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

Sheepshead Bay High School

February 20, 2013

5:30 P.M.

1 [START RECORDING]

2 MS. ELIZABETH ROSE: Good evening. Would
3 everyone like to take a seat please? We are
4 about to begin. Good evening. This
5 announcement is for the Spanish speakers.
6 [speaking Spanish]

7 MALE VOICE 1: [speaking Spanish].

8 MS. ROSE: Good Evening. My name is
9 Elizabeth Rose. I will acting as the
10 facilitator for this joint public hearing. This
11 is a joint public hearing of the Department of
12 Education, Community Education Counsel, District
13 22 and the School Leadership Team of Sheepshead
14 Bay High School to discuss three related
15 proposals. The proposed phase out of Sheepshead
16 Bay High School, the proposed - - of one new
17 district high school and one new transfer high
18 school and the proposed opening and - - of two
19 new charter high schools all - - . Tonight's
20 proceedings will be recorded and transcribed.

21 [microphone feedback and noise]

22 MALE VOICE 2: That's going to be a problem.
23 Just flip that switch.

24 MS. ROSE: That sounds better. Before we
25 begin the hearing we ask that everybody - -

1 during the - - portion of evening sign up at
2 the tables just outside the auditorium. Sign up
3 will - - fifteen minutes I do show it is
4 currently 6:10 - - . Any kind of questions that
5 you like addressed - - during the question and
6 answer portion of our agenda will be - - cards
7 that are provided at the tables where sign up is
8 occurring.

9 [microphone feedback and noise]

10 MS. ROSE: Only people who have signed up to
11 speak will be able to [background noise]. All
12 of our - - participants - - and now - - the
13 issue will be acknowledged - - . There may also
14 be elected officials who arrive at different
15 times throughout the evening and if they wish to
16 speak we will do our best to accommodate them -
17 -. Those who are here to speak at the start of
18 the public session - - will be asked to speak
19 first. The full agenda for the evening is first
20 members of the panel will have the opportunity
21 to speak, we will then go to public - - segment
22 and then it will be questions and answers - - .
23 The - - will do a presentation of the proposal.
24 Presentations by varying participants - - .
25 Speakers will all be signed up - - . Public

1 comments will be no longer than two minutes
2 each. The time will be strictly followed and
3 speakers will be informed when their designated
4 time has ended. - - members of the audience,
5 if you have a question, please write your
6 question on an index card that are supplied at
7 the signing table - -. While public comments
8 are taking place staff members from the
9 Department of Education will - - to - - them - -
10 similar questions - -. Some of the questions
11 may be read directly from the index card, others
12 will be - -. Even though all individual
13 questions may not get answered in the forum
14 tonight, answers to all questions will be posted
15 on the Department of Education website prior to
16 - - meeting. If at the end of the hearing you
17 still have questions we encourage you to - - by
18 calling (212) 374-0208 or by emailing us at
19 d22proposals@schools.nyc.gov. That's
20 d22proposals@schools.nyc.gov. This information
21 is also available at the bottom of your facts
22 sheet for this proposal that are available on
23 the tables outside of the auditorium.

24 - - charter high schools. The two - -
25 charter high schools have to be approved by or

1 authorized by New York City Education
2 Department or - - to open in - - school district
3 22. Although this particular proposal will open
4 - - Sheepshead Bay High School building has not
5 yet been approved by the - - is required to rule
6 - - to receive the - - proposed publication. As
7 such, this - - public hearing will also serve as
8 a facilities hearing. There is a representative
9 from - - here with us this evening. If you have
10 any questions or comments on the charters
11 themselves Karina Chavez from - - will provide
12 the information on how to submit those comments.
13 At this time I would like to invite Ms. Chavez
14 to introduce herself and also read the
15 information about the - - facilities - -.

16 MS. KARINA CHAVEZ: Good evening. My name
17 is Karin Chavez and I am - - coordinator in the
18 charter school office of the New York State
19 Education Department or SED. We are - - Board
20 of Regents. The Board of Regents is responsible
21 for the general supervision of all educational
22 activities within this state. The Board
23 comprises - - numbers - - and - - only for
24 travel and related expenses [background noise] -
25 -. The - - for Regents issued charters to

1 boards of trustees to establish - - Article 56
2 of the New York State Education Law. The law -
3 - be passed in 1896 and most recently updated in
4 2010. The law requires the Board of Regents to
5 conduct public hearings to discuss - - charter
6 schools in existing public school - - . The law
7 reads as follows: Education Law, Article 56.
8 Charter Schools § 28(b)(3)(a), a charter school
9 may be located in - - part of an existing public
10 school building in a space provided on a private
11 work setting in a - - building or any other
12 school location. Provided - - before the
13 charter school can be located - - [recorder
14 noise] charter school - - [recorder noise]
15 entity shall provide notice to parents and
16 guardians of the students that enrolled in the
17 existing school building shall hold a public
18 hearing for the purposes of the dismissing the
19 location of the charter school. A charter
20 school may own, lease or rent its space.
21 Tonight's public hearing is to discuss the
22 proposed prolocation of the two charter schools.
23 New Regents High School for math and sciences
24 three and the previous charter school for the
25 humanities three. While the Board of Regents

1 sets education policy and SED serves as its
2 administrative arm, neither the Board of Regents
3 nor the SED have any authority over the
4 placement of charter schools within facilities
5 owned by the Department of Education.
6 Nonetheless, we remain - - about - - sentiment
7 pertaining to the publications - - charter
8 schools. This evening I will be listening and
9 gathering comments from the school community
10 pertaining to this prolocation. SED will
11 continue to receive public comments until close
12 of business on March 8th. Written statements
13 may be submitted at the conclusion of this
14 hearing or they may be emailed to the attention
15 of Susan Metna, that's M-E-T-N-A, New York State
16 Education Department, Charter School Office EBA
17 465, 89 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 112234 or
18 they may be faxed to (518) 474-3209 or they may
19 be emailed to charterschools@- - .nyce.gov.
20 Thank you.

