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**NEW YORK CITY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -
DIVISION OF PORTFOLIO
PLANNING
Yorkville Community School
(02M151) - 1/6/11**

1 [START OF 181_331 AGorig.MP3]

2 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: So I'm joined tonight by
3 members of the SLT, and you are here with the
4 SLT. Anyone I don't have hold [phonetic] your
5 name. So I know most of you. And we have Elzora
6 Cleveland who is the President of CEC District
7 2. And Shino Tanikawa, yes, also a member of
8 District 2 CEC. And we actually have, I think,
9 Michael Markowitz in the audience? Yes?
10 Michael's here. Markowitz also from District 2
11 CEC, and I know we had Cynthia Alvarez a few
12 minutes ago who is right in the back.

13 We're also joined by Dara Adams from
14 Congresswoman's Carolyn Maloney's office. Kelly
15 Postlewaite from Assembly Member Jonathan Ding's
16 office. And Dan Kentuski come from Council
17 Member Dan Garodnick's office.

18 So this hearing is being recorded. And so
19 everybody knows, the purpose of this hearing is
20 to give you, we were to provide you with a place
21 to comment on the proposal. And before I can
22 start the proposal I want to make sure that
23 you're all aware of the opportunity to provide
24 your input.

25 All those who wish to speak come up and sign

1 up on the speaker's list in the back of the
2 room located right in the back of the
3 auditorium. The speaker's list is not closing
4 tonight to make sure that there's an opportunity
5 for everyone to speak. We know that people are
6 coming over from Richard R. Green, so it is
7 open.

8 Speakers will be given the floor in the
9 order in which they signed up and all comments
10 are limited to two minutes. And we do have a
11 time ring up [phonetic] and Taylor will be
12 making sure that we adhere to the time limit.
13 Here he is in the blue shirt.

14 In addition we welcome any comments and
15 feedback you may have at any time before the
16 Panel for Educational Policy votes on this
17 proposal at its January 19th meeting. All
18 comments and questions will be mentioned in the
19 analysis of public comments to be published and
20 provided to that panel. And that evening, all
21 the way up until the evening before the panel
22 votes, which is again, on January 19th, 2011 at
23 the casino.

24 The e-mail address to vote is
25 DO2proposals@schools.nyp.gov. So just so you

1 know, that up until the very last minute, any
2 comments you have will be taken into
3 consideration. Everything will be delivered to
4 the Council on Educational Policy.

5 So Proposal Summary. Work till [phonetic]
6 community schools or from 151, P.S. 151 is an
7 existing District 2 zoned elementary school
8 opened in 2009-2010 in leased space at 323 E.
9 91st Street. Also known as Our Lady of Good
10 Counsel, or Dolby [phonetic] M816. It currently
11 enrolls students in Kindergarten and first
12 grade, and is expected to serve grades K through
13 5 when it reaches full scale.

14 At the current location where the lease is
15 due to expire on August 31st, 2012, there is not
16 enough space for P.S. 151 to grow to scale.

17 On December 3rd, 2010 the Department of
18 Education or the DOE, published a proposal to
19 implement a re-siting, which means that P.S. 151
20 will move to Building M066 located at 421 E. 88th
21 Street, New York, New York 10128 for September
22 2011. Building M066 was originally built to
23 serve elementary grades and is currently
24 occupied by Richard R. Green High School for
25 Teaching.

1 In a separate educational impact statement
2 or the EIS, the DOE is proposing to locate-
3 relocate Richard R. Green to a new high school
4 facility at 26 Broadway downtown. We're - - co-
5 locations, Urban Assembly School of Business for
6 Young Women, and Lower Manhattan Community
7 Middle School, former TBMS. The proposal to re-
8 site P.S. 151 in Building M066 is dependent upon
9 approval of the proposal to recite Richard
10 R. Green to 26 Broadway.

11 And 066 has a target capacity of 625
12 students based on its current usage as a high
13 school. Target capacity for M066 building's new
14 usage as an elementary school would be adjusted
15 based on the actual usage of rooms and the
16 target class size for elementary schools. For
17 elementary grades. The DOE estimates the target
18 capacity for M066 for elementary school use as
19 approximately 600 students. P.S. 151 currently
20 enrolls 177 students in Kindergarten and first
21 grade and scheduled to add one grade each year
22 until it reaches full scale in capacity to
23 enroll students in Kindergarten through fifth
24 grade.

25 At the current location, M816, the building

1 has 15 full-size classrooms and can only
2 accommodate Kindergarten through 2nd grade at
3 P.S. 151's present enrollment level. Based on
4 the number of rooms in the new building M066 the
5 DOE anticipates that there would be
6 approximately 27 class sections at full scale.
7 This would mean approximately five sections per
8 grade in Kindergarten through 2nd grade, and four
9 sections per grade in 3rd through 5th grade. This
10 represents an increase in enrollment as compared
11 to the current number of sections in
12 Kindergarten and first grade. The actual number
13 of sections in total and per grade will be
14 adjusted by the principal based on enrollment
15 meetings.

16 The DOE is also working with the CEC for
17 District 2, to rezone the Upper East Side. To
18 rezone all the Upper East Side schools to
19 address Kindergarten wait lists and is proposing
20 that the rezoning expand the sites of the P.S.
21 151 zone in order to utilize the capacity of the
22 proposed relocation to M066. That proposal must
23 be approved by the CEC before it would take
24 effect.

25 Okay. So thank you. That's the whole

1 proposal. We look forward to hearing all of
2 your comments and your questions, and in order to
3 insure that everyone who is signed up to speak
4 again we're going to limit you to two minutes
5 and we ask that you adhere to that and sort of
6 pay attention to Ben who will be holding up a
7 very large sign, I think. Okay.

8 So without further ado we actually are ready
9 for-to open the floor for public comments, but
10 we are going to actually begin with comments
11 from our CEC and SLT members. Okay. So we will
12 start, I guess, with Elzora, and any CEC member
13 who'd like to participate.

