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NYC BOARD OF EDUCATION

District #25

Contract for Excellence
Presentation and Hearing

November 2, 2011

1 MALE SPEAKER: Okay, Contract for --
2 Ken Cohen (ph.), NAACP Regional Director
3 Metropolitan Council for the New York
4 State Conference.

5 The Contract for Excellence was
6 created out of the long legal battle for
7 a call for capping fiscal equity.

8 This legal battle that many,
9 including the NAACP New York State
10 Conference, and District 25 Community
11 School Board, were plaintiffs.

12 The legal battle lasted nineteen
13 years with a win for the students of New
14 York City, but has since been distorted
15 from its original purpose and goals via
16 the Contract for Excellence edited to fit
17 budget shortfalls.

18 Although the document is broad and
19 is accessible on the DOE website, and in
20 your school district, the NAACP Northeast
21 Queens branch will focus on the items
22 listed below, and I have a copy for, I
23 guess everybody here. Listed below and
24 the impact.

25 The NAACP is very concerned about

1 the ever growing class size and the
2 affects it is having in the classroom
3 with students and teachers.

4 These -- the growing number of
5 students, especially due to open
6 enrollment, which in turn attracts
7 students to better performing schools,
8 without providing the resources to bring
9 the students to the successful level of
10 achievement.

11 The diminishing hours provided for
12 students in need of remedial and the Ls
13 due to decreasing dollars that flow into
14 the district provide little relief but
15 make for very creative budgeting by
16 administrative and teachers.

17 Extended day programs, tutoring,
18 essential tools in the successful
19 progress of students are significant --
20 insignificant in the process with the
21 budget -- with the median -- excuse me.
22 Insignificant in the process with the
23 budgetary dollars given, seem to promote
24 the need of summer school instead of
25 placing more emphasis on immediate

1 achievement.

2 We further see a need for a shift of
3 authority by returning more governments
4 to local superintendents, community
5 education councils and parents.

6 We ask that the review of the
7 2011/2012 Contract for Excellence truly
8 impact the needs of those students in
9 Community School District 25 and
10 community districts across New York City.

11 We further feel that there should be
12 more of an emphasis placed on afterschool
13 and community programs that would add
14 further assistance in the educational
15 success of the children in our
16 communities.

17 Our children/students should never
18 be the brunt of failing budgets. The
19 states and cities should keep the
20 education budget in tact as our students
21 are our most valuable commodity and their
22 education should be -- should not be a
23 scapegoat to balance the budget. Thank
24 you.

25 FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

1 MALE SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Cohen.
2 Appreciate your comments. Just for those
3 in the audience who don't know every year
4 we get this presentation. I want to
5 thank Danielle for providing it for us.

6 (Indiscernible) been reviewing
7 (indiscernible) about the digest,
8 (indiscernible) and all that. And I
9 sometimes feel as though it's -- we
10 sometimes even need to see that way
11 purposely. But we're going to digest it;
12 we're going to have comments. As the
13 superintendent just said, everyone in the
14 audience can do

15 (Pause)

16 MALE SPEAKER: Our superintendent --
17 Regina just said, was our superintendent
18 made a special presentation just for our
19 (indiscernible). So, again, we
20 appreciate that. But anyone can comment
21 on it, our council will review it and
22 comment on it as well.

23 (Pause)

24 I opened -- the floor was open for
25 anymore comments or this recitation. If

1 there's anymore you can bring them up
2 now.

3 Okay, thank you.

4 FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

5 (End of Audio)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Esther Accardi, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription, to the best of my ability, of the sound recorded proceedings submitted for transcription.

I further certify that I am not employed by nor related to any party to this action.

In witness whereof, I hereby sign this date:
December 7, 2010.

ESTHER ACCARDI (CET**D-485)
AAERT Certified Electronic Transcriber

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