21 MS. ROSE: I'd now introduce the other - -
22 members - - for this evening's tonight public
23 hearing starting immediately to my right - - ,
24 Principal John O'Mahoney, - - , Ms. Laura Smith
25 from CEC - - 22, Marianno Russo from - - High

1 Schools, Ms. Chavez from City Education
2 Department, Tamika Madison the High School
3 Superintendent for - - , Mia - - , Ms. - - ,
4 Maribel Pena from - - , Ms. Vickie Angeladakis
5 from - - and Ms. Teri D'Ambrosio. We also have
6 the following elected officials and
7 representatives with us this evening - - and
8 [clapping] - - representing Mr. Wiseman.

9 I want to turn the program over to - -
10 Chancellor Kathleen Grimm who will - -.

11 MS. KATHLEEN GRIMM: Good evening ladies and
12 gentlemen. I was - - as Elizabeth said - - this
13 - - was to - - strengthening - -. A proposed
14 phase out of Sheepshead Bay High School before
15 post or location of what you just - - and from
16 the transfers of the proposed - - of two new
17 charter schools in - -. For the purposes of
18 this hearing I will further Sheepshead Bay High
19 School as Sheepshead Bay - - Auditorium. The
20 decision to - - Sheepshead Bay is a difficult
21 one. - -. In the process we examined many
22 factors and - - before we proposed a course of
23 action we - - and - - members gave instructions
24 about what is and what was not working at the
25 school before - - whether a phase out is - -.

1 All of us - - our schools to provide a high
2 quality education to students. We must hold all
3 students to the same standard of excellent
4 because every child in this city deserves the
5 best possible education. When a school is not
6 serving its students anymore we have to take
7 action to ensure current students don't fall
8 even further behind and that future students
9 will have a - - for success - -. - - tonight
10 and the families that are here tonight to feel
11 that their children are - - by Sheepshead Bay.
12 Tonight we will hear about some success stories
13 - - and we - - those stories. But we need to
14 consider the other stories - - and who have - -
15 success. These students deserve better. As I
16 mentioned earlier, tonight we will be discussing
17 - - in addition to the phase out we are proposed
18 to replace Sheepshead Bay with one - - high
19 school, one - - high school and two - - high
20 schools. Sheepshead Bay as - - located - -.
21 Sheepshead Bay is a district high school
22 currently serving students in grades 9th through
23 12th. - - high school admissions process.
24 Sheepshead Bay - - programs, - - programs - -
25 academic study with workforce skills - -.

1 English language learners at Sheepshead Bay
2 are - - English as a second language as a
3 Spanish - - transitional - - education - -.
4 Sheepshead Bay is - - located within district 75
5 - - program. - - seems to be a - - general
6 education classes at Sheepshead Bay. These
7 students will be - - while Sheepshead Bay - -.
8 CTU - - education - - and district 75 inclusion
9 program will be offered in one or more of the
10 new schools located on the campus. On January
11 14, 2013 the New York City Department of
12 Education accomplished also - - Sheepshead Bay -
13 -. On January 17, 2013 the deal - - which
14 provided - - of information on seven items
15 related to the proposal including - - number of
16 high schools - -, a list of the six 75 inclusion
17 programs, a list of other schools that offer CT
18 programs and additional information on how this
19 proposal - - Sheepshead Bay funding and its - -.
20 On February 15, 2013 the department of which an
21 amendment to the Sheepshead Bay proposal which
22 provided - - solution regarding the availability
23 of school - -. Each proposal discusses the
24 track record of Sheepshead Bay and - - and
25 replacing - - option for - - Sheepshead Bay - -.

1 Sheepshead Bay performance - - confirmed - -
2 assessment that the school - - to meet the needs
3 of all its students. For example, Sheepshead
4 Bay - - including - - for student progress,
5 student performance and - - learning.
6 Sheepshead Bay has - - behind - - including a C
7 on the 2009-2010 progress report and a D on
8 2010-2011 progress report. - - graduation rates
9 have remained below 64% the last - -. Last year
10 Sheepshead Bay - - graduation rate was under - -
11 statewide average of - -. Sheepshead Bay was
12 also - - the New York State Education - - as a
13 priority school. - - of schools - -. Given
14 the schools - - that only the most serious
15 intervention, the gradual phase out and eventual
16 closing facing Sheepshead Bay will address - -
17 and - - to develop in this - - that will better
18 serve students - - and - -. In two separate
19 education impact statements the Department has
20 proposed to - - school - - high school and two
21 charter high schools. If approved the new
22 district high school will - - a rigorous
23 academic program that will prepare students for
24 - - their education and - -. The school will
25 have limited - - with priority given to students