14 MS. T. ELZORA CLEVELAND: The attending
15 existing members of the Community Education
16 Council have not taken a formal position on the
17 proposal, and that is because our primary role
18 is to do what is best for all of our schools. So
19 it is very important for us as the CEC
20 representing all of District 2 to hear what the
21 concerns are of the school and the parents. And
22 to, you know, make supportive decisions on
23 what's right for the schools. So that is why a
24 position is not prepared—a position statement
25 has not been prepared from the CEC in light of

1 this proposal.

2 So please keep in mind when personal
3 opinions are added in they are not that of the
4 CEC as a full body representing the schools in
5 District 2. I am anxious and eager to hear what
6 your concerns are and whether you are supportive
7 or not supportive so that we can take it back to
8 the council and discuss it. I'll pass it on to
9 Council Member Tanikawa.

10 MR. SHINO TANIKAWA: Thank you, Elzora, and
11 a great segué so I will reiterate again at CEC
12 District 2, we do not have a position, but I
13 have a personal opinion which I'm going to share
14 with you. And bear with me - - to be who are at
15 Richard Green's, I have a slightly different
16 comment to make.

17 The first two comments I'd like to take are
18 specifically on the EIS. It appears to me,
19 according to the EIS, the Department of
20 Education is planning from the start to make
21 P.S. 151 about capacity. If you look at the
22 table on page 2 your capacity at full
23 utilization is 113%. I understand why they do
24 this, but I don't have to accept them. I do not
25 like it. I don't think we should start off

1 planning a school to be over capacity. That's
2 just insane. And at the end we are planning for
3 25 Kindergarten students in every single K class
4 on the Upper East Side. Yes, we have a very
5 tight budget, yes, we don't have enough rooms,
6 but we should at least try to shoot for 20
7 Kindergarten students in each classroom and not
8 to go above 100% capacity in our school
9 buildings. That's something that we have to
10 aspire to. We shouldn't just take it as a given.
11 So that's one thing I wanted to comment on EIS.

12 The other thing that I wanted to comment is
13 we are going to have many more new elementary
14 schools in District 2. Yours is actually one of
15 the first ones. I really believe we need to do
16 something to protect funding for start-up
17 schools. It's really hard to run a school with
18 71 students, or 177 students, even. And when
19 those students who come out of a zone because
20 they got wait-listed and they moved back to
21 their zones schools, you lose that funding. And
22 that is a hardship. But we shouldn't expect all
23 these start-up schools to bear it.

24 So I would like the council actually to come
25 up with some kind of a proposal where new

1 schools have a base level funding that is not
2 tied to the number of students. I think that's
3 something we really have to consider.

4 Now the other things that are a little more
5 personal. P.S. 151 has been homeless for the
6 past 10 years or so. I just found out Richard
7 Green has been homeless or in temporary housing
8 for the past 20 years.

9 Now from the concessions of the Upper East
10 Side communities I think these two proposals
11 sound perfect. 151 voting to Richard Green.
12 Richard Green was at 26 Broadway. And I think
13 it's not necessarily a bad proposal, but what
14 the DOE fails to consider every time they make
15 proposals of this type is the receiving schools.
16 Will the personalities mesh?

17 Imagine you have an extra bedroom in your
18 house and somebody—some boss maybe just sticks a
19 person in your house as a roommate. And you have
20 absolutely no say. If you're lucky you'll get
21 along and you'll be a great partnership. If
22 you're not lucky, well, you're stuck. School
23 relocations really require a lot of work and
24 they need to be done carefully.

25 When the DOE has 10 years and 20 years to

1 plan this, I don't understand why you're doing
2 this at the very last minute when all of our
3 schools are overcrowded. When Richard Green
4 students have suffered for 20 years in that
5 elementary school, why are we doing this at the
6 last minute? They should have been working on
7 this for the last 10 years at least. Then we
8 could have made sure everybody's needs are met.

9 So my biggest issue is yes, the DOE's doing
10 a slightly better job and I'm glad that each
11 school at 26 Broadway will have its own
12 cafeteria and library. But we really ought to do
13 a better of planning long-term. We need to
14 really think five years down the road, ten years
15 down the road. And I know that the DOE has
16 publicly said they do not do long-term planning.
17 Well, we have to. There is no excuse. Our kids'
18 education is at stake. Long-term planning must
19 be a necessity. Thank you. [Applause].

20 MR. MICHAEL MARKOWITZ: Hi, good evening.
21 I'm Michael Markowitz. I'm a member of Community
22 Education Council for District 2 and first I
23 want to echo what President Cleveland and First
24 Vice President Tanikawa says, and since they
25 both stole each - at least one thing I was going

1 to say, I'm a little bit disjointed. But I'd
2 like to point out that at the last regular CEC
3 meeting mid to late December, we voted to
4 approve the DOE's proposed resign plan. And with
5 all due respect to Jerry [phonetic] I think the
6 script sounds like it's still up in the air.

7 On the other hand, the CEC does not have a
8 formal role, in addition to not having taken a
9 group position, we do not have a formal role in
10 these group co-locations which I think is a huge
11 hole in the state law, that while we do have
12 control over zoning we have no control over what
13 we are zoning for. As an engineering planner,
14 that's absolutely ludicrous.

15 Related to that, I've been asking for - now
16 going on four years, that the DOE do more
17 cohesive ballistic planning. And I don't mean
18 that in a big touchy-feely way. I mean, when
19 we're looking at school shuffles, that we look
20 at all of the alternatives simultaneously. That
21 certainly didn't happen last year over a big
22 sequential - well, that doesn't work; let's see
23 what else we could throw up the flagpole
24 shuffles with numerous sequential EISs till
25 finally we found a win-win, nobody loses

1 solution to Clinton Middle School.

2 With the proposal at hand here now the
3 solution for 151 is pretty obvious. This is a
4 no-brainer from 151's point of view, in my
5 personal opinion. It seems that the Richard
6 Green High School people - and I confess I
7 didn't get to the hearings and polls [phonetic]
8 are amenable. But because stasis is such a
9 shortage throughout the city, and especially in
10 District 2 and a couple of other districts,
11 there are a lot of other stakeholders interested
12 in relieving their own crowding. So even though
13 for us this might reflect it ought to happen,
14 understand that it doesn't always look that way
15 from other people's points of view.

