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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION - DIVISION OF
PORTFOLIO PLANNING
Incubation of St. Michael's Dual
Language ES - 1/9/13**

1 [START RECORDING]

2 [background conversation]

3 MS. ANITA SKOP: Good evening ladies and
4 gentlemen, Janet, you're supposed to be up here.
5 [background conversation]. Good evening ladies
6 and gentlemen, and thank you all for coming. We
7 - - this evening - - Department of... I'm
8 holding it. The joint public keeper hearing of
9 the Department of Education, Community Education
10 Council District 15, and the school leadership
11 teams of the proposed temporary siting and
12 colocation of a new school 15K, number to be
13 determined with existing schools IS136 Charles
14 Dewey [phonetic], and the Sunset Park
15 Preparatory School 15KA21, located in building
16 15K136, the Charles O'Dewey [phonetic] campus,
17 for school year 2013/2014.

18 I am Anita Skop the Community School
19 Superintendent for District 15, and I am serving
20 as the Chancellor's designee for this meeting.

21 We have asked the District 15 Community
22 Education Council and the school leadership
23 teams in the building to participate in the
24 joint hearing. And I am joined tonight by
25 colleagues from the SLT, Lola Padin, Principal

1 and representing Sunset Park Preparatory
2 Academy, Eric Sackler, Principal 136,
3 representing his SLT, as well as several other
4 members who I'm going to ask you to tell me who
5 you are please.

6 MS. MYRNA JOHANNA PINOS: My name is Myrna -
7 - SLT teacher representing - - school A21
8 [phonetic].

9 MALE VOICE 1: Could people... I understand
10 the crowd's going to be babbling, but could
11 people come closer so they can hear more easily.

12 MALE VOICE 2: Excuse me, are you going to
13 announce the - - Spanish interpreter from the -
14 - ?

15 MS. SKOP: Yes. Please be aware... Please
16 go ahead and announce - - mic.

17 MR. ENRIQUE ARROJA: [Foreign language]

18 MS. SKOP: - -

19 MR. GORDAN BALDWIN [phonetic]: No, I'm okay

20 MS. SKOP: - -

21 MR. BALDWIN: - - My name is Gordon Baldwin,
22 I'm a member of the SLT here at MS136 and the
23 UFT Chapter leader.

24 MS. JANET WILLIAMS: Good evening, my name
25 is Janet Williams the CEC Chairperson, District

1 15. - -

2 MS. PINOS: My name is Myrna Pinos, I'm the
3 School Leadership Chairperson for middle school
4 A21.

5 MALE VOICE 3: - - I already did, she
6 introduced me.

7 MR. MARK GOLDMAN: Mark Goldman, Vice
8 President Community Education Council 15.

9 MR. JIM DEVOR: I'm Jim Devor, President of
10 Community Education Council for District 15.
11 I'd also like to advise that after the joint
12 public hearing there will be a meeting convened
13 of the Community Education Council, so you're
14 welcomed to stay after the hearing. Thanks.

15 MS. SKOP: For your information just so that
16 you are aware, as with all joint public hearings
17 the hearing is being recorded.

18 The purpose of this hearing is for you to
19 provide comments about the proposal. Before I
20 describe the proposal I want to make sure that
21 you are all aware of the opportunity to provide
22 your input. All of you who wish to sign up in
23 the speaker signup area located just outside the
24 auditorium. The signup list will close in 15
25 minutes.

1 Speakers will be given the floor in the
2 order that they signed up. Comments are usually
3 limited to two minutes, however if we have a
4 lesser number of speakers people can speak for
5 about a minute or so more. There may be elected
6 officials who arrive at different times
7 throughout the evening, if they wish to speak we
8 will do our best to accommodate them at the
9 first opportune moment. Those who are here at
10 the start of the public comments segment will be
11 asked to speak first.

12 We have just been joined by another CEC
13 member, and I would like her to introduce
14 herself.

15 MS. RACHEL PORTER: Hello, I'm Rachel
16 Porter. - -

17 MS. SKOP: She did it, she did it, Janet did
18 it. Okay, in addition we welcome any comments
19 and feedback you may have at any time before the
20 panel votes on the proposal. We have provided
21 in the back of the auditorium in the sign in
22 section, if you are the kind of person who is
23 shy or feels uncomfortable about getting up in
24 public feel free to go to the back, we have a
25 sheet where you can write your comments and we

1 will be glad to make sure they go back. If you
2 would prefer privacy and you don't want anybody
3 to hear what you have to say, there is another
4 sheet in the back that gives you an email
5 address and/or a phone number where you can
6 register your comments as well. If you have
7 friends who could not be here for the meeting
8 feel free to take some of these back for them.
9 Thank you. So we will begin.