1 who reside in Brooklyn. Any - - schools would
2 be associated with this high school. So that an
3 inclusion program will continue to be provided
4 in this - - during - - phase out of Sheepshead
5 Bay. It is possible that - - all - - education
6 programs - - at Sheepshead Bay will be offered
7 at the new schools. The Department will
8 determine the appropriate - - community - -.
9 Also students enrolled in the school's - - will
10 receive appropriate - - services if this
11 proposal is approved. The Department has also
12 proposed to open a new district transfer - -.
13 This new school will be designed to reengage
14 students who over age and who - - . Now the - -
15 will be amended - - of the proposal to clarify
16 that this new transfer school will accept
17 students who - - who are over 16 years of age or
18 older instead of - - . Finally, the Department
19 has also proposed to open two new charter
20 schools. The charters will - - educational - -
21 new visions. New visions has - - of success and
22 - - growth with 138 schools across the city.
23 Both new vision charter high schools plan to
24 offer rigorous academic - - with - - and growth.
25 The new charter high schools will serve students

1 in grades 9 through 12 and will admit students
2 into 9th grade - - allocation process with
3 priority given to residence in District 1 and 2.
4 Now there - - room for the public comment
5 section in this meeting. I would like to
6 briefly discuss the impact of the phase out
7 proposal on - - Sheepshead Bay students. If the
8 phase out is approved Sheepshead Bay would - -
9 students - -. Sheepshead Bay would continue to
10 phase out - - until June 2016 when Sheepshead
11 Bay will close. Most current students will be
12 able to complete high school at Sheepshead Bay
13 assuming that they continue to earn credits on
14 the schedule and thus require - - examination.
15 Students may also - - finish school - - . - -
16 students will have the opportunity to apply at
17 different schools during this year's round two
18 of the high school admission process. Other
19 students at Sheepshead Bay will get an
20 opportunity to apply or transfer when - - high
21 school has applied to our public school - -. -
22 - transfer opportunities will be available to
23 students this Spring for enrollment starting in
24 September 2013. I wanted to thank you all in
25 advance who will share with us tonight their

1 feedback - -. We very much look forward to
2 hearing your comments and to receive your
3 questions. Thank you very much.

4 MS. ROSE: - -. - - then to elected
5 officials then to public comment. CCS - -. Mr.
6 Mike Katusa.

7 MR. MIKE KATUSA: Good evening. - -. So I
8 come here tonight - - school - - and most - -
9 and what was - - anger, fear, sadness,
10 frustration and there - - . - - around the
11 school. A year and a half ago we were told that
12 we had - - plans - - we can start - - of more
13 public schools and within 6 months - -. [noise
14 close to the mike]. I have to say on some
15 levels, - - in my - - and public - -. - - in
16 the system - - work in the - - community and - -
17 frustrated - - but for - - heart. But despite
18 that frustration we still come to this building
19 every day, we work hard and we have successes.
20 We - - the successes and - - football player - -
21 [clapping]. - - I think - - failed - - we have
22 - - students and - - very much - - more - -. We
23 have developed - -. We have developed - -
24 education - - students who are - - . We have
25 developed a - - program where - - . We have - -

1 schools and then - - tell us that the four
2 year graduation - -. What we don't have is - -,
3 we don't have - - of the students that - -.
4 You can list all those successes - -. We don't
5 have the - -. - - all of these programs that
6 are - -. I would suggest those students - -
7 success - -. We are working, we are fighting
8 and we - -. It is a tragedy that - - as a
9 solution at this point is - - all - - and - - we
10 just pose a few questions during the course of
11 this - -. - - phase out - - suggestion - -. -
12 - charter schools - - screening as well? Why -
13 -. [clapping] - -, I can - -. Thank you very
14 much.

15 MS. ROSE: Our next speaker is Marianne
16 Russo from - - City Wide Counsel High School.
17 The other - - going to speak so that - -. That
18 is what I was checking on - -.

19 MS. MARIANNE RUSSO: Good evening. My name
20 is Marianne Russo. I am from the City Wide
21 Counsel for High Schools. I am a Brooklyn
22 representative. I am a parent of a Brooklyn
23 child. We are volunteers on the City Wide
24 Counsel and I'm here, I'm not - - I am a parent
25 like all of you are and to talk about the

1 statistics. - - like the teacher said that -
2 -. Actually in January - - option to provide
3 more funds and support or phase out. So - -
4 best judgment, they think phase out will be best
5 for the school that is not - - best for the
6 children. - - the best for the school, the
7 children inside the school, that will be best
8 for the children inside the school who are in
9 the existing schools. It will not be the best
10 if their school is phased out. What will be
11 best is more funds - - and try to understand why
12 we are not achieving and to help them achieve.
13 So much money and time is being spent to close
14 out schools, especially in large high schools
15 like this where it affects everyone. 20% of the
16 - - students. 15% - - children. - - in the
17 community. - - school will - - so why is your
18 school being punished for taking on - - and
19 needing more time to graduate? The six year
20 graduation - - 5% that is - - average. So just
21 because some children need more time you should
22 be punished? They're still graduating, their
23 needs are still being met and - - better, yes -
24 - more funds - - into your schools. - - is
25 honesty. There are so few - - this school

1 [clapping]. So if you asked will your school
2 be - - and two schools come in where existing -
3 - cannot take advantage of? Is it best that
4 your students are allowed to transfer out to who
5 knows where rather than here where they can be
6 taken care of and are - - . - - rather than
7 phasing out a school. The - - to avoid phase
8 out schools. I - - where a member is set up to
9 help the schools phase out. Well that should be
10 - - but that's not enough, they - - , they - -
11 so we are not - - the children - - schools, not
12 to - - but give them the very best - -. Thank
13 you.