16 Nevertheless, personally, as I've written to
17 some of you, I heartily support the current
18 proposal and just wish that it was more
19 obviously integrated so that it looks like a
20 real synthesized solution.

21 The last thing I'll say because I also want
22 to hear from you, is congratulations on starting
23 a school. It's only a shame that it took so long
24 a) to get a replacement P.S. 151 off the ground
25 since the original building was closed due to

1 structural reasons - the place is falling in
2 on itself, but also this solution of putting
3 P.S. 151 into building M066, this building's
4 been here all along. Not as an elementary middle
5 school. This solution's been staring the world
6 in the face from the get-go. For my money, we
7 should have started out here and done the
8 relocation earlier rather than start you guys
9 out in an interim home. But I'm glad to say
10 that's about to be, I hope, water under the
11 bridge, and the community here will finally have
12 an elementary school that's not on a short-term
13 two-year lease so that parents in this
14 neighborhood can bring local kids to their local
15 school.

16 If the DOE is going to be sincere about
17 saying well, it's a middle school choice and
18 high school choice, and part of that,
19 unfortunately means occasionally uprooting a
20 high school program so that parents of
21 elementary kids don't have to hike all over
22 town. And again, I'm really looking forward to
23 being able to share and celebrate with you that
24 not only have you restarted a school, but it's
25 going to be back in your neighborhood, and it

1 will be in the building that it's destined to
2 be. Thank you very much. [Applause].

3 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: So I am noticing that
4 many of the SLT members from 151 have actually
5 signed up to speak, but in fact, you have
6 priority to speak. So you don't have to go in
7 this order. And before the SLT begins I did want
8 to introduce Samantha Kaplan who's the principal
9 of 151 [applause] who's done such a great job.
10 [Applause]. [Inaudible over applause].

11 So I see Maria, Caroline, Laurie, Jackie, so
12 however you'd like to come up and speak.

13 MS. SAMANTHA KAPLAN/CAROLINE?: First, I
14 want to thank everybody for being here tonight
15 and it is an incredible pride that I look out at
16 these seats and see so many YCS families. It is
17 a testament to how much we love our schools, and
18 to how strong of a community we have that we
19 have so many people packing the house at 7:30 at
20 night. And just thank you all for coming.

21 We've been attending a bunch of meetings
22 lately and, and many of you have been there as
23 well on this issue. And we distilled it down.
24 Laurie and I spent a lot of time collaborating
25 on this and we distilled it down to one thing:

1 our children did a project on needs versus
2 wants. And I'm sorry if you've heard us give
3 this speech before, but we're going to give it
4 again. And we went to visit our classrooms we
5 noticed that our children figured out very
6 quickly that an iPad was a want. Well, food and
7 shelter, clothing and a proper education was a
8 need.

9 And as we thought about the issue that was
10 being presented here, and the argument that was
11 being made on behalf of the parents downtown
12 with their want for the 26 Broadway space, it
13 became clear to us was what they were
14 articulating was a want. And what we are
15 articulating is a need. We have been in need of
16 a permanent location or a location for ten
17 years, and we're here, and it's terrific and we
18 love it. But it's a temporary location and that
19 ends next year.

20 Richard R. Green has been asked to educate
21 large young adults in an elementary-sized
22 building for 20 years, and they need a space
23 that's appropriate for them so that it's a
24 community. As a District 2 community we send the
25 message to them that your education is important

1 to us. And your well-being and the area in
2 which you're learning is important to us. So
3 that's a need. What we need is a permanent
4 location. And the only building in our zone that
5 will suffice is M066, and what they need is a
6 school that was built for young adults, and that
7 is 26 Broadway.

8 And what Millennium wants is an annex. Okay.
9 I understand that they want that and they should
10 probably get that. And I don't stand in their
11 way of that. But wants have to be satisfied
12 after needs are satisfied. And right now there
13 are limited resources and there's limited
14 spaces, and the need of the - of ours have to be
15 satisfied before the wants of Millennium are
16 considered.

17 And it also has to be said that the rezoning
18 hinges upon us being in a bigger location. If we
19 can't handle a bigger population the rezoning
20 plan falls to pieces. So you're impact five
21 thousand children on the Upper East Side. The
22 needs of District 2 are for these moves to
23 happen. And the wants of Millennium are just
24 going to have to wait until we have the
25 resources to satisfy them. Thank you so much.

1 [Applause].

2 MS. SUE FOSMOEN: I'm really not used to
3 holding a microphone. My name's Sue Fosmoen, I -
4 my child goes to Yorkville Community School. I'm
5 on the SLT and on the executive board of the
6 PTA. And again, my apologies if this is
7 repetitive for those of you that were at Richard
8 R. Green.

9 But I say [phonetic] that this proposed move
10 is highly tied to the current rezoning proposal.
11 As such, we think it's important to note that
12 this move affects essentially every student on
13 the Upper East Side. Not just Yorkville
14 Community School and not just Richard R. Green.
15 So all District 2 schools. And as a district
16 that, by the way, has had substantial
17 overcrowding for years, as mentioned according
18 to the numbers, if 151 moves to Richard R. Green
19 it will only keep pace with the increase in
20 students. Ultimately the Upper East Side is
21 still going to be over-enrolled.

22 If 151 is not able to move the capacity does
23 not increase, and as Caroline said, the rezoning
24 is null and void. So I guess at the end of the
25 day the children in this district and all

1 children in this district, but especially
2 those at Yorkville Community School and Richard
3 R. Green deserve the opportunity for a solid,
4 permanent school experience and a place to call
5 home. Thank you. [Applause]. Maria?

6 MS. MARIA MISCHEL: My name's Maria Mischel
7 and my daughter Katie is a first-grader here at
8 Yorkville Community School. And yesterday I had
9 to pick her up early, and I went upstairs to her
10 classroom and I noticed that they were all
11 writing persuasive letters in the first grade.
12 And I said to her, you know, I saw some that
13 said oh, dear mom, or whatever. I said well, who
14 did you write your persuasive letter to? She
15 said, Principal Samantha.

16 And I was like oh, well what'd you ask for?
17 And she said well, you know how every day you
18 have recess in the main hall? And she goes every
19 day. She says whether it's a nice day or it's
20 cold out. And she said I'd like to go and have a
21 recess in a playground. And we should get out
22 once in a while.