10 Again, in addition, the comments can go to
11 D15proposals@schools.NYC.gov or at the phone
12 number 212-374-0208, sheets are available so you
13 don't have to memorize anything.

14 The proposal summary: The DOE is proposing
15 to site and co-locate one grade of a new un-
16 zoned elementary school in building K136 for the
17 2013-2014 school year. The new school will be
18 co-located with existing middle schools IS136
19 Charles O'Dewey, and Sunset Park Preparatory
20 school. The colocation means that two or more
21 school organizations are located in the same
22 building and may share common spaces like
23 auditoriums, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. The
24 K136 building will be the site of a one year
25 incubation for the new school after which it can

1 be re-sited to its long-term location building
2 K333 at 4222 Fourth Ave. also known as St.
3 Michaels. K333 is a leased space that is
4 currently undergoing upgrade and renovation in
5 preparation for long-term Department of
6 Education occupancy beginning in the fall of
7 2014.

8 Due to overcrowding in the Sunset Park area
9 of District 15 many zoned elementary schools
10 have found it necessary to divert incoming
11 kindergarten students and offer them an
12 alternative placement at other schools within
13 the district. District 15 elementary schools
14 are over capacity with the average utilization
15 rate for K to 5 schools of a 114 %. This number
16 is higher in Sunset Park where the average
17 utilization rate for K to 5 schools is 126%,
18 with a range of 95 to 144 %. As a result of
19 this overcrowding in 2012 there were a 115 wait-
20 listed kindergarten students in Sunset Park.

21 The DOE explored various ways to accommodate
22 all of the wait listed children including
23 attempting to identify underutilized school
24 buildings in the area, searching for suitable
25 school ready private space to lease, reducing

1 pre-kindergarten at local elementary schools,
2 and determining if there were any available
3 classrooms in existing district schools.

4 The proposed siting and colocation of this
5 new school is intended to alleviate overcrowding
6 in District 15, and to serve as an overflow site
7 for the district in the upcoming 2013-2014
8 academic school year. If this proposal is
9 approved in year one the new school will serve
10 kindergarten aged students who have been
11 overflowed from their zoned Sunset Park
12 Elementary Schools. When the new school moves
13 to K333 in year two it is expected that a new
14 school zone will be created and that the school
15 will become a zoned elementary school that will
16 give priority to students who live in that zone.

17 This additional capacity and the subsequent
18 rezoning will help alleviate overcrowding in
19 Sunset Park Elementary Schools, and is part of
20 long term planning for this area of District 15.

21 In 2014-15 when the DOE intends to re-site
22 the school to K333 it will serve kindergarten
23 and first grade, and will continue to add an
24 additional grade each year until 2018-2019 when
25 it reaches full scale and serves kindergarten

1 through 5th grade in K333.

2 If re-siting the new school in K333 in 2014-
3 15 is not feasible for any reason the DOE will
4 reassess the space and if appropriate may extend
5 the colocation or propose an alternative siting
6 plan. The DOE would then issue a separate
7 educational impact statement describing an
8 alternate plan for the new school.

9 In 2013-14 IS136 is projected to serve 400
10 to 430 students, Sunset Park is projected to
11 serve 515 to 545, and the new school is
12 projected to serve 65 to 75 students yielding
13 and estimated utilization rate of 81 to 87 %.
14 If this proposal is approved there will be
15 sufficient space in K136 to accommodate the new
16 school as well as IS136 and Sunset Park Prep.

17 Each existing school has agreed to
18 consolidate space using the transportable class
19 units; those are the portables in the yard that
20 are located adjacent to K136 into the main
21 building, and the new school will receive the
22 remaining non-shared spaces in these TCU's.
23 There are no proposed changes to enrollment,
24 programming, or admission methods for either 136
25 or Sunset Park Prep.

1 At this point thank you for listening and
2 the next presenter will be the President of the
3 CEC if he elects to make a statement.