14 MS. ROSE: - - and are ready to begin public
15 comment. First ask elected officials who wish
16 to speak to come up, followed by - - officials
17 who signed up. For the purpose of the public
18 comment we will be using that microphone on my
19 right side, that side of the auditorium so we
20 can better - - microphones. So first is - -
21 member Alan Maisez.

22 MR. ALAN MAISEZ: Good evening [clapping].
23 I am here speaking on behalf of myself and - -
24 represents the - - . First I want to tell you I
25 have - - ten years [clapping]. - - education -

1 - and I - -. - - control - - who have
2 control. - - proposed school - - a year ago - -
3 . Well - - decision - - schools. That was
4 their indication - -. Every policy, every - -
5 over the last ten years has been to figure out
6 how we - -. Now - - others, and the way they do
7 that - -. So they close - -, close - -, close -
8 - and students with - -. Those - - and
9 elsewhere. Now of course if those schools can't
10 control - - coming in, all they have - -. When
11 you have a school that has a - - of low
12 functioning students - -. - - they have all
13 these low level students they say, Aha, we are
14 not doing their job, those - -. [clapping]. -
15 - we knew - - we have had - - principals - - we
16 have some disasters in the schools - -. - -
17 education, they take no responsibility for any
18 of the schools that they close. The way it
19 works - - has to make the school work. - - we -
20 - a lot of money. We - - . - - and if they
21 don't succeed we close and - -. Please believe
22 me - -. - - Chancellor you have - -.
23 [clapping]. - - help schools - - that are
24 having to close. Instead of burdening them with
25 - - not providing the resources you - -. - -

1 hundred schools, that is not progress. That -
2 - and educational policy which we are supposed -
3 -. You can't - - if you close the schools.
4 Public schools - -. - - students that they
5 don't want and even - - success and - - show - -
6 that any of the schools that they have closed
7 and replaced with these other schools have done
8 significantly better. I - - about a year ago -
9 -. One of the schools we visited - - they had a
10 lot of staff and organization trying to spruce
11 the kids up. We spoke to the principal and - -
12 most, the biggest problem he say was - - still
13 not enough. This is with all sorts - - so you
14 would think the geniuses at public education
15 would've figured out, well maybe, just maybe
16 it's not what goes on in the school that is
17 important - -, maybe what goes on in the homes -
18 - [background noise]. - - because your goal is
19 to close schools. - - your goal is to make - -
20 ladies and gentlemen they are not - -. - - and
21 some representative from - - pointed out - - and
22 she - - and she basically said we - - we keep
23 our - - if it's approved. - - this will be
24 approved. - - decision because in about ten
25 months there will be a new mayor and the mayor

1 will - - the - -. [clapping] - - don't close
2 any more schools, - - closing schools actually -
3 -.

4 MS. ROSE: [clapping] - - please use the
5 microphone over there - -. Our first speaker is
6 Christopher Menendez, second is Michael Shirtza,
7 third Kuzuma Begum, I apologize if I do not
8 pronounce your name correctly, fourth is Stuma
9 Llama and fifth Janelle Heinz. Speakers will be
10 given two minutes for their comment. We have a
11 representative standing right here at the
12 microphone who will flash a sign when you have
13 thirty seconds remaining and then again when
14 you're time is up. Thank you. Mr. Menendez.

15 MR. CHRISTOPHER MENENDEZ: Hi, my name is
16 Chris - - and I am - - representative - - high
17 school. I am a senior and I have attended this
18 school since I was a freshman and I have been
19 provided with - - opportunity and succeeded. I
20 wasn't very good at math and science in school
21 and now passing - - math and science - - and it
22 due to the help of great teachers. There are
23 excellent - - student - - teacher awards - -
24 opportunities. My - - teacher who told most of
25 her students - -. There are a handful of

1 students who come to school and don't care
2 about their education. This puts much pressure
3 on teachers - - students not meeting certain
4 criteria and the teachers are to blame. Our
5 school has various programs - -. - - decide to
6 work hard but there are many students who are
7 willing to go - - they are not recognizing. - -
8 students - -. Last year - - four people from
9 the school who were sponsored by the NYC Bar
10 Association. - - from our school, one of them
11 is a - -. I was given the opportunity to - -.
12 Our school needs to be given - - opportunities
13 to see. The truth is, it's time - -. In
14 similar districts the students - -. The - -.
15 Sheepshead needs to be given another change. -
16 - because of Sheepshead High School. I have
17 never - - and I feel that Sheepshead - -. I ask
18 that you take this into consideration - -.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. ROSE: Our next speaker is Mr. Michael
21 Shirtza.