23 And I said well honey, you know, the school
24 that you rent now doesn't have a playground. And
25 in going over to Richard R. Green earlier this

1 evening, their school does have a backyard
2 playground that our children will enjoy and
3 love. And hearing their - you know, if they were
4 - their students were going to write a
5 persuasive letter, they're looking for a
6 facility that they can all fit in. In Room 606
7 students that are banging their heads on the
8 stairwell, as well as the gymnasium for their
9 basketball teams. And I just think it's
10 appropriate that our children are in spaces that
11 they could use much better. That they could be
12 apart of.

13 So our children here have been planting -
14 planted in the, in the gardens at the
15 playgrounds down the street, and they've become
16 active members of our community. And I think
17 they deserve to have a home that says it's
18 permanent, and that's where they belong.

19 [Applause].

20 FEMALE VOICE: Thank you.

21 MS. JACKIE FILLER: Okay. Is it on? And I
22 will try to do without the mic, I don't love
23 public speaking, but here I am. My name is
24 Jackie Filler and I have two children in the
25 schools, a Kindergartner and a first grader. And

1 I want to reiterate everything that all of my
2 fellow parents have said and will continue to
3 say, but not to repeat, I hope. So what I'm
4 going to just reiterate, just to review for just
5 a minute is a history that has led us to this
6 point when three years ago we were told by the
7 DOE that we - that they wanted to put our
8 Kindergartners in the basement of Wagner Middle
9 School. And obviously that didn't happen. And
10 here we are in this temporary location which was
11 certainly satisfactory.

12 But, you know, since we've been here,
13 although it's been lovely, it is not a permanent
14 location for us. And there has been a lot of
15 anxiety among the community, among incoming
16 parents. I do a lot of the parent scores, and a
17 lot of parents are still reluctant and hesitant
18 to send our children, children here, concerned
19 that they don't know what - where their children
20 will finally end up.

21 And I think that leading a community like
22 ours that has not had a permanent location for
23 ten years, now we're moving into our soon-to-be
24 third year of school and it's still up in the
25 air and unclear is just unfair.

1 We were promised Richard R. Green a couple
2 of years ago when this whole thing started and
3 it wasn't given to us. And now we're being
4 promised it again, sort of, and we're hearing
5 that maybe it may not happen yet again.

6 So I just think it's really important that
7 an elementary school have a permanent location.
8 And that's all I have to say. [Applause].

9 MS. GWEN RAWLINGS: Good evening. I'm Gwen
10 Rawlings. I'm a member of the SLT and a proud
11 parent of my daughter Ava who's a charter member
12 here at P.S. 151. And like a lot of parents and
13 teachers and everyone that's here tonight in the
14 community, it's been a very unique experience
15 for myself and my family, starting with the fact
16 that I went through a lot of reprocess and
17 agonized over a decision where to send my
18 daughter, and then found out that there would
19 be, indeed, a new school for our community, but
20 we didn't know where it was or when it was going
21 to happen.

22 So having gone through that process, having
23 routed [phonetic] on City Hall, having been part
24 of this amazing movement, and seeing my daughter
25 who's incredibly happy and well-adjusted and

1 this wonderful parent and teacher population
2 in the community that's been so supportive, is
3 really amazing. And I'd like to echo some of the
4 comments made by the CEC in that yes, even
5 though this is a temporary location, our
6 children are happy and the atmosphere is
7 beautiful.

8 But like other and for the best of our
9 community the students at Richard R. Green - and
10 I heard from them tonight, and in their
11 testimony and how they spoke and how they've
12 been trapped in an environment that's not been
13 the best, is really unacceptable. And the fact
14 that it's been allowed to, to go on for so long
15 is also unacceptable. So I completely support -
16 I like - - forgive me, I don't remember your
17 name, completely feel like it's a no-brainer.

18 And the fact that, you know, articles are
19 being published and parents are being involved
20 pitting students versus, you know, wants versus
21 needs is completely unacceptable. So I ask that
22 you do the right thing for our community, the
23 right thing for our students, and continue to
24 set this in motion for it and make this school
25 up for success.

1 We are in our infancy. We need resources.
2 And, you know, again, and we're already planning
3 and I did not realize for 113% of, you know,
4 student enrollment, I think we need to take a
5 closer look at that. But most importantly we
6 need a permanent home. And Richard R. Green is
7 the logical choice. So thank you very much.
8 [Applause].

9 MS. RACHAEL JOSEPH: Hi, everybody. I wasn't
10 planning on talking tonight. I am Rachael
11 Joseph, I am a Kindergarten teacher since the
12 beginning here. And I was just listening to
13 everything and in addition to everything that
14 was said, and listening to Maria talk, I thought
15 about when I was a kid and I had a library to go
16 to, and was able to take out books. And how my
17 parents loved the idea of taking me to a library
18 and knowing that my school had a library. And
19 then a gymnasium where we can run around and
20 play like little kids.

21 But instead, these Kindergartners and first
22 graders are playing on a wood floor when they
23 need to play and run around during recess. And
24 there's injuries and it's safety-related, and
25 it's not just everything else that's just so

1 important, but the outside space, the
2 playground. Let them be kids. Because you are
3 only a kid once and a library and a gymnasium
4 and a playground are very important in the
5 elementary school setting. Thank you.

6 [Applause].

7 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: Are there any other
8 members of the SLT at P.S. 151? If I could see
9 Gloria [phonetic], I see you're signed up here.
10 Okay. Any other members of the SLT? Okay. I
11 wanted to acknowledge the fact that Principal
12 David - yeah, Raubvogel has arrived from Richard
13 R. Green so thank you for being here. And -
14 [Applause].

15 And we are about to start calling names from
16 the East Side [phonetic]. C. Chrysalis
17 [phonetic], I did also want to acknowledge my
18 colleagues from the Department of Ed. Thank you,
19 Ben and Nugin [phonetic] for being here.
20 Elizabeth, thank you for all your work, making
21 sure that everything's taken care of on District
22 2. [Applause]. And I especially want to thank
23 Jennifer Greenblatt who, I don't know, is my
24 right hand. Is a sounding board for all parents
25 all over District 2 and just invaluable to

1 education in District 2. Thank you all.