4 MR. DEVOR: When have I not? A couple
5 observations and some announcements, first, we
6 in CEC 15 have generally been skeptical of
7 colocations as some people from right here might
8 know, and we also note that, but we are
9 supportive of this one for the very limited use
10 of one year. That arises from two... That's
11 notwithstanding the fact that it's our belief
12 that this utilization of the trailers is a year
13 late and a grade too high. We do know that the
14 greatest need in Sunset Park, at least as we've
15 been told by parents, is for Pre-K slots, and we
16 would have preferred that; that was not offered,
17 and it is what it is. It also could or should
18 have been done this year rather than next. But
19 despite that it's certainly superior to the
20 status quo.

21 I would note that I have some disagreements
22 with some of the data cited in the report.
23 There were more than 150 children wait-listed in
24 Sunset Park last year. There were at one point
25 200, and just two schools in this district.

1 That may have gone down to 150, although I'm
2 trying to figure out what happened to those
3 other 50 children.

4 The need is acute and critical, and we
5 therefore support this colocation. But
6 nevertheless even if you accept their numbers of
7 150 wait-listed children, and assume that
8 roughly similar number will arise next year that
9 still leaves us short 75 children. And there's
10 no good reason not to assume that that 150 will
11 not stay, it's been that way now for several
12 years despite all the DOE predictions to the
13 contrary.

14 Towards that end we in CEC 15 have noisily
15 and consistently agitated for more K to 5 space
16 in Sunset Park especially kindergarten and Pre-
17 K. And we're very pleased that ultimately the
18 St. Michael School, again a year later than I
19 think it should be, will go online not this
20 September but the September after and that will
21 do something, not much but something.

22 The capital plan for over the last ten years
23 has talked about 6 to 700 seats more in Sunset
24 Park, St. Michaels will provide 350. So, we
25 again, the inadequacy of that should not be

1 forgotten.

2 But towards that end we've also agitated in
3 the northern part of our district to try to see
4 if we can help our children in Sunset Park in
5 the southern part of that district. The
6 Department of Education has built new capacity
7 in Warm Hill [phonetic] Prospect Heights area,
8 which will be the new home of PS133 which is
9 currently residing in a former parochial school
10 in the east end of the slope. That has been
11 determined to be a quote "choice" school.

12 After a long, arduous, and rigorous process
13 and at the demand of the council we were
14 successful in procuring a targeted missions
15 program which gives first priority to English
16 Language learners. There'll be 100 seats that
17 will be opening up in 133 next fall; we have
18 targeted that a minimum will be available to 35
19 English Language learners in our district.

20 As it happens, not entirely coincidentally,
21 the vast majority of our English Language
22 learners are in Sunset Park, and we would urge
23 parents to seriously consider the availability
24 of 133 which already has a dual language Spanish
25 program which hopefully will have an after

1 school program oriented towards Mandarin
2 speaking or Mandarin education. And for which,
3 again after a final month of incredibly
4 frustrating fighting, resulted in the agreement
5 by the Department of Education to provide free
6 busing for the Sunset Park community towards, to
7 that school in Boerum Hill provided that at
8 least 11 children from the neighborhood agree to
9 go there, which I think we hope that they will,
10 and I think that many should.

11 Understanding that there's a waiting list
12 last year over 100 each at PS94 and 169, and
13 that parents were have been and often been
14 assigned to schools they did not want to send
15 their children to, for good reasons and bad, we
16 think that parents in the Sunset Park community
17 should take a real look at 133 as one of the
18 options that should be made available to them.

19 And on that note I'll pass the baton as it
20 were to anybody else on the council who wishes
21 to comment tonight. [background conversation].

22 FEMALE VOICE 1: I just want to reinforce
23 that last point about 133. We really encourage
24 parents in the community not only to think about
25 133 for your own children, but to talk about

1 133, to not be dissuaded because of busing. I
2 take my child to a school that I have to travel
3 to, and this is what promises to be a really
4 wonderful school. And we're very eager for the
5 community to come and see it and seriously
6 consider it as an option for your kids.