22 MR. MICHAEL SHIRTZA: My name is Michael
23 Shirtza, I am the - - delegate from - - high
24 school and I am a member of this community. I
25 will say that again I am a member of this

1 community. [clapping] - - I don't know how
2 many people made the decision - - the city
3 thought - -. Are they members of this
4 community? Do they live in this community? Do
5 they know about the problems in this community?
6 If they know so much why are they - - on the
7 school? What gives people who are not part of
8 this community the right to close down our
9 school. [clapping] - - you have no right - -
10 and you should be ashamed of yourself for
11 closing down the school [clapping] in Brooklyn.
12 In Brooklyn you don't come into somebody else's
13 territory and - -. I don't know how you sleep
14 with yourself at night. - - the lady from
15 charter schools. Do charter schools take kids
16 with special ed? Do charter schools take kids
17 with - -? Do charter schools take - -?
18 Sheepshead Bay High School takes everybody.
19 [clapping] - - take everybody. You should be
20 ashamed of yourself - - and - - the teachers and
21 the parents, God bless them, God bless each - -.
22 You care about - -, you care about the students,
23 you care about - -, you care about - -. You are
24 members of our community. - - I don't need to
25 hear success stories, I've heard enough success

1 stories. Why? Why do I want to hear success
2 stories? Because you know you are full of lies.
3 Let's listen to people who know better. Let's
4 listen to the teachers. Let's listen to the
5 parents. Let's listen to the student who just
6 got up here. You have no right to close this
7 school. You have no right to - -. You are not
8 in our community, shame on you.

9 MS. ROSE: Kazuma Begum.

10 MS. KUZUMA BEGUM: Good evening. I am - -.
11 My name is Kuzuma Begum and I am the vice
12 president of - -. - - the past four years. -
13 - Sheepshead and - - and I am very proud of my
14 son. - - we can't because - - because the
15 school - - teaching every single day - - are not
16 - - trying - -. - - we never had a - - because
17 you took the chance away from us. - - situation
18 where a person - - we keep and throw away. The
19 question is, how does this person know? Nobody
20 knows. Maybe it is given the chance - -. You -
21 - given the chance, no? We were taken away, you
22 took away our chances [clapping] - - to close
23 the school. - - students who want - - petition
24 - -.

25 MS. ROSE: Stuma Lima.

1 MR. STUMA LLAMA: I am Stuma Lima. I am -
2 -.

3 MS. ROSE: Sir, can you speak into the mike
4 where we can hear you.

5 MR. LLAMA: My name is Stuma Lima, I am a -
6 -. - - for like about a year and a half and the
7 teachers - -, I am also - - programs - - and - -
8 school and - -. The academy, my business
9 academy - - present - - and - - to school - -.

10 MS. ROSE: [clapping] - - Anthony Slafani,
11 Charlie Turner, Doug Elmor, Tony Clark and
12 Martin Escanarro. Okay Ms. Heinz.

13 MS. JANEL HEINZ: My name is Janelle Heinz.
14 I am Vice President of - - High Schools - -.
15 [clapping] - - that this much time - - has been
16 spent toward destruction of our high schools
17 around New York City. [clapping] - - come
18 before you to beg for your school to remain
19 open. That is a disgrace, it is disgusting.
20 What we see here - - engineers who have opened
21 our eyes - - to the students who come to this
22 school and that is hard for - - that they bring
23 to this school. Then you look at this - -
24 community will see, you will see that over - -
25 special education services - - classroom of

1 students who are English language - -, of
2 students who are over age. Those are the
3 students who comes to Sheepshead High School to
4 Sheepshead Bay High School to receive the
5 education they deserve. Now - - and so more
6 time is necessary. - - when children - -
7 children in New York City, those children are
8 not all the same. There is a need for
9 diversity, there is a need for - -, there is a
10 need for opportunity. Sheepshead Bay High
11 School provides that kind of opportunity and
12 [clapping] - - opportunity for those students.
13 It's not the best answer for every student. You
14 have to take into account - -. You have to take
15 into account particularly - - that are taught.
16 - - time Chancellor Grimm - - of this school. I
17 am going to ask you to take into account
18 everything you heard here. The voices of the
19 children who have spoken, the voices of the
20 parents and the educators. Take into account
21 these - - not - - this school. [clapping] - -
22 detail about information that - - but really
23 take into account what you hear here tonight and
24 - - the decision to close Sheepshead Bay High
25 School.

1 MS. ROSE: - -

2 MR. ANTHONY SLAFANI: My name is Anthony
3 Slafani and I am a representative from - -
4 [clapping] - -. Before I start - - respect - -
5 the Board of Regents - - prolocation - -. - -.
6 - - not just you Chancellor but - -. - -
7 though, - - new school, resources, everything -
8 - from the Department of Education. - - staff
9 that was here originally that was returning,
10 same students, same administration, same
11 demographics, - - do it. - - resources and then
12 it ended. Same school, same administration,
13 same - - , why is that? Now you are going to
14 close it. There is no logic. - - in twelve
15 years. I'm sorry to say, well actually I take
16 that back, I am not sorry to say, some of the
17 teachers are not here tonight and they are not
18 here because - - I have spoken to them, they are
19 not here because - - decision. - - no matter
20 how many times Punxsutawney Phil has not seen
21 his shadow he shoves his body back into his
22 hole. - - all of you - - will be fired on
23 12/31/13.

24 MS. ROSE: - -

25 MR. CHARLIE TURNER: - - representative

1 [clapping] - -. - - this is the problem with
2 education, you fail, - - have failed because
3 [clapping]. Not only - - close those schools, -
4 - schools were not allowed to take special ed
5 and - -. So where are they going? They go to
6 schools like Sheepshead Bay because - - allow.
7 So if you - - your policy - - you failing. - -
8 everybody to get involved - -. - - not fake,
9 phony fraud that we have at City Hall. - - who
10 says that all of the funds should go to support
11 - - that they - -. So - - New York City. Thank
12 you.

