many schools in this district. I
22 grew up in this community. I went to - -
23 educated, and nowhere in District 21 do we have
24 free viable options offering the kind of
25 education that the three schools, the four

1 schools in this building are offering. Coney
2 Island Prep is an Ace school, okay. - - is an
3 Ace school [applause] - - and all in one
4 building. This is like a wonderland of
5 education. I mean - - key to this community at
6 Coney Island. This is where - - where we have a
7 viable option (I appreciate it my man, just - -
8 man). So anyway I don't say - - I just support
9 the permanent co-location of Coney Island Prep.
10 I think that there is room for everyone here to
11 get an excellent education. My mama taught me
12 that if it is not broke, don't fix it. This
13 works. [applause] Thank you all. - -

14 MS. ELLIESANDRA MENDEZ: Good evening, hi,
15 my name is Ellie Mendez, my daughter is in Coney
16 Island Prep. She is now in the 7th grade, and
17 is asking - - co-location of 303 - -. Thank you
18 very much for taking the time to let us speak
19 here. - - we have been here, transition has
20 seemed easy and Coney Island Prep has shown
21 pride, and from what I've seen Rachel Carson and
22 - - 303 has done so, also. They've all shown
23 excellence, respect, professionalism, integrity,
24 and determination which is all flow through our
25 children like all of them. And CIP's motto

1 which I'm sure goes for all three schools is:
2 The courage to dream and the commitment to
3 succeed. For child has been nothing but on
4 top. He went from what I felt was a level two,
5 to a level four, and I'm happy to say that Coney
6 Island Prep has shown me that I can help her
7 through them, and they've been there for me and
8 keeping me involved with my child's learning,
9 when she succeeds, when she's having trouble at
10 the school, they're always there for me and let
11 me know when she needs help or if she's
12 improving. Education is - - number one
13 priority, and I'm grateful for that. They have
14 nothing more than the children's - - and I
15 really hope that we can all stay - - . Thank
16 you. [applause]

17 MS. JESSICA PINTO: Hello each and every
18 one, my name is Jessica Pinto, and I am here
19 tonight to just to - - [applause]. Coney Island
20 Prep has served in the interest of - - every
21 day. Every child is treated equally regardless
22 of their past education. The students are
23 chosen by random lottery that is done every year
24 fairly. And every year they're excited to serve
25 every student that is chosen from the lottery.

1 Coney Island Prep has such a great impact on
2 my child's life that only - - that she has
3 improved in her education, but she's always
4 excited to come every day to school. The - - at
5 CIP are always in contact with the parents, and
6 have a great relationship with us. I love the
7 way - - Rachel Carson, and - - have come
8 together to provide the excellent education for
9 our children. Thank you for giving me this
10 opportunity to speak. And support Coney Island
11 Prep. [applause]

12 MR. ISAAC COHN: - - opportunity to be here,
13 as an educator in this building and I support
14 the co-location - - . I think to - - anyone, I
15 feel as though I - - schools, and I think Coney
16 Island prep - - schools here is a long term
17 positive --. Our schools are successful - - or
18 change it, so please consider and support our
19 permanent co-location - -. Thank you.

20 [applause]

21 MS. BARBOZA: - - we were joined by
22 additional - - member. She asked that we allow
23 the - - to speak first, and then she will - -
24 this evening. So I'll call our next five
25 speakers: Maureen Songy, Marianne Russo, Lauri

1 Berthiv, my apologies if I butcher your names
2 here. Todd Doltrin, and Nicole Pachino. I

3 I'm going to call those one more time.

4 Maureen Songy, Marianne Russo, Lauri Berthiv,
5 Tood Dotrin, Nicole Pachino.

6 MS. MAUREEN SONGY: Hi, good evening, my
7 name is Maureen Songy, my child is - - . This
8 is his first year at Coney Island Prep. Coney
9 Island Prep is--