7 MR. DEVOR: Right, this is not in any way to
8 be critical of 94 or 169 which are schools, and
9 I mentioned they're both very fine schools.
10 Problem is there is no guarantee that all things
11 being considered your child will be able to go
12 to 94 or 169 given the past practice. Now one
13 of the options will become the school that will
14 be housed in trailers in this building or next
15 to this building, and we suspect that that will
16 also be a very fine program as it will be the
17 beginning of that school that will be housed in
18 St. Michaels. But just as other, as more
19 wealthy parents like to consider having their
20 options being available to them, we think that
21 the Sunset Park community, especially Sunset
22 Park parents, should be able to take a look at a
23 variety of options to see what's best for them.
24 And that's not something that they've had for a
25 while, and we would like to encourage that.

1 Anybody else in the council? [background
2 conversation].

3 MS. SKOP: My turn, okay. So at this point
4 I am going to throw the floor to either of our
5 two building principals or the SLTs from these
6 two schools if they would like to make a
7 comment. Is there anybody who would like to
8 comment?

9 MR. DEVOR: Eric is going to - - .

10 MS. SKOP: Eric?

11 MR. SACKLER: Yeah, I just want to make one
12 comment about projected enrollments. If you
13 looked at the proposal it talked about 2012-2013
14 and 2013-2014 projected enrollments. I have
15 talked to the powers to be regarding those
16 numbers, those numbers are not correct. We're
17 already well above the 451 for this year, and I
18 believe that the projected enrollment was based
19 on the fact that enrollment dropped a bit this
20 year because of the rumor that we were closing
21 as one of the original 33 schools. So that's
22 just something to keep in mind going forward in
23 the future.

24 MR. DEVOR: Notwithstanding that just do
25 want to thank the principals of both buildings

1 for their support.

2 MS. SKOP: And we would formally, we'd like
3 to thank the Principals of both schools within
4 this campus for hosting this evening and
5 allowing us to have the meeting, and even more
6 graciously for being receptive to the colocation
7 of the future K333, school number to be
8 determined. As the Superintendent of District
9 15 I can tell you how vital it is that we have
10 seats for our kindergarten children. We are an
11 incredibly overcrowded district especially in
12 Sunset Park, and that is why this proposal and
13 the seats at K133 are such a Godsend at this
14 time.

15 Having given the opportunity to the CEC to
16 speak and the SLT to speak, are there any public
17 officials who would like the opportunity to
18 speak at this time? Okay. Having none from the
19 floor we will now turn this over to public
20 comments. We will now open the floor for public
21 comments. Speakers have signed up and are first
22 and only speaker is Maria Roca, Ms. Roca would
23 you please come up.

24 MS. MARIA ROCA: Thank you. Good evening.
25 I'm going to stand here so I don't give my back

1 to anyone. I am as introduced Maria Roca,
2 grew up in this neighborhood as a teenager, left
3 the neighborhood to go to school and see the
4 world, came back 18 years ago and founded the
5 Friends of Sunset Park to originally advocate
6 for the park which I found in great disrepair
7 when I returned with my nine year old. Since,
8 in the past 18 years we've expanded our mission
9 to be receptive to other problems neighborhood
10 that eventually coming to the park, and whatever
11 problems are in the park eventually go out into
12 the neighborhood.

13 But to the point, to the reason for this
14 meeting; it's good news to hear that there will
15 be additional seats, kindergarten. I agree with
16 the President of the CEC, unfortunately it
17 doesn't add pre-kinder, particularly in the
18 debacle that took place at St. Michaels where so
19 many families were totally abandoned and thrown
20 over the bus, and offered one day of instruction
21 at home for over a year, only to find out that
22 when the school was relocated, the Head Start
23 was relocated to OLPH [phonetic], that there
24 would only be seats for 100. So we still
25 haven't gotten over that, neither the parent,

1 first and foremost, or any of us who are
2 parents, or any of us who even live in this
3 community; totally outrageous. So new seats,
4 great. So I have some questions that maybe you
5 have or don't have answers to at this moment,
6 but certainly I hope they'll be forthcoming.
7 And first of all does anyone have a report on
8 the percent of completion of the construction at
9 St. Michaels? The answer is no, okay, that's a
10 good place to start.

11 Two, how many classrooms of kindergartners
12 will there be should the colocation take place?
13 Three. And how many, sorry, and how many
14 eventually at the formally known St. Michaels,
15 but also three, will there be more?