13 MR. DOUG ELMER: Good evening, my name is
14 Doug Elmer - - students - - Sheepshead Bay High
15 School. - - Sheepshead Bay August 2011, a three
16 year plan but state, federal and local
17 Department of Education. - - support students -
18 - Sheepshead Bay. - - staff members - - hours -
19 - in addition to countless hours - - Sheepshead
20 High School. - - eighteen months - - with the
21 school - -. - - now provides - - not just
22 select students - - test scores. Looking - -
23 focal point - - we saw - - increase and an equal
24 increase on - -. Sheepshead Bay - - ninth grade
25 during the 2011-2012 school year and - -. - - a

1 10%-20% increase in graduation rates - - by
2 2016. Our next - - U.S. Department of Education,
3 - - provide to all students - - and continue to
4 provide - -. Diplomas now are devoted to - - at
5 Sheepshead Bay and - - I look forward to seeing
6 you - - at Sheepshead Bay High School.

7 MS. ROSE: Tony Clarke.

8 MR. TONY CLARKE: Good evening. My name is
9 Tony Clarke. - - school - -. - - I walked into
10 the auditorium and I heard people talking about
11 - -. I just wanted to - - teachers, staff and
12 students - -. I find - - be more about
13 politics, - - reflect about, think about - -. I
14 - - teacher and I work at a school that was cut
15 down and chopped up - -. So I think - - think
16 about - -, think about - - and think about this
17 school. Thank you.

18 MS. ROSE: - - I would like to call numbers
19 11 through 15 to come to the microphone. Jay
20 Appeblat, Christopher - -, Theresa D'Ambrosu,
21 Marabelle Pena and - - Glasser. Mr. Escanarro.

22 MR. MARTIN ESCANARRO: Good evening. My
23 name is Martin Escanarro. I am - - CSA - -. -
24 - proposal in 2006, this latest round of
25 proposals - - several - -. Some of have - - and

1 others have - -. One - -. - - proposals.
2 Students that - -. The schools that could not
3 take those students they - - to Sheepshead Bay
4 and Sheepshead Bay - - everybody. - - families
5 - -. That's just forget the fact that - -
6 Sheepshead Bay - -. Sheepshead Bay - -
7 especially during this time - -. Communities
8 tend to just flock - -. - - to talk about the
9 fact that the - -. - - there are statistics.
10 So - -, I can't imagine - - Sheepshead Bay - -.

11 MR. ROSE: Mr. Appeblat.

12 MR. JAY APPEBLAT: Good evening ladies and
13 gentlemen. - - are very important to my life
14 and they are - -. In - - I was a student at
15 Sheepshead Bay High School. June 1986 I
16 graduated from Sheepshead Bay High School. - -
17 2000 I fulfilled a dream of becoming a teacher
18 at Sheepshead Bay High School. - - whether - -.
19 They come from - -, they will graduate - - 2015.
20 - - members of that panel to show him that they
21 aren't scare of him. That they are ready to do
22 the right thing. - - students - - of New York
23 City.

24 MS. ROSE: Mr. - -.

25 MR. CHRISTOPHER JAMES: Four years ago - -,

1 alcoholics, drugees and drop outs. - - to go
2 to the park, to go to the mall, play - -. - -
3 per each school, per - -, - -. Now I stand
4 before you a transformed - -, I stand before you
5 a success story. Good evening. My name is
6 Christopher James - - and I am a senior at
7 Sheepshead Bay High School as well as the
8 student body president. - - undying of this
9 staff, this school, this community, I rose from
10 the ashes. I stand before you - - supreme court
11 - - I stand before of the - - office. I stand
12 before you a success story and I attribute
13 success to this school. I attribute success to
14 Sheepshead Bay High School so please do not
15 close down this school. There is so much
16 potential - - there is still a future for this
17 school. Thank you.

18 MS. ROSE: Theresa D'Ambrosu.

19 MS. THERESA D'AMBROSU: My name is Theresa
20 D'Ambrosu. I - - to show support - - on behalf
21 of Sheepshead Bay, on behalf of our students - -
22 . - - in order to be successful. - - this does
23 make any sense to me. What - - not - -. Every
24 year we get - - close, every year - -, every
25 year we receive the leftovers of those that did

1 not choose to come here and every year we go
2 the extra mile for these students. TO be
3 perfectly honest we accept this challenge
4 everyday - -. There is never a time - -
5 insulting to say that we don't represent this
6 whole entire school because we do. Many of our
7 teachers today after the school day is over
8 doing just that. However, this is not - - the
9 Department of Education, they gave up on us.
10 All of you on this panel have given up. You
11 have given up the right to follow your own
12 conscience to do what you know is right. This -
13 - education - -. - - education. When you close
14 Sheepshead Bay where are these students going to
15 attend high school. - - other schools that they
16 will go to. They will - -. - - suffered great
17 loss during Hurricane Sandy - - neighborhood - -
18 but that is not going to happen if you close us.
19 - -. - - given a chance with a new principal to
20 set up - - we need time to prove to you that we
21 are not a failing school and you will never ever
22 convince me, the twenty years that I have been
23 here that I am a failure, my students are a
24 failure or any - - in this school is a failure.