10 MALE VOICE 3: Microphone, microphone,
11 closer to the microphone.

12 MS. SONGY: Coney Island Prep is a school
13 that - - a sense of community. This school
14 allows students to aspire not only to be - -
15 teachers - - role models, they can aspire - -.
16 My son - - school - - when he was 86 years old.
17 This is the first time that he has been at this
18 school where he's now one year ahead - - .
19 Every year - - failing citywide test - -. So
20 this school is working with Rachel Carson, and -
21 - . This is a system that works. It is
22 working. Teachers emulate the pride and
23 professionalism that is so needed in our society
24 today. Students are committed to excellence as
25 evidence of their reading and math scores. This

1 school should be allowed to stay this
2 building and this community where the students
3 who are our future live. [applause] - - where he
4 and his family and his education are considered
5 to be number one. Coney Island Prep is just not
6 a school, it is a model. It is a model for our
7 society and it should be left where it is.

8 Thank you. [applause]

9 MS. MAUREEN RUSSO: Good evening, - - Hi, my
10 name's Marianne Russo. I was here actually when
11 Coney Island Prep was getting started, and were
12 promised by everyone that we don't need - -
13 school's staff, that it was not going to occupy
14 any public school buildings as - - four years
15 ago. And, again, two years ago I wasn't a - -
16 member, again it would be a temporary location
17 only two years - -book a permanent space - - our
18 entire population. So I mean it's disappointing
19 to come back and - - where every promise made by
20 - - official, also every staff member, Mr. - -
21 himself that at every chance that it's not true.
22 So what are we to believe? The other question
23 is that because the staff - - have made the best
24 of it, I mean we have to live with each other,
25 and they were professional enough to live and

1 work together - - permanent co-location, just
2 that we should applaud working hard and getting
3 along and accommodating everyone. But that does
4 not mean it's a success. This is not - - policy
5 to - - schools in existing public school
6 buildings. There is no - - school, and I have
7 no problem from anyone creating a great
8 environment through their students, but not at a
9 cost to another school or other students. Thank
10 you. [applause]

11 MS. LAURI BETHIV: Hell, my name's Lauri
12 Berthiv, and - - four years. I just wanted
13 thank you for giving me the opportunity - -
14 support for Coney Island Prep - - . Coney
15 Island Prep has truly been a blessing to my
16 family. I believe that my son's getting - -
17 plus his individual needs - - . My son is a - -
18 all the school located here, and I feel that we
19 all co-exist at this location harmoniously.
20 Please support our co-location at - - . Thank
21 you. [applause]

22 MR. TODD DOLGRIN: Hi, my name's Todd
23 Dolgrin, and I'm - - high school right here, and
24 I commend the CEC for all their work and their
25 courage, because you know it is a big decision -

1 - like this not everyone's going to be happy.
2 But being a graduate of this school, I remember
3 the - - downstairs - - I'm an electrician by the
4 way, so - - in the past I know the school - -
5 acceptable. Somebody asked - - Coney Island
6 Prep, I really want you to think about this, if
7 I would come here and say, I have enough money
8 to build a brand new school, would you like to
9 move to that school? - - [applause] because if
10 I was you I would move there, so - - and you
11 deserve it like every other school. - - you
12 move into that - - if someone were to do it to
13 you, how would you feel? It's not that you
14 didn't do a great job. It's not that you aren't
15 a tremendous success. And you're being short
16 changed. You're short changing yourself. - -
17 because if you fight for a brand new school that
18 you deserve, what happens when you - - . First
19 of all you know - - . You are - - . And when
20 you run out of room here, what's your next step?
21 And - - what's their next step? It's very
22 important - - . We need a new school at Coney
23 Island, build it. Don't divide the ones that we
24 have and destroy the ones we have by giving a
25 little piece to everyone and not building a new

1 one. We have a tremendous of - - from Coney
2 Island, tremendous. Residential housing.
3 What's going to happen when Coney Island Prep
4 gets more successful, and everyone's - - . - -
5 same size - - . I just want you to think. And
6 moving into someone else's house, like this
7 little said, you moved in with the promise of
8 moving out. Now this Principal - - loyalty,
9 here's what I want you to think about - -
10 teaching children, and no one did anything
11 wrong. You all deserve a space, and there's
12 money out there for building a school, 'cause we
13 spend a lot of money out there. And - - really
14 think about - - students - - teach. And that's
15 all I have to say. - - and we can - -
16 [applause]. Thank you.