2 And for our first - the first - we have Dara
3 Adams from - representative from Carolyn
4 Maloney's office. Representing Carolyn Maloney.
5 Thank you.

6 MS. DARA ADAMS: Good - that's fine. Good
7 evening, everybody. I'm Dara Adams. As you
8 probably know, Congresswoman Maloney is not in
9 New York right now and she's in D.C. as a new
10 freshman, just started. I distributed testimony
11 and left it on every chair. I also left a copy
12 at the front table. For your benefit and - well,
13 for your benefit, I am not going to read the
14 entire testimony. I will, however, summarize it.

15 In 2005-2006 the Congresswoman along with -
16 - and comptrollers and the girls' [phonetic]
17 president realized that the overcrowded
18 population, the overcrowding on the Upper East
19 Side had become so dire that there really needed
20 to be a school. P.S. 151, as was mentioned,
21 closed because it was literally sinking. And the
22 decision at the time was that the district
23 needed a middle school. So we didn't have a
24 home. And we began exploring the need to have a
25 home.

1 And this ultimately led to a task force
2 that was co-chaired by Borough President
3 Fachinger along with members from the community
4 and other local electeds to join together to get
5 a home for P.S. 151. We were finally successful
6 in getting our - - council. But it was always
7 the intention that this school be a temporary
8 space. This is not intended to be a permanent
9 home that was supposed to fit for you. It was
10 always promised that you were getting - going to
11 get a home in a facility building within the
12 district that was in your zone.

13 And the opportunity became available that
14 Richard R. Green could locate to another
15 location that was suitable for - - . It means
16 that, that P.S. 151 move into that home. The
17 Congresswoman highly supports this plan. She
18 thinks it's a good proposal. She's not sending
19 me a decision as to where Richard R. Green
20 should be located. We believe - - an appropriate
21 - - that fits their needs and we're leaving it
22 to the Department of Education to make that
23 decision.

24 But we do believe P.S. 151 is an appropriate
25 location and that Richard R. Green makes sense.

1 She does, however, have some concerns - - by
2 these parents and which I received and knows
3 about. We have concerns about what it is going
4 to take to relocate Richard R. Green, how we're
5 apt to relocate P.S. 151 to Richard R. Green. We
6 want to make sure that that the cost, that,
7 that, that the cost to move and that the
8 relocation doesn't affect the resources that are
9 available to our students. We agree with you
10 that your students deserve to have all the
11 resources that any school would have, and we
12 want to make sure that this - we, we are hoping
13 to work with the Department of Education and the
14 parents to make sure that your students do not
15 suffer because you are having to move
16 essentially twice. Because you didn't have a
17 home before; you had to start up, and now you're
18 going to move and you're going to have to start
19 again.

20 So we are here to work with you in any way
21 that we can. We highly support this proposal and
22 I think your - - is fine. [Applause].

23 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: So I'm actually going to
24 call the next three speakers so that you know
25 you're next, and we have a lineup ready.

1 Michelle Galietta, Miriam Frieden and Michael
2 Rawlings.

3 MS. MICHELLE GALIETTA: Good evening. My
4 name's - - Michelle Galietta. I'm a parent here
5 at 151 of two very active little boys. So I
6 guess I, I wanted to start with just actually
7 what you said about the, the kind of space and
8 the gym and the library. So I get these lovely
9 notes from the nurse about three times a week
10 that my son has run into a pole or a wall cause
11 they play soccer in - - in here. And, and it's
12 very much is about my son, but it's also true
13 that they could benefit from, from more space
14 and from a gym.

15 This is a tremendous school and it does need
16 a permanent home, but I really wanted to talk
17 about was what I said at the other meeting, and
18 I apologize for the repeat. It is just in my
19 other - in my work life I am a - I run a
20 doctoral program and I do undergraduate and - -
21 and doctoral admission decisions. And so
22 listening to the Richard Green students, it
23 became really clear to me that they are at a, at
24 a very serious disadvantage because they're in
25 an elementary school.

1 The quality and the quantity of the
2 extracurricular activities that they've
3 anticipated [phonetic] and the kinds of
4 researches that they have will, will impact them
5 in terms of the schools that they get into, and
6 their future. And it's just - in terms of wants
7 and needs, their needs seem prominent in all of
8 this. And I just really wanted to get that on
9 the record. So I hope that's taken into
10 consideration. [Applause].

11 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: Miriam?

12 MS. MIRIAM FRIEDEN: I'm Miriam Frieden, I'm
13 on the executive board of the PTA here. I
14 proudly call myself a family parent for P.S.
15 151. And I want to talk very briefly about
16 family. I've looked at Gabby [phonetic] and
17 Maria and Laurie and Carolyn and Jackie and all
18 that we went through two years ago where we
19 begged for a space. We begged. And as they say
20 in Hanukah, a miracle happened here. Really it
21 did. In two months Samantha transformed a space
22 that was not in great shape, beautiful - - but
23 not in great shape, and made it happen, and has
24 given us a stellar curriculum.

25 And children are entitled to an appropriate

1 education. And that's the standard. I know
2 that - - possible. That's the standard. An
3 appropriate education is supposed to be afforded
4 for our children. Appropriate also means an
5 appropriate space. And I do agree with the CEC,
6 it'd be great if there was a five-year or a ten-
7 year plan, and I hope we head in that direction.
8 But we have no choice. And this is about
9 appropriateness. Appropriateness for our good
10 neighbors at Richard R. Green. So impressive.
11 First time I really got you here tonight, - -
12 have had for 20 years and how they've made a
13 building work that is woefully inadequate for
14 their children.

15 And here too, for two years we've really had
16 to struggle with the building. And, you know,
17 we'd go up all these stairs, very young
18 children. We've seen it get a lot more crowded
19 this year. We're thrilled to have more people in
20 our community take advantage of this great
21 school. We have to be in a better space that
22 serves this population. That will serve the
23 future because we'll be able to rezone
24 appropriately and all children on the Upper East
25 Side will have an opportunity to have an

1 appropriate education in an appropriate space.
2 Thank you. [Applause].