25 MS. ROSA: Marabelle Pena.

1 MS. MARABELLE PENA: Good evening
2 everyone. My name is Marabelle Pena. I am a
3 parent of a senior at this school and I am also
4 PTA president. For years Sheepshead Bay High
5 School community has endured all the bureaucracy
6 - -. - - school which has - - administration.
7 Not only is the school community at wits-end - -
8 all this diversity - - the children - - receive
9 - -. Right now you are not giving the school a
10 chance to show you our success and to continue
11 with - -. It is because we are required to - -
12 the children and the school community are
13 willing and able to go the extra mile and
14 continue to - - and use all available resources
15 and continue - -. - - this administration will
16 never cease to - - Sheepshead Bay High School.
17 - - simply - - in the school. In fact, we are
18 proud to have - -. Sheepshead Bay High School
19 stands tall and proud and don't - - our ability
20 to succeed. It takes a strong community and
21 that strong community is here tonight and each
22 and every day. So with all due respect why not
23 - -. It is time for you all to stand up and
24 fight back with us - -. - - you have to
25 identify there is an injustice being made. - -

1 New York City at the - - of our children,
2 their creation and at the expense of our
3 community Sheepshead Bay. Do the right thing,
4 stand up and do the best for our children.
5 Thank you.

6 MS. ROSE: - - Glasser. - - please come up.
7 Frank Tuckco, Norm Scott, Denise Menedez, Khalid
8 Harris, Richard Riley and Lisa Clarke. - -
9 Glasser.

10 MS. Glasser: Hi, I am - - Glasser. I am a
11 new teacher to this school but I have been
12 teaching for twenty years. - - all types of
13 schools. I have been - -, I have been - - in
14 the early 90s. All of those schools have been
15 on point and - - decided to close these schools
16 - -. You - - in our school - - a school that
17 you have to take a test to get into. They have
18 the same results. You can't always look at
19 statistics. Sometimes it's the individuals that
20 - -. I'm teaching right now science and - -
21 program. These students are getting out of this
22 school with a certificate and a job. - -
23 passing - - I'm sure that a lot of these
24 numbers, I shouldn't say I'm sure because I'm
25 not sure but - -. I came to this school because

1 I heard that it was turning around. That they
2 were developing academies. Now - - not giving
3 the academies a chance to succeed, to do like a
4 - - would do. You - - , given the chance to fix
5 the errors of the past. - - I could speak for
6 an hour - -.

7 MR. SHAWN AHERN: - - I am a teacher - -.
8 My wife graduated from Sheepshead Bay High
9 School. - -. - - over the past few years - -
10 about six or seven years and similar pattern,
11 dedicated teachers, passionate students, parents
12 - - of a school. - - hard work goes on here.
13 Why is this? Why are you doing this? We are
14 trying, we are working hard. There is always
15 this hope that people - - will somehow hear your
16 plea but after many years of going to these
17 hearings it is not happening and the reason why
18 it is not happening is because - -. - - city
19 council representative, state senators, - - go
20 to these hearings. - - representative could go
21 to this hearing - - students and parents. - -
22 not necessarily - -. I have - - and - - control
23 because - -. - - control is still on the books
24 and until we take back - - over our school
25 communities - -. So we have to - -.

1 MS. ROSE: Will state your name please?

2 MR. SHAWN AHERN: My name is Shawn Ahern.

3 A-H-E-R-N.

4 MS. ROSE: Norm Scott. Denise Menendez.

5 MR. NORM SCOTT: My name is Norm Scott.

6 Well - - are here - -. - - ridiculous - -.

7 State education department, you guys - -.

8 Basically you support everything that - - want

9 to do - -. This is a - -. It's in - -, it's in

10 LA - -. - - neighborhoods so people - - in

11 neighborhood schools - - and to people who come

12 in from outside. They don't want - -. They

13 don't want you here, they don't want you at all.

14 That's the plan. They - - and that gives them

15 power over the community. They want to - -

16 undermine the community and they are successful

17 so far. Communities are trying to fight back.

18 We have been fighting back - -. - - education

19 system and - - just like - -. They come in and

20 - - and ultimately - - that this school building

21 will be turned into condos. - - husk of a

22 public school system - -. - - desegregation

23 came out - -.

24 MS. ROSE: Denice Menendez. Khalid Harris.

25 MS. DENICE MENENDEZ: - - Sheepshead Bay

1 High School - - further than that - -
2 overworked and underpaid. The truancy officers
3 - - everyone. It is affecting our grade but - -
4 . How many children - - that are supposed to
5 come this school and that is affecting our
6 graduation - -. - - children services - -.
7 Finding children who are supposed to be here
8 learning - - graduating - - so why is this
9 school being penalized. Why are - -. There are
10 simple numbers, simple math - -. - - the
11 problem starts with the home and maybe it is not
12 the school, it's not the teachers, it's not the
13 faculty - - a fabulous job. It's the fact that
14 there are too many children that are
15 unsupervised that are on the streets, that are
16 staying in their own homes because both parents
17 - - or whatever it might be. Why should the
18 fact that these children that are not even
19 making it into the building affect our grade,
20 our - -.

21 MS. ROSE: Khalid Harris.

22 MR. KHALID HARRIS: Good afternoon. My name
23 is Khalid Harris. I am - -. - - and now - -.
24 - - opportunities - - opportunities - - allow me
25 to stay there. One of the opportunities was - -

1 . The - - we had - -. Another one I think we
2 had was - -. We also had - -. We were also - -
3 . Now - -. Some of our - - which I will be
4 attending next week. - - we will be able to - -
5 with other - - across the globe. - - for these
6 activities - - computer skills and communication
7 skills along with - - skills. These materials
8 help us - -. Apparently my time is up - -.