16 - - [speaking off mic] - -So three here to
17 begin. - - Right, but it doesn't, they don't
18 increase. There always will be three
19 kindergarten classes starting with three and
20 remaining with three. Okay, so that's at the
21 most should be 75 children that will--

22 MALE VOICE 1: [speaking off mic]- -

23 MS. ROCA: Kindergarten, kindergarten, I'm
24 just talking kindergarten, okay.

25 MALE VOICE 1: [speaking off mic] - - we've

1 also - - that there will be - - space and - -
2 made available to - -.

3 MS. ROCA: Okay, so when it reaches full
4 capacity there will be three classrooms as it is
5 seen today for each grade, so that mean 15, 18
6 classrooms, correct, if my math adds up? Okay.
7 Back to Dewey, will there be staggered arrivals
8 and dismissals of the kindergartener? It's a
9 question because of our activities in the park,
10 and we host programs for children in the summer,
11 performances, where upwards of 5, 600 children
12 and their caretakers and their families, and so
13 forth arrive. So we get approached by many,
14 many, many, many, many parents, particularly
15 non-English speaking parents who are at the ends
16 of their rope asking all these questions because
17 either they don't feel comfortable or there's a
18 language barrier or for whatever reason about
19 their concerns for their children.

20 So, one of the big concerns of any parent as
21 well as of Sunset Park parents is the safety of
22 their children, A, and they're not being exposed
23 to untoward behavior of older children wherever
24 they may be, and kindergartens are five years
25 old.

1 So I beg you whoever is sitting here who
2 may have a way of preventing the comingling,
3 since there's already colocation, comingling of
4 the kindergarteners with older children who are
5 finding their way in life, not because they're
6 loud and they're untoward that they're bad kids,
7 it's a rite of passage. I have a 27 year old, I
8 lived, I survived the rite of passage; I'm
9 still working on it. So, you know, but to a
10 five year old, to a parent of a five year old,
11 that is a scary, scary situation. So please
12 keep that in mind since the portable classrooms
13 are there that may be a staggering arrival and
14 departure would certainly alleviate a little of
15 these parent's concerns. Okay.

16 Where will they eat breakfast and lunch I've
17 been asked. Will they be sitting side by side
18 with the middle schoolers? I said I doubt it,
19 you know, but I'll ask.

20 MALE VOICE 1: [speaking off mic]- -

21 MS. ROCA: Okay, so the, it, okay, so
22 breakfast... Well free breakfast will be in the
23 cafeteria though. Right and lunch will be in in
24 situ, in their classrooms, correct? Okay.

25 MALE VOICE 1: [speaking off mic]- -

1 MS. ROCA: Okay so far.

2 MALE VOICE 1: [speaking off mic] - -

3 MS. ROCA: Right, you know I ask on behalf
4 of all these parents that, you know, that you
5 give that serious consideration and, and care.

6 MALE VOICE 1: [speaking off mic]- -

7 MS. ROCA: - - Okay, and--

8 MALE VOICE 1: [speaking off mic] - -

9 FEMALE VOICE 1: [speaking off mic] - -

10 MS. ROCA: And then I just have one last
11 comment if I may? Okay. Maybe I'll just stay
12 here.

13 FEMALE VOICE 1: [speaking off mic] - -

14 MS. ROCA: Okay.

15 MS. PADIN: So just for the record I've been
16 a Sunset Park resident most of my life. I've
17 taught in this building now, I started 37 years
18 ago, so same age. So the truth of the matter is
19 I understand your concerns. And we've had
20 conversations with the person responsible for
21 setting this meeting, with Anita Skop, with Eric
22 Sackler the other principal here, and just like
23 we had elementary school kids here, Christina
24 Fuentes [phonetic] was the reason we had the
25 portables in the back of our building. So we

1 are well aware that we have to build a
2 partnership with whoever takes over the new
3 building. We'll work on the elementary school
4 kids entering at a different time, being
5 dismissed at a different time. I agree with you
6 100 % that we have to monitor the situation.
7 We're talking about adolescents, and we're
8 talking about five years old. And just for the
9 record I have a five year old granddaughter, so
10 I take these things very seriously. But again
11 this is a conversation; it's going to entail
12 planning. Eric and I are receptive to inviting
13 75, I would have thought or more kindergarteners
14 to our building.