3 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: Michael Rawlings?

4 MR. MICHAEL RAWLINGS: My name is Michael
5 Rawlings and I'm on the Executive PTA here at
6 P.S. 151. And I just wanted to say how
7 heartwarming it was and how impressed I was in
8 hearing the students at Richard R. Green discuss
9 their needs and, and their wants. And, and their
10 support of, of the move, and how important it is
11 for us to actually have a permanent home at the
12 new Richard R. Green school.

13 It's so vitally important that this
14 community has a brick and mortar location for an
15 elementary school. And I just also want to
16 publicly thank Samantha Kaplan, who I think has
17 just done an unbelievable job as the principal
18 here at YCS. Her, her vision, her mission, her
19 values just really have, have worked its way
20 down. She's so for this community. And I really
21 believe in my heart that, given the opportunity
22 to move to Richard R. Green, that she'll make it
23 just as wonderful a place as we have here.

24 And it's also very important to point out
25 that we are in our infancy here as, as a new

1 school. We need to continue to receive and get
2 the, the funds and the resources available so
3 that our teachers can teach and our children can
4 learn. So thank you very much. [Applause].

5 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: The next three speakers
6 are Renay Batey, Steve Bischoff, and Laurie
7 Levin.

8 MS. RENAY BATEY: Hello, my name is Renay
9 and my son Jamie McCullough [phonetic] is a
10 junior at Richard R. Green. It wasn't until
11 yesterday that I found out that some people at
12 the other schools located at 26 Broadway didn't
13 want Richard R. Green at that location. I heard
14 all kind of reasons why - from security to fire
15 drills to suspensions to 90% averages. I also
16 found myself a bit insulted by some of the
17 remarks made.

18 It seemed to me some thought that Millennium
19 was more deserving because they thought they had
20 better students. Well, my child does not have a
21 90 average, but he is kindhearted, well-mannered
22 and respectful of others. And that should count
23 for something. For those who think Richard R.
24 Green should be placed elsewhere such as Norman
25 Thomas, please ask yourself, would you want your

1 child in that location? Please do not place my
2 child in an environment that is not considered
3 safe. Richard R. Green deserves a better school
4 in a good location, and 151 needs a permanent
5 school for their children. Thank you.

6 [Applause].

7 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: Steve Bischoff?

8 MR. STEVE BISCHOFF: Well, I've been getting
9 e-mail from like 6:15 today, but I thought I'd
10 say something anyway. I'm not on any political
11 thing or I'm not a part of the PTA or anything
12 else, but, you know, I'm sitting here, and maybe
13 it's, it's a little different, but, you know, I
14 understand the needs and the wants but what I
15 haven't heard is alternative solutions. You
16 know, if they don't go to this school where do
17 they go?

18 I heard all sorts of other schools and it
19 could have been based on here or based out
20 there. But, you know, we're talking about -
21 well, look, my son goes to 151 so maybe I'm a
22 little biased, but where do 5, 6, 7, 8-year-olds
23 go together? They could have them - the 5, 6-
24 year-olds at one school and the 7 and 8-year-
25 olds in another school. You know, I need

1 solutions. I mean, that's just - I want to
2 hear what the alternatives. I'm logical, I'm a
3 business guy. But I haven't heard - I've heard
4 there's only one alternative, A or B. What is
5 the other alternatives? I'd like to know if they
6 don't go over to this other school, what's the
7 alternative? And if it doesn't make sense then,
8 you know, I'll make my political statement, but
9 right now I haven't heard anything other than
10 that's the best solution. That what we should
11 do. So give me something better to look at and
12 then I'll support it. But right now I'm
13 supporting going - - school. Thank you.
14 [Applause].

15 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: Laurie Levin?

16 MS. LAURIE LEVIN: Hi, my name is Laurie
17 Levin and in an ideal scenario there would be an
18 infinite amount of space and everyone could have
19 their wants and their needs satisfied. I know
20 that I'm escalating [phonetic] what you've
21 already heard at the last three meetings and by
22 all of my friends here tonight. But your - -
23 school's in need of a permanent location. Our
24 families and our children have already endured
25 the uncertainty of - if they were going to get

1 better, 151, or were they going to have to go
2 to the lottery. - - are going to
3 Wagner as Jackie mentioned. They're going to a
4 trailer in a, a vacant lot.

5 We were so blessed when we were told that
6 this would be our school and this would be our
7 principal, and look at what we've accomplished.
8 We have a great school. Our children are
9 thriving. But now we're facing uncertainty again
10 and they are now enduring undecision again of
11 where they're going to go, in my son's case, the
12 third grade. Is he going to stay here, is he
13 going to go there. No one has an answer. And in
14 order for children to feel stable and secure and
15 thrive and learn from our great teachers they
16 need to know where they are going to be next.

17 The same way that our children need to know
18 that it's the great students that we're - - here
19 over the past few days have been impressed me to
20 no end. They just ought to know where they are
21 going to go. These students are working so hard,
22 and it was so heartbreaking to watch two AP
23 students at Richard R. Green literally reduced
24 to tears trying to defend an article that was
25 completely one-sided and wrong. So I know that

1 this is obvious, but I urge everyone to
2 approve the - - move to 26 Broadway and our move
3 to 66. [Applause].

4 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: The next three speakers
5 are Susan Danielson, Ralph Cooke and Jane
6 Zennario.

7 MS. SUSAN DANIELSON: Hi, my name is Susan
8 Danielson. I'm the parent of a Kindergarten
9 student here. I also - I attended the meeting
10 back at Rhineland [phonetic] where we have no
11 idea where we're going to be, and where
12 locations were thrown out, you know, like Brooks
13 [phonetic], just right and left.

14 But I'm also going to speak as a person
15 involved in the field of early childhood
16 education. This is this wonderful school. We
17 haven't heard of an alternative. And having also
18 the parent of another District 2 elementary
19 school student whose school has been looking for
20 new space for I don't know how many years, I
21 know there are not a lot of options. So again,
22 I'd also like to hear about the alternative is
23 if we don't get Richard Green. And also I know,
24 as someone in the field of early childhood
25 education how important it is for these kids to

1 have the security of their own school and a
2 permanent location. Thanks. [Applause].