9 MS. ROSE: - -.

10 MR. MIKE TUNNELY: Good evening, my name is
11 Mike Tunnely. I am the - - teacher also a
12 former student here at Sheepshead Bay High
13 School. The two really big - - coming to
14 Sheepshead, first is the - -. How many students
15 - - and Sheepshead Bay gives an opportunity - -.
16 This - -. How far - -? I have 65 students
17 total and I only have two - -. - - these
18 students who already - -. In looking at these
19 numbers - - graduation. Of course, we are
20 taking in everybody. - - are accumulating - -
21 than they should. Of course. The next part is
22 - -. Of course - -. - - of course. They are
23 coming from - -. We accept everyone. - -
24 because we do, we accept everyone.

25 MS. ROSE: Lisa Clarke.

1 MS. LISA CLARKE: Good evening ladies and
2 gentlemen. My name is Dr. Lisa Clarke and I am
3 a teacher at Sheepshead Bay High School. I
4 actually came here, I started here in 2011 and
5 at that time I had the opportunity to teach - -
6 and also business. I was also part of the
7 program that was restructuring that took place
8 in order to design the academy so that we - -.
9 - - statistics, some of the data. I know that
10 we have been looking at - - data. We have been
11 looking at four year graduation rates. The
12 question that I do have in mind is what about
13 the students who got transferred in who did not
14 start in 9th grade at Sheepshead Bay High School
15 but who have transferred in who have
16 successfully complete the high school program.
17 Last year when I worked with the virtual
18 enterprise program - -, we had 18 students in
19 the class. In that senior class. All 18
20 students graduated last year with about five of
21 those students graduating with advanced - -.
22 And this year all of the seniors that are
23 currently in the program are on track. I look
24 forward to them having - - successful rate
25 graduation as well. - - opportunity to really

1 redesign certain programs and to look at
2 different ways of getting connections across
3 curriculum and have an opportunity to see how
4 students can incorporate - - the virtual
5 enterprise program, - - and other major - -
6 activities in order to really - - their learning
7 experiences and - - skills - -.

8 MS. ROSE: - - please state your name - -.

9 MALE VOICE 2: - - I am a member of the
10 first graduating class from Sheepshead Bay High
11 School. - - to Sheepshead as a teacher, a coach
12 - -. If the people - - lobby - - students that
13 came from Sheepshead Bay High School - -. I - -
14 use terms - -. That is an absolute lie. The
15 politician - -. I - - use terms that - - our
16 community. You are not concerned about my
17 community and I - - because we take everybody.
18 - - remember - - board of education - -. We all
19 know - - classroom and - -. - - with those
20 people. Because - - people - -. The majority
21 of the people on these streets are my ex-
22 students - - with their school but it is not
23 theirs it is our school.

24 MS. ROSE: - - chance - - try to answer some
25 of the questions that were asked this evening.

1 Some of the questions may not be answered here
2 tonight but all questions will be answered on
3 our website or - - proposal. If you have
4 additional questions - - and phone number - to
5 pose those questions.

6 FEMALE VOICE 1: - -. The first question we
7 have is what is - - to support the - - and
8 replacing schools to improve them - -? - - all
9 schools to provide a high quality education to
10 our students. - -. Across the city and - - we
11 see - - new replacement schools - - schools - -.
12 In 2006 - - schools graduation was - -. In 2011
13 all - - schools - - graduation rate of 70%. - -
14 city wide - -. [background talking]. The
15 second question - - special education children -
16 - physical challenge - -. Special education
17 students - - will be able to complete their
18 studies at Sheepshead Bay - -. All new special
19 education students including - - will - - high
20 school. These students will also - -.

21 [background talking]. - - special education
22 students - -. The third question we have is - -
23 apply to transfer to another school in Brooklyn
24 - -. The simple answer to that is yes. The
25 current - - students have applied for other

1 schools - - this year's round two of our - -
2 process. - - schools will be able to - - this
3 Spring. - -. This question - - Sheepshead Bay
4 High School receive if - -. We - -, this
5 network is set up to assist schools in the
6 process of phasing out. The support - - school
7 leadership - - to ensure - -. Supports for
8 teachers - - at graduation. The actual - -
9 graduation rates may increase in phase out
10 schools for - -. The last question, what are
11 the admissions policies for - - school. So
12 admission to the two charter schools - - will be
13 given to us - -. This means that it is - -
14 process. The new district high school - - our
15 high school process - - given priority to
16 students from Brooklyn. - - transfer - - will
17 accept students who are 16 years or older and
18 who have fallen behind - -. - - I just want to
19 say - -. - - your passion, your taking time
20 tonight to show us - -.

21 MS. ROSE: Thank you. Thank you very much
22 for those comments and feedback that we heard
23 this evening. We very much appreciate your
24 input. The information that you heard this
25 evening will be shared - - which will allow this

1 hearing to vote on this proposal on March 11,
2 2013 at Brooklyn Technical High School located
3 at 29 Brooklyn Heights in Brooklyn New York.
4 There will be an opportunity for public comment
5 that evening prior to the - -. Public comment
6 can continue to be submitted by email and
7 telephone until March 10th at 12:00 a.m. The
8 phone number to submit your comment is (212)
9 374-0208. The email address is
10 d22proposals@schools.nyc.gov again that is
11 d22proposals@schools.nyc.gov. Thank you all for
12 coming and - - hearing is now officially
13 adjourned. Good night.

14 [END RECORDING]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 The prior proceedings were transcribed from
3 audio files and have been transcribed to the
4 best of my ability.

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8 Date February 24, 2013
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