17 MS. NICOLE PACHINO: Good evening, my name
18 is Nicole - - support the continuation and co-
19 location of Coney Island Prep - - . I remember
20 being here two years ago with the families, - -
21 , teachers, and in support and against co-
22 location - -. Since then I have seen how
23 children in this one building are in a safe
24 environment, not only they're safe, but all
25 these students are flourishing. Regardless of

1 what school they belong to it is all in one
2 building. I have also seen how teachers and
3 administrators of all the schools have come
4 together to make it work, - - . Looking forward
5 I know that all members of the Coney Island Prep
6 family, teachers, and administrators has
7 families as well, are committed to continue in
8 working together - - to create a better school
9 community - - with politeness, respectfulness,
10 and concern for education for all children in
11 that - - . Coney Island Prep has - - this is
12 because it's given my daughter a chance to learn
13 at her pace while still working - - grade level
14 she was supposed to be on. - - two years my
15 child has grown more four to five different
16 grade levels - - classes. This is because of
17 the determination and the - - . Coney Island
18 needs more great schools like the ones
19 underneath this one building. These are A and B
20 students, again, in that building. This is
21 something that hasn't only been good for us
22 parents, but it's good for the community. We
23 have been working together in this building, and
24 - - working together for the - - Coney Island.
25 With this I ask you to approve the - - location

1 of Coney Island Prep. Thank you. [applause]

2 MS. BARBOZA: Thank you very much. Our next
3 speaker is - - Evangelean Pugh from the CEC21 -
4 - . Thank you, I appreciate it.

5 MS. EVANGELEAN PUGH: Please forgive me for
6 being late - - this is one new community, and
7 one - - grown up together, and gone to different
8 schools together, and it never hurt this school.
9 Coney Island Prep - - I love the way the schools
10 are put together, and the ideas, I think it's a
11 beautiful, beautiful thing. Actually I - - ,
12 but there's only one problem, it's not enough
13 space. Well what happens when five more parents
14 want their children to come? What I'm saying is
15 that instead of working on the same old question
16 of - - right to exist? Yes, they have a right
17 to exist, but we have to work together to find a
18 bigger space so that all schools - -. That's
19 basically what I'm asking is that is that
20 everyone can - - find it in your hearts to work
21 together even - - as far as it comes - -
22 fundraising, I would like - - but - - work
23 together and - - get Coney Island Prep their own
24 schools so that they can - - too much to ask.
25 [applause]

1 MS. BARBOZA: - - appreciate that. I
2 wanted to - - public comment portion of the
3 evening has concluded and - -. So I did what to
4 read some information for you - - educational
5 policy books - - this proposal as well as - -
6 will be voted on by the panel for educational
7 policy - - meeting on December 20, 2012 at 6
8 p.m. - - High School at - - of Fashion
9 Industries that is located at 225 West 24th
10 Street. Again, that's December 20th, 6 p.m., at
11 the high school for Fashion Industries which is
12 located at 225 West 24th Street, Manhattan.
13 Before we leave I'm going to read you the
14 telephone number and the email address - -
15 provide public comment if you go home and you
16 think of something - - inspiration strikes you
17 at 3 o'clock in the morning, you can email us,
18 you can call us --. The email address is
19 D21proposals. That's D as in dog, 2-1,
20 proposals. P-R-O-P-O-S-A-L-S @schools.nyc.gov.
21 If you prefer to call you can call us at 212-
22 374-0208, again 212-374-0208. Thank you
23 everyone for coming tonight - - .

24 [END RECORDING]

25

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

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9 Date December 6, 2012

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