3 MR. RALPH COOKE: Hi, my name's Ralph Cooke.
4 I'm also on the executive board of the PTA here
5 at 151. My son Sammy's in first grade. And I've
6 been to the meeting yesterday on the prior one
7 to here and this one and then much of what I
8 wanted to say has already been said. And I think
9 there's a very good reason for that. Because
10 these two proposals should be an absolute no-
11 brainer. There are no alternatives. We need a
12 permanent location for our children, without
13 which long-term plans can't be made. There is no
14 other appropriate building for us to move into
15 in, in, in the area we needed to be in.

16 In addition, without the move, as you've
17 already heard, five thousand Upper East Side
18 children are affected and rezoning fund becomes
19 worthless.

20 And Richard R. Green has been in a building
21 not fit for its needs for 20 years. It's just
22 unbelievable. And some of the opposition
23 downtown to the move has really shocked me as
24 it's come across to me as Millennium children
25 somehow are more deserving of the space. And,

1 and I must be honest, it sounded to me very
2 much like discrimination of the very worst kind.

3 The needs are clear and the urgency is
4 clear. The PP vote should be unanimous in favor
5 of both these proposals. Thanks. [Applause].

6 MS. JANE ZENNARIO: Hi, my name is Jane
7 Zennario and I have a little boy who's in first
8 grade here at P.S. 151. My husband and I
9 considered ourselves blessed when we found out
10 that there was going to be a public school
11 literally a block away from our apartment. We
12 found it out by chance, to be quite honest. And
13 we were looking at private schools and we had
14 gone through the private school process. But,
15 you know what? I wanted my little boy to grow up
16 in an environment that was diverse, and to get
17 to know his neighbors. And I said, you know
18 what? I want to give this school a chance. And
19 we have been very delighted.

20 I just have a couple of things to say. I'm
21 not an expert on what the alternatives might be
22 for moving P.S. 151 to M066, or Richard R. Green
23 down to 26 Broadway. But I will say this. I have
24 been in business for over twenty years. I have
25 done budgeting and planning during that entire

1 time cause I do product development. And I
2 will say reality and planning are two separate
3 and distinct things, okay? I sympathize with
4 understanding we want to have a perfect world,
5 we want a budget forward, we want to make sure
6 that we accommodate all the productive growth,
7 et cetera, et cetera in our facilities.

8 And that was some of the commentary that
9 I've heard earlier this evening. I sympathize
10 with that because I do that all the time, to be
11 quite honest. But the reality is we're in a,
12 we're in a situation. The situation is we don't
13 have space. We need to make a move. There're no
14 alternatives. We have to make a move quickly.
15 And it seems to me that this is the best
16 alternative there is. And so I support moving to
17 M066, and that's all I have to say. Thank you.
18 [Applause].

19 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: So the last three
20 speakers we have signed up on this list, and
21 please be mindful that if anybody hasn't signed
22 up and would like to speak, you are welcome to.
23 But the last three speakers I have signed up
24 here are Gabrielle Goldberg, Tamera Rowe, and
25 Maury Mischel.

1 MS. GABRIELLE GOLDBERG: Hi, I'm Gabrielle
2 Goldberg. My daughter Skylar [phonetic] is a
3 first grader here. And about three years ago
4 Maria Mischel and I went to a meeting at the New
5 York Web [phonetic] Center where I had been to
6 study before, but my mind is blown about the
7 fact that my four-year-old is going to be going
8 to school in the basement of a junior high
9 school. I'm not a - - reactive [phonetic]
10 person, I have a fulltime job, I have three
11 kids. But this became a third fulltime job.

12 We - I can't even tell you how many hours
13 that we met with the DOE. We worked together to
14 build this incredible place. But it astounds me
15 that we're still standing here and talking about
16 this. The resources here are the people. We're
17 spending time fighting for what we've been
18 fighting for for three years. We have a
19 wonderful school. Give us a space and let's
20 focus on our school. Stop wasting our time. Stop
21 making the parents come away from their
22 children. It's nighttime, we should be home, we
23 should be reading stories to our children. We
24 should not be here. That's part of our
25 children's education. Give us a home so that we

1 can build it to be as successful as Samantha
2 has done already, and even more successful in
3 the future. Make it an example for all the new
4 schools that you're going to be building. Don't
5 set us up for failure. [Applause].

6 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: Tamera?

7 MS. TAMERA ROWE: Hi, I'm Tamera Rowe, I am
8 a Millennium High School parent, I'm also the
9 parent of three teenage daughters, 13, 15 and
10 17. So I have been both an elementary school
11 parent, a middle school parent and a high school
12 parent. I just want to distinguish a little bit
13 between needs and wants and clarify the - - and
14 misperceptions. There's a documented need that
15 we need more capacity on the Upper East Side for
16 elementary school seats. There's a documented
17 need for Richard R. Green to have the type of
18 facility that will allow it to meet the needs of
19 their students, both physically, emotionally and
20 academically.

21 They've been, they've just done an amazing
22 job in a temporary location for the last 20
23 years, and I have been so impressed by the
24 teachers and administrators, parents and
25 students that I've spoken to at the school. I

1 want them out of their current facility and
2 into something that meets their needs.

3 There is also a documented need for seats
4 for high school students who want to - -
5 Millennium, but who are shut out because there
6 is just too much demand for the capacity. There
7 were about over five thousand applicants for 150
8 seats at Millennium this year. The DOE needs to
9 increase seats and not just replicate them.
10 Relocate them - I'm sorry. Millennium wants to
11 provide seats for the students. Millennium's
12 plan isn't so Millennium - it's not for
13 Millennium's current students as much as it for
14 students who can't find a school that they want
15 to go to.

16 Millennium didn't start off with - - cut off
17 [phonetic] scores. In fact, my daughter had a
18 two on her math score at NIT [phonetic] until
19 she was 15. And now she's an AP student at
20 Millennium and got into NYU. Millennium met her
21 needs which were quite challenging as a ninth
22 grader. This plan is an elementary - - but its
23 response to the fact that we just need more
24 seats overall. The DOE wants is to pit the needs
25 against one another for a lack of planning. We

1 cannot let them get away with this. We must
2 continue to push for increased school
3 construction at all levels, whether or not -
4 wherever Richard Green goes, this fight is not
5 over now. And I urge you all to fight for better
6 facilities for all of our students. [Applause].