15 I also share with Eric that I do think
16 sometimes it's easier if the meals could be
17 delivered to the portables, and we will somehow
18 manage to keep the adolescents, the middle
19 school kids in the main building. But that's a
20 viable concern, and that's something that we
21 will work with whoever takes over the school.

22 MS. SKOP: I want to add something because I
23 want to speak for the middle school kids for a
24 second. There are many K to 8 schools in New
25 York City where on a daily basis kindergarten

1 children go to school with adolescents. And
2 some of these schools have turned this into a
3 distinct advantage creating buddy systems where
4 older children support the little ones, serves
5 as role models for the little ones, read to the
6 little ones, and provide an additional quasi
7 grown-up figure in their lives. I know these
8 two principals; I know that there will be
9 opportunities where they will build a wonderful
10 collaborative relationship with these little
11 ones. And of course as in all schools safety is
12 the top priority and we will make sure that the
13 little ones are kept safe.

14 You had another question I know.

15 MS. ROCA: Well it's more of a - - thank
16 you, I guess we need to invest in more
17 microphones. Okay, put it on the budget. Okay.
18 The last, the last comment was about 133 which
19 is certainly a welcomed addition to the
20 district. The concern there of many Sunset Park
21 parents, and I have intimately been exposed to
22 situations that validate their concerns because
23 I am advocating for five families whose
24 kindergartners were sent to other schools in the
25 neighborhood 'cause they were wait-listed, and

1 initially were offered busing, and it's a long
2 story not for this moment to discuss. But the
3 situation on busing, and I know you have nothing
4 to, no one here can control that because that's
5 a separate division, but what's happening on the
6 buses which now don't have matrons unless it is
7 a bus for children with disabilities, it's
8 chaotic. Younger children are being physically
9 abused on a daily basis on this buses. And I
10 urge whoever it is, the CEC, whoever it is that
11 there needs to be a meeting in this
12 neighborhood, and I'm just going to say this
13 neighborhood because that's what I know about,
14 where parents have an opportunity to come and
15 talk openly and safely about what is happening
16 to their children.

17 Twelve year olds beating on five year olds,
18 yes, well because they were wait-listed, oh well
19 10 year olds, 11 year olds. One year - - . And
20 a lot of problems with children who had a IEP
21 for special education that got lost somewhere in
22 the CC system, is that the right way to
23 pronounce it where they weren't receiving the
24 services in the school that they were assigned
25 to. And so this child is put on a bus with, no,

1 and the driver, not on my, that's none of my
2 business if there's nobody there to pick up that
3 child that is not my problem. If something is
4 happening in the back I'm the driver, I'm not
5 here to monitor seatbelts, children flying all
6 over the bus, getting off the bus with a black
7 eye, that situation.

8 So 133 is great but it will require busing.
9 So the reason I bring it up is that I would hate
10 for parents out of the fear of having to put
11 their child on the bus, because their experience
12 or their neighbor's experience with busing has
13 been so negative and so dangerous for their
14 child, to miss on the opportunity to go to a
15 great school. So I bring that up and please any
16 of you if you're in the audience, there needs to
17 be an open, an honest and safe conversation
18 about this issue because when you can put the
19 best teachers, the best building, if a child
20 needs to get on a bus, these are all part of a
21 child's education, fear cannot be part of a
22 child's day. [background conversation].

23 MS. SKOP: - - wait, is that your final
24 comment? Is that - -

25 MS. ROCA: Yes that's the end of me.

1 MS. SKOP: - - we have a response. Rachel -
2 -

3 MS. PORTER: Thanks for raising that
4 important concern, and clearly any parent who
5 has that experience can certainly come to us as
6 well their own school. But I have to urge you
7 to divorce that from a discussion of 133 because
8 to my ears that sounds, if you'll excuse the
9 expression, like fear mongering. One bad
10 experience and even several bad experiences does
11 not make the rule for what's going on on those
12 buses. And it's a very serious allegation to
13 say that kids are regularly getting abused. If
14 that's the situation there should absolutely be,
15 if any child is getting abused, there should be
16 a paper trail about that.

17 But please you are doing a serious
18 disservice to your community if you start a
19 discussion about 133 and the busing that this
20 council fought very hard for by talking about
21 how dangerous buses are for children. Kids get
22 bused all over the city every day, and you can
23 be sure that the people on this council, your
24 Superintendent, your Principals all care very,
25 very deeply about their security. Please, when

1 you're talking about 133 see the buses as a
2 resource for parents.