7 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: Maury?

8 MR. MAURY MISCHEL: Yes. - - Mischel. I'm a
9 product of the New York City public schools. I
10 went to them my whole life. I went to probably -
11 - . And that's better. So I've definitely seen
12 the best and the worst that New York City public
13 schools have to offer, but I'd like to say at
14 the Richard R. Green meeting at P.S. 66 I was
15 very excited to see how excited the students
16 were about the possible move and how behind it
17 they were. And I think no matter what the facts
18 are on Richard R. Green, the 68% or whatever the
19 number exactly is deserves the best the city has
20 to offer. The other students do, you know,
21 deserve an opportunity to take advantage of a
22 change of environment. And a change of
23 environment might be what they need to get into
24 a, a true [phonetic] place that is, you know,
25 aided [phonetic] to their learning and helping

1 them along.

2 And I think that that's something we have to
3 look at. And if they're happy with that move and
4 there's space available and this P.S. 66 suits
5 our needs, I think the city has to act on that.
6 In my business we have a saying, like do things
7 when you can, not when you have to. We don't
8 know what the lease is on this school and what
9 the plans the archdiocese actually has in the
10 long run. How long are we really going to be
11 able to be here is still really a question mark
12 and not really decided.

13 So I think that we have to make the most of
14 the opportunities that are in front of us. I
15 think that, you know, just because something is
16 not working 100% positive is not a reason for
17 the people who go to Millennium to turn that
18 down or to try to stop people from going to a
19 school that is geared towards their interests
20 and their needs. And that we should be behind
21 that as well, as a parent of a P.S. 151 student,
22 I think we should be, you know, helping them
23 move forward and I think we should all try to
24 take advantage of what we can do and what is
25 available in the current constraints of the

1 city's financial situation. Thank you.

2 [Applause].

3 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: Well again, I'd like to
4 invite anyone who would like to speak publicly,
5 comment in any way to please come up. Any -
6 anybody else sign up? Would anybody like to make
7 a comment? You are welcome to. Yes?

8 VOICE: - - .

9 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: Okay. Great. We'd love to
10 hear from you. Principal Raubvogel from Richard
11 R. Green. [Applause].

12 MR. DAVID RAUBVOGEL: Thank you. It would
13 make no sense for me to reiterate all of the
14 heartfelt, intelligence and well-meaning
15 comments that everyone has made tonight, earlier
16 tonight and last night and in e-mails and calls
17 to DOE, et cetera. So let me just say this:

18 We have children. We're parents. Some of us
19 are teachers. Some of us do other things for a
20 living. But we all have children. Our children
21 deserve the best. This plan right now today is
22 the best that's on the table. Other options can
23 come down the road. There might be some high
24 school with four other high schools - - we could
25 squeeze Richard Green into. But is that the best

1 deal for Richard Green? Is that what we went
2 from 20 years of elementary school to be
3 squeezed into a high school building with four
4 or five other high schools? That's giving them
5 the, the A-plus high school experience that they
6 deserved for 20 years?

7 And neither is it for those other high
8 schools. That's an option nobody wants. Not even
9 the DOE. They do that strictly out of the fact
10 that they have no other options.

11 So to think that this is not the best we can
12 do is wrong-headed. This is what we've got now.
13 We need to seize it. Our kids don't need to go
14 another day without the best we have to offer.
15 You can't get the days back.

16 Since we've started this process I have to
17 admit I walk around my building and I wonder
18 what it would be like with the little ones.

19 [Laughter] A couple of years ago - I'll be quick
20 cause I'm running out of time - when I was
21 teaching lesson planning class, I went out to
22 some of the elementary schools in the area to
23 see my kids teach. This wasn't one of - this
24 wasn't above - - . But I was at - is it 198 up
25 the? Okay. And so I'm, you know, sitting on the

1 little chairs and they're three inches off the
2 ground. It was a very interesting experience
3 after working in a high school. And I picture
4 them now running around my building. And it
5 really makes me feel good to know that that's
6 where they need and belong.

7 And I picture my kids last night as we
8 walked past the new - - 26 Broadway, I saw them
9 in the classroom. I saw them in the science labs
10 they don't have. And having the space to be
11 teenagers, do those extracurricular and really,
12 really get a high school experience that could
13 take what are fantastic kids now, and time is
14 up, and just make them off this planet.

15 I hope this goes through. Let's make it
16 happen. Thank you very much goodnight.

17 [Applause].

18 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: Thank you. We have
19 another speaker?

20 MS. CATHY KASPARIK: Good evening. My name
21 is Cathy Kasparik, I have a daughter in first
22 grade and I have a three-year-old, and obviously
23 another one falling [phonetic]. And I just want
24 to let - I just wanted to comment on a couple of
25 the last things I heard which was more of a

1 timing thing. Because everyone knows the, the
2 kids who came to Kindergarten here was so last
3 minute. And I couldn't be more thrilled,
4 thrilled with my daughter's Kindergarten
5 experience. It was warm and nurturing and she
6 loves her school. It was her second home. The
7 kids are growing, and they're growing fast. I
8 can't believe she's going to be in second grade.
9 And I would like her in a permanent home as soon
10 as possible because then she's going to move to
11 middle school, and I want her to feel like she
12 was in a home. Not just two years. If it takes
13 another year after this. And so I think for me
14 it's timing. And just to move quickly. Thank
15 you. [Applause].

16 MS. DARIA RIGNEY: So the speaker's list is
17 exhausted and again, we want to remind you that
18 we welcome any of your comments, and they could
19 be sent to the Web site, which is
20 D02proposals@schools.nyp.gov. But at this point
21 I want to thank you for your participation and
22 say that the public hearing is now concluded.
23 [Applause].

24 [END OF 181_331 AGorig.MP3]

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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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Adrienne A. Quirk". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the center of the page, below the main text and above the date.

Date January 10, 2011