3 MR. DEVOR: Also let's be clear right now at
4 this point no one is talking about sending
5 fourth or fifth graders at this point and time,
6 to 133. Right now we're talking about
7 kindergarten children and only kindergarten
8 children unless there are children who are
9 already at 133 from Sunset Park which I'm not
10 aware of. I'm not familiar with the... I don't
11 believe the DOE is in the business of sending
12 one bus for multiple schools and different
13 locations even if they're in the same district.
14 There would be only one... There would only be
15 one route, I mean the 133 and that would be
16 kindergarten children.

17 I can be sensitive to the fact that you know
18 these can be issues and they may become issues
19 in four or five years down the line. But to
20 raise that issue now is can best be described as
21 premature I think, and certainly should not, you
22 know, and it's certainly the 133 issue in some
23 ways is better than the alternative that many
24 parents in Sunset Park have been facing of being
25 capped and sent to other schools where there are

1 multiple ages in the bus. To the extent that
2 that concern's legitimate the smartest thing to
3 do would be to make sure to try to get your kid
4 into 133 if you are worried about a capping
5 situation which would send your child to the,
6 with a bunch of other children of multiple ages.

7 MS. SKOP. I would like to give, Maria where
8 are you? I would like to give you the
9 opportunity should you have a concern to
10 certainly to bring it to my attention. I will
11 explain to you that having spoken to 94, and I'm
12 assuming the same thing holds true at 169, what
13 happens is that the children who are capped are
14 picked up by bus and these are kindergarten aged
15 children, they all go together on the bus. What
16 I'm hearing you talk about is IEP busing which
17 sounds to me somewhat different, which could
18 have multiple aged children on it. Children
19 with IEPs who are bused to different schools
20 could conceivably have other children with IEPs,
21 however this is not the same buses and that's
22 the, and I think that we would need to get
23 clarification on what exactly happened and who
24 with. And please feel free to call my office.
25 If you'd like to write the number down I'd be

1 happy to give it to you. My number is 718-
2 935-4317. I would be happy to speak to any, you
3 or any parent who has a concern as to what the
4 busing issue was; we definitely would want to
5 work on that. But the busing opportunity for
6 kids to go to 133 was incredibly hard fought.
7 It is a tribute to the CEC and to the people who
8 worked on this in the Portfolio Office to make
9 this happen so that kids could have free busing
10 to take them to a beautiful brand new school.
11 And I would not like to see them not have the
12 opportunity because parents are fearful of the
13 bus. It is a wonderful opportunity.

14 MS. ROCA: [speaking off mic] - -

15 MS. SKOP: Yeah, I think that we can talk
16 about that privately. I'm sure that you're
17 raising a legitimate point, and if you don't
18 mind I'm going to ask you to please talk to her
19 privately.

20 MS. ROCA: [speaking off mic] - -

21 MS. SKOP: Yeah.

22 MS. ROCA: [speaking off mic] - - when I'm
23 accused of something - - I - - opportunity to
24 respond to that - -.

25 MS. SKOP. Yeah. I would prefer that we

1 table that for a private discussion. Okay,
2 having said that again I want to remind you that
3 feel free to pick up a sheet on your way out,
4 and hopefully you won't be leaving yet because
5 there is a CEC portion of the meeting, or a
6 comment to write written comments. We would be
7 happy to collect those if you are uncomfortable
8 speaking or don't want to speak in public. We
9 welcome any comments you have until January 16
10 when the panel for educational policy votes on
11 this proposal. The email address is
12 D15proposals@school.NYC.gov, and the phone
13 number is 212-374-0208. We thank you all for
14 your... Okay.

15 MR. DEVOR: I just want to say if there are
16 any other individuals who have not already
17 spoken, I mean obviously it's ten to seven, we
18 don't normally wake up at our joint public
19 hearings until about 8:30. So if there are any
20 other individuals who have not already spoken
21 and wish to comment speak, you know now's your
22 chance. Going once. Going twice. I return the
23 microphone back to Anita.

24 MS. SKOP: And having said that I thank you
25 for your participation, this joint portion of

1 the meeting tonight is now closed. Thank you.

2 [END RECORDING]

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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 

Date January 12, 2013